

My Belarus

My name is Bikash Nahar. I came to Minsk _____ the Indian town of Calcutta more _____ 30 years ago.

_____ the age of 13 I finished school with flying colours and when I was 18 I got my first degree _____ Chemistry. As a student I was quite **keen / good / fond / interested / eager** at chess and very often I took **chance / role / part / place / care** in various competitions where I met a lot _____ nice young people from the USSR. We **made / done / took / gave** friends and thus I got interested _____ the Russian language and culture. And later I decided to continue my education there.

I came to Minsk in late 1980s. My first _____ (**IMPRESS**) of the city were _____ (**BELIEVE**)! I had never expected it to be so bitterly cold - about 30 degrees below zero! Since I wasn't used to such **a / an / the / -** weather, of course very soon I had a bad cold and was running a high temperature.

Before coming here, I didn't know much about Belarus. It turned _____ to be _____ (**EXTREME**) cosy and welcoming. I was impressed by people's _____ (**FRIENDLY**) and responsiveness. Despite my poor command of the language at that time, I always felt _____ (**COMFORT**) here.

_____ fact, the Belarusians and Indians are very similar. Both the nations take pride _____ their history, _____ (**DEEP**) respect their parents and their Motherland. I believe that a person who worships his parents and his country will achieve inner harmony.

I like Belarusian people and enjoy Belarusian nature. My wife is Belarusian and my children were born here. I'm still _____ good terms with men and women I studied with. But we don't meet very often, because we are all busy. _____ the mornings I work at the Komarovski market, or Kamarovka, as they say, where I sell Indian goods and _____ the evenings I teach yoga. If necessary I translate, because I know six languages: English, Russian, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu and Farsi. All this is not just business, I take a lot _____ pleasure in it. Yoga is a great hobby for me, and I'm proud to have 65-year-old ladies in my Yoga club. From time to **a / an / the / -** time I run workshops in nonconventional medicine.

I live in Minsk and I love it! It is a wonderful and very clean city. I also enjoyed my visits to Grodno, Slonim, Mozyr, Mogilev and Vitebsk. Every summer I go to Slavianski Bazar.

Belarusian culture appeals _____ me very much. When I was younger I used to go to the circus with my kids. My daughters loved the circus! But now we are more _____ ballet. The ballet here is great! We all love it. I also believe that dance _____ (**RICH**) person's inner world.

Belarusian sport impresses me all the time. Although Belarus is **a dozen of / a dozen / a dozens / a dozens of** times smaller than India, sport here is developed far and away better. I believe that the Belarusian president does a great job in the sphere of sport. If I had a chance I would shake his hand and thank him _____ giving young people such an amazing opportunity. Maxim Mirny and Viktoria Azarenko are my favourite sportsmen. If I have time I always watch sport _____ TV.

I like Belarusian cuisine very much, even though I'm a true vegetarian and I eat neither meat _____ fish. That is why Belarusian draniki is my favourite dish. My wife and I often cook _____ (**NATION**) Belarusian and Indian dishes.

I feel that Belarus is my second native country. I live and work here, my family are here with me. I'm a Belarusian citizen and am proud to be so. I'm happy that my _____ (**LUCK**) stars brought me here one day.