



March 2018

It's a little bit late to wish you all a happy new year, but it's perfect timing to wish you a very happy Holi. This year we celebrated in Kolkata on March 1st and the rest of India celebrated on the 2nd. Holi is always a time of joy and great excitement at shuktara as you can see from the photo of Sumon above.

I am starting my latest newsletter with some wonderful news that Prity will be sitting her exams in a regular school. She has always been at REACH school and is now enrolled in a local school close by where she will sit all her exams. It is good to see inclusion here in Kolkata and we wish Prity well. She is a very bright young lady.



Prity Kundan

It is important that I update you about our money situation since the cancellation of the FCRA. It was originally cancelled along with many other NGOs because our financial report was not sent to the Home Ministry, Delhi in the same format submitted to the Local Government office here in West Bengal.

Pappu was unaware that they needed to be submitted on two different forms. Since cancellation we have applied for Prior Permission, which means being able to receive foreign donations without, and before getting another full FCRA. We have been waiting, as you know now for over 2 years and finally we received this memo from the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 5th 2018:

“MHA cancelled the registration of the society in 2015. The Association can only apply for fresh FCRA registration only after 3 years from the date of cancellation of FCRA registration. Accordingly, the application for FCRA registration is REFUSED as per Section 14(3) of FCRA, 2010”

In a way this is a relief, to finally know what the outcome is even though it has been refused! We will of course reapply in June. For the last 2 years Pappu has been back and forth to Delhi speaking to officers from the various Ministries who had all told him that it would be granted. It has been frustrating for everyone living under this false hope. We look forward to being able to reapply and to be able to officially receive foreign funds to run our homes soon after that.

On 1st July 1999 when I started **shuktara** with Anna and Sunil, Bryan and Alison were living above me and continued to do so in an upstairs flat in the first shuktara home. Their door was almost always open to the first five boys - Anna, Sunil, Shantara, Bapi and Sanjay. For the next few years they taught computer skills downstairs in my flat, shared meals with everyone at shuktara, and even went on vacations to Goa and Puri with the boys. While they lived in Kolkata they were frequent visitors to the shuktara homes. They came back to Kolkata in January for a visit and absolutely loved being back with the young people of shuktara.



Sunil Das with Bryan Forst



Anna Das with Alison Saracena

GDPR General Data Protection Regulation comes into effect on **25 May 2018**, which states that Shuktara Trust (UK) must make clear what data it has on its supporters and donors, how this is used and how it is stored. It also means that if you wish to continue to receive news from and about shuktara, you have to let us know.

If you don't respond, it won't be possible to continue sending you news about shuktara. I have always been very conscious of not overwhelming people with too much information and in a way this will help us to look properly at our contacts and make sure that we only send you what you want to see. Please do contact us and let us know.

Click here to fill in: [GDPR Consent to Contact Form](#)

Puja came in January 2016 and is now quite settled at school. She goes to REACH with the other girls in the morning and is home by lunchtime. She has her own corner of the classroom where she feels safe. Puja is autistic and non verbal and when I am at Lula Bari I spend a lot of time with her. Her world is a confusing one where sounds and smells and sudden movements can distress her, so she takes herself to secluded places in the house where she can quietly rock, shake her hands or flap her green plastic tennis racket, without being disturbed. This is known as “stimming” which is short for self-stimulatory behavior and is a way people with autism calm themselves in a world that is full of overwhelming sensory distractions that can be physically painful. Puja is now safe and nothing makes me more delighted than knowing that she is undoubtedly happier at shuktara.



Puja Bagh

Please don't forget to give us your consent if you wish to continue to receive updates from shuktara.

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If you would like more information please contact:

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Thank You
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Don't forget...
GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)
starts:
25 May 2018
please click here to give us your consent to contact:
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Shuktara provides a home for life for children and young adults with disabilities in Kolkata, India, who have no family.



shuktara.org is the official website of Shuktara Trust (UK).
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