

# **GHOSALDANGA BISHNUBATI ADIBASI TRUST**

**(Regd. Under Indian Trust Registration Act 1982)**

Head office: Ghosaldanga, P.O. Sattore, Dist.: Birbhum, Pin-731236, West Bengal, India

Phone:(03463)-235 258,228 291,228 445

E-mail: gbat@rediffmail.com

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1st APRIL 2006 to 31st MARCH 2007**

### **1. Introduction**

The Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) works with the tribal population situated about 10 kms away from the town Bolpur and the University of Santiniketan. There are two registered society Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha(GASS) and Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha(BAMS) are mainly working in two Santal villages Ghosaldaga and Bishnubati under the Trust. The aim of the Sanghas is the all-round development of the tribal population in these two villages. Its main thrust, however, has been educational. Other areas of work have been: medical aid, family health and hygiene, afforestation, fishery, agriculture, vocational training, bio-farming and, last but not least, the maintenance and dissemination of Santal culture.

The primary intention of the Trust is to provide continuity to the work and security to the employees of GASS and BAMS, and also to give occasional assistance to various Non-Governmental Organisations working with the needy, poor, destitute, downtrodden people, primarily of rural India. The Trust members are the senior members of GASS and BAMS and some prominent and like-minded personalities from Kolkata. The Trust continues to support these two tribal Organizations ideally and financially.

The Trust has been enlisted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.1961 by which anybody donating an amount to the organisation, can receive exemption from income tax in India.

### **2. Board of Trustee:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Profession</b>
1.Gokul Hansda	President	Teacher
2. Boro Baski	Trustee	Teacher
3. Sona Murmu	Trustee	Social Worker
4. Snehadri Sekhar Chakraborty	Trustee	Civil Engineer
5.Joykrishna Kayal	Trustee	Gazette Officer
6. Mary Ann Dasgupta	Trustee	Educationist
7. Sunil Kumar Ghosh	Trustee	Regional Manager(Retd)

### **3. Activities:**

Allahabad Bank.

The following activities have been held from Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust in the last financial year 2006-2007.

- a) **Education:** Giving proper education to the poor tribal children is one of the important objective of the trust. To link up the primary education and secondary education of the tribals of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati the trust have founded a

tribal hostel this year with 11 santal boys and girls. There are provided tribal music, health care, art & craft training etc. apart from the daily formal teaching. The students of the hostel have been able to perform several music programmes in different places which are highly appreciated by the people.

- b) **Tribal culture:** The santal tribes are the single largest communities in India .They highly reach in culture and tradition. But in this changing context it has extremely been necessary to preserve and strengthen. In view of this situation the trust has been actively organising Adibasi Baha Parab held on 28<sup>th</sup> February this year at Ghosaldanga where participated thousands of sandals from several villages.
- c) **Staff development:** The trust always look after the development of the staff of GASS&BAMS time to time. Last year on 28-30 November the trust has organised an accounts training where about 40 people took part.

The many other activities of the trust have been done through the Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha and Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha are as follows:

The Ghosaldanga Adibasi Seva Sangha (GASS) works in two Santal villages, viz. Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, situated about 10 km away from the town Bolpur and the University of Santiniketan. Nine years ago, Bishnubati has founded the registered society Bishnubati Adibasi Marshal Sangha (BAMS). Hence, the activities at Bishnubati assume their separate identity. However, the two villages continue to cooperate closely. The funding continues to be entirely routed through GASS.

The aim of the Sanghas is the all-round development of the tribal population in these two villages. Its main thrust, however, has been educational. The last page presents an overview of the results GASS has achieved in the last 22 years. Other areas of work have been: medical aid, family health and hygiene, afforestation, fishery, agriculture, vocational training, bio-farming and, last but not least, the maintenance and dissemination of Santal culture.

## **2. Managing Committees**

The Managing Committee of **Ghosaldanga** has been constituted on 4th July 2003.

President	Mohan Hembrom
Vice-President	Dudu Murmu
Secretary	Sona Murmu
Assistant Secretary	Bijoy Tudu
Treasurer	Lakshmiram Tudu
General Members	Nilu Mumu Narayan Hansda Dasarath Murmu Balui Murmu

The Managing Committee meets whenever the need arises to take decisions.

The Managing Committee of **Bishnubati** for the year 2006-2007 is given below with their names, designation and profession:

1. Dhona Soren	President	Farmer
2. Sanyasi Ch.Rana Lohar	Vice-President	Artist
3. Boro Baski	Secretary	Teacher
4. Ramjit Mardi	Assistant Secretary	Student
5. Bimol Baski	Treasurer	Social Worker
6. Suno Mardi	Member	Farmer
7. Mongla Mardi	Member	Farmer
8. Budon Kisku	Member	Farmer
9. Sigen Baski	Member	Farmer

### 3. The Sangha Council

The Managing Committees are supported by the Sangha Council which meets once a month and discusses vital development problems and future projects of GASS, BAMS and RSV. It consists of the educated members of the Sangha who assume leadership in the process of decision-making and the execution of these decisions.

- > Sona Murmu, Ghosaldanga, Secretary GASS, in charge of all activities at Ghosaldanga, overall in charge of the RSV Bio-Orchard.
- > Boro Baski, Bishnubati, Secretary BAMS and Founding Teacher of RSV; also in charge of RSV Hostel and of correspondence.
- > Gokul Hansda, Dhanyasara, Founding Teacher and teacher-in-charge of RSV, also in charge of Santal cultural programmes and excursions.
- > Monotosh Das, Bolpur, full-time worker of the RSV Bio-Orchard and marketing.
- > Snehadri Sekhar Chakravarti, overseer at the Engineering Department, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan; in charge of construction and repair work as well as of the financial management of GASS and BAMS.
- > Sanyasi Lohar, Bishnubati, artist and art teacher, social worker.
- > Leena Murmu, Ghosaldanga, in charge of mothers' and family health programmes.
- > Swapan Ghosh, Bandhnabagram, full-time teacher at the Secondary Coaching Centre.
- > Bimol Baski, Bishnubati, kindergarten teacher, Treasurer of BAMS and in charge of Dairy Project at Bishnubati.
- > Pintu Ghosh, Bishnubati, teacher of the Secondary Coaching Centre and co-ordinator, BAMS.
- > Lakhiram Tudu, treasurer of GASS and teacher of the evening school (Primary section).
- > Martin Kämpchen, Santiniketan, advisor to GASS and BAMS; link to the "Friends of Ghosaldanga", Aachen/Germany.

#### **4. Education**

Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati run a Kindergarten (with lunch), a Primary Coaching Centre (for students of class I to IV) and a Secondary Coaching Centre (for students of class V to X ) in their respective villages. The Kindergarten Centres operate in the mornings, the Coaching Centres work in the early mornings and in the evenings. In addition, the Sanghas run a day school, i.e. a non-formal Santal school called the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV).

Participation:	Ghosaldanga	Bishnubati
Kindergarten	17 (male 7, female 10)	61 (male 21, female 40)
Primary Coaching Centre	30 (male 16, female 14)	27 (male 17, female 10)
<i>Secondary Coaching Centre</i>	<i>19 (male 9, female 10)</i>	<i>51 (male 30, female 21)</i>

- \* Lunch was given to all kindergarten children for six days a week.
- \* Two students appeared in the Madhyamik examination from Bishnubati (School Final after class X) last year, in which one has passed.
- \* Gopal Murmu of Ghosaldanga, is now studying for his B. A. in History (Honours, 2<sup>nd</sup> year) at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.
- \* Ramjit Mardi completed his B.A in physical education from Visva Bharati University.
- \* Gobinda Baski of Bishnubati secured the highest marks in the class X examination in his school in 2003. He has given the final examination for the higher secondary certificate.
- \* Mona Murmu, Dasarath Murmu are studying for their B. A. Degree in second year.
- \* The teachers are: Parbati Murmu, Bimol Baski (Kindergarten); Lakshmiram Tudu, Narayan Hansda and Suno Mardi (Primary Coaching Centres); Swapan Ghosh, Pintu Ghosh, Bimol Patra, Mangal Tudu, Dasarath Murmu, Ashutosh Ghosh (till February 2007) and Kishor Kumar Saha (Secondary Coaching Centres).

#### **5. Educational, Recreational and Cultural Programmes**

##### ***(a) VILLAGE EVENTS***

\* On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006, Dr. Shila Poddar Kundu, Asst. Director of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, came to Bishnubati in connection with the project proposal submitted to the 'Indian Museum' by the Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust (GBAT) for building up a 'Museum on Santal Art and Crafts' in the village. Dr. Kundu also saw the craft articles displayed in the organisation.

\* On 9<sup>th</sup> April, Martin Kämpchen's 33 years-stay in India was celebrated in Bishnubati. On that occasion, 'Bansher Thongas' (Bamboo pipes) were distributed to the students of Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga to save money. Last year's 'Bansher Thongas' were opened and an interest was given to the 'Bansher Thonga'-holders as per the amount they deposited. The senior students shared their experience of participating in the Folk Festival of India, New Delhi in January 2006.

\* On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a group 30 teachers and social workers from Jharkhand had come to visit Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati under the guidance of the Jesuit priests Fr. Damian Tudu and Fr. Solomon of Dumka. The group had a long interaction with the villagers. They also visited the RSV school and observed its classes.

- \* From 21<sup>st</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> April, Brother Mahananda and Brother Chiranjib (Jesuit brothers) from ‘Parasmoni’, Santiniketan visited Ghosaldanga once a week end to teach English to the high school students. They used to stay at night in the village.
  - \* On 27th July, a ‘Nabinbaran Utsav’(Freshers’ Welcome) programme was held at Bishnubati. The new batch of high school students was welcomed to the Sangha by the senior students. Sri Sushil Ghosh, high-school teacher of Bandhnabagram High School, was the chief guest of the programme.
  - \* On 15<sup>th</sup> August, Independence Day was celebrated in both the villages of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati.
  - \* On 26<sup>th</sup> August, Ms. Bettina Straub, a Social Work student from Germany, arrived at the village and stayed for three months. She mainly taught English to the students.
  - \* On 28<sup>th</sup> August, a ‘Nabinbaran Utsav’(Freshers’ Welcome) programme was celebrated at Ghosaldanga.
  - \* On 5<sup>th</sup> September, ‘Teachers’ Day’ was celebrated in Ghosaldanga.
  - \* On 14<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> September, a farmers’ workshop was organised at Ghosaldanga. Srikanta Mondal from Manab Jamin, Bolpur was the resource person of the workshop.
  - \* On 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Sangha’s computer at Bishnuabti was connected with the internet.
  - \* On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, a two-day Account Keeping training was held at RSV. Mr. Pradip Paal, Chartered Accountant at S.N. Dey & Co, Kolkata, and two of his associates, Mr. Paban Roy and Mr. Jayanta Ghosh, were the trainers. Twenty teachers and students from Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati, Bikash Kendra’ Bidhyadarpur and Lok Sanskriti Kendra, Dhanshara attended the training.
  - \* On 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, a workshop on Rabi crop was held at Ghosaldanga Primary School. 25 farmers from Ghosaldanga took part. The agricultural officer of Bolpur-Sriniketan Panchayat Samity was the main speaker of the workshop.
  - \* On 21st October, a two-day football tournament was organised at Ghosaldanga. 16 local football teams participated.
  - \* On 16<sup>th</sup> December, the High school students of Ghosaldanga and the teachers of the two villages had a picnic at Ballavpur-Amar Kuthir near Kopai river.
  - \* From 10<sup>th</sup> to 14th January 2007, The Santal festival Sorhai Parab was celebrated in both the villages.
  - \* On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, on the occasion of Saraswati Puja, Santali Folk Group Kulhi Dhuri (a cultural wing of GASS/BAMS) staged the Santali play “Lolo Hatang”, followed by musical performance at Gopalnagar Santal village, which is five kilometre away from Ghosaldanga.
  - \* On 19<sup>th</sup> February, Mr. Günther Wehrmann, the German Consul General, Kolkata, visited Ghosaldanga, RSV and Bishnubati. In the evening he offered a dinner party at ‘Upal’, Santiniketan. Many distinguished guests from Santiniketan and the senior members of GASS and BAMS attended.
  - \* On 28<sup>th</sup> February, the Annual ‘Baha Parab’ (Santal Spring) Festival was celebrated throughout the day and the night. The ‘Baha Award 2007’ was given to a Santal musician and artist, Bazar Hembrom of Patharghata village, Birbhum. Various competitive events for children and for adults took place testing the athletic qualities and skills of village people. Santal dances were offered in the afternoon. At night, plays and songs were staged.
- Sixteen Santal folk groups took part in various events. This year, eight Santali drama groups and three Santali folk groups entertained hundreds of listeners throughout the night. The chief guest of the festival was Mr. Tapan Kumar Som, District Magistrate of Birbhum. The special guest was Mr. Manasa Hansda, Savadhipati, Birbhum Zilla Parishad.

\* From 6<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>nd</sup> April, Dr. Monika Golembiewski, a child specialist from Germany, stayed in Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. She has been visiting the villages since twelve years, treating the patients of Ghosaldanga, Bishnubati and of the neighbouring villages. This year, she had several meetings with the committee members of the organisation and placed suggestions on how to strengthen the medical work of the villages. Presently Leena Murmu, the health worker from Ghosaldanga, and Satyaban Ray, a homoeopathy doctor from Santiniketan, are looking after the village medical unit. Dr. Monika also suggested to train three more health workers to support Leena Murmu. The new health workers are Parboti Murmu in Ghosaldanga, Putul Hansda in Bishnubati and Hiralal Khan at RSV. Dr. Monika also visited the neighbouring Santal populated state of Jharkhand. There, she treated dozens of patients, gave aworkshops on Women and Child Health Care and Nutrition in various Catholic Mission stations. Dr. Monika also visited the orphanage at Asansol run by the Missionaries of Charity sisters. On the last day of her stay she went to visit the family of Asha Baski and Boro Baski at Bandel near Kolkata.

\*On 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Karam Festival (recitation of Santal myth and history) was organised at Bishnubati. A Karam guru (story teller) was invited for this occasion. The recitation continued the whole night.

\* On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Boro Baski of Bishnubati was registered as a Ph.D. Research Scholar at the Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.

#### **(b) EXCURSIONS – EVENTS – TRAINING outside the villages**

\* 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006, Boro Baski and Martin Kämpchen went to meet H.E. Mr. Gopal Krishna Gandhi, the Governor of West Bengal, to give a formal invitation for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of RSV. After meeting the governor, they had a meeting with the members of the “Nawa Ipil” a Santali literary magazine published from Kolkata.

\* On 17<sup>th</sup> September, the dance group of Bishnubati took part in the Folk Festival of Birbhum at Gitanjali Auditorim, Bolpur. The festival was organised by the Santiniketan-Sriniketan Development Authority.

\* On 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> November, an educational tour was organised to Mayapur and Hazarduari. Mayapur (Dist. Nadia) is a famous place of Hindu pilgrimage and Hazarduari (Dist. Murshidabad) is a historical place connected with the Mughal period. The senior students of the two villages participated. Lakhiram Tudu, Dasarath Murmu and Gokul Hansda were the group leaders.

\* From 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Sona Murmu, Leena Murmu and Srikanta Mondal went to Dumka, Jharkhand, to attend a workshop on how to organise a Women Self Help Group.

\* 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007, the Santal dance group from Bishnubati participated in the Republic Day programme at the Dagh Banglow Maiden, Bolpur. The programme was organised by the Department of Information and Culture, Bolpur. In the evening the group also took part in the Adibasi Festival at Mizapur village.

\* From 29<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March, ten senior members of GASS and BAMS went for an Exposure Tour to the District Santal Pargana, Jharkhand. The group first went to Sahebganj, the northern part of S.P., and from there visited several Santal organisations supported by Catholic churches. They also visited Bhagnadihi, Pachkatia, Babupur villages the birthplace of Sidu and Kanu, the two Santal rebels, and their places of activities during the famous Hul (Santal revolution 1855-56). The tour was jointly organised by Boro Baski and Fr. Solomon.

\* 11<sup>th</sup> March, a Bengali play, ‘The Night of the Iguana’, was staged at Gitanjali Auditorium, Bolpur. Boro Baski and Ramjit Mardi of Bishnubati had roles in the play. 25 students and teachers from the two villages went to see the play.

## 6. The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV)

The Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (phone: 03463-235 258) is a non-formal Santal School situated half a kilometre from Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati. The school was founded by Boro Baski and Gokul Hansda in 1996, who remain its full-time teachers. The three part-time teachers are Hiralal Khan, Ranjit Khan and Mona Murmu.

After Baidyanath Murmu left as art teacher in 2005, Barhan Hansda, another Santal artist from Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan, joined the post. Barhan is basically a sculptor. He regularly paints, draws and models with the children. He plans to build his studio on the RSV campus.

\* On 25<sup>th</sup> May, the result of the school was declared and the children were promoted to new classes.

\* From 27<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006, the school was in summer vacation.

\* On 14<sup>th</sup> July, Gokul Hansda was admitted to a nursing home for an appendicitis operation. Afterwards he had to take rest for one month in his native village Dhanshara.

\* On 17<sup>th</sup> July, a parents' meeting was held in the school. On that occasion the school children performed a beautiful cultural programme for their parents. On that day the German/French television channel Arte came to film the festival as well as some village scenes and to interview Martin Kämpchen.

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007, RSV celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence. For this occasion, several programmes were taken up:

- (a) a music CD "Santal songs of Santiniketan" was released. The artist is Rathin Kisku, while Gokul Hansda was in charge of the music arrangement;
- (b) a book "Celebrating Life – The Santal Experiment in Freedom. Ten Years of a Non-Formal Santal School (1996-2006)", edited by Boro Baski and Kumkum Bhattacharya was released. The book contains essays on the RSV method of education, on the work in Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati, and on Santal aspirations in general;
- (c) several exhibitions were mounted with work by our Santal children and by our art teachers; further a photo exhibition on the history of RSV (with photos by Samiran Nandy);
- (d) a two hour cultural programme presented by the children, their parents and by the teachers of the school was attended by people from many neighbouring villages and by friends from Santiniketan.. A delegation of eleven friends from "Friends of Ghosaldanga", Germany, specially arrived to attend. They were led by Mrs Marianne and Mr Debu Pal Chowdhury. The chief guest of the celebration was Dr. Pratap Chunder Chandra, former Union Minister of Education, Government of India. Other distinguished guests were Manasa Hansda, Savadhipati of Birbhum District, Gautam Ghosh, Chairman, District Primary Education Board, Dr Jeanne Openshaw (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Kumkum Bhattacharya (Visva-Bharati), Prof. Ranjit Bhattacharya (formerly Director, Anthropological Survey of India) and Syamoli Tan Kastghir (artist, Santiniketan), Prof. Uma Dasgupta, Santiniketan . About six hundreds people attended the day's programme and five hundred people in the evening. About six hundreds people were fed at noon and at night.
- (e) On 21<sup>st</sup> January, an interactive session was held on the RSV campus with our German friends and the senior members of GASS and BAMS on the present situation and the future prospects of our village work.

\* On 10<sup>th</sup> February, as in former years, the children of RSV went to see the 'Hul Utsav' at Dhansara village.

\* On 29<sup>th</sup> March, a meeting of the parents and children of RSV was held at RSV hostel campus. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the benefits of a hostel on the RSV campus. Dr. Monika Golembiewski was the chief guest of the programme.

### **7. Chai Champa Tribal Hostel**

Since the first week of December 2006, we have been running a Day Care Centre at RSV. This Centre is meant for former RSV students who are bright in their studies but economically very poor. Through this Centre, we support them in their all-round development, i.e. in their study, health care, sports, culture and also spiritually. At present we have 9 students of class five and six. A group of German friends from Frankfurt and Dr. Monika Golembiewski from Stuttgart have supported us financially and morally to build up this hostel. From April, 2007 we plan to transform this centre into a full-fledged hostel for the students. While planning a hostel, we are also aware of the need that our children do not get isolated from their culture and from their family and village. Otherwise we would be producing educated Santals who remain indifferent towards the development of their community and would be struggling with their lack of cultural identity for the rest of their life.

### **8. Bio-orchard (at RSV Campus)**

Biological farming (farming without pesticides and chemical fertiliser) is a great need in our country. To set an example to the farmers in our area and have a source of income in harmony with village life, this orchard was started four years ago under the guidance of Srikanta Mondal. Hundreds of fruit trees grow on the RSV campus now. Mr. Srikanta Mondal has meanwhile transferred his responsibilities to Monotosh Das, a full time worker of the organisation. Monotosh regularly sells fruits, vegetables and by-products like jam and jelly at local markets in Bolpur and Santiniketan. The bio-orchard still growing and developing, it has not yet given us sufficient profit in return for our investment.

### **9. Vocational Training Centre (VTC)**

Vocational Training Centre (VTC) was started in 2001 at Bishnubati Village with the financial support of the German NGO Agape, Heidelberg. Presently, there is a dairy farm with 4 milch cows. Milk is being sold at Ghosaldanda, Bishnubati and Ashadullapur villages. There is also a weaving centre in which 9 women work. Five Women Self-Help Groups are also being looked after by the Centre in which there are 60 female members. This year 9 women's meetings were held. In every meeting, officials from the local Bank, or government officials or panchayet members were present. The agenda of the meeting was mainly how to get loans from the bank for the income generation programmes and how to repay it.

\* On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Boro Baski went to attend a meeting called by Mrs. Christine Weitmann of Agape at Prof. Sunil Das residence, Kolkata. A dozen people from various organisations working with Agape were present.

\* On 10th January 2007, Mrs. Weitmann visited Bishnubati and discussed the future of VTC programmes.

## **10. Hospitality and Partnerships**

We welcomed to our villages among others: Dr.Rainer Traub, journalist, Germany; Rina Mukherjee, Civil Society Magazine, Kolkata; Tom Harrison, Researcher, U.K; Manisha Majumdar Mishra and Rimil M. Mishra, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa; Mr. Samar Bagchi, former Director of MTM, Kolkata; Mrs. Christine Weitmann and Prof. Sunil Das, Agape, Germany; Fr. Soloman sj and Fr. Barnard Murmu sj , Dumka, Jharkhand; Dr. Shila Poddar Kundu, Asst. Director, Indian Museum; Prof. Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, former Director, Anthropological Survey of India; Fr. Damian Tudu and his 30 teachers, Jharkhand; Br. Mahananda and Br. Chiranjib, Jesuit Residence, Santiniketan; Sushil Das, High School teacher, Bandhnabagram. Bettina Straub, Social Work student, Germany; Srikantha Mondal, Manab Jamin, Bolpur; Pradip Kumar Paal, Chartered Accountant, Jayanta Ghosh, Paban Roy, S.N.Dey & Co, Kolkata; Bazar Hembrom, Santal Arist, Pathorghata.; Tapan Kumar Som, District Magistrate, Birbhum; Manasa Hansda, Savadhipati, Birbhum; Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Germany; Marianne und Debu Pal Chowdhury, Frankfurt, Germany and Peter Adams, St, Wendel with 10 German friends from Frankfurt. with ; Syamoli Tan Khastgir, artist, Santiniketan; Prof. Uma Dasgupta, Tagore scholar, Santiniketan; Gautam Ghosh, Chairman, Birbhum District Primary School Council; Dr. Jeanne Openshaw, University of Edinburgh; Dr. Pratap Chunder Chandra, former Union Minister of Education, Government of India; Günther Wehrmann, German Consul General, Kolkata and his wife Maren Wehrmann.

## **11. “Friends of Ghosaldanga”, Germany**

As in the past, the informal group „Friends of Ghosaldanga“ in Germany, headed by Dr.-Ing. Mandaresh Mitra and his wife Dipl.-Päd. Roswitha Mitra (Wildbachstrasse 28, 52074 Aachen/Germany, Email: [mandaresh.mitra@t-online.de](mailto:mandaresh.mitra@t-online.de)), has taken the lead in collecting donations for our Sanghas. We are very grateful to them! Only through their help, we can continue to function. Mandaresh and Roswitha Mitra also disseminate informations about our work and awareness about the Indian village situation in Germany. We continue to work closely with the Kindermannsionswerk (The Pontifical Mission of Holy Childhood) / “Sternsinger” Aachen, and receive help from them. We also put on record our indebtedness to Dr. Monika Golembiewski who has given lectures on our work especially to school groups and collected substantial donations in Germany. Further, Agape e.V., Heidelberg / Germany, headed by Christine Weitmann, has continued to support the VTC at Bishnubati.

## **12. Sponsorship:**

For the last several years, Dr. Monika Golembiewski has been personally collecting money in Germany to support some of the sick and physically weak children and mothers of our villages. From this year, we started a sponsorship programme for needy students. After selecting the students and receiving their personal data, Dr. Monika Golembiewski collected a number of like-minded persons who are willing to help these students. At present we have 12 sponsored students who are being supported in their development in various ways. Leena Murmu and Satyaban Ray, Santiniketan, have been taking care of this programme.

### **13. Patients**

Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Germany, who visits the villages once in a year also collects donations for the medical purposes. Full-time health worker Leena Murmu along with a homoeopath, Satyaban Ray, keeps direct and regular contact with the patients. From 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006, Dr. Kausik Ghosh, a general physician from the Sub-divisional Hospital, Bolpur, visits Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati once a week. Besides treating patients and helping them to get admission into hospital, Dr. Ghosh guides Leena Murmu and Satyaban Ray in serious medical cases.

The following were serious medical cases, which were looked after last year.

#### **At Bishnubati:**

1. Sumoti Mardi (female –15 years) had been admitted at Burdwan Hospital for two months to get an uterus operation. She is cured now.
2. Jethu Baski (m-18), who broke his leg while playing football is alright now.
3. Supriya Murmu (f-12) broke her hand; she is cured now.
4. Purnima Soren (f-12), after a long treatment of her left eye, the doctors cannot further cure her damaged cornia.

#### **At Ghosaldanga:**

1. Monimala Murmu (f-12) broke her hand; she is cured now.

### **14. Births and Deaths**

#### **BIRTHS**

##### **At Bishnubarti:**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 14.06.2006 | Lakhan Hembrom s/o Lakhu Hembrom and Sukhi Hembrom   |
| 14.07.2006 | Basanti Murmu d/o Bablu Murmu and Rani Murmu         |
| 03.09.2006 | Ranjit Hembrom s/o Subol Hembrom and Sabitri Hembrom |
| 24.08.2006 | Shisir Murmu s/o Bodon Murmu                         |
| 25.10.2007 | Pratima Baski d/o Monsha Baski and Sonmoni Baski     |
| 03.03.2007 | Sonali Murmu d/o Renta Murmu and Lakhi Murmu         |

##### **At Ghosaldanga:**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 20.05.2007 | Mohan Murmu s/o Talbona Murmu and Sukurmonin Tudu  |
| 09.08.2006 | Probhat Hembrom s/o Kalo Hembrom and Radha Hembrom |
| 13.02.2007 | Shibini Tudu d/o Sunil Tudu and Sumi Tudu          |

#### **DEATHS**

##### **At Bishnubati:**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 09.09.2006 | Rental Murmu s/o Robilal Murmu and Maku Murmu |
| 14.09.2006 | Gungro Murmu (Father of Bablu Murmu)          |

##### **At Ghosaldanga:**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 28.06.2006 | Aparna Tudu d/o Mongol Tudu and Sundari Tudu (6 months)        |
| 25.09.2006 | Maloti Murmu   |
| 13.03.2007 | Badhaian Hembrom (father of Kalicharan Hembrom, bitten by dog) |

