

**Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust**  
(Registration under Trust Registration Act 1982)  
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**Christmas and New Year Greetings 2017**

Dear friends,

Again a year full of activities and events is getting over. Besides our regular activities, the development of our primary and high school coaching centres, hostels and of the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram (RSV) and of health-care went forward. The income generation programmes, like bee-keeping, mushroom-cultivation, vermicompost, food-processing, the rearing of chicken, ducks, pigs, fish and rabbits that started two years ago with the support of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, are doing well. This year 300 families are involved in the project in 13 villages, guided by Pintu Ghosh, our RSV teacher.

Like every year, we collaborated with a number of NGOs, schools and Government institutions. The members of Baram Adibasi Anath Ashram (Malda, West-Bengal); Mahila Samity (Chndapura, Jharkhand) and the students from the Heritage School (Kolkata) visited us. In March, a group of senior students and teachers travelled to South India for an exposure programme. They were welcomed by the Vidhyadaya School in the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu), the Puvudham School (Tamil Nadu) and the Sita School (Karnataka) to exchange views on education. In October, our Junior Leaders traveled by bus and launch to Bangladesh to meet the Santals of that country in their villages, to sing and dance together and exchange our experiences. In December, we organized a National Seminar on the 'Importance of a Community Museum for the Education and Development of Santals' in collaboration with the Anthropological Survey of India. We are also humbly elevated when our RSV School was awarded with 'The Telegraph-Excellence Award 2016' by *The Telegraph*, the leading English daily newspaper of Eastern India in November in Kolkata.

Several guests and student volunteers from India and Germany visited us and worked with us this year. Among them were Prof. Samir Sikdar, Mr. Soban Roychowdhury and other officials from the Bose Institute (Kolkata), Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati; Dr. Sharmishtha Dattagupta and Holger Bartels, (Göttingen / Germany), Rolf and Anne Bucher, organic farmers from Germany; Olaf Iversen, the German Consul General in Kolkata. Jakob Doerr and his friend Laura stayed in Bishnubati for one month. Like every year, Dr. Monika Golembiewski treated our patients with great care.

Besides these positive developments we had some setbacks and worries. Several educated Santal youths from our villages are moving to the cities for work which is a new development. Many of them are High School and College dropouts who have never worked in the fields. They neither get used to work in the fields, nor can they find suitable jobs elsewhere. Their frustration often leads to alcoholism. The hostel that we started in Santiniketan to keep four College students had to be closed as they could not, on their own, maintain the necessary discipline. Despite building of community toilets in the educational centres and in the villages still a sizable number of villagers refuse to use them. Instead they go to the fields and bushes to relieve themselves. We need a long-term approach to address these issues.

However, with all these ups and down our work and lives progressed. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you for all the moral and practical support that you have extended to us this year. We are especially thankful to the members of the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati' in Germany. Your support means a lot to us for our development as individuals and as a community.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year 2017.

Boro Baski

Sona Murmu

Sanyasi Lohar

Gokul Hansda

Monotosh Das

Martin Kämpchen

Ramjit Mardi

Snehadri S. Chakraborty

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