

**Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust**  
(Registration under Trust Registration Act 1982)  
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## **Christmas and New Year Greetings 2021**

Dear friends,

The year 2020 will be remembered as one of the cruelest years in the history of mankind. Lakhs of people have lost their lives, millions suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a prolonged lockdown. But life means also to 'hope' that helps us to go on in all adversities. We, in the villages, were lucky that nobody from our villages got infected with the corona virus, though economically all of us have suffered in some way or other. Especially the youth who went to work in the cities and towns returned totally penniless. Others who suffered the most were our students who could not attend classes from April until now, and their parents could in no way help them out of the problem.

Our organization, from the very beginning, tried its best to support the people during this time of distress. The youth of the villages distributed food ration to the families who were in need of food. An awareness drive about the Corona virus and the precautions laid down by the government were continued for many months in the villages. Village women made masks which were distributed to the villagers and passersby on the village roads. Soap, detergent powder and other sanitizing materials were also distributed. From September, the situation gradually started getting back to normal as the lockdown was lifted.

Now, except the running of the RSV school and the hostels, most of the activities of the organization have resumed. Students of RSV school, however, are attending classes – one class per day - or receiving nutritious food, gardening and for taking guidance for their studies at home. Hostel students have also started attending their coaching classes in the RSV school campus. The morning and evening coaching schools in five villages, health-care and bio-farm activities have become normal. The youth programmes, such as vocational training, have resumed and the football project 'Kick for Help', too, have started their regular coaching. Both boys' and girls' teams have participated in a number of tournaments in the last two months.

Some activities that were held before the pandemic were Baha Parab (Spring festival); Rock climbing training camp at Joychandi pahar in Purulia; Book reading workshop with 'Ayash an Effort', Kolkata; a weeklong annual visit of the members of the 'Friends of Ghosaldanga and Bishnubati in Germany' headed by Mrs. Marianne Pal Chowdhury was also held in February. The activities that were held after easing the lock down process were Independence Day, Teachers' Day and Museum Day celebration. The programmes were held in keeping with Covid-19 guidelines and in a very low profile manner. Some senior members of the organization have participated in several online seminars and discussions. Gokul Hansda and Boro Baski have

participated in the Webinar discussion on ‘Indigenous Wisdom’ organized by Kolkata Centre for Creativity; Senior members of the organization participated in the online conference with the ‘ImmerseGo’ of New Delhi; Boro Baski participated in three webinar discussions conducted by Adivasi Sahitya Akhara, Ranchi, Sandes magazine, Nalhati, and Asiatic Society, Kolkata, of which he was the moderator.

The student volunteers from Germany who were in the village this year, could stay only in the beginning of the year before the lockdown started at the end of March. Annalena Wagner and Johannes Ritz stayed for five months and were involved mainly in bio-farming at RSV school. They also involved the farmers and students in the project. Talina Sophia Brehm stayed for four months and during her stay she taught handicrafts, sports, games and eurythmy to the primary children and English, music and partner acrobatics to the senior students of our hostel and Bishnubati village. Talina also visited other development activities of our partner organizations in the neighboring areas. It was bad luck for Sarah Jeuken because she had to leave the village early due to the Corona pandemic. She came to stay for three months and wanted to involve herself in students’ activities. She already started sports activities with the boys’ and girls’ team of the ‘Kick for Help’ project. Within a few weeks she could adjust with the students and adapt to the village situation.

Some of our respected guests were Mr. Ronen Sen, former Indian ambassador to Germany and the United States of America, and his wife Kapana; Mr. Chandranath Bhattacharya and his daughter Madhabi, Santiniketan; Mr. Martin Näf, Switzerland; Mr. Marcello Casoni, Brazil; Mr. Norbert Neuser, member of the European Parliament, Brussels, and initiator of the Kick for Help Foundation, Germany; Hannah Beckmann and Maike, former volunteer students from Germany.

The Coronavirus has made a deep impression on all of our lives. In the villages, people argued that the suffering we are going through is the result of the conflict between man and nature in which nature has won. This shows that the sense of responsibility in living harmony with our natural resources around the villages like land, water and plants is awakening.

We thank all of you for being with us in mind, prayer and supporting in different ways. Your support means a lot to us.

We wish all of you a HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2021

BoroBaski                      Sona Murmu                      Sanyasi Lohar                      Gokul Hansda

Monotosh Das                      Snehadri S. Chakraborty                      Martin Kämpchen

Ramjit Mardi and his team of Junior Leaders



**In keeping with Covid-19 guidelines**  
**7th Museum Day Celebration 2020**  
 (আব্বিচালি ঝাঝি জগাও নাহা)

**Organized By**  
 Museum of Santal Culture, Bishnubati and Ghosaladanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust, Birbhum  
**Time & Venue**  
 9th December 2020 at 2:30 pm, at Museum of Santal Culture, Bishnubati, Birbhum  
**Guests of Honour**  
 Dr. Pradip Kumar Mandal, Curator, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan  
 Dr. Dhaneshwar Manjhi, Head, Dept. of Santali, Visva-Bharati

**Highlights**

- **Presentation of new items in the museum and their presentation**
- **Santali Short Story Reading Session** (পান্ডালি ছুতিজা কীহানি পাড়হাও বেনাঃ আখড়া):  
 Gauri Tudu - কীহা ন অকবারঃ (Whose sin is it?) | Sibub Saren - সাকাম অকুহঃ (Leaf tearing)  
 Leena Murmu Hembram - ঝীন পুচি (Witch cat) | Gobinda Baski - শাহরু ফাউ (Water drawing shore)  
 Sunder Manoj Hembram - ঝাউ ঝাউ পঃ সপরা (Dancing in the moonlight)  
 Boro Baski - ঝাউঝাউ জাউঝাউ হাউ (Maino's in-law's house)
- **Cultural programme:** Students of Ghosaladanga, RSV school and Bishnubati.
  - **A Mahali Play** শাঁউশাঁউ (Caterpillar)

Written and Directed by Dr. Kalachand Mahale; Music- Sanatan Murmu and Utpal Besra, Bhairo Band; Produced by- Mahali Adibasi Welfare Society, Santiniketan.

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