



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**October 21st, 2021**

**Sahaita partners with Atam Pargas to support 70 families of farmers who have passed away in Delhi protest.**

*Sahaita is expanding upon their current farmer support project that has over 200 farmer and farm laborer families*

**Fremont, CA.** – Fulfilling its commitment to the empower the underprivileged, today Sahaita announced it is establishing a partnership with Atam Pargas Social Welfare Council. Under this partnership Sahaita will support an additional 70 families of farmers or farm laborers who have lost their life during or at the Delhi border farmer protest sites.

Since its inception in 2005, Sahaita has stayed relevant by pivoting and adapting to the needs on the ground, be it in Punjab or abroad. Over the last 5 years Sahaita has focused on providing education for the children of Punjab’s farmers and farm laborers, to ensure they can join the service economy and provide for their families. Under our farmer support Sahaita currently supports 250 farmer families in Punjab, with over 300 students in various schools and colleges.

Atam Pargas, led by Dr. Varinder Pal Singh, Principal Soil Scientist from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana along with the board and team of coordinators has committed over 60 hours of research and due diligence into each family. This due diligence has highlighted each family’s financial situation, documenting their income, debt, and support they have received to date from various other organizations.

Based on the due diligence Atam Pargas has created a plan for each family, ranging from one time investment for some families to help them establish a source of income; in other cases where the family needed monthly support, they have recommended a monthly support amount for the family to cover their living expenses.

Sahaita board approved funds to support 70 families, whereas some need one time investment to cover debt or to establish an income source, while others need a monthly stipend to cover their living expenses. Sahaita’s sponsorship will enable Atam Pargas to make these families self-dependent and be able to support themselves.

As part of the alliance, Sahaita will also appoint a coordinator to join Atam Pargas team in India, tasked with helping manage and coordinate our efforts between the two organizations.



Sahaita takes pride in being a 100% volunteer managed organization in US and Canada, saving millions in executive director and board salaries ensuring prudent use of donated funds. Our partnership with Atam Pargas aligns us with a like-minded and well managed organization that takes pride in conducting due diligence and ensuring that donations make the most impact on the ground. To that end, both organizations will make available the list of families adopted by Sahaita and allow individuals to adopt these families via Sahaita website at <https://www.sahaita.org/farmerproject>

On October 30th 2021, Sahaita will be hosting its annual fundraising event at Pleasanton Senior Center, Centennial Park, 5353 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton, CA. with special guest Raj Kakra. Sahaita board members will be available to meet and further discuss this partnership along with a presentation overview of our projects and our impact in 2021 will be delivered. More information on our Sahaita Mehfil Night is available on our Facebook page at <facebook.com/sahaitausa>



**About Sahaita:**  
[www.sahaita.org](http://www.sahaita.org)

Sahaita Inc. Is a grassroots organization that was born out of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean which devastated millions of people lives and their livelihoods. As Dr. Harkesh Sandhu, who had long held the desire to do something bigger for humanity, watched the devastation unfold on television, he initiated Sahaita.

Since its inception in 2005, Sahaita has been a 100% volunteer run organization with dedicated volunteers and executive board members. Sahaita operates in US, Canada, and India - educating the less fortunate, providing medical and vision aid to the needy, and launching humanitarian projects like supporting families of farmers and farm laborers, rebuilding schools, supporting a nursery at Bal Ghar orphanage in Talwandi Dham, and more.

Sahaita continues to support their commitments to education over 1400 students they are educating from nursery to post graduate courses. With the Sikligar Sikhs in Alwar, Rajasthan where Sahaita supports computer education and vocational training. In Patiala with the School of Deaf and Blind in Patiala where last year Sahaita is helping transform 6 classrooms into smart classrooms with audio visual upgrades and this year we supported building of a new park for the children. Sahaita continues to provide over 600 free eye surgeries and various medical camps, which was how founders Dr. Harkesh Sandhu (USA) and Dr. Rajinder Singh (India) first started Sahaita.

After the Punjab floods in 2019, Sahaita's India team provided food rations and other necessities then later organized to help rebuild 32 schools and drill 10 borewells so the schools could provide clean drinking water. Even as COVID struck Sahaita jumped into action providing mask, sanitizers, and food rations to the needy in Ludhiana, Amritsar and Mansa districts of Punjab. In COVID support alone, Sahaita board released over \$100K USD to ensure PPE is provided to front line responders across the globe.

Sahaita's latest initiative, Udaan, aims to provide wings to our youth and help them achieve their dreams with guidance and mentorship from achieved leaders in their fields. The Sahaita Youth Board has been coordinating webinars on navigating high school, college planning, and more, including fireside chats with professionals such as medical school admission committee members.



Over its 17 years Sahaita has educated over 5600 students, operated over 64,000 free eye surgeries, and provided free medical services to over 305,000 patients. The focus on measuring our impact and providing transparency has earned donors' trust, placing Sahaita on Great Non-profit's Top Non-profit list for 2020 again, along with Silver Star of transparency on GuideStar.



### **About Atam Pargas:**

<https://www.atampargas.org>

Atam Pargas Social Welfare Council, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) and as amended by Punjab Amendment Act 1957 vide number 133 of 2009-10 with its principal office at 99, Preet Vihar, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana-142022, India.

It is a non-profitable, non-political and non-government organisation instrumental to sensitize academia to voluntarily take up the mission of developing students as 'Truthful Human Beings', archive literature, help needy students/patients, prevent environmental pollution, and conserve natural resources. Dr. Varinderpal Singh, a renowned 'Soil Scientist' and 'Social Activists' founded Atam Pargas in 2009 and is being managed by a team of learned academicians and selfless volunteers ([https://www.atampargas.org/home/Board of Management](https://www.atampargas.org/home/Board_of_Management)).

It has an outreach to the grassroots through its units in more than 300 academic institutions in India. A special school curriculum consisting of two dozen books has been developed for 2nd to 9th standard students with the objective of reviving the legacy of the educational system of Punjab while mentoring students to develop their personality as Truthful Human Beings. A video explaining the specially designed school curriculum is available at this link ([https://youtu.be/t\\_uWNKmdtaY](https://youtu.be/t_uWNKmdtaY)).

The Village Bassian, Ludhiana has been developed as a role model village for reducing the environmental footprints of excessive fertilizer nitrogen use in agriculture. The farmers have been empowered to adopt precision nitrogen management using the PAU-Leaf Colour Chart, the most economical and efficient tool developed by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Glimpses of the success story are available at (<https://youtu.be/mUY0kZzPkP4I>).

"Support Farmers" initiative of the Atam Pargas is an organised and dedicated project of caring for the poor and needy families of the martyrs who sacrificed for the well-being of the Indian public during the farmers' agitation. About 25 regional review teams are outreaching the families of martyred farmers to review their needs and allot coordinator to the supported families. The teams also review the poor and needy families of citizens other than the martyrs of the farmers agitation. The needs of the reviewed families are finally assessed and decided by the team of intellectuals in consultation with coordinators to ensure necessary arrangements for providing moral support, medical aid, education, career/employment counselling, agricultural expertise, and financial assistance to meet the necessities of the needy families. The coordinators remain in touch with the families to extend all sorts of possible support. A special emphasis is being given to develop the family members of the supported families as 'Truthful Human Beings' in the service of society (<https://www.atampargas.org/home/Supportfarmers>).