



Aragami India

2023-24  
ANNUAL REPORT







**दैनिक भास्कर** सीतामढ़ी 03-12-2023

## महिला से हिंसा के विरुद्ध जागरूक किया

जागरूकता कार्यक्रम में शामिल लोग।



**भास्कर न्यूज़ लुधियाना**

उन्होंने घर-जाकर महिलाओं के प्रति हो रही विभिन्न प्रकार के हिंसा जैसे- धुप हत्या, शिशा से वंचित रखना, बेटा पैदा करने के लिए अनुचित दबाव देना, आर्थिक हिंसा, मनोवैज्ञानिक हिंसा, दोष प्रथा आदि के खिलाफ आवाज उठाने का आह्वान किया। कार्यक्रम में रामगोपाल आशा कार्कटकी, पीयर एजुकटेड, डेवलपमेंट पार्टनर, अग्रणी इंडिया से मणिकॉन्ट भूषण लामू कानूनों की जानकारी दी।





## About Us

Aragami India seeks to bring about sustainable change in the quality of life of the rural and urban poor by addressing the causes of multi-dimensional poverty - poor health & sanitation, lack of education, and absence of livelihoods opportunities. Its programs provide information, education and skills that empower and enable communities - particularly women and young adults - to adopt positive behaviors and utilize essential services for health, sanitation, education, skill development, and income generation. Programs reach out to the most vulnerable, emphasize gender equality, develop change agents within communities, use holistic and integrated approaches to bring about sustainable change, promote the utilization of services available for health, education, skill development and livelihoods, and collaborate with Government and other organizations to ensure program synergy.

Aragami's development interventions are focused on Bihar, and the low-income settlements of the National Capital Region.



Aragami also builds the capacity of community outreach workers, both government and non-government. Capacity building programs are conducted wherever needed in India.



Aragami India is accredited by The Credibility Alliance as an organization that fulfills all desirable norms of governance, accountability and system integrity.

## Health

### *The Uday Project NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh*

The HCLFoundation's Uday project is a comprehensive urban development program designed to improve the conditions of life of migrant families living in NOIDA's urban villages. Agragami India is a partner in this project. Agragami's role in Uday is to help alleviate poverty and improve the health of mothers and children, through the adoption of small families, and healthy timing and spacing of children. Agragami promotes delaying marriage till girls attain the legally marriageable age, postponing childbirth till women are at least twenty, and maintaining a healthy interval between children.

This project began in 2018 in three locations of NOIDA and by 2022-23, had spread to seventeen locations. In 2023-24, because of funds constraints, HCLFoundation suggested that the project cover only five locations. In December 2021, the thematic scope of the project was expanded. Maternal and child health (MCH) inputs for healthy pregnancy, safe delivery, and new-born care and feeding, were added to the family planning interventions.

### **Family Planning**

Concerted efforts made to motivate eligible couples to increase contraceptive use for delaying, spacing and limiting childbearing have borne fruit. The figures below compare behaviours in the intervention clusters as of end March 2023, with data as of end March 2024:

- Overall contraceptive use has more than doubled from 21.70 % to 52.70%.

- The number of adolescent girls who were pregnant or had already experienced pregnancy has reduced from 1.62% to 1.33%.
- The percentage of women having more than 3 children has decreased from 42.15% to 38.18%

### **Maternal & Child Health**

A comparison of results (March 2023 - March 2024):

- The number of women who had ante-natal check-ups has increased from 29.88% to 53.74%.
- The percentage of mothers whose last birth was protected against neo-natal tetanus has grown from 62.95% to 99.53%.
- Pregnant women who consumed iron and folic acid for 180 days or more during pregnancy has increased from 0% to 71.09%.
- The number of newborns being breastfed within 1 hour of birth has increased from 54.85% to 75.81%.





## Childhood Immunization

In January 2022, Agragami began supporting the Government's Universal Immunization Program. Our Family Planning Educators build awareness of the importance of immunization, and mobilized parents to bring children to the immunization clinics held by the Government.



This mobilization program has built awareness and resulted in increasing rates of complete immunization of children from 16.3% in December 2021 to 56.96% by the end of March 2024. The percentage of children who have had no immunization has reduced slightly from 3.3% to 2.98%. We hope to see more improvement in the year ahead.



## Integrating family planning with immunization

Immunization days at the local primary health centers are used as an opportunity for expanding project reach to women residing outside our project intervention settlements.

Pregnant women who come for antenatal immunization and mothers who bring their children for immunization, are given information on family planning, and on where to obtain the clinical contraceptive services that they need.

## Adolescent well-being

2244 adolescents - 1450 girls and 794 boys - in 4 government schools of NOIDA, participated in adolescent reproductive and sexual health programs conducted by Agragami.



## Testimonials

प्रधानाचार्य / प्रबन्धक  
नवजीवन इण्टर कॉलेज,  
मेडा भंगेल, नोएडा (गौतम बुद्ध नगर)  
उत्तर प्रदेश।  
E mail - navjeevanint.college@gmail.com  
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मोबाइल - 9136705807

सेवा में,  
श्रीमान

पत्रांक / मेमो

विषय:- प्रमाण पत्र।

महोदय,

अग्रगामी इंडिया द्वारा आयोजित यौन प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य प्रशिक्षण के प्रति अपनी गहरी कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। इस कार्यक्रम ने हमारे छात्रों को महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी प्रदान की, जिससे वे अपने यौन और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य के बारे में जागरूक हो सके।

प्रशिक्षण के दौरान छात्रों ने अपने शरीर, किशोरावस्था वृद्धि व विकास, माहवारी स्वच्छता, यौन दुर्व्यवहार, जिन्मेदार माता-पिता बनना, प्रजनन व यौन संवाहित रोग, एच. आई. वी। एड्स और सही निर्णय लेने की क्षमता के बारे में सीखा। इस पहल ने हमारे स्कूल के वातावरण में सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाया है।

आपकी इस महत्वपूर्ण पहल के लिए हम हार्दिक धन्यवाद देते हैं और आशा करते हैं कि भविष्य में भी ऐसे कार्यक्रम होते रहेंगे।

वि. प्रबन्धी  
नव जीवन इ. कॉ. मेडा भंगेल  
नोएडा (गौतम बुद्ध नगर)

## Adolescent Health and Development

**The Tarunya Project:** *Supporting the Government of Bihar to implement the Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram*

In June 2017, EngenderHealth entrusted Agragami India with the implementation of its Tarunya project in Sitamarhi district, Bihar. Tarunya's objective was to build the capacity of the district's primary health system to implement the Government's Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK). RKSK is a Government of India program designed to enable adolescents to access the information, counselling support, and health services that they need to negotiate the risky years of adolescence, and transition to healthy adulthood. March 2024 brought 6.75 years of Tarunya project implementation to an end, by which time, all 845 villages of Sitamarhi's 17 blocks had been covered.



*Dr. Rajesh Mehta (WHO) Dr. Ajay Khara ( EngenderHealth) with peer educators*

## Results:

During these years, Agragami enabled the district's primary health system to implement the many components of RKSK. In the early years of the project, the Agragami project team itself carried out all RKSK activities, including setting up and running the district's 18 adolescent friendly health clinics. In the course of this work, Agragami staff demonstrated how to plan, execute and report on RKSK activities. Progressively, the team handed over implementation of activities to Government staff, observing and supporting them as they worked. In the last year of the project, Government staff took over full implementation of RKSK activities.

The primary health system has understood the importance of providing a positive and encouraging environment for adolescents to help them transition into healthy and responsible adulthood.

## ***Training of front-line workers in adolescent health***

The project trained 149 auxiliary nurse midwives and 3,112 ASHAs to serve the adolescents of the district.





### **Adolescent friendly health clinics (AFHCs)**

17 AFHCs were set up in the district's primary health centers to provide counselling services to adolescents. All are fully operational and completely managed by government staff, with each AFHC averaging about 87 clients per month. About 16% clients were directed by members of their peer group, 15% were referred by school/college teachers, and almost 31% of the clients came un-referred.



*Scene at an AFHC*

### **Peer Educators**

6,224 adolescent peer educators were selected and trained to lead community-based activities such as peer group meetings to discuss health issues, and organize adolescent health clubs and adolescent health days. Through these activities, adolescents were informed on adolescent health and development issues.

Peer educators trained by, and involved in project activities, grew in confidence, assertiveness and communication skills. Twelve adolescent peer educators were selected by the health system as district resource persons for training adolescent peer educators. One young female peer educator was selected as a member of the twenty-member national youth advisory committee, formed in 2023, by the Government of India and UNFPA.



*Spreading awareness about violence against women*

### **Adolescent health training**

The project reached over 200,000 adolescents of the 845 villages of the district. Adolescents who participated in adolescent group meetings and discussions reported that participation in the reproductive health sessions helped them to better understand and cope with the growth, development and changes that they were experiencing.



*Training of peer educators*

### ***Building a supportive home environment for adolescents***



*Parents during the sensitization program*

On a pilot basis, a few mothers and fathers of adolescent children were sensitized to the need for creating a supportive home and community environment for adolescent development. Parents who participated in the project's positive parenting discussions, reported that they better understood the needs and behaviour of their adolescents, and spent more time engaging with them, and building a supportive relationship. Adolescents on their part, reported that positive interaction at home with parents had increased.

### ***Gender-based discrimination***

Adolescent girls in rural areas face pressure to conform to prevailing societal norms. This form of gender-based discrimination forces many to give up their dreams and aspirations. The brothers and other men in families play a large role in placing restrictions on girls. The project piloted a short training program for brothers. Through discussions, storytelling and short films, participants considered the negative effects of this form of gender-based discrimination, and its effect on a girl's right to choose an education, career and financial independence.



*Brothers/uncles undergoing the sensitization program*



## Livelihoods

### *The Khushali Project, Bodhgaya, Bihar*

The Livelihoods project commenced in 2017 in 10 villages of Bodhgaya block, Gaya district, Bihar. It now covers 13 villages. The project has two main interventions. The first is an income supplementation intervention, and the second is the development, support and promotion of a cadre of female barefoot veterinarians called **Pashu Sakhis**.

#### **The Income Supplementation Intervention**

Two hundred very poor families are helped to supplement income through kitchen gardens and goat and pig rearing. Families are also connected to Government's agricultural extension services so that they can learn about and benefit from the introduction of new crop variants and cropping techniques that increase productivity and income.



The women in beneficiary families tend to kitchen gardens and small animals, while the men cultivate their small land-holdings. Of the 200 project beneficiary families, 196 are engaged in kitchen gardening, 150 in goat rearing, and only 5 rear pigs. Agragami's support to these beneficiaries includes information and training on the use of the right seeds and techniques, and connecting families to information and farm out-reach services that improve productivity and income. Sources of information and services are both governmental and non-governmental. They offer new techniques; improved, free or subsidized seeds and seedlings; and loans or other schemes.

#### **New inputs this year**

Eight beneficiaries were introduced to *til* (sesame) cultivation. *Til* is a crop particularly suited to sandy soil and arid conditions, and is ideal as a 3-month, intermediary, summer crop grown between the Kharif harvest in April and the Rabi planting in July. The average produce per *kattha* was approximately 8 kg. One beneficiary reaped an exceedingly large harvest of 40 kgs from the 2 *katthas* of land in which he cultivated *til*.

#### **Kitchen gardening**

To increase income from kitchen gardens as well as the nutritional intake of families, papaya and moringa plantation were undertaken in 2022-2023, with mixed results. Households that followed the recommended package of practices reaped a good harvest.

Aragami procured high quality papaya and moringa seeds. A few beneficiaries undertook to grow the seedlings in nursery beds. Seedlings were sold at nominal price to beneficiaries. Ninety two households bought and planted papaya seedlings, and 63 planted moringa. Agragami staff visited beneficiaries to guide cultivation, and

to teach beneficiaries how to make and use suitable organic fertilizer and pesticide. Careless households lost seedlings to foraging animals, lack of watering, and vandalism. Only 24% of papaya seedlings grew into healthy plants and fruited plentifully, bearing excellent quality fruit. Seeing the success of the few, the others have determined to do better with the seedlings that they planted in February 2024.



The moringa seedlings were sold to 63 beneficiaries. There has been less mortality in these. The seedlings are now full grown and have started bearing fruit. Though moringa fruit has always been well-used in Bihari cooking, the flower and leaf are not used. After training, beneficiaries have begun to use even these in their food – a most inexpensive way of enriching their meals with vital vitamins and minerals.

### Goat rearing

The project succeeded in increasing the number of households rearing goats from 97 to 150 this year. In spite of the fact that over 60% of households rear goats, cattle and pigs, there is an absence of veterinary services in these villages. When cattle in the villages exhibited signs of what turned out to be lumpy skin disease – contagious and potentially fatal - Agragami coordinated with Karuna Sechen (an NGO), and organized a mobile veterinary clinic in one affected village. About a 100 livestock - goats, cows and buffaloes – from nearby villages were treated here.

Education of beneficiaries, and energetic promotion of routine vaccination and de-worming of goats continued. Pestes des Petits Ruminants (PPR), “goat plague” is a highly contagious disease affecting small ruminants, both domestic and wild, and is the single largest killer of goats in India. From 15 November 2023, Agragami organized a series of PPR vaccination camps for its intervention villages. More than 500 goats have been vaccinated against PPR, protecting them for the next three years. Villagers paid only the cost of the vaccine.

### बोधगया में 50 बकरियों को लगाये गये जीवन रक्षक टीके

**बोधगया.** बोधगया के दो गांवों में गुरुवार को 30 घरों के 50 बकरियों को जीवन रक्षक टीके लगाये गये. गैर सरकारी संस्था अग्रगामी इंडिया के माध्यम से बोधगया के 13 गांवों में आजीविका संवर्द्धन, किचन गार्डन, बकरी पालन, सुअर पालन, मशरूम उत्पादन इत्यादि का कार्यक्रम चलाया जा रहा है. इसी के तहत गुरुवार को घोघरिया व हरिहरपुर- डुमरी में 50 बकरियों को टीका लगाया गया. अग्रगामी इंडिया बोधगया के कार्यक्रम समन्वयक त्रिपुरारि सिंह ने बताया कि बकरियों में 80 प्रतिशत मृत्यु टीपीआर के कारण होती है. टीका लगाकर बकरियों की मृत्यु को कम करना आवश्यक है. अभियान को सफल बनाने में सरकारी पशु चिकित्सक बच्चा सिंह, संस्था के स्थानीय कार्यकर्ता जयप्रकाश गिरि, आशीष कुमार, समुदाय के दिलीप कुमार, प्रमोद कुमार, जनेश्वर दास, मुन्नी देवी का विशेष योगदान रहा.

**प्रभात खबर**

Fri, 17 November 2023

<https://epaper.prabhatkhabar.com>





### Income generated

Taken overall, 28% of the 200 beneficiary households earned more than Rs.18,000 from project supported income generation activities; 62 % earned between 10,001 and 17,999, while 38% earned less than Rs.10,000.

The returns from pig rearing are the highest. Though only 5 households reared pigs, all earned between Rs.18,000 and 30,000. Returns from goat rearing are of course higher than from kitchen gardening.

### The Pashu Sakhi Intervention

This intervention took off from March 2024. Agragami tied up with The Goat Trust, a Lucknow based NGO, to obtain technical assistance and support. *Pashu Sakhis* will fill the great need for trained veterinary service providers in the villages.



*Pashu Sakhis being given practical training*

Twelve motivated women were selected. The Goat Trust gave them an initial round of theoretical and practical training over 5 days, and equipped them with uniforms, veterinary kits and medicines - basic material to do their work. They were trained in important aspects related to goat rearing – feeding, recognizing and treating various ailments, basic home remedies, managing reproduction, immunization etc.



The Livelihoods project will hand-hold the *Pashu Sakhis*, arrange refresher training, connect them over telephone with a qualified and experienced veterinarian, market their services to goat rearers in the villages, and help them establish themselves as economically viable entrepreneurs. The *Pashu Sakhi* scheme benefits both animal owners and *Pashu Sakhis*. *Pashu Sakhis* will be able to earn an income by offering their services, and animal owners will get low-cost, on time, door-step services which will lead to healthier, better fed goats, prevention of disease, reduced morbidity and mortality, and increased returns on their investment in livestock.

### *The Bodhgaya Hotel School*

The Bodhgaya Hotel School (TBHS) is a collaborative effort between Atragami India and two Swiss agencies – EHLsmile and IFPD. It is a hospitality training school that provides skill training to underprivileged youth so that they can acquire the skill sets required to get employment in the rapidly growing hospitality industry in India. TBHS has within it a small twenty room hotel that caters to Indian and international pilgrims to Bodhgaya - the place where Lord Buddha gained enlightenment, and thus the holiest destination in the Buddhist world. The purpose of the hotel is to provide students with real life, practical work experience, that hones the skills learned in the class-rooms and demonstration rooms of the school. The hotel is run by the students and their instructors. Revenue generated by the hotel helps defray some of the costs of running the school.



2023-2024 has been a very challenging year for the school. Nineteen students were admitted – 9 in food production and 11 in hotel operations. Within three months, the students in hotel operations dropped out, chiefly because they objected to housekeeping duties which include cleaning of bedrooms and toilets – jobs that are socially stigmatized. As a result of this experience and similar objections raised by past batches, TBHS has changed its curriculum. From 2024-2025, it will drop housekeeping studies and train students only for front office and food and beverage operations.



Food production is a popular choice and the success of TBHS' past students in the job market has generated powerful word-of-mouth for this course. The School received several enquiries throughout the year for admissions to the 2024-2025 batch.



Tourist traffic to Bodhgaya was surprisingly low in 2023-2024. The expectation was that post COVID, there would be high tourist inflows to Bodhgaya. However, forecasts were proved wrong. Average occupancy in the hotel was just 20.62%, and revenue targets could not be met. Several new hotels have opened in Bodhgaya, including a new Hyatt. A Marriot and a Lemon Tree are scheduled to open in 2025. In this highly competitive environment, it is to be seen if the concept of a self-sustaining school financed by revenues from the hotel can become a reality.

IFPD has provided strong support through this difficult time and we hope that 2024-2025 will be a better year for both the school and the hotel.



*Comprehensive sexuality education training for TBHS students*



*TBHS Students during a computer training program*

## Education

### *Early Childhood Development Program Madanpur Khadar, Delhi*

Aragami's Early Childhood Development Program in the low-income settlement of Madanpur Khadar, Delhi, has both pre-school and remedial education classes. The remedial education classes provide assistance to students in primary school to help them to keep up with, and understand the syllabus being taught in their schools. Over the years, the school has built up a reputation as a place that helps in all-round development of children. This year, on average, there were 20 students in the pre-school section and 35 in the remedial section.



Sometimes, parents opting for “less expensive” options, withdraw their children from our school. Many of them realise that their children are not learning and developing as much in the new school as they had done at the Aragami school. Their children return to our school.

**In 2022-2023, 82% of the students who had dropped out of our school returned to us - a validation of our methodology and an acknowledgment of the hard work of our teachers.**



Monthly parent teacher meetings give both parents and teachers an opportunity to talk to each other about the children, their learning, behaviour and other issues. Our teachers emphasise the importance of these meetings and they are well attended.



*A Parent teacher meeting in progress*



## Self-Defence

### *Self-defence training for women and girls*

Self-defence training for women and girls has been an activity that Agragami has been engaged in since 2014. Our self-defence training method has been developed by Martial Vout, a Swiss security expert, who calls his method “instinctive self-defence”.

In April 2023, we began a new self-defence training project in the Government Girls Inter College, Hoshiarpur, NOIDA. The project trained 12 girls from classes 8 to 11 as trainers. Between 1 November and 15 December, 2023, these 12 trainers conducted a total of 14 self-defence demonstration workshops in their own school. The workshops trained 713 students of classes 9 and 10.

In spite of careful initial screening at the time of selecting trainers, six of the 12 girls trained dropped out of the program because they had second thoughts about training girls outside their own school. Six trainers remain and will be training about 2500 girls in NOIDA/NCR schools during 2024-2025.

The important lesson learned is that we should train college girls rather than school girls, as trainers. College girls are older and are allowed more autonomy and mobility by parents. They are thus more likely to stay with the program.



## Human Resources

### Details of Agrabami Employees

Salary and benefits (Rs. per month)	Male	Female	Total
<7,000	-	-	-
7,000 -14,999	2	1	3
15,000 - 29,999	4	13	17
30,000 - 49,999	12	8	20
≥50000	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>



*The Uday Project Team, NOIDA*



*The Self-defence Project Team, Delhi/NCR*



*The Education Project Team, Delhi*



*The Livelihoods Project Team, Bodhgaya, Bihar*



*The Tarunya Project Team, Sitamarhi, Bihar*

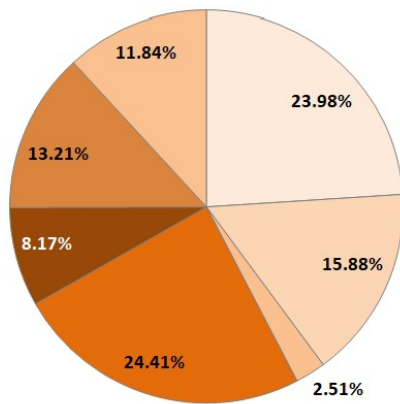


*The TBHS Project Team, Bodhgaya, Bihar*



## Financials

### Sources of Funds: 2023-2024



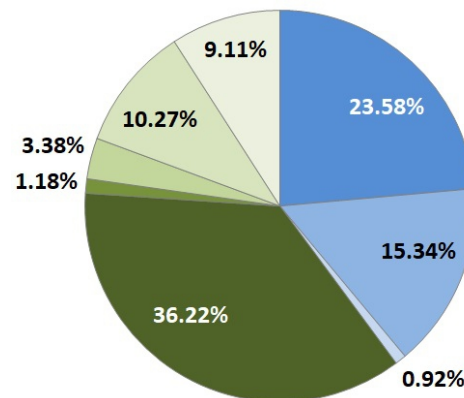
- Family Planning, Uday Project - ₹46.43 lakhs
- Adolescent Development, RKSK Project - ₹30.75 lakhs
- Self Defence for Girls - ₹4.85 lakhs
- Vocational Education & Skill Development, TBHS Project Revenue from Hotel Operations - ₹47.27 lakhs
- Vocational Education & Skill Development, TBHS Project Grant - ₹15.81 lakhs
- Other Income - ₹25.58 lakhs
- Profit on Sale of Mutual Funds - ₹22.92 lakhs

**Total ₹193.61 lakhs**

### Uses of Funds: 2023-2024

- Family Planning, Uday Project - ₹45.65 lakhs
- Adolescent Development, RKSK Project - ₹29.70 lakhs
- Self Defence for Girls - ₹1.78 lakhs
- Vocational Education & Skill Development, TBHS Project - ₹70.12 lakhs
- Pre-School & Remedial Classes - ₹2.29 lakhs
- Livelihoods, Khushali Project - ₹6.55 lakhs
- Program Support Cost (not covered by donor funds) - ₹19.88 lakhs
- Excess of Income Over Expenditure : ₹17.64 lakhs

**Total ₹193.61 lakhs**



## Members of the Society

Mr. Shrikant Bhonsle  
Dr. Bimal Charles, President  
Dr. E.E. Daniel  
Ms. Sreevally Dharmavaram, Treasurer  
Dr. Nisha Gupta  
Ms. Rekha Masilamani, Secretary  
Mr. Sunil Nanda  
Ms. Pooja Pal  
Ms. Shubhangi Sawant, Vice President  
Ms. Madhur Verma

Members of the Society elect an Executive Committee which serves as the Board of the organization. This is a volunteer Board and none of its members have received any remuneration from Agragami India, nor have they traveled abroad at the Society's expense.

## Auditors

S.Sahoo & Co., 14 Palam Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi – 110057.

## Bankers

State Bank of India  
4th Floor, New Delhi Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg,  
New Delhi – 110001  
Axis Bank  
Mayur Vihar, Delhi; Boring Road, Patna; and Bodhgaya, Bihar.

## Supporters

Our work this year has been made possible by the generous support of:

ALORVIE



EHLsmile



EngenderHealth



HCLFoundation



International Foundation  
for Population and Development



Karuna Sechen



Martial Vout



The Goat Trust

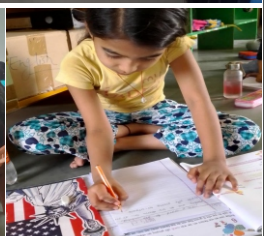


Mr. Sachitanand Singh  
Partner, Future Returns

## Legal Status

Agragami India was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. It has FCRA registration and is tax exempt under both sections 12A and 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act. It is registered on Niti Ayog's NGO Darpan portal, and with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for undertaking CSR activities. It is listed on the Ministry's CSR portal.







**Aragami India**

**Aragami India's Offices:**

**Registered Office:**

4, Community Shopping Centre (1st floor), Anupam Apartments, Saidullajab, New Delhi 110 068

**Operating Office, Bihar:**

Aragami India, c/o The Bodhgaya Hotel School, Behind 80 ft Lord Buddha Statue, Katorwa Road, Bodhgaya, Bihar-824231

**Operating Office, NCR:**

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