

NEWSLETTER



This July, the ATSEC India network united across states to observe the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July) – a significant moment to reaffirm our collective stand against human trafficking and exploitation. From awareness rallies and newspaper features to online discussions and community-led campaigns, our member organisations marked the day with powerful, on-ground actions and voices from the field.

This edition captures those inspiring stories, media coverage, dialogues, and digital engagements that not only raised awareness but also amplified the call for stronger protection systems and community vigilance.

Each activity reflects ATSEC's unwavering commitment to prevention, survivor support, and systemic change – made possible through the dedication of field teams, child champions, and civil society allies working at the grassroots.

BACKGROUND

ATSEC India (Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children) is a network-based coalition of over 500 civil society organisations, committed to ending human trafficking and protecting the rights of vulnerable children and women. Founded in 1998, ATSEC works across multiple states including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and more – with strong community engagement at its core.

Our approach integrates **prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and advocacy**, empowering communities through training, awareness, and coordination with local governance systems. We also operate the **National Anti-Trafficking Information Resource Centre (NATIRC)** to facilitate knowledge sharing, research, and documentation across the country.

BREAKING SILENCE

Stigma and Violence Haunt Survivors

In the bustling lanes of Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam districts, life appears ordinary. Yet, beneath this facade lies a silent crisis endured by thousands of women who have survived human trafficking or remain trapped in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Their stories rarely make headlines, but they reveal a grim reality of relentless gender-based violence (GBV), deep-rooted stigma, and systemic neglect that continues even after rescue. According to the 2024 ACO PMPSE report, Andhra Pradesh is home to an estimated 1.33 lakh female sex workers, making up 12% of India's total. These women live on the margins of society, navigating a daily battle against abuse, social exclusion, and injustice.

Life Marked by Violence

ELP NGO's 2023 study highlights that 5% of women in sex work faced verbal abuse, 12% physical assault, and 1% sexual violence, often at the hands of clients, partners, pimps, and, shockingly, law enforcement officers. Lakshmi (name changed), a traffick-

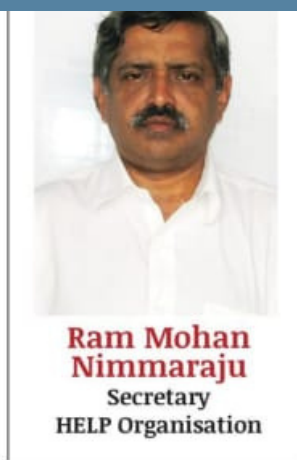
ing survivor from Guntur, recalls the trauma of seeking help: "I was treated as criminals for trying to survive. When we go to the police, instead of protection, we face blame and humiliation."

This fear of authorities pushes the trade further underground. Over 55% of sex work hotspots are now home-based, increasing invisibility and vulnerability to violence.

The Weight of Stigma

Survivors do not just suffer violence; they endure lifelong stigma. Nearly 88% of women interviewed by HELP faced rejection from their families and communities. Their children are bullied, denied school admissions, and forced into the same cycle of exploitation.

Kavitha (name changed), trafficked at 17, recounts returning home years later: "My parents refused to let me enter the house. They said I brought shame. I had nowhere to go." Such rejection pushes many women into isolation,



Ram Mohan Nimmaraju
Secretary
HELP Organisation

with little access to mental health support. Studies reveal that 33% report severe stress, 25% depression, and 26%

mood disorders, yet almost none re-

Justice Denied, Rights Ignored

India's laws, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), promise safety and dignity. In reality, less than 1% of rescued survivors in Andhra Pradesh (2019-2023) received victim compensation. Custodial harassment, arbitrary arrests, and bureaucratic hurdles leave women feeling more criminalized than protected. "The system treats us as problems, not people," says Shanti from Prakasam district.

The Cycle of Exploitation

Economic distress drives most women into sex work. Over 91% enter due to poverty, while 41% have been abandoned by their husbands, leaving them sole providers for their families. More than 64,000 children depend on these women, many facing heightened risks of trafficking themselves. Violence at home, in the community, and from the state forms a triple lay-

er of exploitation, leaving survivors in a state of helplessness.

The Call for Change

Amidst this bleak scenario, a movement for dignity and rights is growing. Survivors and sex worker collectives are demanding decriminalization, rehabilitation, mental health support, compensation, and a seat at the policymaking table. Their message is clear: stop treating them as criminals and start recognizing them as rights holders.

Lakshmi sums up their struggle in a single line: "The stigma is worse than the violence. If society sees us as human beings, half our battle will won."

Breaking this silence is no longer optional; it is essential for gender justice. Unless Andhra Pradesh confronts stigma and systemic neglect head-on, promise of safety, equality, and dignity for all women will remain painfully out of reach.

LEADING THE CONVERSATION ON WOMEN'S SAFETY AT STATE-LEVEL CONSULTATION IN VIJAYAWADA

State-level consultation on Paving better life for women and girls was jointly organized by Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Dignity for Women, Just Rights for Children, and Mahila Sanghala Ikya Vedika, with the objective of identifying key issues faced by women and girls and providing recommendations to the State Government.

The outcomes of this workshop will be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister through the State Home Minister.

రాష్ట్రంలో మానవ అక్రమ రవాణా నిరోధం కోసం ప్రత్యేక కార్యాచరణ చేపడుతున్నాం - విమెన్ ప్రొటెక్షన్ విభాగం ఎస్.పి

ఎస్.పి. శ్రీదేవి ఎన్. శ్రీదేవి రాష్ట్ర, జి.పి.యస్. తెలిపారు. బుధవారం, 30 ఆగస్టున అమె సి.బి.డి. కేంద్ర కార్యాలయంలో ప్రధాన మానవ అక్రమ రవాణా నిరోధక దినోత్సవం సందర్భంగా యోగ్ జే.కె. పాల్వే మరియు విమెన్ సంస్థల సంయుక్తంగా హాటారింగ్స్ వారి పోస్టర్లను అందజేసారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా అమె మాన్యురేటర్ ఇప్పటికే ఒక ప్రత్యేక కార్యాచరణ ప్రణాళిక ద్వారా రాష్ట్ర వ్యాప్తంగా మానవ అక్రమ రవాణా నిరోధక యాందాన్ని (ఎ.హెచ్.డి.యం) నిర్వహించారు. మానవ అక్రమ రవాణాకు వ్యతిరేకంగా గా పెద్ద ఎత్తున ప్రచార కార్యక్రమాలను నిర్వహించడం, అనే దీర్ఘకాలిక ప్రాజెక్ట్ కి శిశుపాపం హెచ్చరించే మానవ అక్రమ రవాణా నిరోధక యాందాన్ని అలోచించి చేయడం అందుకోసం 30 నిమిషాలు. ఈ కార్యక్రమం లో ఎస్.పి. డి.ఎస్.పి. అండ్ డి.ఎస్.పి. ప్రొటెక్షన్ విభాగం, ఎస్.పి. డి.ఎస్.పి. అండ్ కుమార్, ఇన్స్పెక్టర్ ఎం. డి. సాహెబ్, సబ్ ఇన్స్పెక్టర్ జి. లక్ష్మి, పాల్వే మరియు సమగ్ర సమన్వయ కార్యాచరణ, ప్రొటెక్షన్ విభాగం, డి.ఎస్.పి. నిర్వహించిన అవినీతిని అన్ని దశల్లో చేపట్టడం



Special plan to combat human trafficking formulated

All necessary measures are being taken to prevent the trafficking of women and children

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

Vimukthi organisations to mark World Day against Human Trafficking.

Speaking at the event, Sreedevi Rao stated that a special action plan is already in motion across the state.

This plan involves establishing Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) statewide, conducting large-scale awareness campaigns against human trafficking, strengthening AHTUs to crack down on traffickers.

SP Sreedevi Rao, along with CID Women Protection Cell TX Ajay Kumar, Inspector J Sahara, Sub-Inspector J Lakshmi, HELP organisation secretary Nimmaraju Ram Mohan, Project Manager V Bhaskar and Vimukthi leader Mehru nisa were present.



Now, hockey training to shield adolescent girls from trafficking

Kritika Tiwari | TNN

Ranchi: Observing the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Bal Kalyan Sangh, a social outfit in collaboration with Khunti district administration and district child protection unit, on Wednesday launched hockey training initiative for adolescent girls aged 15 to 18 years. The initiative aims to empower girls from vulnerable and trafficking-prone communities through sports, with a focus on building self-confidence, life skills, and community engagement.

National coordinator at action against trafficking & sexual exploitation of Children, Sanjay Mishra, said,

The programme will begin at village level and expand to state level



literacy. Now, through this hockey initiative, we aim to create role models among girls from districts like Khunti, Jamshedpur, Koderma, Sahibganj, Pakur, Chaibasa, and Ranchi." The programme will begin at the village level and, based on performance, expand to panchayat, district, and state levels. The initiative, supported by the district administration and district child protection unit, is a joint effort.

The launch event was part of the programme Kishor-Kishori Samvad, which brought together young participants, govt officials, and child rights advocates too.

Alok Kumar, deputy development commissioner, said, "To address trafficking effectively, we must work with Panchayati Raj Institutions and ensure that govt schemes for children reach every household. Open communication

60 Girls. 1 Mission.

To combat trafficking through empowerment and sport, Bal Kalyan Sangh launched a hockey training program for 60 girls in Khunti. This initiative not only builds confidence and leadership but also fosters resilience and awareness among girls from vulnerable communities.





Kishor Kishori Samvad: Voices of Youth Against Child Trafficking- Bal Kalyan Sangh

Awareness Meeting Organized at One Stop Centre in Kanpur on World Day Against Trafficking

During the session, Ramayan Yadav from Vigyan Foundation highlighted that this crime primarily targets poor, marginalized families who lack awareness. Parvez Akhtar from the District Legal Services Authority shared information about the application process for seeking assistance in cases related to human trafficking.



The young participants asked sharp, insightful questions, reflecting their awareness and commitment to a trafficking-free future



On 29th July 2025, STOP commemorated World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP Day) with a vibrant and deeply moving community event held within its field intervention areas with an audience of 120 eager women, young girls and children.



Online seminar organized on Anti Human Trafficking Day, experts shared important information

Yogesh Sharma Lucknow. An online seminar was organized on the occasion of Anti Human Trafficking Day under the joint aegis of Vigan Foundation, People Consultancy Services, At Sec India and UP Forces. More than 50 participants from various districts of the country - Lucknow, Aligarh, Mathura, Ballia, Shravasti, Chitrakoot and Kanpur - participated in this program.

As subject experts in the seminar, Ms. Rizwana Parveen of UNICEF Lucknow, Dr. Tarushikha Sarvesh, Assistant Professor of Advanced Center for Women Studies, Aligarh Muslim University and Mr. Ramayan Yadav from UP Forces were present as speakers. Through her power point presentation, Ms. Rizwana Parveen discussed in detail the definition of human trafficking, its causes and the problems arising from it. She explained how poor, deprived and families with lack of awareness are made victims of this crime. He mentioned government helpline numbers (like 1098, 112, 181) to prevent human trafficking and said that any suspicious activity can be reported to the local administration, child welfare committee or the nearest police station.

Dr. Tarushikha Sarvesh spoke on the gender aspect of human trafficking and said that women and children are especially the target of this crime. She said that it can be eradicated only through social awareness, education and community participation. She also shared information about the legal provisions related to women's rights and protection. Shri Ramayan Yadav, who was representing UP Forces, said that Uttar Pradesh Police and Special Forces are actively engaged in preventing human trafficking. He gave information on the process of identification of cases related to human trafficking, preliminary action and rehabilitation of victims. Shri Yadav also clarified that vigilance and information of citizens is the first link to stop the crime. The participants attending the program asked questions related to the subject and got solutions from the experts. The seminar concluded with a collective resolution in which all the participants pledged to spread awareness against human trafficking.

District Level Workshop For Awareness Prevention of Trafficking In Persons
In commemoration of 'World Day Against Trafficking In Persons'
Organized by
Voluntary Health Association of Tripura
In Collaboration with
District Administration, South Tripura & South Tripura Youth Forum
Date: 2nd August, 2025. Venue: Circuit House, Belonia
Human Trafficking is Organised Crime. End the Exploitation.

VHA of Tripura organised workshop for awareness raising and prevention of Trafficking in Persons in South Tripura District in collaboration with DM & Collector and South Tripura Youth Forum.

Anti-trafficking awareness camp held

Times News Belonia, Aug 2: On the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, an awareness workshop was organized at the Belonia Circuit House. The event was hosted by the Voluntary Health Association with support from the South Tripura District Administration and South Tripura Youth Forum. The workshop was inaugurated by South Tripura District Magistrate Muhammad Sajid P. Other dignitaries present included Belonia Municipal Council Chairperson Nikhil Chandra Ghosh, Deputy Commandant of 33rd Battalion BSF N K Bha, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Tapen Debchoudhury and President of the Voluntary Health Association Dr. Sriharsha Roy. Dr. Roy led the discussion on critical aspects of human trafficking, including identification of victims, protection of vulnerable groups, root causes, consequences, and preventive strategies. Particular concern was raised over the risks of trafficking in the border areas near Bangladesh, where traffickers often target women and children. The workshop emphasized not only raising public awareness but also fostering a sense of responsibility among citizens and authorities. Participants included representatives

भारत संवाद

एटी ह्यूमन ट्रेफिकिंग डे पर ऑनलाइन संगोष्ठी का आयोजन, विशेषज्ञों ने साझा की अहम जानकारीयां

भारत संवाद / योगेश शर्मा

लखनऊ - विज्ञान फाउंडेशन, पीपल कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज, गेट सेक इंडिया तथा यूपी फोर्स के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में एटी ह्यूमन ट्रेफिकिंग डे के अवसर पर एक ऑनलाइन संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में देश के विभिन्न जिलों - लखनऊ, अलीगढ़, मथुरा, बलिया, ब्रह्मपुरी, चित्रकूट और कानपुर - से 50 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने हिस्सा लिया। संगोष्ठी में विषय विशेषज्ञों के तौर पर यूनिसेफ लखनऊ की सुश्री रिजवाना परवीन, अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय के एडवोकेट सेंट फॉर वूमन स्टडीज की असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. तरुषिकha सरवेश तथा यूपी फोर्स से श्री रामायण यादव वक्ता के तौर पर उपस्थित रहे। सुश्री रिजवाना परवीन ने अपने पावर पॉइंट प्रेजेंटेशन में माध्यम से मानव तस्करी की परिभाषा, की। उन्होंने बताया कि किस प्रकार गरीब, वंचित और जागरूकता की कमी वाले परिवारों को इस अपराध का शिकार बनाया जाता है। उन्होंने मानव तस्करी को रोकने के लिए सरकारी हेल्पलाइन नंबरों (जैसे 1098, 112, 181) का उल्लेख किया और बताया कि किसी भी संदिग्ध गतिविधि की सूचना स्थानीय प्रशासन, सार्वजनिक समिति या नजदीकी पुलिस में देना जरूरी है। डॉ. तरुषिकha सरवेश ने मानव तस्करी के लैंगिक पक्ष पर बात करते हुए बताया कि महिलाएं और बच्चे विशेष रूप से इस अपराध के निशाने पर होते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सामाजिक जागरूकता, शिक्षा और सामुदायिक भागीदारी के जरिए ही इसे जड़ से समाप्त किया जा सकता है। उन्होंने महिलाओं के अधिकारों और संरक्षण से जुड़ी कानूनी व्यवस्थाओं की जानकारी भी साझा की। श्री रामायण



Online seminar organized on Anti Human Trafficking Day, experts shared important information

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‘बाट’र व्यवस्थापनाय मानव पाचार विरोधी सचेतनता ও প্রতিরোধ শীর্ষক কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত

ও প্রতিরোধ বিষয়ক কর্মশালা একটি অত্যন্ত প্রাসঙ্গিক এবং কার্যকর পরবেশ। এছাড়াও অনুষ্ঠানে অন্যান্য আমন্ত্রিত অতিথিরা এই জাতীয় কার্যক্রমের জুড়ী মনোনীত করে তুলেছেন।

সভার সঙ্গম প্রতিমিতি, ৩ আগস্ট। বিশ্ব মানব পাচার বিরোধী দিবস উপলক্ষে দক্ষিণ কোলা প্রশাসন, দক্ষিণ ত্রিপুরা যুগ্ম ফোরাম এর সহযোগিতায় এবং ‘बाट’র ব্যবস্থাপনায় বিদেশিরা সার্বিক হাউস একলিবিয়ী মানব পাচার বিরোধী সচেতনতা ও প্রতিরোধ শীর্ষক কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়ে শনিবার। এদিন অনুষ্ঠানের প্রাঙ্গণস্থানে বসে দক্ষিণ কোলা প্রশাসন, দক্ষিণ ত্রিপুরা যুগ্ম ফোরামের মধ্যে উপস্থিত ছিলেন দক্ষিণ ত্রিপুরা জেলা পরিষদ সচিব, ৪০ বর্ষের দিকিউরিটি সেক্টর ডেপুটি কম্যান্ডার এন কে কে, কোলা শিও কল্যাণ কমিটি

যোরাপারদাস রূপক মজুমদার, ভারতীয় সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অধিনায়ক প্রমুখ। তরুণেরই স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ভারতের এমপিউটিউ ডিউরির ডপুটি চেয়ারম্যান। তিনি অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত সকলকে বুঝেজায়ে স্বাগত জানিয়ে আজকের কর্মশালা তাৎপর্য বুলে বলেন। কোলা প্রশাসক মহা সজাণ পি আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে মানব পাচার বর্তমানে বিশ্বব্যাপী একটি গভীর মানসিক সংকট। বিশেষ করে উন্নয়নশীল দেশেও শোর গ্রামীণ ও অনগ্রসর অঞ্চলে শিকার অত্যাচার, হারিহা, কর্মসংস্থানের অভাব লভা ও সামাজিক অসচেতনতার সুযোগ নিয়ে পাচারকারীরা সক্রিয় হয়ে ওঠে। এই প্রেক্ষাপটে কোলা পর্যায়ে মানব পাচার বিরোধী সচেতনতা

স্ব জন্মেদাণীসের সনাক্তকরণ, দুর্লভতা প্রতিরোধ এবং সেকেন্ডারিয়ারের তুমিলা নিয়ে সক্রিয়ভাবে আলোচনা করেন ডপুটি চেয়ারম্যান। স্বাগত জানিয়ে এলাকা পরিচিত জনপ্রতিনিধিদের সার্বিক সহযোগিতার আহ্বান রাখেন। অনুষ্ঠানের শেষ পর্যায়ে সকলকে ধন্যবাদ জানান করেন দক্ষিণ ত্রিপুরা যুগ্ম ফোরাম এর কর্মকর্তা পাভেল দাস।

ATSEC National Secretariat Head office-Bal Kalyan Sangh

Saraswati Nagar, Opposite Reliance Petrol Pump, P.O.-Kamre, P.S.-Ratu, Ranchi, Jharkhand (INDIA) Pin Code-835222