

ATSEC India – United Against Trafficking

NEWSLETTER



Mr Sanjay Kumar Mishra,
National Coordinator,
ATSEC India

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR, ATSEC INDIA

As Bharat moves forward on the path of Viksit Bharat, the nation's progress is reflected not only in economic growth and infrastructure, but also in the safety, dignity, and well-being of its people especially women and children. A strong and inclusive India is built when its most vulnerable citizens are protected and supported through responsive and accountable systems. ATSEC India, as part of the global ATSEC movement, functions as a national platform that brings together over 500 civil society organizations working across diverse regions of the country. The network seeks to support and complement the efforts of government systems by facilitating coordination, sharing field-level insights, and promoting informed and practical approaches to preventing trafficking and exploitation.

As we enter this important phase of national development, ATSEC India looks forward to working collaboratively with central and state government institutions, statutory bodies, and other stakeholders. The network aims to contribute constructively by strengthening linkages between policy and implementation, supporting capacity-building efforts, and encouraging coordinated responses that are aligned with national priorities.

India has a long tradition of community responsibility and collective action. Drawing from this strength, ATSEC India remains committed to fostering cooperation among civil society, government, and institutions to support safer communities and resilient systems. Together, through partnership and shared responsibility, we can contribute to a future where development is inclusive, protection is strengthened, and the vision of Viksit Bharat is realized for every woman and child.

ATSEC INDIA – A COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ATSEC India (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children) is a national civil society network working to combat human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and contemporary forms of slavery, with a strong focus on women, children, and vulnerable communities.

As part of the global ATSEC movement, ATSEC India was established to strengthen coordinated efforts against trafficking in India. The network addresses structural factors including poverty, gender disparities, unsafe migration, conflict, and gaps in social protection that heighten the risk of exploitation for women and children.

ATSEC India functions not as a single organization, but as a platform for collective action, bringing together organizations from source, transit, and destination areas across the country.

ATSEC India currently works with state partners across several regions of the country, including Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, New Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, enabling coordinated engagement and knowledge sharing across diverse state contexts.

CORE PRINCIPLES OF ATSEC INDIA



ATSEC India's work is guided by the following principles:

Human Rights & Gender Justice

Trafficking is viewed as a violation of fundamental human rights and deeply rooted in gender inequality.

Survivor-Centric and Trauma-Informed Approach

Survivors are rights-holders, not beneficiaries. Their dignity, consent, and long-term well-being remain central.

Prevention First

Addressing root causes such as poverty, lack of education, child marriage, and unsafe migration.

Accountability of Systems

Strengthening state responsibility in prevention, protection, prosecution, and rehabilitation.

Collective Voice & Solidarity

Stronger advocacy through unified civil society action.

A Comprehensive Framework for Anti-Trafficking & Child Protection

Promoting Safe Migration & Labor Rights

Focusing on ethical recruitment and addressing trafficking linked to informal work sectors.



Addressing Systemic Issues & Modern Threats



Combating Online Child Exploitation

Strengthening systems to fight online sexual abuse and coordinating with Child Welfare Committees.

Prevention Through Community Engagement

Addressing root causes like child marriage, school dropouts, and economic vulnerabilities.



Protection Focused on Long-Term Rehabilitation

Promoting access to compensation, education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods for survivors.



Prosecution & Legal System Strengthening



The Three Pillars of Intervention

Impact Through Collective Action

Over the years, ATSEC India has:

- Strengthened civil society capacity across multiple states
- Influenced national discourse on trafficking, victim protection, and safe migration
- Elevated grassroots voices to national and global platforms
- Promoted convergence between child protection, labour, migration, and gender justice systems

ATSEC India and Grassroots Organizations

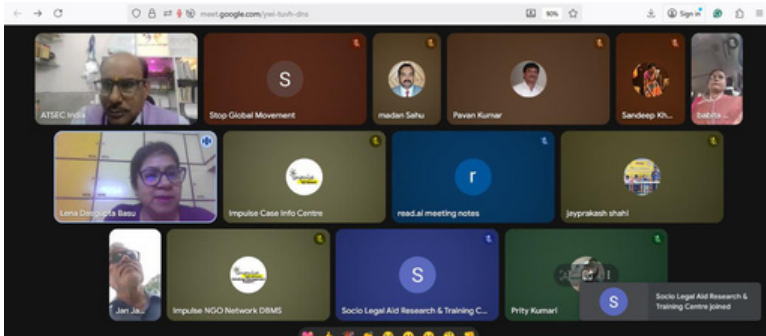
A key strength of ATSEC India lies in its close engagement with grassroots organizations working in high-risk areas such as:

- Migration-prone districts
- Mining and industrial belts
- Urban informal settlements
- Border and transit regions

Glimpses of the activities from our Partners across India



District Level Workshop for Awareness & Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in ATSEC Tripura



Virtual Meeting on Further plan and action with ATSEC members and state partners



ATSEC team and Youth representatives from West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand in the symposium organised by ATSEC Jharkhand

Conviction rate in human trafficking cases only 8 per cent in State: NGO representatives

Rajulagudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

Representatives of various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) said that the conviction rate in human trafficking cases was only 8 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, and many of the accused were acquitted and moving freely.

"Due to negligence on trafficking cases and lack of monitoring and support to the victims, the accused in many cases were acquitted," said HILP secretary N. Ram Mohan.

V. Ramakrishna, project director of RHEIDS, an NGO, said that as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data 1,396 cases were registered on human trafficking in the State in the last three years. "Mr. Ram Mohan told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"Traffickers were luring poor women on the pretext of providing jobs and offering loans through various social media platforms and pushing them into flesh trade," said Sujatha, manager of NGO GUIDE. HILP project manager V. Bhaskar appealed the accused in trafficking

Government asked to strengthen AHTUs

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Members of Vimukthi, an organisation formed by survivors of human trafficking, appealed to the government to strengthen Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) to prevent human trafficking in the State.

In connection with "World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 2025" on Wednesday, Vimukthi, supported by HILP, an NGO fighting for the rights of survivors of human trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation, demanded the government to take measures to address the problems faced by survivors of human trafficking. Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Vimukthi State president Apoorva urged the government to take steps to make A.P. a State free of human trafficking.



Glimpses of the awareness campaign in ATSEC Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand

बाल कल्याण संघ एवं एटसेक इंडिया द्वारा 'डिजिटल युग में बच्चों का मानसिक स्वास्थ्य' विषय पर राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार आयोजित

राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार

कोरोना महामारी के दौरान बच्चों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार का आयोजन किया गया। इस वेबिनार में बाल कल्याण संघ और एटसेक इंडिया के सदस्यों ने भाग लिया। वेबिनार में बच्चों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर चर्चा की गई।

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THE ROAD AHEAD

As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, the importance of strong, coordinated, and inclusive systems becomes increasingly evident. Addressing trafficking and exploitation requires sustained collaboration between government institutions, civil society, and community-based structures, supported by evidence, capacity, and shared responsibility.

In the period ahead, ATSEC India aims to strengthen its role as a facilitating platform by encouraging closer coordination among its network of over 500 civil society organizations and by seeking constructive engagement with central and state government systems. The focus will remain on supporting prevention efforts, improving access to protection mechanisms, and contributing to effective rehabilitation pathways aligned with national frameworks.

ATSEC India will continue to prioritize capacity building, knowledge sharing, and documentation, ensuring that field-level experiences inform policy discussions and program design. Attention will also be given to emerging challenges, including changing migration patterns and the increasing use of digital platforms, while remaining aligned with India's legal and institutional frameworks.

Guided by the values of cooperation, accountability, and national development, ATSEC India looks forward to contributing to a future where growth is inclusive and systems are responsive. Through partnership and coordinated action, the network remains committed to supporting a safer and more secure environment for women and children as the nation progresses towards Viksit Bharat.

National & Regional Engagement

ATSEC India actively engages with:

- State and National Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)
- Ministry-level consultations and task forces
- National and State Commissions for Women and Children
- UN agencies, international networks, and donor platforms
- The network also facilitates state-level ATSEC forums, ensuring localized strategies aligned with national priorities.

Are you a grassroots organization in India working to end trafficking, exploitation, and related forms of abuse?

ATSEC India welcomes civil society organizations committed to prevention, protection, and system strengthening to join the national network. To express your interest and learn more about membership, please scan the QR code below.



Interested in Supporting ATSEC India?

ATSEC India welcomes partnerships with donors and institutions who share a commitment to strengthening coordinated and sustainable responses to trafficking and exploitation in India. Support from donors enables the network to enhance collaboration among civil society organizations, invest in capacity building, strengthen knowledge and documentation, and support constructive engagement with government systems.

Donors interested in supporting ATSEC India's work are invited to connect with the Secretariat to explore partnership opportunities aligned with shared priorities and national development goals.

National Coordination Office: Bal Kalyan Sangh,
Saraswati Nagar Ratu Road Kamre Ranchi Jharkhand -
835222

Contact Information – ATSEC India

Name: Sanjay Kumar Mishra, ATSEC India National Coordinator

Designation: National Coordinator

Email: indiaatsec@gmail.com

Phone / WhatsApp: +91 9431114532