PRAJWALA HAPPENINGS

Knowledge → Reflection → Action

Volume 8 | Monthly Newsletter | August 2026

This Month in Impact

33 Traffickers convicted in a landmark sex trafficking case, bringing justice to survivors after 11 years.

15 At-risk women supported through employment/self-employment

10 Survivors strengthened their economic independence through employment and self-employment opportunities.

500+ Stakeholders and dignitaries from diverse sectors came together at the State-Level Anti-Human Trafficking Conference in Hyderabad, organised by Prajwala as part of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, to strengthen collective action against human trafficking

₹1.15 Lakh Interim Compensation accessed by 3 survivors

127 Sex buyers counselled and pledged to not buy sex again

12 Survivors safely reintegrated with their families (includes 1 foreign national)

504 Prajwala Trained frontline workers conducted 896 awareness programmes, reaching and sensitising 36,493 community members.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

The Hidden Aftershock

When the storm passes, is the danger really over?

What happens when a family loses its home - and its safety?

Can a disaster become the beginning of a trafficking journey?

Read More on Page 3

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD SURVIVES WHAT SHOULD HAVE BROKEN HER?
WHEN HOME IS LOST, IDENTITY IS TAKEN AWAY, AND HOPE SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE - WHAT HELPS REBUILD A LIFE?
RAMYA'S STORY OFFERS AN ANSWER.

A STORY OF SURVIVAL, DIGNITY, AND THE POWER OF OPPORTUNITY.

Read her Journey on Page 4



Received a landmark conviction in a sex trafficking case after 11 years



Independence Day Celebrations



30 years of Prajwala - Celebrations



Prevention Programs



Repatriation of a Survivor to Bangladesh



30years of Prajwala Journey - Impact



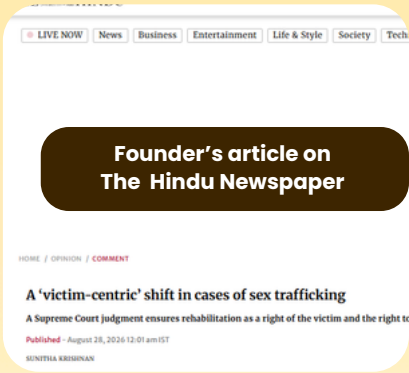
State level Anti-Trafficking Conference
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 2026



IPS Trainee Officers Visit - Prajwala



Transgenders Counselling



Founder's article on The Hindu Newspaper





Cultural Performance - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Placement Support for Vulnerable Woman

The Hidden Aftershock
How Disasters Can Fuel Human Trafficking?

A disaster does not end when the floodwaters recede or the storm passes. For many families, the real struggle begins afterwards.

When a home, livelihood or source of income is lost, families are often forced to move in search of safety and work. Children may drop out of school; families may become separated; women and girls can find themselves without the protection and support networks they once depended on. In this uncertainty, a trafficker can arrive disguised as an employer, a helper, a relative or someone offering a way out.

Often, conversations around trafficking focus only on those who are exploited. Rarely do we pause to examine the conditions that sustain the system itself.

The connection is not always immediate. A flood may destroy a family's livelihood today, but the resulting debt, displacement, migration and school dropout can create vulnerability months or even years later. Research in India has found particularly strong links between climate-related migration and exploitative labour conditions.

Girls and Children bear a hidden burden

For a child separated from family, a girl pushed out of school, or a young woman searching for work, the promise of a job, marriage or a better life can become a dangerous trap. UNICEF warns that displacement can increase children's exposure to exploitation, child labour, child marriage and trafficking.

According to UNICEF's 2025 report **Weathering the Future: The Growing Crisis of Child Displacement in South Asia**, an estimated 15.6 million children across South Asia were displaced by weather-related disasters between 2016 and 2022. Behind every number is a child whose education, safety, identity and sense of belonging may have been disrupted

India has a National Disaster Management Plan and anti-trafficking mechanisms, including Anti-Human Trafficking Units and child-protection systems.

The next step is to strengthen coordination between disaster response and anti-trafficking efforts, so that women and children remain protected when families are displaced. This should include identifying trafficking risks in vulnerable communities, ensuring safe migration information reaches displaced families, and strengthening the tracing and referral of children and survivors.

Every disaster response should also ask:

Where are the children and Women? Who has become separated? Who is leaving for work? Who is recruiting them? And how do we keep them safe?

A shelter can provide safety from the storm. A food packet can provide relief for a day. But what happens when a family loses its livelihood, a child leaves school, or a woman is forced to migrate in search of work? This is where disaster preparedness and anti-trafficking protection must come together.

Every global disaster response should include measures to identify vulnerable women and children, prevent unsafe recruitment, trace separated families, protect children from exploitation, and connect survivors and at-risk families to rehabilitation centres and livelihood support.Because the second disaster can be invisible and survival should never mean becoming vulnerable to exploitation

From Silence to Strength

A journey from a lost childhood to a life of purpose

At 13, Ramya was already struggling to survive.
She grew up in a poor family in a small village in Assam, where all ten family members depended on an uncertain agricultural income of their father, often wiped out by heavy rains and floods.
Poverty forced Ramya to leave school after Class 5. Still a child, she began working as a domestic helper to support her family.What began as a struggle to support her family would eventually lead her into a far more dangerous situation.

One day, A woman from Ramya's own village, whom she had come to trust as a friend and guide, forcibly took her to Guwahati and then put her on a train to Hyderabad. Ramya spoke only Assamese and did not know where she was going. She was threatened into silence. In Hyderabad, she was kept locked inside a room for nearly 20 days. Seeing other girls around her, she slowly realised that she had been brought there to be exploited. She was moved from place to place, abused, and eventually prepared to be sold again.

With no documents, no money, no phone, no knowledge of the language - and no idea how to get home, Ramya eventually lost her hope on life.

After months of exploitation, she was finally rescued and brought to Prajwala home for rehabilitation.

At first, she was terrified.
Seeing so many women at the shelter, she asked the staff whether men would come there too. She did not yet understand that she was finally somewhere safe.

For months, she cried. She worried about her future. Could she ever return home? Would people accept her? Would anyone respect her? Would she ever be able to build a life?

Slowly, counselling, education and life-skills training helped Ramya begin to see herself differently.

She learned tailoring. She learned Telugu. She obtained her civic identity documents. She completed her Class 10 through open schooling.
And then came something she had never imagined in her dreams: Carpentry.

The machines in Economic Rehabilitation Unit frightened her at first. Ramya had never seen welding or carpentry equipment before. But she learned quickly. Within months of joining the vocational programme in 2013, Ramya became a full-time staff member.Her first salary was ₹6,000. She remembers how happy she felt. For the first time, she was earning - not because someone had taken advantage of her vulnerability, but because she had a skill of her own.

Five years later, Ramya visited Assam, where her family had believed her dead. Recognised only by her younger sister, she finally found her way home.

She began supporting her parents, saving her earnings, and eventually helped them start a small kirana shop - now one of the bigger shops in their village. **But her journey didn't end there.**

During the Kerala floods in 2018, Ramya travelled with other survivors to help families affected by the disaster. For nearly a month, she cleaned homes and used her carpentry skills to help rebuild them.
Among the devastation, she saw children who had lost parents and families who had lost everything.

She also recognised something others might not see immediately:
after a disaster, children who have lost their homes, families and support systems can become dangerously vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.This understanding continues to shape the way she supports survivors and families affected by disaster.

Having completed her ITI, Ramya now leads the carpentry trade at Prajwala. She trains and encourages young survivors, helps with the admission of new survivors, and continues to support others as they rebuild their lives.

If You Would Like to Support

Stories like Ramya's remind us that recovery is not a single moment of rescue, but a long journey of healing, learning, and rebuilding life with dignity. At Prajwala, survivors receive sustained support through safe shelter, education, counselling, skill training, and opportunities to rebuild their futures.
Your support helps make this journey possible for many more women and children who are seeking a second chance.

To support, Donate at https://prajwalaindia.com/donate