



## **E-BUZZ**

### **INSTITUTE FOR VISION REHABILITATION NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 2017 (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

- **Parliament passes Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill**

Parliament passed the Disabilities Bill which stipulates up to two-year jail term and a maximum fine of Rs 5 lakh for discriminating persons with disabilities. In the bill, disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept and the types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21. Some of The types of disabilities that were added include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Specific Learning Disability and acid attack victims besides Low Vision and Blindness which are already existing. It also strengthens the office of Chief Commissioner and state commissioners for persons with disabilities which will act as regulatory bodies. Government funded educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions will have to provide inclusive education to children with disabilities. To know more about the salient features of the bill, please visit,

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155592>

- **Dignity song for persons with disabilities**

Famous Bollywood music director and singer, Shankar Mahadevan has launched a special song titled 'Garv Se Jiyenge' for persons with disabilities. This song has been made for a campaign 'Garv Se' launched by Enable India, an NGO in partnership with the 'Accessible India' campaign initiated by the Social Justice and Welfare department. The song creates awareness that persons with disabilities have equal rights to live a respectful life.

Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTz8xCu\\_2\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTz8xCu_2_U)

- **Walk and navigate with a tap on your foot!**

Walking around is one of the challenges faced by a person with vision loss even when they're using a cane. To help them get past this, young innovator, Krishna Sai Inkoolu from Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam invented 'Taparch Footwear'. This 24-year old who studied Industrial Engineering at Gitam University designed a mechanism with an embedded electronic circuit that senses the existence of obstacles in the path and communicates it to users with a 'tap', while they're walking. The entire circuit is placed in the shoe socket, which has a connection with a weld point where the sensor is placed and transmits and receives the signal carrying the obstacle's distance and dimension information. This is connected through a mechanical device which taps the arch of the foot.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/education/edex/2016/nov/21/tap-ping-to-help-the-blind-1540129.html>

- **Talking scientific calculator on IOS platform**

The introduction of talking scientific calculator app has enabled students with vision loss to access the same technology as their sighted peers. Designed for a wide range of users, this calculator has large colourful buttons, optional high contrast, full VoiceOver support and unique to this calculator; the option to use speech for answers, buttons, names and formulas.

Source: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talking-scientific-calculator/id411433609?mt=8>

- **Does your disability keep you from travelling???... not any more, Planet Abled is here to take you to places**

Planet Abled, a company based in Delhi is here to give you the freedom to travel anywhere in India no matter what your disability is. Either if you want to experience a small facet of the city you are in or you want to travel across multiple cities of your interest, it has something unique, safe and enjoyable for you. Besides being accessible, the tour includes the services of sign language interpreters, well-trained volunteers and curators. Since many tourist spots in India are still not wheelchair-friendly, they have procured a mobile ramp that they carry along on all tours. A travel buddy is assigned to each traveler and special permissions are taken in advance wherever required.

Source: <http://planetabled.com/>

- **Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) launches its first online training course in Unified English Braille (UEB)**

UEB online is a training program for sighted people to learn Unified English Braille. UEB has been adopted by many countries and replaces Standard English Braille. This program is the first online UEB training tool. The program is suitable for classroom and specialist teachers, parents, teacher aids and other professionals supporting children and adults with vision loss. Students with vision loss can use the accessible version of UEB online which provides a much more screen reader friendly version of exercise completion.

Source: <http://uebonline.org>.

- **A new wearable aid for persons with vision loss uses machine learning and artificial intelligence to better analyze fed data from cameras and sensors**

A device named Horus is being developed by Swiss startup Eyra, which is a wrap-around headband equipped with two cameras to watch for what's in front of the user. The images seen are narrated through earpieces that directly stimulate the tiny bones in the ear, with a technology called bone conduction. It can recognize what and who the user is looking at, can describe visuals in great detail, and can even build a list of contacts based on face-detection. The processor can also read books or street signs. It can give persons with vision loss independence in navigation and mobility by having better 3D imaging that can promptly alert the user of obstacles and directions.

Horus is expected to cost around US\$2,000. Eyra is currently testing Horus in communities in Italy, and will launch wider beta programs this January before a full launch.

Source: <https://futurism.com/new-ai-powered-wearable-can-help-the-blind-read-and-navigate/>

- **Learn how to use AUSION**

AUSION, developed by InnovationHub Technologies Pvt. Ltd., is an electronic mobility aid for persons with vision loss. It employs ultrasonic sensors mounted in a handheld device to detect objects in the region immediately in front of the sensors, and produces sound patterns which convey information about the distance from those objects. For understanding sound signal and correct interpretation, a user must go through formal training in order to proficiently use the device. For this purpose, InnovationHub Technologies Pvt. Ltd., has uploaded online videos to give a better understanding of this device and to train a user on how to use it. To have a look at the videos, please visit,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFJFUy6SAc4k4BNshrGN8qg>

For any comments, suggestions and queries, please contact:

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