



E-BUZZ

April 2017 (11th Edition)

Greetings from Institute for Vision Rehabilitation!

It's our pleasure to bring forth yet another edition of E-Buzz to you!

This edition brings you updates and happenings ranging from Assistive technology to accessible tours, from education to leisure, from the world around us.

Hope you find this useful. Please do share it with your contacts who you think would benefit from it.

- **BCCI to award World Cup winning Blind Indian Team 1 crore**

It's learnt that in a first of its kind gesture on its part, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is awarding Rs. 1 crore to the Indian Cricket Team which won the T20 blind cricket World Cup in February this year by beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 9 wickets in the finals in Bangalore. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Supreme Court appointed Committee of Administrators (COA) on February 25th in Mumbai. The prize money will be given to the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) which will subsequently pass it on to its players.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/bcci-to-award-wc-winning-blind-indian-team-rs-1-cr/articleshow/57587883.cms>

- **In a first, one of India's largest travel companies, Cox and Kings has launched tour packages for persons with disabilities**

Backed by Cox and Kings, Enable Travel, an accessible holiday provider was launched on March 16 in New Delhi. It aims to make travel more inclusive and cater to the travel aspirations of persons with disabilities. Curated leisure tours will be offered to travellers with disabilities across orthopedic, hearing, speech and vision impairment. Speaking at the launch, Debolin, Head, Enable Travel, said, "It is a long term commitment to make travel easy and hassle free in India and to empower every individual to celebrate their love for travel. Through this initiative, we're

trying to address various barriers like inaccessible travel information, lack of transportation and disabled friendly hotel rooms that prevent people from travelling. The company is currently offering inbound domestic holidays and will introduce quality transportation support services including investments in specially trained manpower such as caregivers, sign language interpreters, expert guides and escorts.

Source: <http://tourismbreakingnews.com/cox-kings-launches-new-disable-friendly-travel-initiative/>

- **Vaikom Vijayalakshmi becomes first to play Gayathri veena for record five hours**

Playback singer Vaikom Vijayalakshmi set a new world record by playing the maximum number of songs in the shortest time on a single string musical instrument. She played various classical and filmy songs on the Gayathri veena continuously for over five hours and in the process became the first person to achieve the feat. The music maestro, who has vision loss, broke the record by playing a total of 69 songs on the instrument during a program. Even though Vijayalakshmi managed to enter the record books when the 51st song was completed, she went on till the 69th song. Several awards have come Vijayalakshmi's way. Besides singing for Malayalam movies, she has rendered songs in Tamil and Telugu.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/mar/05/vaikom-vijayalakshmi-becomes-first-to-play-gayathri-veena-for-record-five-hours-1578026.html>

- **Apply for NHFDC educational scholarship now**

Online applications are invited from eligible students with disabilities by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) to provide NHFDC scholarships. This scheme will be awarded to students for Degree and Post Graduate level and technical courses from recognized institutions in India. NHFDC has introduced this scheme on behalf of Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India. Every year, a number of fellowships are granted out for eligible students with disabilities. Last date for applying for this scheme is June 30th 2017. For more details, please visit

<http://recruitmentresult.com/nhfdc-scholarship-application-form/>

- **Indian Trio sweep Asia Pacific Chess Championship organized for persons with vision loss!**

The ten day long Asia Pacific Chess Championship for persons with vision loss organized by Manipal University came to an end on March 31 with a valedictory ceremony at the TMA Pai Hall. The Indian trio Kishan Ganguli,

Makwana Ashwin K. and Soundarya Kumar Pradhan secured Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively in the tournament. Mr. Charudatta Jadhav, Founder President of All India Chess Federation (AICFB) shared a message sent by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the closing ceremony in appreciation of the tournament. Twenty two from Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Sri Lanka competed in the tournament with a total of 8 rounds.

Source: <http://themanipaljournal.com/2017/04/03/indian-trio-sweep-asia-pacific-chess-championship-for-the-visually-challenged/>

- **Braille maps to guide persons with vision loss at Bangalore city railway station**

With India home to the maximum number of persons with vision loss in the world and Karnataka possessing a higher percentage of them than the national average, it is fitting that the 2nd accessible railway station for persons with vision loss in the country now figures in the state. Two Braille scripted tactile maps that will help persons with vision loss identify directions to platforms, ticket counters, rest rooms and restaurants were inaugurated in the concourse area in front of platform 1. A total of 600 Braille platform indicators have been placed along the railings of the old foot over bridge and the subway. Braille timetables will be made available at enquiry counters apart from Braille menu in important eateries in the premises of the railway station.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2017/mar/14/braille-maps-to-guide-visually-impaired-at-bengaluru-city-railway-station-1581345.html>

- **A woman with vision loss helps others like her find scribes for exams**

Ummehaani Bagasrawala has founded the group Pearls of Vision which helps students with vision loss find scribes. It all started in 2015 when she was studying for her BA exams. She says, "When the timetable was announced, several students like me ran from pillar to post looking for scribes. While I was lucky to get one as my college was supportive, many others were not as lucky as their colleges told them to find someone on their own. That's when I decided to do something for them." So she roped in four of her friends with vision loss and started a formal group. Today the group is active on social media and helps out students with vision loss to find scribes.

Source: <http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/other/making-the-write-choice/articleshow/56902634.cms>

- **Enabling Accessibility is here to assist you with tutorials on assistive technology**

Enrich your knowledge with the accessibility tutorials for Apple, Android and Windows through 'Enabling Accessibility' a YouTube channel. Besides keeping you updated about the

assistive technology for persons with vision loss, this channel is here to give you up-to-date information on disability rights, welfare programs for persons with disabilities and other latest news related to persons with vision loss.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChSnO0mOtyeC-aT1zolds8A>

- **If you're a singing talent, then Udaan Idol is here for you!**

Radio Udaan in collaboration with Mitrajyothi, Petrol sun glasses and Blind's Dream presents an astounding opportunity through Udaan Idol to those who firmly believe in their musical flair. As aforesaid, Udaan Idol is a music talent hunt show where the winners will be determined by the method of short listing as per performance in each round. The top 3 Udaan Idols will be selected from the 12 short listed singers at the live grand finale and will be honored with exciting rewards. To register, visit,

<http://radioudaan.com/udaanidol/>

Disclaimer: The information shared in this newsletter is a collection of updates and happenings from various sources.

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