



## **E-BUZZ**

### **VISION REHABILITATION CENTRES NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2016 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

- **Anubhav.... A gallery with enhanced access for persons with vision loss by the National Museum**

Anubhav is a special tactile gallery that aims to expand access for all visitors, particularly visitors with vision loss. It has on-display 22 tactile replicas of museum objects, carefully chosen from the vast collection of National Museum by its curators representing 5,000 years of Indian art. The idea is to provide a rich engaging experience to visitors aesthetically, historically and intellectually. The objects range from archaeological finds, sculptures, tactile impressions of paintings, utilitarian objects, ethnographic objects and decorative arts.

Source: <http://www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in/departments-tactile-gallery.asp?lk=dp12>

- **GoodFoodTalks... an accessible restaurant finder and menu reading web app!**

GoodFoodTalks was originally founded in March 2013 in the United Kingdom and is the brainchild of Matt Wadsworth and Kate Bennett Wadsworth. It was brought to India in January 2016 by Prashant Ranjan Verma, an accessibility specialist trainer, and disability activist. Explaining how the platform works, Prashant says, “Users can just tap ‘find restaurants near me’ button or use the search feature if one is looking for a particular restaurant. You will be presented with a list of restaurants with their address, phone number and distance from your location in an easy to navigate format. Tap on any restaurant name and you will be able to see the menu categories, cuisines and opening timings. GoodFoodTalks can also give you walking directions if you need and all this can be read aloud by the screen reader on your device.”

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/food/2016/oct/13/menus-that-speak-for-themselves-1527340.html>

- **PIL filed in Mumbai High Court for making currency notes and coins accessible for persons with vision loss**

The Mumbai High Court has sought RBI’s reply in response to a PIL highlighting the difficulty faced by persons with vision loss in identifying currency notes and coins. RBI has been asked to file a response within a month. The National Association for the Blind sought directions to include certain features to enable persons with vision loss to identify the currency denominations easily.

Source: <https://www.inshorts.com/news/blind-persons-cannot-identify-currency-notes-pil-1475563163190>

- Just say the magic words “Ok Google” and Google Home will do things for you!

Google Home is a voice-activated product that brings Google assistant to any room in your house via Wi-Fi connected speaker. It works a lot like Siri on iPhone or the voice assistant function on Android. What Google smart Home speaker plans on doing differently, however, is being better at controlling your smart home devices and integrating with any Google cast-enabled device you might have lying around the house.

Source: <https://madeby.google.com/home/>

- Government plans allowance for persons with disabilities who get placed through Skills Development Program

**The Centre plans to give a minimum stipend of Rs. 26,000/- to every person with disability from rural areas who gets a job through the government’s Skills Development Program, an incentive aimed at helping a section that faces widespread discrimination in employment. This is the latest in a slew of recent moves by the government and judiciary to reach out to persons with disabilities, who make up 2.1% of India’s population.**

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/govt-plans-allowance-for-disabled-people-who-get-jobs/story-NnjQwtpkgdcXHBHrxB44oJ.html>

- **Buy JAWS V18 which supports 8 Indian languages for only Rs. 13,800/-**

Freedom Scientific has recently released JAWS 18 which will now speak 8 Indian languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bhojpuri besides Indian English. Karishma Enterprises, the sole authorized distributors of Freedom Scientific products in India are offering this version of JAWS for only Rs. 13,800/-. Hurry up as this offer is only valid till the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016.

Source: <http://www.mail-archive.com/accessindia@accessindia.org.in/msg109155.html>

- **After protests, cameras likely in railway coaches reserved for persons with disabilities**

After a protest by a group of commuters with disabilities at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station recently, the Central Railways will be developing a proposal for installing cameras in coaches reserved for persons with disabilities. Central Railways may also explore a proposal for setting up a separate helpline for commuters with disabilities.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/After-protest-cameras-likely-in-disabled-coaches-of-CR/articleshow/54727199.cms>

- **10 Braille libraries set up by All India Confederation of the Blind across India**

AICB in collaboration with Amway Opportunity Foundation has set up 10 Braille libraries in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Harayana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These libraries are being operated by reputed affiliates of AICB and other institutions. It is hoped that this step will go a long way to promote Braille reading habits in children and adults with vision loss.

Source: <http://www.aicb.org.in/AICBtoSetUp10BrailleLibrariesIn9States.html>

- **EmployAbility.... A job fare for qualified persons with disabilities**

Ability Foundation is organizing a national level job fare for persons with disabilities on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 in Chennai. Any candidate who holds a minimum qualification of a Bachelor degree is eligible to register. Please note that the last date for online registration is 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016. To register, please visit,

<http://jobs.abilityfoundation.org/>

For any comments, suggestions and queries, please contact:

HelpLine Services

Ph: 040 30612841/30612842

Email: [rehabhelpline@lvpei.org](mailto:rehabhelpline@lvpei.org)