



## **E-BUZZ**

### **VISION REHABILITATION CENTRES NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2016 (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

- **Moment of ecstasy for 13-year old Mukesh, who never dreamt of playing outdoor games!**

Visually impaired since birth, Mukesh, a class 8 student of the St. Louis Institute for the Deaf and Blind, spends his spare time by randomly hitting the caroms, but was spell bound when he played a real game of tennis. Organised by India Vision Institute by collaborating with Global Community Sports (GCS), Australia, demo match of tennis for persons with vision loss, a first of its kind in India was enjoyed by 20 students with vision loss. Tennis balls that produce a rattling sound enable the students to hit it by hearing the sound. Labelling the teaching experience as fantastic, the trainer, Rick Shrowder said, “Initially, we spent time with the ball to familiarize the group with the sound of it. They took no time to get spontaneous with the body movements. I have noticed a gradual improvement in their confidence levels since the first session.”

Source: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/271116/in-a-first-visually-impaired-play-tennis.html>

- **Meet Pranav Lal, the photographer who's been capturing images despite having vision loss!**

Pranav, despite having vision loss, wanted to do something absolutely visual, which is how he came up with the idea of taking up photography. Pranav who works with a corporate in New Delhi, uses a technology called 'voice' that works as an artificial eye, and with a pair of bone-conducting headphones, converts the sights around him to sound. "The image gets broken down to 3 attributes. The planning or time represents objects in the horizontal plane. The higher the pitch of the sound, the higher is the object. And finally, the volume of the sound represents the amount of brightness. Using a combination of these variations in sound, he clicks photographs using a second camera."

Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pranav-lal-blind-photographer-capturing-pictures-pinhole-camera-sound-lifest/1/787042.html>

- **T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament 2017 for persons with vision loss to be held in India**

Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for persons with vision loss to be held in multiple cities of India from 28<sup>th</sup> of January to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Ten test playing countries are going to be a part of

this tournament, with confirmed participation from Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka. The tournament will be played on league-cum knockout basis at multiple cities in India.

Source: [http://blindcricket.in/cricket\\_world\\_cup](http://blindcricket.in/cricket_world_cup)

- **World's first Bionic eye implant lets a 30-year old woman with total vision loss see colours and shapes**

A group of surgeons from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) recently implanted the world's first visual stimulator chip into the brain of a 30-year old woman with total vision loss. The patient, who wishes to remain anonymous, started losing her eyesight in 2008 as a result of a rare disease called 'Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome' which attacks the pigment in the eyes. Within a year, the disease took her eyesight from her; however it did not take her hope. Eight years later, she can now see colours and shapes again, thanks to a tiny stimulator laid on the back of her brain. The device implanted into the patient's brain was developed as a part of the 'Orion I' program by Second Sight.

Source: <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2016/11/05/a-solution-for-blindness-worlds-first-bionic-eye-implant-helps-blind-woman-see-shapes-colours/>

- **Udaan Entertainment Group.....a special band with a bang.**

Udaan Entertainment Group was formed back in 2005 by a duo with vision loss namely Keval L. Haria (a graduate in Philosophy) and

Deepak G. Bedsa (a graduate in Hindi Literature). The crew comprises 60 people with and without vision loss who are musicians, vocalists, mimics, dancers and other staff like backstage managers, anchors, etc. So far, the band has performed in more than 500 concerts, corporate and private events nationally and internationally.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFNcC9qVto8LQN9xdjUHypw>

- **Interested to be an Athlete???.... Special Olympics Bharat is here to make your dream come true!!!**

Special Olympics Bharat is a National Sports Federation that uses sports as a catalyst to transform the lives of children and adults with disabilities. It is accredited by Special Olympics Inc. USA to conduct its sports programs all over India. To register as an athlete, please contact Mr. Rajashekar, Area Director on 040-27548484.

- **IFFI brings magic of movies to persons with vision loss, with audio description**

In a first of its kind initiative, International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has tied up with Saksham, a non-governmental organization, to bring the magic of movies to persons with vision loss. While watching a movie, lots of crucial information is provided through facial expressions, costumes, ambience, environment and body language. Such information does not reach persons with vision loss and are perceived based on audio clues. To overcome this, a

practice of creating audio descriptions has been started for providing crucial visual information, common in European and American countries, making viewing of movies a very fulfilling and wholesome experience for persons with vision loss. The audio-described films have received tremendous response from audiences following screenings at IFFI last October at Hyderabad.

Source: <http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/deccan+herald-epaper-deccan/iffi+brings+magic+of+movies+to+visually+challenged+with+audio+description-newsid-59788187>

### **Blind Mice Movie Vault.... A collection of audio descriptive English movies under one roof!**

If you're a fervent admirer of audio descriptive Hollywood movies, you ought to visit Blind Mice Megha Malls Movie Vault website to enjoy a wide range of movies dated as old as 1954 to as recently as 2016. Just sign up freely and download your favourite movies now.

Source: <https://www.blindmicemegamall.com/bmm/shop/Login>

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