



## **E-BUZZ**

### **VISION REHABILITATION CENTRES NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2016 (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

- **First Miss India contest for girls with vision loss**

In a first of its kind event for persons with vision loss, the Miss India contest for girls with total/partial vision loss will be held at Mumbai this year. The branches of National Association for the Blind (NAB) are carrying out selection programs to shortlist participants for the event across the country. The judges of the contest will shortlist 12 contestants out of all participants who will be trained under the guidance of a Choreographer and Personality Development Trainer. Participants will receive a 15-day training before the main event.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/Blind-Miss-India-contest14-selected-in-first-round/2016/08/22/article3591280.ece>

- **Bringing talent closer to opportunities**

A National Career Counseling portal is developed primarily to connect opportunities with the aspirations of youth. This portal facilitates registration of job seekers, job providers, skill providers, career counselors etc. The project would be capable of meeting varied demands and requirements of the youth for information on education, employment and training and will be supported by a multi-lingual call centre. The portal will also make available information on local service providers available to household and other consumers for services like driving, plumbing, carpentry etc.

Source: <https://www.ncs.gov.in/pages/about-us.aspx>

- **Sonar glasses... an useful mobility tool to complement the white cane**

Sonar glasses, designed to increase mobility independence of persons with vision loss can prove to be a useful mobility tool, though they are not meant as a replacement for a white cane or a guide dog. They complement the white cane and guide dog by detecting obstacles above waist level (such as tree limbs, signs, walls, people, low ceilings etc.) Sonar glasses technology is based on echolocation, similar to the way bats navigate in the dark. The glasses emit sound waves and measure the time to receive sound reflected by nearby objects.

Source: <http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw170804>

- **Sugamya Pustakalaya... India's first and largest collection of accessible books**

The department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has launched “Sugamya Pustakalaya” – an online library for persons with print disabilities as part of the Accessible India Campaign. The online library has been created in collaboration with National Institute of Visually Handicapped (NIVH), member organizations of Daisy Forum of India (DFI), Bookshare and powered by TCS Access. This online library will focus on collection of all accessible materials from all over the country in a single online library system. The e-library platform will work in collaboration with international agencies such as “Bookshare” and “Accessible Books Consortium” to make accessible books from all over the world available to users in India.

Source: <http://m.timesofindia.com/india/Centre-launches-Sugamya-Pustakalaya-an-online-library-for-Persons-with-disabilities/articleshow/53847985.cms>

- **3D printed models for expecting parents**

One of the most memorable moments in the lives of expectant parents comes when they first see the image of their baby on the ultrasound screen. It's also a moment that persons with vision loss have been deprived of, until now. IN UTERO 3D, a company based in Poland creates 3D printed models from ultrasound images so that mothers with vision loss can visualize the faces of their children in the same way they would visualize the faces of anyone else through touch. While IN UTERO 3D is not the first company to offer this kind of technology, it is the most accessible. They offer a program called “Waiting Without Barriers” specifically for mothers with vision loss which provides 3D printed ultrasounds to parents all over the world for a token cost of 1 Euro.

Source: <https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/in-utero-3d-a-project-helping-blind-parents-to-be-94832/>

- **Vodafone's project Drishti to empower girls with vision loss in Ranchi**

Vodafone India has partnered with the Braj Kishore Netraheen Balika Vidyalaya in Ranchi to develop a project titled "Drishti" to provide employment/earning opportunity to girls with vision loss. Under this project, Vodafone has set up a tele-calling centre within the Braj Kishore Netraheen Balika Vidyalaya premises in Ranchi wherein members of this school have been trained by Vodafone on voice recognition system to connect with potential pre-paid customers, the company said

The company aims to create a win-win situation between supporting a social cause and its business goals in the process facilitating earning opportunity for the differently abled.

Source: <http://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/vodafones-project-drishti-to-empower-visually-impaired-girls-in-ranchi/53492004>

- **What would the audio version similar to facebook be like?**

Connect to people anywhere in the world through your ears using Vorail app! This app is based on the most human form of communication, our voice. Hear a question, speak an answer, ask a question and listen to the answers. When meeting people at a party, asking a question is the natural way to start talking. Choosing which

questions to answer in a safe environment that protects privacy is a risk-free to join the conversation. Vorail never requests phone number or email, any person who communicates in a way that makes you uncomfortable or any topic that makes you feel upset can be added to your mute bin so that communications between you and that person or topic no longer takes place. Vorail is a community where healthy and meaningful communication happens because people learn to trust one another by listening to the authenticity and sincerity that can only be expressed using the human voice.

Source: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/vorail/what-would-the-audio-version-of-facebook-be-like?ref=video>

- **Hostel facility for women with disabilities**

Mitrajyothi in collaboration with “The Hans Foundation” started “The Centre for Empowerment of Women with Disabilities” (CEWD). It is a hostel facility inaugurated in January 2016. It is located in Chikka Thogur, Hosa road, Electronic city, Bengaluru. The centre focuses on providing maximum comfort and easy accessibility to women with disabilities.

Source: <http://www.mitrajyothi.org/trc.html>

- **Distance education programs by “Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired”**

Founded in 1920 by William Hadley and Dr. E.V.L. Brown, Hadley offers courses free of charge to its students with vision loss and their families and affordable tuition to blindness professionals. The

mission of Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to promote independent living through lifelong distance education programs for individuals with vision loss, their families and blindness service providers. Today, Hadley is the largest provider of distance education for people with vision loss around the world.

Source: <http://hadley.edu/AboutHadley.asp>

For any comments, suggestions and queries, please contact:

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