



E-BUZZ

JUNE 2017 (13th 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 audio games, from education to employment, from matrimony to accessible tours from the world around us.

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

- **Corporate firm in Hyderabad leads the way by hiring persons with disabilities**

Everyday, around 3,500 people enter the offices of Synchrony Financial in Gachibowli, Hyderabad for work. At first glance, one can't see anything different in the crowd, but look closely and one can spot ramps which run parallel to the stairs at the entrance. Then there is immense talk, but no noise because some of the staff are animatedly conversing with each other in sign language, silently yet vibrantly. Some have hearing loss, some with vision loss, some with speech impairment and some have limited mobility, but one thing they all have in common is their belief in themselves. "The program to recruit persons with disabilities started with 2 in 2015 and we now have 80 persons with disabilities working for us. We aim to make it 150 by the end of 2017", says Faisal Uddin, Senior Vice President and Business Leader of Synchrony Financial, India.

Source: <https://www.deccanpost.in/corporate-firm-in-hyderabad-leads-the-way-by-hiring-differently-abled/>

- **Miranda House installs digital talking signs for students with vision loss in Delhi University**

In a bid to make Delhi University's campus accessible, Miranda House installed talking signs in the college that helps students with vision loss figure out their way across the college. The college has put up 100 QR code acrylic sheets at various important corners like the canteen, classrooms, hostel rooms etc. Students have to first download the customized app on their smart phones. The college has installed 6-inch square scan code which is 1 inch away from the wall. When a student holding the phone comes within 3 feet to the

code, a verbal message comes out that give them details regarding the location.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/education/delhi-university-miranda-house-installs-digital-talking-signages-for-blind-students-heres-how-it-works/>

- **Tutorials on creating accessible Google Drive documents by Michigan State University**

Google Drive Documents (Google Docs) is the widely used word processing application through Google Drive. Google Docs is missing some key accessibility functions, but the methods in this tutorial created by Michigan State University will increase the accessibility of the documents produced through Google Docs. For the tutorials, please visit,

<http://webaccess.msu.edu/Tutorials/google-drive.html>

- **Looking for a life partner?... then here's ability matrimony for you!**

Ability matrimony is an exclusive matrimony portal catering to the special matrimonial needs of persons with disabilities across the globe. The portal offers several benefits to its members, primary being the pleasure of searching for a life partner within one's own community from across the globe at the click of a mouse. For people who value tradition and are passionate about their roots, this portal

will help them connect with their partner from their community irrespective of whether they are from the same city or several thousand miles away across continents.

Source: <http://www.abilitymatrimony.com/site/index.php?act=aboutus>

- **Mathematics made easy for children with vision loss**

Recognizing the need to promote education among children with vision loss, the Overbrook-Nippon Network for Educational Technology (ON-NET) and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is pleased to announce the release of a new publication, one that every teacher of children with vision loss will want as a resource in teaching mathematics. The material presented in this publication is divided into 5 modules which include the commonly used methods of teaching mathematics to children with vision loss, detailed self-instructional procedures to learn and teach the effective use of the abacus and also covers basic and secondary mathematical concepts etc.

Source: <http://icevi.org/publications/MathBrochure.htm>

- **Online tutorials on software and apps for persons with vision loss**

Check out a range of tutorials on accessibility on a YouTube channel named 'Tech Accessibility'. It provides tutorials on Android applications, computer software, iOS apps and much more with the help of screen readers for persons with vision loss.

Source: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOVwNKy4c_jDIIBXUntbh5Q

- **Audio Archery... a game for your ears!**

Use only your ears and your reflexes to shoot targets. Audio Archery is a game that is entirely auditory. So there are no pictures or icons. You will hear a target move from left to right. When it is centered, flick down on the screen with one finger to pull back your bow. Release your finger to fire your arrow and hit the target.

Source: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/audio-archery-archery-for-your-ears/id531019563?mt=8>

- **A tactile tablet to guide persons with vision loss navigate places**

Researchers at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) have developed a tablet to help persons with vision loss to find a way around unfamiliar places. The device very quickly forms shapes and relief maps that users can then explore with their fingers. Measuring 12/15 cm, the tablet comprises 192 tiny buttons that can move up and down in just a few milliseconds, almost instantaneously creating patterns such as the layout of a building, street or conference room. Users can also zoom on a specific part of the map. The tablet could also be used to help students with vision loss learn subjects such as geometry or mathematics.

Source: <https://techxplore.com/news/2017-05-touchable-tablet-visually-impaired.html>

- **Planet Abled is here for you with an accessible trekking tour to Triund**

Get ready to get lost in the tranquility of the Himalayas and have an adventurous experience like never before as Planet Abled is all set to take you to Triund for a trekking tour. Travel buddies and sign language interpreters would be present during the entire duration of the trip. Mark your calendar from 30th June to 3rd July 2017. If you're looking forward for a thrilling experience and want a trip full of fun and excitement, then register now at,

<https://goo.gl/forms/YGMJTapYQz6kIH713>.

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

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