



E-BUZZ

INSTITUTE FOR VISION REHABILITATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017 (9th Edition)

- **India's first museum Braille book for City Palace museum, Jaipur**

A heritage architect who helps cultural organizations become accessible for persons with disabilities, Siddhant Shah, made the country's first museum Braille book for City Palace museum, Jaipur. These books don't just give written information, but also explain everything with tactile images. In an interview, he says, "The journey of making things accessible for others has got me into many inaccessible situations-from museums not being ready to meet to schools for the blind not wanting to participate. There were times when I faced outright rejection- like being told, 'blind and handicapped people do not come to our museums.' This was especially hurtful because my mother is partially sighted. After much effort, I got support from organizations like the National Museum and DAG Modern in New Delhi and MSMSII in City Palace in Jaipur.

Source: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/museum-braille-book-siddhant-shah-heritage-architect-blind-school-stigma/1/860777.html>

- **Bombay High Court gives Railways last chance to comply with report on making stations accessible for persons with disabilities**

The Bombay High Court has given the Railways a last chance to comply with the report pointing out the deficiencies in terms of making railway stations more accessible for persons with disabilities. The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the India Centre for Human Rights and Law regarding making railway stations in Mumbai accessible for PWD by providing facilities like ramps, besides booking counters and drinking water facilities at lower heights. The Railways has been granted three weeks to study the report and make a statement regarding compliance.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/bombay-high-court-gives-railways-last-chance-to-comply-with-report-on-making-stations-disabled-friendly-4480905/>

- **Don't panic even if you drop your smart phone in water!**

Japan-based Kyocera has introduced a new "Rafre" washable smart phone that features resistance to hot water and a touch screen that can be used even when the user's hands are wet or when wearing gloves. "The smart phone is a successor to the original 'DIGNO Rafre,' which was launched in December 2015 as the world's first hand-soap-washable smart phone. In addition to resistance against

foaming soap, the second-generation model possesses resistance to foaming body soap, the company said in a post.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/gadgets/Kyocera-introduces-new-washable-smartphone-in-Japan/article17107688.ece>

- **Meet Kritika Purohit, the first doctor with vision loss in India**

Kritika Purohit's journey to follow her aspiration of becoming a doctor was tough, with plenty of challenges coming her way due to her vision loss. The first major setback came when she was barred from taking the Maharashtra Common Entrance TEST. But victory came her way when the Bombay High Court ruled in her favour. This did not make the journey any easier for her as she was denied admission in a government college because of the rigorous practicals that the course entailed. Once again, she sought legal help and this time, she had to prove that she was capable enough of qualifying as a successful doctor. A specimen was specially brought to the court and she was required to perform an anatomy session to attest her qualifications. Creating a history of sorts, she successfully proved that her disability did not stand in the way of her dreams. Kritika has now received a certificate from the Maharashtra State Council for Occupational therapy and Physiotherapy, making her the first government-certified doctor with vision loss in the country.

Source: <https://thehealthorange.com/whats-new/visually-handicapped-girls-inspirational-journey-becoming-doctor/>

- **Shekar Naik urged the BCCI to grant affiliation to the Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI)**

Said to be conferred with the Padma Shri award, former captain of the Indian Cricket Team for Blind urged the BCCI to grant affiliation to the Cricket association for Blind in India. “It is high time that the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) should recognize the efforts of cricket for blind and give it affiliation. We have won two World Cups and the boys’ hard work and dedication needs to be recognized,” Naik said. “Cricket boards of other countries like Australia, South Africa, England, Pakistan and even smaller nations have recognized their cricket teams for blind. BCCI, which is the richest board in the world, should do the same,” he added.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/bcci-should-grant-affiliation-to-blind-cricket-shekar-naik-4494307/>

- **IIT Bombay opens facility for students with vision loss**

The Indian Institute of Technology- Bombay has opened a new facility for students with vision loss at the Central Library in the Powai campus. The institute has procured all modern aids and appliances such as the latest version of the JAWS-screen reading software, Plectalk pocket daisy player and recorder, Perkins SMART Braille, Braille Embosser/printer, Kurzweil- a text-to-speech reader with OCR, Zoom X or Pearl-document camera which works as instant reader, Sangeeta software to convert txt files into mp3 files, Eye-Pal Rol portable scanners and readers and Perkins standard Braille, the Institute said in a statement.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-bombay-opens-facility-for-the-blind-students-4461578/>

- **Braille and audio library at Picket, Hyderabad**

Samarthanam Trust, an NGO for persons with disabilities launched its Braille and audio library at Picket, at Jubilee Bus Station in Hyderabad. Some of the available books are Aaharam Aroghyam, ABC Book, Adigi Telusukundam, Anglo Telugu Primer Basics of Computer, dictionary, English Grammar, Gandhi History, Ganitha Bodhini, Indian History etc. Similar facilities will be inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and other places.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2017/jan/18/braille--audio-library-at-picket-1560676.html>

- **Accessible computer games for children with vision loss**

Kids are kids, whether they have vision loss or not and most kids these days want to play video games. You may have thought that your child can't play computer or video games because he has vision loss or that he won't be interested in those sort of activities. You may be surprised to know that there is an entire industry devoted to produce fun and educational computer games for children with vision loss. Check out this list of accessible video games and see if you can find something your child will enjoy.

Source: <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/best-accessible-computer-games-blind-kids>

- **Did you know ‘White Print’ is India’s first Braille magazine?**

Launched in May 2013, this 64-page monthly Braille magazine is printed at the National Association for the Blind, Mumbai and circulated across India to more than 300 subscribers. White Print entails articles about sports, politics, culture, fashion, technology, inspiring stories of the common man, short stories and even reader contributions. The magazine is founded by Upasana Makati who is listed in the 30 under 30 by Forbes India in 2016. Through this lifestyle magazine, she intends to make available well-researched and informative articles along with leisure reads to persons with vision loss. To subscribe, please contact the numbers mentioned on their website.

Source: <http://whiteprint.in/>

For any comments, suggestions and queries, please contact:

HelpLine Services

Ph: 040 30612841/30612842

Email: rehabhelpline@lvpei.org