**Voice of the Blind**

**Fortnight e-bulletin**

**(Collection of news and informations of and for the blind)**

Compiled, Edited and circulated by National Federation of the Blind Karnataka

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**1. Editorial**

Dear readers,

we are happy to handover to you this 41 issue of the “Voice of the Blind” we hope that like all other issues this issue also you will find full of news and information effecting the life of persons with disability in general and visually impaired in particular. In this issue we like all of you to learn about National Federation of the Blind India which is not just an organization but a self help movement for protection and promotion of rights of persons with disability not just across the country but all over the world

let us have a look to the key highlights of the National federation of the Blind India

**National Federation of the Blind (India)**

**A movement for protection of rights of persons with disabilities and an organization for empowerment of the persons with visual disability**

The concept of the National Federation of the Blind sprouted in the year 1970, in its infancy christened as
**"National Federation of the Blind Graduates"** was mainly formed with a vision to focus and highlight on the right platform, various issues that were dogging the visually impaired...The society in general was unaware and ignorant about the latent talent and capabilities of the Visually Impaired people who constitute a considerable section in the society, yet there was discrimination and apathy almost to the extent of being considered a burden on the society in general and the respective families in particular. A little while later, to be precise in 1973 the word **"The National Federation of the Blind"** and the membership of the body were kept open for all. The principal guiding philosophy of the organization is aptly "Let the Blind lead the Blind", which remained the unique feature of the federation.

Vision Statement:

We at NFB strive toward empowering people with visual impairment, generating awareness of their needs within families and communities and, together, work towards their genveniene inclusion in the society. Our primary mission is to open up a range of opportunities for blind and low vision persons in every possible spear of activity, enabling them to function as equal, contributing and dignified members of society.

We wish to be recognized as an organization with a difference. The difference lies in the fact that our policies and programs are planned and shaped by visually impaired persons themselves

Our main thrust is reaching out to the unreached segments of blind population. The methodology and strategy is to deliver services to those who need them most, across the wide spectrum of the blind population. Creating new opportunities of innovative trainings, rehabilitation education and employment for our blind brothers and sisters is our main challenge.

Aims & Objectives

1. To work towards establishing and providing all the required special facilities for the education of the Visually Challenged.
2. Provide the complete infrastructure to impart training for the Vision Impaired in employment generation trades and schemes.
3. To identify and guide the Visually Handicapped seeking suitable employment in Government as well as Private Sectors.
4. Facilitate and provide financial assistance to Visually Challenged for self employment projects.
5. To create awareness in the society about the ability, potential and talent of the blind.
6. Build and provide a platform for the over all empowerment and rehabilitation of the blind by formulation and implementation of various activities and programmes.
7. To influence the government at various levels for the progressive, improvement and modernization of public policies, programes and practices governing the education, health, employment, rehabilitation, social security, sports and recreation of the blind people.
8. Encouragement of the exchange of information and experience between all organizations whose activity relate to the objects of the federation.
9. Dissemination of accurate and update informations and the promotion of enlightened attitudes on the part of the people at large towards the blind and low vision persons.
10. The Encouragement, coordination and conduct research and studies in all fields of the blindness including its prevention
11. The promotion and coordination of technical and materialistic assistance in furtherance of the aims of the federation in areas where such help is required.
12. Take any other measures necessary or conducive to the achievements of the objectives of the federation.

National Federation of the Blind as a movement for protection of rights of persons with visual disability

Despite the executive orders in favor of 1% exclusive reservation for the blind out of the overall 3% for the 3 categories of disabled persons in the group C and D jobs in the Government sector due to the prevailing negative mindset of the authorities about the potential of the disabled the orders were not being considered seriously and implemented earnestly.

A legal sanction for the implementation of these orders has become a dire necessity, which in turn is difficult, if not impossible. To work in that direction the Federation felt that a comprehensive legislation to give legal protection to all such Government Orders is needed and as such the government should be requested to enact and execute such a binding legislation at the earliest.

With a view to draw the attention and pressurize the Government the Federation decided to take out a procession on the 16th of March 1980 in Delhi. Incidentally 1980 was the International Year for Disabled Persons as proclaimed by the United Nations.

A great number of protestors joined the procession lead by Mr. S.K. Rungta and other prominent members of the Federation and the society started their peaceful march from Jantar Mantar to the Prime Minister’s residence with an intention to submit a charter of demands, but the procession was rudely halted and the participants were brutally beaten up by the police. The peaceful blind participants in the procession became the hapless victims of ruthless and inhuman police action that left many grievously injured protestors. This brutal action by the Delhi Police came in for severe condemnation and criticism from across the country and the world over, that incident was prominently featured in the headlines of the print media, and the then prime minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had to apologize publicly as well as in the Parliament for this heinous action of Delhi Police.. She had also invited a delegation to discuss the matter and bring about a solution. this group lead by the General Secretary Mr. S.K. Rungta met with the Prime Minister and convinced the government to constitute a working group to draft a legislation and the government also agreed to circulate a recommendation to all the state governments to implement an executive order issued in 1978 for 3% job reservation for the disabled..Later, the Working Group could not do much and had to be dissolved. A committee under the chairmanship of Justice Beharul Islam was constituted to draft the said legislation which submitted its report in the year 1990. The Federation had to resort twin pronged strategy, On the one hand it continued the peaceful agitation from time to time and on the other hand started lobbying with the law makers of both the houses of the Parliament. This action of the Federation yielded positive results and the Government tabled the draft legislation before the Parliament which passed it on the 22th December 1995. The act called **"The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation)Act-1995"**came into force after the 7th of February 1996 with its notification in the gazette of India. This morale boosting victory was a result of a long unyielding struggle and sustained efforts of the Federation spearheaded by the visionary Secretary General. At the moment efforts are on to pursue the government to amend the act.

This act ultimately became an umbrella of the protection for the rights of persons with disabilities as judgments in a number of cases filed against the violation of rights under various articles of this act in different courts were awarded in favour of the disabled persons. One such landmark judgment pronounced by the High Court of Delhi on the 19th December 2008 in a Writ Petition I No. 15828/2006 filed by the National Federation of the Blind versus Union of India against the discrimination of the blind and low vision persons by virtually excluding them from the process of recruitment to the Government. Posts in violation of the scheme of reservation contained in Section 33 of the said act. The Honorable High Court of Delhi has directed the government:-

* 1. To constitute a committee consisting of the Chief Commissioner for Disabilities (Chairman), Joint Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, Joint Secretary Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Joint Secretary Department of Public Enterprises and Secretary Staff Selection Commission to do the following acts in terms of this order:-
		+ To solicit information with regard to recruitments made by Departments/ public sector undertakings / government companies from the date when the out backlog of vacancies for the disabled on the total cadre strength in different establishments within one month from the date of this order.
		+ To undertake special recruitment drive by organizing centralized recruitment against backlog so worked out so as to fill up the vacancies by utilizing at least 50% of the vacancies available with the respective establishments for this purpose only.
		+ To organize further special recruitment drive as required so as filling up the remaining backlog of vacancies by 31st December 2010.
	2. The Government will issue an appropriate order modifying the OM dated 29.12.2009 and the subsequent OMs consistent with this courts order.
	3. The Government shall issue instructions to all the departments/ public sector undertaking/ government companies declaring that the non observance of the scheme of reservation for persons with disabilities should be considered as an act of non-obedience and the nodal officer in Departments/ Public sector undertakings/ government owned companies responsible for the proper and strict implementation of reservation for persons with disabilities to be departmentally proceeded against for his default.
	4. The Government is further directed to issue instructions to all the departments/ government companies as well as recruiting agencies not to undertake recruitment for any department/ public sector undertaking/ government company makes provisions for reservation for persons with disabilities in terms of the order of this court and a clearance is granted by the Committee headed by the Chief Commissioner for Disabilities.
	5. The Committee headed by the Chief Commissioner for Disabilities shall submit a status report on implementation of the above directions of this court within three months from the date of this order.

Being aggrieved of the above judgment of Delhi high court, the government of India appealed in supreme court by way of special leave petition. Where the national general secretary of the federation and Sr. Advocate in Delhi high court Sri. S.K. Rungta appeared in person as a respondent and argued that in term of section 32 and 33 of persons with disability act 1995 it is obligatory on the parts of government establishments to provide at least 3% reservation of posts in the total cadre strength and not only in identified vacancies. He further prayed for time bound direction for effective implementation of the scheme of job reservation for persons with disability in above said manner. Convincing with the argument of Mr. S. K. Rungta the apex court delivered a land mark judgment on dated 8th October 2013 with the following observation/direction

1. ``Employment is a key factor in the empowerment and inclusion of people with disabilities. It is an alarming reality that the disabled people are out of job not because; their disability comes in the way of their functioning rather it is social and practical barriers. That prevents them from joining the workforce. As a result, many disabled people live in poverty and in deplorable conditions. They are denied the right to make a useful contribution to their own lives and to the lives of their families and communities.’’ (Para 49 of the judgment)

2. ``The union of India the state governments as well as the union territories have a categorical obligation under the constitution of India, and under various international treaties relating the human rights in general and treaties for disabled persons in particular, to protect the rights of disabled persons. Even though the act was enacted way back in 1995, the disabled people have failed to get required benefits until today. (Para 50 of the judgment)

3. ``Thus, after thoughtful consideration, we are of the view that the computation of reservation for persons with disability has to be computed in case of group A, B, C & D posts in identical manner, ``computing 3% of reservation on total number of vacancies in the cadre strength’’ which is the intention of legislature. Accordingly certain clauses in the OM dated 29.12.2005 which are contrary to the above reasoning are struck down and we direct the appropriate government to issue new office memorandums in consistence with the decision render by this court.’’ (Para 51 of the judgment)

4. In our opinion, in order to ensure proper implementation of the reservation policy for the disabled and to protect their rights, it is necessary to issue the following directions

a. we here by direct the appellant hearing to issue an appropriate order modifying the OM dated 29.12.2005 and the subsequent OM’s consistent with this court’s order within 3 months from the date of passing of this judgment.

b. we here by direct the appropriate government to compute the number of vacancies available in all the establishments and further identify the posts for disabled persons with in a period of 3 months from today an implement the same without default.

c. The appropriate government here in shall issue instructions to all the departments/public sector undertakings/government companies declaring that the non observance of the scheme of reservation for person with disability should be consider as an act of non obedience and nodal officer in department public sector undertakings, government companies, responsible for the proper/strict implementation of reservation for persons with disabilities, we departmentally proceeded against for the default. (Para 54 of the judgment)

The stand on the passage of RPD Bill

 When the government of India finalized RPD Bill 2013 to replace the existing Act without even looking at previous consultations held between the civil society and the govern for over four years. At the initial stage, most of the organizations even without knowing about the contents of the Bill were pressing for the introduction and passage of the Bill without Debate.

At that time the federation took a stand that the Bill should be shared with the civil society before its introduction. The General Secretary of the federation manages to obtain a copy of the RPD Bill which the Govt. was to introduce in Rajyasabha. The contents of the Bill was very disappointing and shocking as it even sought to legitimize discrimination on the ground of disability and also was seeking to curtail or limit certain existing rights. Consequently, the Federation announced and undertook its agitation against the introduction and passage of the bill that form as the agitation grew and contents of the Bill circulated by federation reached various other organizations of persons with disabilities, many organizations supported the Federation in its demand for non introduction and passage of RPD Bill in that form. During the course of agitation, various organizations having similar views decided to form IADA and the general secretary of the federation was given the responsibility of acting as coordinator of the Alliance. The agitation initiated by the federation was then converted into an agitation of IADA at the final stages. As a result of this four months long agitation, federation could succeed in saving our rights by throttling the move of the government of the introduction and passage of the Bill firstly in the parliament and thereafter by ordinance route just before the Elections.

**Hard stand of the federation on decision of the Indian Railway to exclude the totally blind persons in its recruitments**

The federation also took a hard stand against the decision of Indian Railway to exclude the 100% blind persons in its recruitment of Group D post in 2012 -2013 and fought a long legal battle throughout central administrative tribunal, court of CCPD and high court and post the northern railway to revise its selection lists against the recruitment notification of 2012 and 2013 with effect to select the 100% blind persons in D group post as per their merits and finally 65 totally blind candidates were selected by the Northern Railway against the selection process for the year 2012.

Special Recruitment Drive

As a pleasant outcome of the “ land mark judgement of supreme court October 2013” the central government firstly amended its office memorandum of dtd. 29.12.2005 in term of its new OM dtd. 3rd December 2013 and extended the provision of computation of reservation quota in total cadre strength including identified and unidentified vacancies of group C and D upto group A & B. secondly, in term of its affidavit the government admitted before apex court the backlog of 14267 posts, out of which 4015 are exclusively for blind and undertook to clear this backlog through special recruitments drives upto February 2016.

Reservation in Promotion

As a result of another legal intervention of the federation, the apex court in term of its historic judgment of 30th June 2016 directed the central government to extend the reservation persons with disability under sec.33 of persons with disability act 1995 in promotion too in all ABC&D groups.

### Some formal initiatives of the government as a result of sustained advocacy and lobbying of the federation

a. A formal meeting between representative of the federation and then Minister for Education and Social welfare on the problem of employment of person with disability

b. A formal meeting between federation and then labour minister dtd. 4th August 1980

c. The erstwhile prime minister Late. Mrs. Indira Gandhi wrote a letter to the federation showing concern over the unsatisfactory situation of employment for persons with disability dtd. 14th June 1980

d. Order of Govt. of U.P. for appointment of blind in every department during the year 1982.

e. Letter of Shri N.D. Tiwari then Labour Minister addressed to all Chief Ministers regarding special recruitment drive.

f. Letter of Shri S.N. Menon Joint Secretary dated 28.08.1987 to the Federation requesting to withdraw the agitation.

g. Office Memorandum regarding constitution of Special Recruitment Committee dated 03.09.87 to fill up the reserved vacancies for persons with disabilities.

h. The judgement of apex court in 1993 directing the central government to allowed visually impaired persons to write IAS exams and reserve minimum 1% quota in recruitment of IAS officers

i. Issuance of O.M. No.15012/5/92\_Estt.(DD) dated 27.07.95 grant age concession to the disabled including blind in group ‘A’ & ‘B’ posts for five years.

### International Participation

The Federation is affiliated to world blind union and is actively contributing to the activities of Asian Blind Union which is one of the regional arm of World Blind Union. The General Secretary of the Federation Shri S K Runghta has been recently elected as president of the Asian Blind Union for second conjuctive term

The World Blind Union has a consultative status with UN and as such, being the president of ABU, Federation’s General Secretary is also taking active part in policy formulation and implementation of various international policies in ABU region pertaining to inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.

Currently, Federation’s General Secretary is serving on the advocacy and human rights committee of World Blind Union besides working as one of the regional coordinator for Marrakesh Treaty rectification campaign.

**Institutional Services under taken by the NFB :**

Foreseeing its important role in Education, Employment, Rehabilitation and social inclusion of persons with visual disability, the federation envisaged the and developed a number of interventions for their advantage. The organization constantly encourages the blind to avail these opportunities to educate and employ themselves in order to have better quality of life and be able to compete and integrate themselves into the mainstream society.

**A. RUNNING OF SCHOOLS**

The Federation has established and is efficiently running three schools for the blind in different parts of the country spending its own resources, the schools are listed below:-

I Blind School at Kanpur (U.P)

II School for Sightless Girls at Jammu. (J&K)

III. School for the Blind Girls, at Bilaspur. (Chhattisgarh)

**B. HOSTELS FOR COLLEGE GOING BLIND STUDENTS**

At present the Federation is maintaining hostels for college going blind students at Bangalore & Mysore in Karnataka, hostel for girls in Delhi, one hostel at Ambala cant Haryana and one hostel at Ajmer Rajasthan

**C. TRAINING CUM PRODUCTION CENTRES:**

**Training & Rehabilitation Centers: -**

In this era of Globalization, Liberalization and new Technological Development, the job opportunities in Govt. and Public Sector are minimizing day by day. To counter this situation the Federation has opened training and rehabilitation centers in different parts of the country. In these centers the blind persons are imparted training in various trades and later their skills are used in production centers where a number of items are prepared by the blind themselves. The items are later sold in market by the Federation. The trainees are also paid stipend during the training period. These training centers are also preparing the blind for starting their own self-employment ventures. Presently the Federation is running this scheme on the following centers:

1. Training cum rehabilitation centre at Kanpur Blind school, 110/ Nehru Nagar Kanpur
Established in the year 2005. It has 19 number of beneficiaries at present who are engaged in manufacturing paper plates, dona and pattals etc.
2. Training cum rehabilitation Centre at S-17/24-15-1, Charan Nagar Colony Nadesar Varanasi (U.P.)
Established in the year 2009. It has 13 number of beneficiaries at present who are engaged in manufacturing paper plates, dona and pattals etc.
3. Training cum rehabilitation Centre at Mill Road opp. Dashhara Ground, Ram Bagh, Near Rotary Hospital, Ambala Cantt.
Established in the year 2009. It has 13 number of beneficiaries at present who are engaged in manufacturing paper plates, dona and pattals etc.

**D. COMPUTER TRAINING PROJECT**

Foreseeing the importance of computer education in the present day and the absolute necessity of Information Technology skills which would enable blind youngsters to take on the competition and succeed in the main stream society, keeping the same in mind and thinking forward, the Federation took this initiative beginning with Delhi and Guwahati. These centers train and educate qualified students using JAWS (Job Access with Speech) software. With the encouraging response to this facility and realizing the potential federation is now geared up to extend the facility to all the states and started setting up and providing its state branches with fully equipped computer training centres

### E. National Braille Library & Braille Press

### The federation runs one of the largest national Braille library and a press for printing of Braille books with several highly technical sophisticated and latest printing machines at Bahadrugarh Haryana near Delhi.

In addition to this, a Braille library is being run at Rae Bareilly (UP), Braille cum talking library at Bangalore and an Audio book libraries at Kadappa and Kurnool units of NFB A.P. Branch

**Schemes and programs for individual empowerment of visually impaired persons**

**A. Scholarship Schemes**

The scholarship scheme was launched during the year 2006-07. So far since the launching of scheme a total number of 6397 blind student have been awarded scholarship worth Rs. 3,25,15,890/-.

**B. EDUCATION LOAN SCHEME**

With a view to help those blind students hailing from economically weaker families riddled with monetary hurdles in pursuing Bachelor of Education and other job oriented courses, the Federation has been advancing interest free education loans to them.

During the Financial Year 2015-16, a total number of 40 blind students were sanctioned Education Loan of Rs. 996000/- so far. Since the launching of scheme approximately 350 blind students have been sanctioned Education Loan worth rupee 82,19,661/-.

**C. National Housing Loan Scheme**

National Federation of The Blind provides housing loan to visually impaired person on minimum rate of interest. Under this scheme only Government Employees are granted loans maximum up to Rs. 20,00,000/-. During the financial year 2015-16, a total number of 10 blind employees were sanctioned loan worth Rs. 1,23,00,000/-. Since the launching of this scheme a total number of 213 Blind Employees have been sanctioned loan worth Rs. 18,91,44,000/-

### D. Emergency medical assistance scheme

The Federation provides Medical Assistance to its members by way of loans or in some cases as assistance. The Federation has also a Medical Relief Fund of government employees. This fund has been created by the government employees which they are managing themselves through the Federation.

The maximum age limit to become the member of this relief fund 40 years. In case of emergency, Rs 25000/- is paid treatment in the form of loan and in case of death, assistance of Rs. 50,000/- is paid to family member of the deceased which is not refundable.

**E. National Food security scheme of the federation :**

Appealed by the plight of impoverished state of the blind persons living in certain pockets of country, with no positive steps of aid or alleviation being initiated either by the state or central governments, considering, that the responsibility lies in us to help such the poorest visually impaired persons, the federation announced this scheme. The purpose of this scheme launched in 2016 to save those rural blind who are unable to manage even one square meal a day. Under this scheme the federation identifies such poorest rural blind persons and offers them Rs.200/- per month in order to manage their minimum basic requirements.

**Other activities**

**SPORTS**

The blind are as passionate as the normal individuals about sports. Sport for the Blind is seen as a program of physical and cerebral rehabilitation. Participation in sports helps the blind to stay physically fit, inculcates discipline, team spirit and camaraderie. It also provides an opportunity to them to travel inside and outside the country thus enabling them to gain general knowledge and understand different cultures. This includes Cricket, Football, Chess tournaments and athletic meets. The Federation organized a National Cricket Tournament for the Blind in Delhi in February 2009. Two blind athletes of the Federation have taken part in World Youth and Student Championships from July 15-20, 2009 at Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA and won medals. It regularly organizes meets and tournaments at local, state and national levels thus providing an opportunity encouraging the blind youngsters to actively participate in them.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

In order to identify, encourage and promote talent from amongst the blind singers, musicians, and poets, constant efforts are made by the Federation through its Cultural Wing. It was able to unearth several such talented young artists. The cultural wing provides a platform and organises various cultural activities such as Music programmes and Kavi Sammelans from time to time in various parts of the Country. This constant effort saw great musical nights and kavi sammelans organized by the federation.

**Coaching Courses**

Keeping the forthcoming special recruitment drives to fill up the backlog vacancies in quota of visually challenged persons in mind, during the year 2015-16 federation manage to undertake coaching courses through all its state branches to prepare the blind persons for various competitive exams.

**Legal protection :**

The federation affords to provide legal protection each and every blind person of the country who is denied of his/her legal entitlements on the ground of blindness and approaches to the federation for the rescue

The federation manages to sort out all such individual matters at the level of its state branches and national office by way of civil and legal advocacy

**2. Appeal for contribution**

We appeal to all readers of this e-bulletin to share the relevant stories, news, events and development of and for the blind across the globe for this news bulletin so that we can report you the best on your success and development of the sector.

Dead line for coverage of the content provided by the readers for the next issue is 12th April 2017

Please send your submissions in English and e-format to above given mail id.

**3. News from far & near**

# 1. Braille signage boards inaugurated at Bengaluru City Railway Station 15, 2017

There will also be Braille signs on railings of staircases leading to various platforms, in both Kannada and English languages.

 In a step towards becoming disabled friendly, Braille signage boards were inaugurated at KrantiveeraSangolliRayanna Station on Tuesday to help the visually impaired.

**Bengaluru:**In a step towards becoming disabled friendly, Braille signage boards were inaugurated at KrantiveeraSangolliRayanna Station on Tuesday to help the visually impaired. South Western Railways (SWR) has installed 600 metallic Braille boards across the station to guide the visually impaired move around through the station without any help.

“There are two tactile maps at the entrance, which will provide direction to ticket counters, platforms, washrooms and restaurants. A visually impaired person can feel the Braille signs and navigate," said Sanjiv Agarwal, Divisional Railway Manager, SWR.

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There will also be Braille signs on railings of staircases leading to various platforms, in both Kannada and English languages. These measures are expected to provide greater accessibility to the visually impaired.

Pranesh, Director of Enable India, an NGO working with the disabled said, "This is a great move and must be appreciated. Also, we have to make sure the person knows how to get to the braille signs and it must be located at a proper height for all."

Responding to the above query, Sanjiv Agarwal told Deccan Chronicle, "A disabled person entering the station, will first feel the tactile maps installed on 2 columns at the concourse. From there, they will be able to walk to wherever they need to go. As for the height even a child can access it."

The Braille boards were developed by Anuprayas, a NGO and the funding was provided by Altius Reality as part of their CSR initiative.

# 2. Vasai-Virar to get disabled friendly  Mar 15, 2017

MUMBAI: The [Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Vasai-Virar-Municipal-Corporation)(VVMC) has passed a proposal to make the region disabled access friendly.

So far 2,621 persons with disabilities have registered with the municipality. The civic administration has earmarked Rs 5 crore for the financial year 2017-18 to make access to disabled people. The proposal includes constructing ramps and escalators at civic buildings and public places in the region.

In addition, recruiting [differently abled people](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/differently-abled-people) in civic offices and giving Rs 2,000 a month to differently abled people above 60 years has also been approved in the general body meeting of the civic house.

In 2014, the municipality had undertaken a census of differently abled people in the region. Till November last year, the municipality has claimed to have spent around Rs 31 lakh for the welfare of disabled people.

A proposal to make the region [disabled friendly](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/disabled-friendly) was passed earlier about three years ago. But it remained on paper.

**3. New wallet card designed to help those with disabilities**

A local mother whose teenage son has autism spectrum disorder is behind a new wallet card program for Illinois residents with disabilities to help in dealing with first responders.

After Lori Price, president of the Indian Prairie School District 204 board and parent to a child with autism spectrum disorder, reached out to state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, with her idea, Kifowit led a legislative effort to create the cards, now available through the Secretary of State's Office, according to a news release from the [Illinois House](http://www.chicagotribune.com/topic/politics-government/illinois-general-assembly-ORGOV0000186-topic.html) of Representatives.

**4. Teaching tips to help students with autism** Mar 16, 2017

Students with autism spectrum disorders, ASD, find it difficult to focus on their studies. This makes it hard to hold their attention in the classroom.

Teachers can help such students by following a few tips.

Encourage children with ASD to exercise regularly as this helps improve motor and social skills, and helps them do better at studies.

Applying pressure treatment on the body helps keep the mind and body calm and relaxed. Weighted vests or weighted blankets are some products that can provide deep touch pressure therapy.

Toys like stress balls can help students focus by reducing their stress. The toys keep the hands busy and prevent the students from becoming restless.

# 5. New nano-implant may help restore sight 16/3/2017

Los Angeles, Mar 15 (PTI) Scientists have developed a new eye implant, using arrays of silicon nanowires that sense light and electrically stimulate the retina, which may help restore vision in millions of people worldwide.

The advance brings us a step closer to restoring the ability of neurons in the retina to respond to light.

The researchers from University of California San Diego and US-based startup Nanovision Biosciences showed response to light in a rat retina interfacing with a prototype of the device in vitro.

The technology could help tens of millions of people worldwide suffering from neurodegenerative diseases that affect eyesight, including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and loss of vision due to diabetes.

Performance of current retinal prostheses to help the blind regain functional vision is still limited.

“We want to create a new class of devices with drastically improved capabilities to help people with impaired vision,” said Gabriel A Silva, professor at UC San Diego.

The new prosthesis relies on two groundbreaking technologies. One consists of arrays of silicon nanowires that simultaneously sense light and electrically stimulate the retina accordingly.

The nanowires give the prosthesis higher resolution than anything achieved by other devices – closer to the dense spacing of photoreceptors in the human retina.

The other breakthrough is a wireless device that can transmit power and data to the nanowires over the same wireless link at record speed and energy efficiency.

The new system does not require a vision sensor outside of the eye to capture a visual scene and then transform it into alternating signals to sequentially stimulate retinal neurons.

Instead, silicon nanowires mimic the light-sensing cones and rods to directly stimulate retinal cells.

Nanowires are bundled into a grid of electrodes, activated by light and powered by a single wireless electrical signal.

This direct and local translation of incident light into electrical stimulation makes for a much simpler and scalable architecture for the prosthesis.

“To restore functional vision, it is critical that the neural interface matches the resolution and sensitivity of the human retina,” said GertCauwenberghs, from UC San Diego.

Power is delivered wirelessly, from outside the body to the implant, through an inductive powering telemetry system.

For proof-of-concept, the researchers inserted the wirelessly powered nanowire array beneath a transgenic rat retina with rhodopsin P23H knock-in retinal degeneration.

The degenerated retina interfaced with a microelectrode array for recording electrical “spikes” from neural activity.

The horizontal and bipolar neurons fired action potentials preferentially when the prosthesis was exposed to a combination of light and electrical potential and were silent when either light or electrical bias was absent, confirming the light-activated and voltage-controlled responsivity of the nanowire array.

The research was published in the Journal of Neural Engineering.

# 6. Student artists design wearable sculptures to celebrate disability Mar 18, 2017

A new art series has been designed by students in the United States for dancers and performance artists with disabilities.

The students learned about each performer’s experience living with a disability and used the experience to create the wearable design.

The performers displayed in the series live with heath conditions such as cerebral palsy, low vision, among others.

The wearable designs focus on each performer’s strength and the ability to overcome difficulties.

The designs explore body image and views of the society based on physical appearances.

The project challenges the wrong ideas of people with disabilities as unwanted or not attractive.

# 7. Goa event to create awareness about mental illness Mar 18, 2017

According to studies by the World Health Organization, 20 percent of India’s population will suffer from mental health problems by 2020.

In an effort to help such people, a social enterprise Make Room India is organizing an event called Changemakers’ Room.

The idea is to create awareness and break the stigma associated with mental illness.

It invites interested individuals, foundations, and NGOs to be a part of the international training forum and develop useful projects.

The event will be held from 14 to 18 April 2017 in Goa.

# 8. Itanagar: Student makes stunning invention, creates special ‘goggles’ for blind March 17, 2017

## In a bid to make the life of visually impaired people easy; AnangTadar, a class XI student of New Galaxy Academy, invented a gadget called Goggle For Blind (G4B), and has left everyone stunned with his brilliant innovation.

The gadget G4B will help blind people to detect objects in their surrounding without any physical contact by the means of principle of ‘echolocation’ used by bats.

Echolocation is the use of sound waves and echoes to determine where objects are in space. Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food in the dark.

His invention was adjudged the most innovative award in recently concluded Regional Level Science Festival at Regional Science centre at Guwahati and was awarded with the Dinanath Pandey Smart Idea Innovation Award.

On March 6, he participated in National Level Science Exhibition at RastrapatiBhawan, New Delhi, where Honey Bee Network, which is in collaboration with National Ignition Facility (NIF), Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI), Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) were quite impressed with his gadget.

NIF and UNICEF are willing to launch G4B in the market, therefore Anang has been asked to create few prototypes to test on the blind people.

Though his initial product is slight bulky but with the help of other builders it will be made light if successfully tested.

Apart from his current invention he has a hobby of making robots and gadgets anything related to technology.

He has participated in many technical events organised by renowned technical colleges and secured first place most of the time.

His future project is to build an Exoskeleton which will help people to lift heavy objects.

Coming from a poor family, Anang has been using all his pocket money and sometimes borrowing money from his friends to build his products.

As of now he needs financial assistance to build five or ten G4B prototypes for trial. Each G4B will cost around Rs. 15000. (ANI)

# 9. More support for deaf cricketers demanded Mar 18, 2017

Coach Nitendra Singh, who trains cricket players with hearing impairments in India, says that not enough is done for them in the country.

Singh said that the Indian cricket board is yet to identify the talent of players with hearing impairments. Compared to countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka where deaf players have been recognized and supported, players in India are ignored.

Many of the deaf players come from economically poor families and yet have to spend their own money to play. They are representing the country in the ongoing 3rd Asia Deaf Cricket Cup in Hyderabad.

# 10. Microsoft is working on technology to help the visually impaired learn to code 18.3.2017

Computing has always been a highly visual process, and a great deal of work has been done on technologies that make PCs and other devices usable by those with visual impairments. At the same time, the process of programming computers without perfect eyesight has not received quite as much attention or made as much headway.

That’s exactly what [Microsoft Research is working on with its Project Torino](https://blogs.microsoft.com/next/2017/03/15/project-torino-microsoft-creates-physical-programming-language-inclusive-visually-impaired-children/#sm.000014mk843hgvcwbqmeeym9sj2w2), a physical programming language for children age 7 to 11 including those with visual disabilities. The system is aimed at allowing those children to work alongside classmates on coding classes.

**More:** [Company founded by 15-year-old wants to help the blind browse the web](http://www.digitaltrends.com/cool-tech/braigo-labs-visually-impaired-web/)

The project works by leveraging the recent tendency to introduce children to coding by using simple tools that let students drag and drop blocks of commands. These simplified tools let students create simple programs that accomplish tasks like navigating mazes or moving through space.

[Project Torino](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3384927/Project-Torino-Beta-Expression-of-Interest) uses beads that plug together in much the same way as those simplified programming tools. It’s essentially a physical programming language that can be used to create programs that, for one example, generate music. Advanced versions allow students to use a digital interface to move from physical to digital code, allowing advanced students to gain the foundational computing concepts that can lead to developing mainstream programming skills.

Researchers hope that such initiatives can help bridge the “digital skills gap” that plague technology companies and leave them with insufficient engineers and programmers to meet their coding requirements. At the same time, the visually impaired have difficulty finding career paths that are both accessible to them and meaningful.

Project Torino is intended to help both groups come together, and leverage the estimated 285 million people around the globe who are blind or visually impaired. So far, the project is moving on to an expanded beta trial with close to 100 students, and a curriculum is being developed to help teachers without coding skills use the Project Torino concepts to educate their students.

# 11. Overcoming disability: He runs a ‘mobile biz’ to stand on his feet 18.3.2017

The St Joseph’s Cathedral Church in Hazratganj is a place where prayers are answered. And that seems to have been the case for Salamat, 27, a physically challenged youth, who now has ‘this ability’ to stand on his own feet to earn a living.

Barely able to walk due to polio, he runs a ‘Mobile Specialist Centre’ on his small tricycle in front of the church gate. Salamat repairs cell phones, downloads various software for people, recharges coupons, charges batteries, provides headphones, data/memory cards and a host of other phone related services.

Little do people know that he is a B Tech in computer science and is fond of great scientist Stephen Hawkin, who was diagnosed with motor neuron disease at the age of 21.

“Despite being wheelchair ridden and dependent on a computerised voice system for communication, the scientist continues to do his research and earn for his family. Today, he has three children and three grandchildren,” said Salamat.

“Life has been a challenge for me, but I have accepted it like Stephen Hawkin …who excelled despite severe disability. If he can lead a great life, then why can’t I,” he asked.

Salamat could be an example for those physically challenged youths who limit themselves inside their rooms because of their disability. Both his legs are affected by polio, but he has never lost hope of a good lifestyle.

What more, he earns enough to take care of his old parents who once disowned him because of his disability.

Son of a rag picker in slums of KhadraDaliganj, Salamat was considered useless by his family when he was affected by polio at the age of three.

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His father Nasir Mansoori handed him over to his brother-in-law in Bihar who gave him the liberty to choose his profession. Instead of indulging in rag picking, he joined a nearby school and studied for his future. After initial hesitation, his mamu agreed to pay for his education.

However, Salamat’s maternal brothers and neighbours laughed at him and considered him as a burden on the family. He cleared his High School with 61% marks and Intermediate with 64% marks. Salamat also cracked the entrance exam of Gaya Institute of Engineering and Technology but didn’t have money to pay his fees.

He then got a scholarship and some support from teachers and passed B Tech in computer science with 74% marks. He tried for jobs but his disability came in the way of his success.

“As my legs were weak, I had a tendency of falling off the chair. This resulted in me being fired from jobs twice, so I decided to start my own business. But here again I didn’t have the money, so I decided to start a mobile store on my tricycle and today I am earning more than my brother who is an Imam in a nearby mosque of Khadra,” said Salamat with a feeling of pride.

“I have established a small business. God willing, tomorrow my work will surely increase,” he added.

Salamat holds no grudges for those who made fun of him. “When my parents disowned me, then how can I blame others for laughing at me. I took everything as a challenge to improve myself,” said Salamat with a smile.

He wants to marry a woman who can understand his emotions and stand by him. An ardent fan of Aamir Khan, Katrina Kaif, ViratKohli and MS Dhoni, he loves to watch cricket and football – games that he was never able to play.

**12. Gurugram to host Glaucoma walk to raise awareness 18.3.2017**

# GURUGRAM: [Glaucoma](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Glaucoma) is a[silent disease](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/silent-disease) that causes damage to the optic nerve in the eye and situation worsens with time. As per an estimate of Glaucoma Society of India, 10 lakh more people are affected by this problem in India every year, and as the population ages, the estimates would reach 20 lakh by the year 2020.As the symptoms are unnoticeable, glaucoma comes a close second to cataract in being the leading cause of blindness in India. Therefore, a 'Gurugram Glaucoma Walk' will be organized in the city on Sunday to spread awareness on the issue.

To stop this from becoming an epidemic, creating awareness about it is important. Most of us don't go to hospitals until pain or persisting symptoms occur, so this walk aims to provide free complete eye check- up and information on how to prevent glaucoma. The walk will be inaugurated by Gurgaon's police commissioner Sandeep Khinwar, along with city based Ophthalmologist DrAnimesh Chauhan. This walk aims to create awareness among the general public about the importance of regular eye checkups, and eye specialists will provide free checkups and interactive sessions to clarify any doubts about the disease and will also provide prescriptions.

# "Glaucoma refers to a group of related eye disorders that all cause damage to the optic nerve that carries information from the eye to the brain. Usually people over the age of 50 are prone to it," said DrParul Sony, Senior Consultant and Director, Complete Eye Care, Gurgaon.

There are many myths related with Glaucoma like they can cure drinking excess water in the morning and breathing exercises. Health experts say that people with glaucoma can only elevate low vision by doing so. Hence it is necessary to get your ocular pressure checked by the doctor.

"Some people are at greater risk for developing glaucoma and should see their ophthalmologist on a regular basis. If you are above 40 and have family member with glaucoma or have high eye pressure, do make a bimonthly visit. Understand the risk of getting glaucoma by talking to the ophthalmologist as one of the following factors elevate your risk - Diabetes, high blood pressure, poor blood circulation or other Health problems affecting the whole body," adds Dr Sony.

**13. Para-athlete and Nat'l Award winner to contest MCD polls 19.3.2017**

*Suvarna Raj will contest from North Delhi’s Begumpur area as a Swaraj India party candidate*

Thirty four-year-old Suvarna Raj, a wheelchair-bound international para-athlete — suffering from polio since the age of two — will now campaign on the streets of north Delhi's Begumpur as she contests the Municipal Corporation elections for the first time.

Raj, a social activist in the disability sector, has won several awards as an international para table tennis player as well as the national award (Role Model) from the President of India. She is now contesting the polls on the ticket of Prashant Bhushan-led Swaraj India party.

Highlighting the problems of the area she is contesting from, Raj said that the major issues such as roads, drainage, and cleanliness need to be addressed.

"There have been many physically-challenged politicians but they have not done much for the community. I want to change that, and my main focus for the polls will be cleanliness," adding that "I face several problems while commuting through lanes, which are full of garbage, and stink. I want to ensure that lanes are clean and suitable for both physically challenged people, as well as abled citizens," Raj told DNA.

Raj travels 25 km everyday from her house to office using public transport such as buses, metro, rickshaw, and she intends to campaign for the polls using the same tools. Being a native of Nagpur, Raj aims to replicate her hometown's model in the capital city such as garbage-free and clean streets and lanes.

"In Delhi, nobody can step out of their houses without covering their faces because of the foul smell from garbage. On the hand, my hometown in Nagpur is comparatively cleaner as there are proper rules and regulations, which are followed diligently. Residents are prohibited from throwing garbage on the streets or in front of their houses. I want to bring about the same awareness among the people of Delhi," she said.

Party leaders from the Swaraj India party say that Raj's attitude and her determination to make a difference is what impressed them. Senior party leaders also stated her determination to improve life for the differently-abled was a major reason why she was awarded a ticket.

"Political parties have not given much representation to the differently-abled, and women in general. The most important factor that gives Suvarna an edge is her resolve to work for the betterment of society. I think, with her hardwork and activism, she will emerge victorious," said Anupam, chief national spokesperson of Swaraj India.

Raj wants to get into the system to bring about a change to ensure a clean city and to reduce the spread of diseases. When Raj applied to both the BharatiyaJanta Party and AamAadmi Party, she received no response from either. "The party leaders of Swaraj India reverted first and promised to support my campaign. I was impressed by the party because of its transparency," she added.

She wants to focus on the 'Vision Document' devised by the party, which will make its debut in the municipal election this year. The party has declared the names of 96 candidates in three lists released so far and had called upon the citizens of Delhi to contest the polls, giving special emphasis to youth and women in politics.

**14.Cox & Kings Launches Travel Package For Differently-abled 19.3.2017**

*Tour and travel company Cox & Kings has came out with a holiday package for the differently-abled to help them travel across the country with special transportation and other facilities*

Tour and travel company Cox & Kings has came out with a holiday package for the differently-abled to help them travel across the country with special transportation and other facilities.

The new initiative, from the company's separate division 'enable travel', is aimed at people with special abilities across mobility, hearing, speech and vision.

“The financial and emotional investment made by Cox & Kings is a great opportunity and as far as the business side is concern, it’s a viable and sustainable model which has a successful future. This venture is a win-win situation for all stakeholders," Cox & Kings Relationships Head, Karan Anand told BW Businessworld.

The group is doing its bit to make this initiative successful with personal investments and collaborated with government and tourist places. The government of India is working hard to make all the tourist spots disable friendly in terms of infrastructure and helping volunteers.

Enable travel will introduce quality transportation in the form of wheelchair accessible vehicles, aids and accessories like ramps and an assortment of specialised wheelchairs for those who are wheelchair bound. Support services also include investments in specially trained manpower such as caregivers, sign language interpreters, expert guides and escorts making all areas of travel accessible.

"Enable Travel is a long-term commitment to make travel easy and hassle free in India and to empower each and every individual to celebrate their love for travel. Through this initiative we are trying to address various barriers like inaccessible travel information, lack of transportation and disable friendly hotel rooms that prevent people from travelling." said Debolin Sen, Head, Enable Travel.

The market size of accessible tourism is 2.2 per cent of the total population in India. The group has put a huge amount of investment in this project and expecting a good ROI in coming future.

"In a country where everyday commute is still a struggle, making tourism accessible to people with disabilities has been challenging. Enable Travel endeavours to make tourism accessible to all and encourages people to turn their travel dreams into reality," said Anand.

**15. Disability Speaker bridges gap between disability and ability 19.3.2017**

For disabilities Awareness week, the Emporia State community welcomed speaker Adam Burnett on Monday. Burnett works at the Resource Center for Independent Living.

“Disability is not inability,” said Burnett.

Adam is disabled, in that he uses a wheelchair to get around. He uses his platform to bring awareness to the services provided for people with disabilities and teaches the proper etiquette that should be shown towards the disabled.

He began his meeting talking about RIC which is an agency that serves people with disabilities in a variety of ways. The organization provides five core services including information and referral, peer counselling, independent living skills/ training, advocacy and youth transition/deinstitutionalization.

It also houses departments that include assistive technology specialists, programs that can provide the disabled with cellular phones for more independently living and programs that help the disabled to find new or reused equipment.

“I learned that in class, like the only thing that separates us from disability is time,” said Kierstan Smith, sophomore rehabilitation services major.

The word disability is defined in many ways but according to Burnett “It is a part of the human experience.”

He provided insight in how everyone will have a disability at some point in their lives whether they are born with it or develop it  as life progresses through old age.

“People with disabilities are more alike than they are different from other people,” said Burnett.

He stressed  that people with disabilities want the same things as anyone else in society does, which is to belong, and to be themselves, to work and to be involved. Therefore, people with disabilities shouldn’t be treated any differently especially when it comes to respect and the etiquette shown towards them.

“This was very informative, the etiquette, that’s something I always wanted to be learning about,” said Mikala Sharlow, senior communications major.

**16.The woman on a global mission to break down disability barriers 19.3.2017**

# She has been on a mission to the other side of the world to break down barriers and prove wrong misconceptions about disability.

Joan Latta, 24, from Fakenham has completed her third speaking tour in the Far East, visiting Hong Kong, Singapore and Macau to talk to students about living with cerebral palsy.

Miss Latta runs her own public speaking and disability training business, called Cerebral Palsy Alive and Kicking, which she established with the support of the Prince’s Trust.

Miss Latta spoke to 1,000 students about overcoming personal challenges at an event in Macau.

She said: “I can always tell that the audience enjoys my talks because of the reactions I get.

“Not only do I get great feedback after the talks but during the talk the audience are able to laugh at my humour.

“Although this is a serious talk there are many funny parts.

“Whilst at the International School of Macao’s opening ceremony I received a fantastic introduction by members of the student council.

“They said, ‘We can learn that, despite how life may drag us down, there is always a way to reach out and make the best of what we are given.”

The aim of this presentation was to promote inclusive education.

Miss Latta attended Fakenham High School and achieved a vocational qualification at level 3 with triple distinction star at City College Norwich. She is now studying for an Open University degree.

While in Asia, Miss Latta also spoke to schools in Singapore, at St Joseph’s Institution and Tanglin Trust. She was on her second tour of Hong Kong and revisited St Stephens Girls College, Elsa High School, Nord Anglia International School as well as other colleges.

As well as speaking locally, Miss Latta travels internationally to schools, colleges, charities and universities.

She provides training courses about a wide range of disabilities and is an associate lecturer at the University of East Anglia.

**17. 70 years after Independence, blind can finally ‘see’ India 20.3.2017**

KOLKATA: There's a buzz in the world of the visually impaired. Seventy years after Independence, the blind can sense what the country looks like, trace its mighty rivers and mountains and touch its megacities.

The National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (Natmo), a central government undertaking under the [department of science](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/department-of-science) & technology, has prepared an [atlas of India](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/atlas-of-India) in [Braille](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Braille) that will allow the blind to 'see' India's physiography, river systems, soils, crop patterns, metro cities, road network and political map.

"There is a lot of excitement, in our organization and more so in blind schools, to see the expression of students as they lay their hands on the atlas and sense our country in its physical form," said Natmo director Tiasha Banerjee.

The Braille atlas finally coming to fruition is an emotional moment for Banerjee and her team as the initiative had begun two decades ago. Natmo had first prepared a Braille atlas on a sheet of metal but the experiment flopped as visually impaired children called to experience it did not like the feel. It then tried the atlas on a vinyl board. Once again, it was rejected by the blind. Finally, Natmo went back to the tried-and-trusted medium: paper. When a group of boys from the [National Institute of Visually Handicapped](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/National-Institute-of-Visually-Handicapped), Dehradun, experienced the maps last month, their faces instantly lit up.

Banerjee said, "The joy they felt at knowing what their motherland was like was the sign of approval that the entire team at Natmo had been eagerly waiting for. Teachers in schools for the blind are also excited. Visually impaired men and women have taken great strides and becoming IAS officers, lawyers and management executives, but till now that had only read about India and not known what it looked like. Now, they will be able to do so."

India has 7.8 million visually impaired people. With the population of the global community pegged at 39 million, one in every five blind person in the world is an Indian.

PwC executive Asif Iqbal, who is part of the e-governance project team, is excited about the map and wants to check it out himself. Visually impaired, Iqbal has used a tablet with a map-based software to learn the locations of states. "I have a rough idea of India. It will be great to experience the Braille atlas," he said.

**18.Meet The Doctor Who Has Given The Gift Of Sight To Thousands Of Blind Children 20.3.2017**

Dr Suma Ganesh is an eye doctor (ophthalmologist) who has given the gift of sight to thousands of children since she began her medical journey. She is currently the Head of Department, Pediatric Ophthalmology at Dr. Shroffs Charity Eye Hospital.

Dr Ganesh has dedicated her life to helping children overcome blindness wherever she can. She sees up to 65 children every day, and her hospital does 1,900 surgeries in a year.

Dr Ganesh has performed several thousand eye surgeries over the years. **The Logical Indian** recently interviewed the Doctor. When asked what inspires her, Dr Ganesh replies, ***“Elimination of childhood blindness is my goal. I hope to make a small dent by screening and treating children with visual impairment. Additionally, we need to educate parents about the need for early screening and intervention.”***

After completing her MS in ophthalmology from LokmanyaTilak Medical College, Mumbai in 1994, she shifted to Delhi and started working at DrShroffs Charity Eye Hospital

When Dr Ganesh was doing comprehensive ophthalmology she recognised the need to give emphasis on treating children eye problems. ORBIS International wanted to start paediatric ophthalmology centres in India and Dr Ganesh was the first fellow who they send for a short term fellowship to Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital under the guidance of Dr Norman Medow in 2001.

Dr Ganesh said,***“In the beginning, it was very difficult as the myths regarding eye surgeries and glasses in children in India were so strong and to break each obstacle was difficult. In 2003, I became associated with Project Prakash and MIT Professor Pawan Sinha’s dedication and his dream to bring light to the blind children helped us launch outreach activities into the remotest areas of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. This brought great purpose to my life.”***

For Dr Ganesh, every surgery is memorable.***“After surgery, I follow-up by screening every 6 months mostly till the age of 8 to 10 years at least to ensure that they have gained***vision .***It is such a great feeling to see them bloom into wonderful teenagers and the difference the surgery has done to their life.”***

A highlight of the Doctor’s day is when her patients, now cured and successful, pay her a visit. Many of them say, ‘Aunty, now my eyes are straight and I am not teased anymore’, ‘I can play this game well now’, ‘I can study and see blackboard clearly now’, ‘I am in a good job now’, ‘I can ride a bicycle now’. She gushes,***“The girls I treated have gotten married and have children now. They bring their children for screening too; they come with pride, saying they have performed so well in school or in an extracurricular activity. Such incidents always bring tears to my eyes.”***

Dr Ganesh and her team often get children with abrasions or injury to the cornea or lids because of objects like paper clips, scissors, knives, hangers or other sharp objects. She acknowledges that there are basic, everydaypractises which one can adopt/get rid of to ensure the safety of our eyes. She adds, “As parents, we need to be careful where we leave sharp objects because an injury to the eye never brings the eye back to perfection.”

According to statistics, 4 in 5 blind people don’t need to be blind – that is, they can be easily treated. **The Logical Indian** asked Dr Ganesh if she thought enough is being done to ensure that easily preventable cases of blindness are treated as soon as possible and are treated everywhere. ***“Yes. Since VISION 2020 was launched in 1999, controlling blindness in children has been a high priority in India and they have definitely brought about many changes. Many***organisations***like ORBIS, CBM, Sight Savers, Seva, Mission for Vision, Mcdonald House of Charities, Lavelle Fund – with whom I have worked – have done a lot to ensure that preventable blindness in children is tackled by providing funds and also rehabilitation.”***

‘[VISION 2020:](http://www.iapb.org/vision-2020) The Right to Sight’ is the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness, a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). VISION 2020 was launched in 1999 and sought to promote “A world in which nobody is needlessly visually impaired, where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential.”

The aim of the initiative is to “Intensify and accelerate prevention of blindness activities so as to achieve the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by 2020.” It sought to do this by “Focussing initially on certain diseases which are the main causes of blindness and for which proven cost-effective interventions are available.”

According to [See Now’s](http://seenow.org/) estimates, every 5 seconds someone in the world goes blind. Dr Ganesh is hopeful about the current state and future of healthcare in India. She is particularly happy about the state of ophthalmology in India, and argues that the dream of an India without blindness is a realistic dream. She opines the millions of the world’s blind be treated and ensured a normal life if both the government and private enterprises coordinate efforts. She says,***“When we work together as a team much more can be achieved.”***

**The Logical Indian** community salutes the efforts of Dr Suma Ganesh and others like her who are working hard to make our country healthy and free of ailments. We hope that Indian healthcare continues to improve, malnourishment continues to decline, and health awareness and conditions improve.

**19. Theatre performance highlights abilities of PwDs Mar 20, 2017**

Theatre actor Willy Silveira has directed a new musical theatre form titled KaklutMhoji Kor.

It has a strong message in support of people with disabilities.

The story of the play is about a person who dislikes people with disabilities and has a negative attitude towards them.

The story has shown different incidents of how people with disabilities are not treated equally.

Willy aims to make people look at the positives and abilities in people with disabilities.

He encourages people with disabilities to love and accept themselves, focus on their abilities and ignore the negative views of the society.

**20. Make the invisible disability, visible - My Take by Dr Harish Shetty Mar 20, 2017**

A young boy I know who was to take his exams from March 10 for the CBSE board was deeply stressed. He has been certified as a child with dyslexia and dysgraphia, which refers to an inability to write clearly, and needs a writer.

The school was not of much help and the parents were desperate. It is the school’s obligation to find a writer but few principals understand this.

This is not an uncommon scene. The child is watching this with a lot of fear. An insensitive school has shattered his confidence and he is afraid of the exams.

Teachers view such a request with suspicion. They just do not believe that a few children write slowly or cannot write a clear sentence. Asking them to practice writing does not help.

Schools also do not make an effort to expose their teachers to understanding Learning Disability. Principals themselves are ignorant and some refuse to become aware which is arrogance.

As this disability is never identified early, the child goes through humiliation by the family and the school. Many kids lose their confidence and may get depressed. Many others drop out.

Overall, many lives get destroyed. The invisible disability needs to be made visible. Children cannot wait for long to be understood. In 2016, 14,89,201 children appeared for the CBSE Std 10 examinations in India and only 1306 students were identified with L.D, which is less than 1%. Over 100,000 kids were never identified by the schools and the board.

About the Writer

***Dr Harish Shetty is a psychiatrist working with children since the last 30 years. His legal interventions have brought policy changes in the area of mental health.***

**21. Detailed enumeration of differently-abled soon in Tamilnadu 21.3.2017**

CHENNAI: Asserting its commitment to providing all support to the [differently-abled](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/differently-abled) in order to help them lead a normal life, the state government on Thursday announced a detailed[enumerationprogramme](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/enumeration-programme) to ensure complete coverage of the community under various[welfare measures](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/welfare-measures)

In an effort to improve the quality of life for them, finance minister D Jayakumar, while presenting the budget, announced the allocation to the department for differently-abled increased by 17.68% over the revised budget estimates to Rs 466 crore for 2017-18. About 11.79 lakh people in Tamil Nadu have got the disability certificates from the state so far.

Currently , the state extends maintenance allowance of Rs 1,500 a month to the severely orthopedically affected people, and those with muscular dystrophy and the mentally challenged. "Now, we propose to extend this enhanced monthly maintenance allowance of Rs 1,500 to people cured of leprosy but have suffered permanent disability," the minister said. The number of retrofitted-scooters too will be increased to 2,000 per annum from the existing 1,000.

Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently Abled secretary S Namburajan said no mention of increase in monthly allowance for the entitled was a disappointment. "Given the economy, we have been demanding the allowance hiked to Rs 3,000, but the government remains firm to not increase. There is a huge section which will be benefitted," he said. When the number of eligible differently-abled in each district hovers around 60,000, the activists say, the beneficiaries under the scooter scheme too should have been increased.
For the first time, the state has proposed to offer motorised mobility assistive devices to 1,000 people affected by muscular dystrophy and paraplegia. Skill development training will be imparted to 10,000 differently abled in all the districts, and a pilot project for screening new born babies to identify hearing impairment in Chennai and Sivanganga districts. However, Nethrodaya founder C Govindakrishnan contended the previous announcements such as DVD players, recorders, and smart canes to 5,000 were still not implemented in full vigour. "We hope this year's announcement of 10,000 smart canes launched fast," he said.

**22. Manipal to host chess tourney for blind 21.3.2017**

Udupi: Manipal University in association with the[International Braille Chess Association](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/International-Braille-Chess-Association) and [All India Chess Federation for Blind](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/All-India-Chess-Federation-for-Blind)will host the 15th IBCA Asia Pacific Chess Championship for visually challenged from March 22 to 31 at TMA Pai Hall,

This is for the second time the university is conducting this event. The championship will be webcast live and an app called Radio Chess has been developed to give live commentary on internet radio.
Dr. [VinothNayak](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Vinoth-Nayak), secretary of the sports council, said that of the 14 countries, which supposed to have been participating in this event, five countries have already registered. "Talks are going on with other countries, he said.
Chief ministerSiddaramaiah is expected to inaugurate the event and minister of state for sports PramodMadhwaraj will be present. Charudatta Yadav, president of All India Chess Federation, and Chauhan, president of [Common Wealth Chess Association](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Common-Wealth-Chess-Association), will attend the event. The matches will be telecast on Times Now and DD National channels.

PM Modi will address players Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with players and the members of organizing committee live through webcast on one of the days during the event.

**23.Shahid Afridi appointed ambassador of Blind Cricket World Cup 21.3.2017**

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup.

The announcement was made on Friday by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC)

"Afridi is not only an icon in the arena of cricket across the globe but also a philanthropist and a role model in social works," the Dawn quoted said PBCC chairman Syed Sultan Shah as saying.

The PBCC statement also stated that the fifth edition of the tournament, to be played in ODI format, will be hosted by PBCC in the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan in January 2018.

It is reported that the PBCC is trying to host some of the pool matches and the final in Pakistan.

Nine members of World Blind Cricket Ltd will participate in the tournament and four of them have agreed to play in Pakistan.

37-year-old Afridi had last month announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing to an end his illustrious 21-year career.

Nicknamed 'Boom Boom', the all-rounder was active in the International T20 format after having quit Test cricket in 2010 and ODIs in 2015.

Afridi finished his international career having played 27 Test matches, in which he hit 1,176 runs with a highest score of 156 and 48 wickets. In the 398 ODIs that he played throughout his career, he notched up 8,064 runs, with a highest score of 124, and took 395 wickets with his leg spin.

His T20I international career saw him play 98 matches and score 1,405 runs and take 97 wickets.

**24.App developer beats disability, pedals to the top 22.3.2017**

KOLKATA: When [DivijShah](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Divij-Shah)does not develop mobile apps at his Bangalore firm, he cycles through hostile terrains, winning laurels for India. What makes the adventure hobby extraordinary for the [techie](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/techie) is he lost his right hand in an accident when he was barely four but that has never come in between Shah and his passion.

He is the only person from Bengal in the 10-member contingent that participated in the Asian [Para-cycling](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Para-cycling) Championship in Bahrein and won a silver medal in the 12.8km Time Trial Road Race. The event was part of Asian Cycling Championship held from February 25 to March 3.The cycling bug bit the 25-year-old only last year, apparently to opt for an eco-friendly mode of transport to manoeuvre through Bangalore's notorious traffic. But soon, he got addicted to his childhood hobby and within a year, he achieved several feats. "I have cycled from Manali to Khardung La over 10 days with a single-day gap. I rode along with 30 others. I have participated in a 500-km tour in Karnataka for three days. Besides, I go for 200-km and 300-km tours," Shah said.

Always a sports enthusiast, Shah used to be a gym freak and a cricket buff. "But cycling offered me a welcome break from the monotonous gym regime. Now, I am also associated with [Aditya Mehta Foundation](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Aditya-Mehta-Foundation), which helps athletes with disabilities take part in sporting events across the globe, arrange for their funds, motivate para athletes," Shah added. He secured his own funding to participate in the Bahrain event. "I am still scouting for sponsors for future," he smiled.

So, what are his future plans? "I am next going for a cycling tour of the Nilgiris, the Indian version of Tour De France. I also aim to participate in the World Championship in Italy. And then, I hope to be in the 2020 Summer Paralympics in Japan," said the MBA grad. "Everything with speed interests me. My parents, who live in Kolkata, are a huge source of encouragement," said the St Xavier's Collegiate School for Boys alumnus.
Shah has started training under a [Cycling Federation of India](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Cycling-Federation-of-India) coach. "I follow team Sky from the Tour De France, their workouts as well as the workout regime of a few national able-bodied cyclists. Also I take up CrossFit training, indoor cycling and high-intensive indoor training to build endurance, speed and power," he added.

**25.Workshop on viewing ‘disability as diversity’ 23.3.2017**

## Day-long meet titled ‘HumariZubaan’ held at JNU

The Centre for Study of Social Systems (CSSS), in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Office and the JNU Visually Challenged Students’ Forum, organised a day-long workshop at Jawaharlal Nehru University titled “HumariZubaan — From Impairment to Disability” on Monday.

**Rehabilitation**

The participants deliberated that disabled people at most conferences are discussed from the rehabilitation perspective.

**Not a tragedy**

They said the conference wanted to highlight and advocate seeing disability as just another form of diversity rather than a tragedy.

The organisers said the disabled individuals are human beings too and have the right to compete in the job market, to be a lover/ spouse, to be parent, and to get good care.

A documentary titled “HumariZubaan” was presented at the workshop. It’s based on 50 biographical narratives.

**Accessibility issue**

The students as well as representatives of student political parties spoke on the theme of ‘accessibility on the JNU campus’.

The day ended with a play by theatre group Soch titled “The Coffee Shop”, based on the life of people with disability.

**26. Goa beach experience on offfer for wheelchair users 23.3.2017**

## Festival to be held from March 31 to April 9 in Candolim

UMOJA, an online travel service for people with special needs, will launch a beach festival to give wheelchair users and their families an opportunity to enjoy Goa’s Candolim beach. The festival is scheduled from March 31 to April 9.

Hundreds of wheelchair users from across the country are expected to visit Goa to participate in #BeachFest2017, organisers said.

UMOJA has joined hands with disabled persons ’organisations, local shacks, water sports operators and hotels to transform Candolim beach into India’s first completely wheelchair accessible beach, Avelino de Sa, president of Disability Rights Association of Goa, told

**Accessible cabs**

YeshwantHolkar, CEO, UMOJA Travels, said that enjoying a day at the beach should be possible for everyone. The organisers have collaborated with a local operator to create Goa’s first and only wheelchair accessible taxi service, Freedom Cabs.

They have also created a wheelchair user’s guide to Goa, covering over 35 accessible hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions. In the spirit of keeping families together, this campaign aims to raise awareness about accessibility.

Water rides for those with mobility needs are also being planned.

**27. Asian chess championship for the blind begins 24.3.2017**

The International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) Asian Chess Championship for the Visually Challenged-2017 was inaugurated here on Wednesday. The first round games will begin on Thursday as teams from Yemen and the Philippines are to yet arrive, while teams from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are already here. The championship, hosted by Manipal University, is being organised by the All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB) under the aegis of IBCA and All India Chess Federation.

Prakash Jayaramaiah of Ramanagaram district, who was the vice-captain of the Indian cricket team for the visually challenged, which beat Pakistan in the final of the T20 World Cup, and Samarth J. Rao, a class 10 student of Government High School, Honnavar, Uttara Kannada district, were felicitated on the occasion.

Mr. Jayaramaiah is an opening batsman and wicket keeper who won Man of the Match for his unbeaten 99 in the finals. He also won the Man of the Series award.

Samarth Rao, hailing from Kundapur, brought laurels to the State by winning silver medal in the national-level Physically Disabled Chess Championship held in Tiruchirapally, Tamil Nadu, in April 2015. He also won bronze at International Physically Disabled Chess Association (IPCA) 2015, World Individual Chess Championship held at Slovakia in June 2015 and World Individual Chess Championship at Serbia in July 2016.

Speaking on the occasion, CharudattaJadhav, vice-president, IBCA, explained the progress made in the game for the visually challenged in the country. The country launched a chess software for the visually challenged in 2006. “Today, more than 30 countries are using this software. The internet radio would be used extensively by players to sit at home and study moves and train,” he said.

However, he regretted that visually challenged chess players were not getting due recognition from the government. “When our players perform well at international levels, we do not get the same kind of recognition that players of other games get,” Mr. Jadhav said.

H.S. Ballal, Pro-Chancellor, Manipal University, said that cricket got more importance in the country and most other games were ignored. “The visually challenged or differently abled persons do not require sympathy. They require opportunity,” he said.

Vinod Nayak, Sports Council Secretary, Manipal University, welcomed the gathering. K. RajgopalShenoy, vice-president, United Karnataka Chess Association, gave an overview of the championship. Kishore Alva, Executive Director, Adani, UPCL, was present.

**28. Thailand's blind children's orchestra 24 March 2017**

The Thai Blind Orchestra is made up of young musicians and is run by a man whose daytime job is managing an elephant conservation centre.

It’s one of a very few initiatives in Thailand that gives blind children a chance to learn to play instruments.

A BBC team went to meet the group at an open-air concert they held at a national park in the north east of Thailand.

**29. 71% OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN ARE DEPRIVED OF SCHOOLING IN STATE**

It looks as if the state government is not paying heed to differently-abled students and their schooling. According to state Commissioner’s report, out of 3.89 lakh differently-abled children (DAC) in the age group of 0-19 years in the state, as per the Census of 2011, only 1.14 lakh DAC (29 percent) were studying in special schools or regular schools.

No special schools have been set up in a few districts

It was also observed that in a few districts, no special schools were set up, either by the government or by private sector with aid from government. The CAG also observed that though free textbooks were provided to DAC, no schemes were framed by the state government for providing non-formal education. In the state, there are eight special schools run by the government, and 133 Child Centric Schools run by voluntary organizations. According to Section 26 of the Persons with Disability (PwD) Act, 1995, it is mandatory that every child with disability should have access to free education in an appropriate environment till the age of 18 years.

The act also mandates for the setting up of special schools by both government and private bodies, along with vocational training facilities.

**No qualified teachers**

In order to practice as a rehabilitation professional, registration with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is mandatory. CAG report states that none of the teaching staff in the special schools possessed RCI registration certificate. Thus, the department had not ensured appointment of teachers with requisite qualifications in order to impart quality education.

**Lack of vocational training**

Though the PwD Act mandates that government shall endeavor to equip special schools with vocational training facilities, the govt has modified the syllabus which excludes vocational training and due to this, the DAC studying in these schools are deprived of vocational training.

**30.Facilities for Differently Abled Persons at Airports 25.3.2017**

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3 - Air Transport Series 'M' part -I on carriage by Air-Persons with disability and /or persons with reduced mobility. This CAR lays down regulations for carriage of persons with disabilities and reduced mobility by air in order to protect them against any form of discrimination and to ensure that they receive all possible assistance during their travel. The facilities like lift, ramps, toilets and wheel chairs etc. are being provided at Airports Authority of India (AAI) managed airports to all persons with disability to ensure dignified treatment during their air travel.

Under the Accessible India Campaign, AAI is providing additional facilities for dignified treatment to air passengers such as Braille signs in lifts along with oratory signals, toilets for differently abled (Divyang Persons), ramps at level difference locations. The airport operators have also ensured that the assistive devices being used to assist a disabled passengers are as per the standard set by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Public Grievance Redressal System is already in place at all the airports across India. The present system is available for public at large, the air passengers and as well as all the airport users etc. and does not discriminate between different categories. Public Grievance Officers are posted at each airport under the control of Regional Headquarters for handling day-to-day complaints and for improvement and monitoring. All the grievances are monitored and resolved through redressal mechanisms such as (i) CPGRAMS-Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (Web Portal) (ii) Air Sewa Portal - it is a web based portal and an App also, which serves as a single window solution for complaints failing under the ambit of [Ministry of Civil Aviation](http://www.business-standard.com/search?type=news&q=Ministry+Of+Civil+Aviation)and its Departments. (iii) Internal set up of monitoring/resolving complaints/grievances such as complaints & suggestion boxes, complaint register / book, PG Officer Email ID.

This information was given by Minster of State for Civil Aviation, Shri Jayant Sinha in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today.

**31.New App Offers Workouts for Diverse Abilities**

Physical fitness can be a challenge for people with disabilities. Most fitness programs don’t offer workouts for individuals with mobility limitations, and even fewer offer exercises people with and without disabilities can do together. But now one app is changing all that.

The [Cerebral Palsy](https://themighty.com/cerebral-palsy/) [Foundation](http://yourcpf.org/) has launched the first mobile, video-based fitness app for people with a diverse range of motor abilities. The [CPF Challenge](http://yourcpf.org/)begins March 25 (CP Awareness Day) and will last for three weeks. Each day, users will have access to a new seven-minute daily training session that can be done anywhere, any time. Users can choose from sessions led by NIKE Master Trainer Isabelle Derond, or adapted exercises led by and geared for individuals with varying physical abilities. After the three-week challenge ends, all the exercises will be unlocked so participants can go back and continue training on their own.

**32.Indians still averse to adopting special kids**

BENGALURU: The copious amount of information readily available in the public domain notwithstanding, the stigma associated with having a disabled child at home appears to be so deeply entrenched in the collective mindset of Indian society that few couples volunteer to adopt kids with special needs.

Between April 2013 and March 2016, special kids accounted for just 2% of all in country adoptions. That specially-abled children accounted for 52% of all inter-country adoptions (Indian kids adopted by foreigners) in the same period sets the measly figure in stark contrast. Data accessed from [Central Adoption Resource Authority](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Central-Adoption-Resource-Authority) (CARA) reveals that, of the 11,975 children who were adopted by Indian couples in the three-year period, a mere 276 were differentlyabled. Also, sources said that majority of these children were only those with minor disabilities, and not affected by genetic disorders or any severe medical conditions. On the other hand, 975 of the 1,863 children adopted by foreigners from India were those with special needs.

Sociologist [SamataDeshmane](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Samata-Deshmane) said, "All this talk about children being images of God, remains just that. But we cannot blame the couples completely either. You will find many of them being involved in charity , donating money to special schools, and so on. But they are reluctant to adopt such children, and take them into their homes. In fact, I have come across parents who are willing to give up disabled children of their own."

While Samata attributes the reluctance among Indian couples to the pervasive societal attitude towards such children, experts point to the lack of facilities - including access to healthcare and education - for differently-abled kids as another problem that couples have to contend with in the country . "In America and other countries, there are schools, medical facilities and infrastructure for such children. But that isn't the case in India.However, let's not discount the effect that stigma has on the decision making process of couples," said former chairperson of CARA DrAloma

Having adopted a child with special needs herself,Aloma said that she was aware of how society looked at them. "Some even say it's Karma. But, what they don't realise is that what these children bring into our lives is way more than what we can ever give them," she added.

Experts also observed that instances of Indians inquiring, of their own accord, about differently-abled children were rare. "Nearly all of them who come in first ask if they can get a child without any disorder. There is never any room for debate there," one of them said. Furthermore, children in the 0-4 age group accounted for 91.6% (10,761) adoptions between 2014 and '16, while 6.7% of them were kids aged between four and eight years. Kids aged from eight to 18 are the least preferred. "The perception is that the younger the child, the more easily it adapts to the family ," Aloma said.

n the recent past, India has taken gigantic strides in science and technology - the [Mangalyaan mission](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Mangalyaan-mission) being the most memorable. However, the reluctance among Indian couples to adopt children with special needs is indicative of the large gap in our social development. Although it's easy to fault Indians for their failure to look beyond [societal pressures](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/societal-pressures), one cannot turn a Nelson's eye to the absence of facilities that might deter even those couples interested in raising these children. The government, and the people need to come together to address the situation, and ensure that these children with unique talents and abilities, are not neglected.

**33.IPL 2017: Good news for disabled fans coming to Wankhede stadium**

During last year's Indian Premier League (IPL), many disabled fans had to return disappointed from the Wankhede Stadium as it did not have facilities for the handicapped. That won't happen this year so the disabled enthusiasts can head to Mumbai's most popular venue without any apprehensions.

The 'IPL Mumbai venue operations team' and representatives of Mumbai Indians (MI) along with Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) officials met at the MCA office last Monday and agreed to make special arrangements for physically-challenged fans at the stadium premises.

Making arrangements for disabled fans don't only mean building ramps for wheelchairs but, also providing proper seating arrangements and more importantly, washroom facilities. The MCA, it is learnt, is looking into these details and working towards getting everything ready before the first match at the venue on April 9 when Mumbai Indians take on Kolkata Knight Riders.

Speaking about the development, MCA Joint Secretary Dr PV Shetty said: "Yes, we had a meeting in this regard on Monday and now we are identifying the areas where we can make special arrangements for physically challenged people so that they can come and enjoy the match without any hassles."

When asked if this will be a one-time arrangement for the IPL matches only, Shetty said: "This provision is there for international matches too, but not many people know about it and so we don't get too many enquiries. But since we had some disabled fans during last year's IPL, we decided to make special arrangements for them this time."

It is learnt that the IPL governing council has sent out strict instructions to every IPL-staging association to make proper arrangements for disabled fans.

Taking note of the instructions, the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium, which is home to the Gujarat Lions, has designated an area on the second floor. Of course, there will be a lift and volunteers to aid physically handicapped fans

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**34.Aneel and Manish Murarka Recognize Differently-abled Heroes with Bharat Prerna Awards**

Whether it’s Prerna Agarwal, the visually impaired singer, or the hearing-impaired community advisor, motivational speaker, writer and blogger JyotiDhawle, or Dr. Roshan Shaikh, who despite losing her legs after she fell off a crowded train continued studying medicine, these supremely talented and gifted people are living proof that disability doesn’t define you and, certainly, doesn’t define your success.

And to celebrate the unparalleled bravery and courage of these differently-abled achievers of the country, Dr. AneelMurarka and Manish Murarka, founders of Ample Mission, presented them with the ‘Bharat Prerna Awards 2017 – In Recognition of The Silent Heroes’ in a ceremony in Mumbai.

Member of Parliament GajananKirtikar graced the event as the chief guest. The event saw the presence of celebrities like Pooja Bedi, Asit Kumar Modi, Manish Wadhwa, Nitesh Pandey, SoorajThapar, JitenLalwani, Dilip Sen, Kunika, Poonam Pandey, AvinashDwivedi, Sambhavna Seth, NamishTaneja, and Akshat Singh, among others.

The idea behind this noble initiative of honoring an individual who has displayed an extraordinary act of courage and setting an example for fellow citizens is the brainchild of industrialist and well-known philanthropist AneelMurarka and Manish Murarka, who are achievers in their own right.

“If we take the generally accepted definition of bravery as a quality which knows no fear, these ordinary people have pursued extraordinary acts of bravery without fearing for life,” said AneelMurarka. “I, along with my team, have worked hard to put everything together and have received immense support from our friends in the industry to make my dream project happen.”

“The bravery acts these people have performed have gone unnoticed; hence, we would award these people for their saga of bravery and propel the people to pursue acts of bravery,” said Manish Murarka.

The list of awardees includes SarbaniDasgupta, a patient of congenital cerebral palsy, who writes poetry and lyrics for Bengali and Hindi movies; hearing-impaired civil engineer HemaliLalji; KetakiNitesh Jani, winner of Mrs. India, who suffers from alopecia; U.S.-based hearing-impaired makeup artist Sara Thadani Patel; and hearing impaired animation experts Chirag and DevangNadola.

**35.Mahindra Scorpio TOISA: Paralympians awarded for Rio success**

MUMBAI: This year's Mahindra Scorpio Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA) has proudly honored the four lion-hearts who scripted India's most successful Paralympics ever, and who on Monday in Mumbai shared the stage with other Indian sports stars and icons of the present and the past.
On he heels of the 2016 Rio Olympics came the Paralympics, also in Brazil, from where four Indians won medals to make it India's best ever haul: javelin thrower [DevendraJhajharia](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Devendra-Jhajharia), who broke his own record while claiming his second gold medal; [Deepa Malik](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Deepa-Malik), who won silver in the shot put F-53 event to become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic medal; and high jumpers[MariyappanThangavelu](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Mariyappan-Thangavelu), who created history by winning gold, and [Varun Bhati](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Varun-Bhati)who claimed bronze.

**36. Blind& Deaf movie review of Badrinath Ki Dulhania Mar 25, 2017**

Badrinath Ki Dulhania is a typical love story of Varun Dhawan as Badrinath and Alia Bhatt as Vaidehi.

The movie starts with Badrinath giving introduction about his family members.

Badri is only a Class 10 passout and didn’t go for higher education as he comes from a rich family in Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh.

Vaidehi lives in Kota with her family. She is as an independent girl who is pursuing her higher education from Kota only.

Vaidehi gets cheated by her former boyfriend Sagar who runs away after taking 12 lakhs from her father.

So, she wants to do job for fulfilling her dreams and supporting her family financially.

Together Badri and Vaidehi break the old traditions and make people think about the gender roles in a different way.

The film is a fantastic one-time watch as it has comedy, emotions and love.

From the view of accessibility, I can say this is an average film. Badri’s voice-over helps to relate to some important scenes in the film. The film’s disclaimer shown in the start of the film has an audio description which makes it accessible for the visually impaired audience.

**A sighted perspective:**

Hindi romantic comedy film, BadrinathkiDulhania means Badrinath’s bride.

The film features Varun Dhawan as Badrinath or Badri, Alia Bhatt as Vaidehi, SahilVaid as Badri's friend Somdev in important roles.

The film is written and directed by Shashank Khaitan and produced by Karan Johar.

Badri belongs to an orthodox family in Jhansi where boys and girls are not given equal treatment.

On the other hand, Vaidehi is a well-educated and independent girl from Kota who has her own dreams to achieve.

Badri wants to marry Vaidehi but she rejects him not once but many times as she doesn't find him compatible.

But cute boy Badri doesn't lose hope and helps Vaidehi sort her family issues. Eventually Vaidehi agrees to marry Badri.

The film takes a turn when Vaidehi runs away from the wedding location leaving Badri sad and alone.

Frustrated Badri decides to take revenge from Vaidehi but will his love for Vaidehi allow him to do so forms the remaining part of the story.

Best parts of the film are hilarious dialogues between Varun and Sahil. Varun looks sweet and Alia is cute as ever in the film. The film is a family-entertainer and a one-time watch. It combines a love story with a good message on gender equality.

**37.Five-year-old who lost both legs makes his acting debut in BBC drama Call The Midwife**

A brave boy who needed both of his legs amputated after contracting a very rare illness has appeared in a special episode of hit TV drama Call The Midwife.

Romeo Hadley, who has dreams of starring as Spiderman in a blockbuster movie, played a young patient living in the 1950s with thalidomide-related disability.

Thalidomide, given to pregnant women with severe morning sickness, was found to harm the development of unborn babies and cause serious birth defects.

The drug led to the arms or legs of the babies being very short or incompletely formed.

After reading [**Romeo’s story**](http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/health/watch-incredible-way-little-romeo-11210637) , an agency called his parents in Wenvoe to see if he’d like to make his acting debut.

The five-year-old and his family were driven to London several times to liaise with the BBC’s special effects team before shooting the scenes which aired earlier this month.

He was given his own trailer on set, had his own team of makeup artists and was even put up in a “posh” hotel in the English capital.

Romeo’s mum Katie Hadley said: “It was a really positive experience and Romeo loved every minute of it.

“He can be a bit shy around strangers but the preparation for it was brilliant – and when the time came he was a bit of a natural.

“Me and my daughter Seren watched the show anyway, so we were a bit starstruck when we saw the actors.

“We were chuffed that Romeo could play a part in telling such an important story and we’re really proud of him.”

Romeo, from Wenvoe, [**Vale of Glamorgan**](http://www.walesonline.co.uk/all-about/vale-of-glamorgan) , was just three years old when he started complaining of agonising pain in his legs during a shopping trip.

When parents Jonathan and Katie Hadley examined him they found a series of mysterious purple blotches on his skin which spread very quickly.

Following a trip to A&E, where his condition rapidly deteriorated, he was diagnosed with the life-threatening thrombotic disorder purpura fulminans which leads to small blood vessels clotting within the skin.

Surgeons said they had no choice but to carry out a double leg amputation just above the knees which lasted 10 hours.

But two years on, Katie says her son has embraced life and is now hoping for his own pair of prosthetic legs.

Katie said as part of the acting role, Romeo, who played the part of Glyn, put on a pair of prosthetics which would have been designed in the 1950s.

“The special effects team made him a body suit which included prop feet,” added Katie.

“He knew he was acting and we kept on reassuring him, but he was totally comfortable and really enjoyed the experience of being on TV.”

The Hadley family said they watched the episode together at their Wenvoe home – and loved every minute of it.

Romeo’s older sister Seren, 11, who also made the trip to London, was given a part in another upcoming production after impressing on the set.

## 38.Los Angeles, Scientists have developed a new eye implant, using arrays of silicon nanowires that sense light and electrically stimulate the retina, which may help restore vision in million 16/3/2017

Los Angeles, Mar 15 (PTI) Scientists have developed a new eye implant, using arrays of silicon nanowires that sense light and electrically stimulate the retina, which may help restore vision in millions of people worldwide.

The advance brings us a step closer to restoring the ability of neurons in the retina to respond to light.

The researchers from University of California San Diego and US-based startup Nanovision Biosciences showed response to light in a rat retina interfacing with a prototype of the device in vitro.

The technology could help tens of millions of people worldwide suffering from neurodegenerative diseases that affect eyesight, including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and loss of vision due to diabetes.

Performance of current retinal prostheses to help the blind regain functional vision is still limited.

“We want to create a new class of devices with drastically improved capabilities to help people with impaired vision,” said Gabriel A Silva, professor at UC San Diego.

The new prosthesis relies on two groundbreaking technologies. One consists of arrays of silicon nanowires that simultaneously sense light and electrically stimulate the retina accordingly.

The nanowires give the prosthesis higher resolution than anything achieved by other devices – closer to the dense spacing of photoreceptors in the human retina.

The other breakthrough is a wireless device that can transmit power and data to the nanowires over the same wireless link at record speed and energy efficiency.

The new system does not require a vision sensor outside of the eye to capture a visual scene and then transform it into alternating signals to sequentially stimulate retinal neurons.

Instead, silicon nanowires mimic the light-sensing cones and rods to directly stimulate retinal cells.

Nanowires are bundled into a grid of electrodes, activated by light and powered by a single wireless electrical signal.

This direct and local translation of incident light into electrical stimulation makes for a much simpler and scalable architecture for the prosthesis.

“To restore functional vision, it is critical that the neural interface matches the resolution and sensitivity of the human retina,” said GertCauwenberghs, from UC San Diego.

Power is delivered wirelessly, from outside the body to the implant, through an inductive powering telemetry system.

For proof-of-concept, the researchers inserted the wirelessly powered nanowire array beneath a transgenic rat retina with rhodopsin P23H knock-in retinal degeneration.

The degenerated retina interfaced with a microelectrode array for recording electrical “spikes” from neural activity.

The horizontal and bipolar neurons fired action potentials preferentially when the prosthesis was exposed to a combination of light and electrical potential and were silent when either light or electrical bias was absent, confirming the light-activated and voltage-controlled responsivity of the nanowire array.

The research was published in the Journal of Neural Engineering.

# 39. Kazakh student opens social café as supportive workplace for mentally challenged youth 26.3.

# ASTANA – A young and aspiring Nazarbayev University student is set to open a social café paving the way out of isolation for people with mental health challenges. The new project, created by 20-year-old MaulenAkhmetov, aims at recruiting people with mental disorders, promoting charity and spreading social awareness among youth and understanding and respect in society. In an interview with The Astana Times, he said he and his team hope to break the stereotypes that surround people suffering mental illness.

# “It is very important for a person to be settled in life, to be happy and to benefit society. It is something that everyone wants. In Kazakhstan, we have long been engaged in charity, organising different fundraising events and delivering clothes and necessary items to needy families. However, we wanted to focus on the systematic approach to solving these problems. We wanted to base the charity not on human generosity, not on people’s pity or pride, but a simple desire to eat delicious food and get good service,” he said.

Young adults undergo training in occupational therapy workshops established by the Medical Centre of Mental Health operating in the capital. Centre psychologists provide counselling at such workshops, which offer skills like sewing, knitting, carpentry, construction, dance and art.

“Centre director YerbolNurkatov promotes the idea of a new approach towards treatment and rehabilitation. They encourage young people back into society, to develop their communication skills and live independently. I think that the problem is hidden not in such people, but in the fact that there are no possibilities. Only a few people know about the challenges that such people face. There are now approximately 102 adults in Astana attending the workshops. This project creates an integrated approach system of rehabilitation, so that we can monitor the process,” added Akhmetov.

The café, based on the campus, will employ 20 people. The staff intends to develop the idea of social responsibility by eliminating food waste, cooperating with animal shelter organisations and reducing plastic waste. Visitors will be able to become part of the team of young enthusiasts, and part of the proceeds is to be donated to other initiatives.

“We like to experiment and we are committed to helping people identify their capabilities to further their careers. We want to establish a system that would effectively train and encourage people. You know, they are brave people. People find strength and come to the centre to study and change their life. Just imagine a person stuck at home is beginning to make steps towards society, communicating with others every day. When a person gets financial independence, he or she begins to look at life from a different perspective. They get meaning in their life; they keep developing and they help their families. I think communication is the most healing and effective method to make a person happier,” Akhmetov told the paper.

The young entrepreneur came up with the idea of a socially-inclusive workplace last year and presented it at the ABC Quick Start Acceleration Programme for beginning start-up companies, inventors and innovators launched by the Astana Business Campus innovation cluster and the university.

“I like that we start with Nazarbayev University, because I believe that these students will be able to make a big difference in the country. Someone just understands that every person in the world has his or her own place in society; everyone has potential strengths. The only thing is just whether you focus on the strengths or the weaknesses of the person. You just start looking for his or her potential. That is all,” he said.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently supported the project and agreed to allocate a place for the café in its pavilion at EXPO 2017. This will be a great opportunity for people with mental challenges to break through barriers that have too long prevented them from meeting people, said Akhmetov.

“We would be glad to contact the commercial department of EXPO 2017 and tell them about our social project and the will to bring our message to the expo community,” he said.

### 40.Meet the IIM alumnus who broke the barriers of disability to give wings to his entrepreneurial dreams

From getting an MBA from IIM to quitting a cosy corporate life to become an entrepreneur, Iftkhar Ali is breaking all the barriers of disability.

“On the day of my convocation, when I received my degree from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, the entire auditorium was applauding for me. I knew it was one of the greatest memories of my life, to be cherished forever,” recalls 36-year-old Iftkhar Ali, Founder of New Delhi-based ALIQAN Technologies.

Hailing from the beautiful city of Agra, life was not easy for Iftkhar, who was diagnosed with polio at the age of one. When it was time for him to make one of life’s most important decisions — choosing a career path — he was discouraged from aiming too high and denied admission into medical colleges because of his disability.

Today the founder of a two-year-old startup, Iftkhar even has it in him to employ someone who once told him even an MBA wouldn’t help him land a job.

Prior to launching his own IT solutions company, he had worked with HCL and TCS as a business analyst. He also worked with IMS India as Centre Operational Head and further went on to lead operations for another IT company for two and a half years. His entrepreneurial mindset restrained him from settling for a cosy corporate life, thus leading to the birth of a venture of his own.

Reaching this milestone was filled with hardships, with his disability being the most obvious one. Hailing from Agra meant career guidance was also hard to come by. When he approached a friend preparing for CAT for guidance, he was laughed at. Many around him said he wouldn’t get a job after MBA and that he should go for a reserved government job or open a medical shop instead

# 41.Launch of Alto, America's First Advantage Club for People with Disabilities

PALO ALTO, California and TEL AVIV, Israel, March 23, 2017 /PRNewswire/ --

[Alto](https://altolife.com/), America's first advantage club for people with disabilities and their families announces its launch today. Alto is designed to be the essential consumer destination for the 57 million Americans living with disability. It offers exclusive savings on the products and services that people with disabilities need and want to improve their quality of life.

The launch includes more than 1,000 aggregated exclusive savings and benefits on everything from mobility products to daily living, insurance and travel. Members of the Alto Advantage Club will be able to find and buy products with greater ease than ever before and save hundreds of dollars a year.

'It is incredible that until now this powerful consumer group has been largely ignored by countless retailers. Finding the appropriate resources for people with disabilities is often emotionally draining and time consuming for people and their families. It is so refreshing to see a business endeavor that is catering to this market by curating and centralizing the very best products at competitive prices to help people living with disabilities in every aspect of their lives' David Small Executive Director, Variety - the Children's Charity.

Alto is a recent graduate of [NFX](http://www.nfx.com/company/companies)**.** It was developed by the founders of global empowerment site and online community, [Yoocan](https://yoocanfind.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) , which launched last year after graduating from the Microsoft Accelerator program. Its founders have been chosen to present their vision at the prestigious [Impact Network](http://impactnetwork.global/) convention for social technologies impacting change in the world on March 30th  in Paris.

"We are determined to unify and empower this consumer group in the same way that advantage clubs like AARP for seniors and veterans' clubs like USAA deliver benefits and savings worth hundreds if not thousands of dollars to their communities," said Moshe Gaon, CEO of Alto. "It is personal for me, as my family has experienced the very challenges we seek to overcome with Alto and we are striving to develop something that will provide benefits and advantages for families with disabilities like never before."

Alto is the creation of brothers Moshe and YoavGaon and DrorKalisky. When Yoav's son Erez was born with a rare disease and complex disabilities the family experienced immense frustration and emotional stress. They sought solutions that would allow their child and family to do basic things like cycle, travel or find an accessible restaurant. They realized how much potential technology and help there was available around the world but how scattered it was, how hard to find or buy.

They began to research and engage with organizations for people with disabilities and reach out to community members around the world. Then they launched yoocan, the global empowerment site for people with disabilities and their families to share stories, educate and motivate each other to do anything.

From here emerged the great demand for a vertical membership club that could aggregate and bring benefits and savings to this huge community.

Alto aims to source and offer the very best, cutting edge products and technology for 57 million Americans with disabilities who have thus far been entirely overlooked as an important consumer group.

To access the media kit, [click here](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5onHlFVO6aSRjc2eGJVcmRCa00).

About Alto

Alto is America's first advantage club for people with disabilities and their families. It offers its members the very best value on the products they need to maximize their quality of life with benefits and savings worth hundreds of dollars a year. Alto empowers the 57 million Americans living with disabilities and their families, who have until now been overlooked as an important consumer group, to find the best products at the fairest prices.

#  42. Blind critic movie review of Phillauri Mar 26, 2017

Anshai Lal’s directorial debut Phillauri is a light-hearted love story having the idea of an unplanned wedding between a human and a ghost, taken from the 2005 animated movie Corpse Bride.

However, writer AnvitaDutt comes with the concept of love in two separate time frames, today’s new age couple and the love of a century before.

Kanan (Suraj Sharma) aptly portrays the confused and staggered NRI through his voice modulation.

Anu (MehreenPirzada) makes her debut with the film and pulls off the Amritsar girl. She dreams of nothing more than a ‘happily ever after’ with Kanan.

Shashi (Anushka Sharma), the bride in spirit, is superb in all the frames, especially in the flashback. She is also the producer for the film.

DiljitDosanjh compliments well for his character and performs the transformation quite well.

Director captures the lavish Punjabi wedding spirit and the pre-independence era very well and easily takes us to Phillaur, Punjab from the chair!

Phillauri’s poetry, Diljit’s voice, Shashi-the friendly ghost and especially the song Sahiban are beautiful things of this film.

However, for visually impaired audience, narrative shifts between Shashi’s past and Kanan’s present seem abrupt.

Silent comedy comes in for few scenes such as Kanan’s first brush with Shashi, Anu’s introduction to Shashi, and confuses the visually impaired audience.

Scenes in the film continue for longer than required. The film has soulful music but plays at the same time with dialogues.

Conceptually, Phillauri is a winner but you get what you see in the trailer.

Does Shashi have an unfulfilled love story? What’s her connection to Phillauri lies in the past.

For regular movie-goers, Phillauri is a good watch!

**A sighted perspective:**

Phillauri is a typical Bollywood love story of Shashi (Anushka Sharma) and Roop Lal / Phillauri (DiljitDosanjh) who meet in the town of Phillaur in Punjab in 1919.

Phillauri has a great voice and is famous among his people for singing entertaining but meaningless songs.

Shashi motivates Phillauri to use her poems in his songs to give life advice to his people.

Phillauri and Shashi eventually fall in love but the twist in the story comes when Phillauri doesn’t turn up on the day of their marriage.

Shashi gets the shock of her life and kills herself.

In 2017, a young man Kanan (Suraj Sharma) meets Shashi who is now a friendly ghost.

Kanan’s marriage is fixed with his love Anu (MehreenPirzada) but he is confused about his future.

The way Shashi helps Kanan solve his confusion and in return Kanan helps Shashi find out what happened to Phillauri forms the remaining part of the story.

The chemistry of Diljit and Anushka is average, though both have given their best.

The film is a feel-good entertainer. It isn’t a movie for those looking for in-depth meaning of life. Just go for laughs, enjoy, relax and come back!

**43. JAWS v18 with Indian languages now for only Rs.29, 700/- for 3 computers**

We are happy to announce the **Karishma** **India Literacy Project** - a very special offer with a view to support the Skill Development, Digital India and Accessible India programmes of the Govt. of India!

Our principal company **Freedom Scientific, USA** in collaboration with **Karishma Enterprises** is pleased to offer a very special subsidised price for **JAWS Talking Software** **latest version 18** under the **India Computer Literacy Project** for a limited period **to Blind Schools and Computer Training Centres or NGOs providing Computer training to the visually challenged**.

**Under this Project JAWS version 18:**

* Will be provided at a**very special subsidized price of only** **Rs.29,700/-**
* Can be **installed on 3 computers**
* Supports **8 Indian languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, Telegu, Bhojpuri and Indian English**(with voices of Rishi and Sangeeta)
* Includes **High Quality Human like Voices** from Nuance
* Facilitates **training in computers even in local languages**
* Enables training of students in the **world’s best computer talking software** with many excellent features not available in any other screen reading software worldwide.
* Supports training in **Windows 7, 8.1 and even latest version Windows 10** and MS Office and other windows based programs
* Enables students to **pursue jobs later on in corporates, business houses and PSUs,** etc. where professional licenced software is compulsory.

We are confident that you would like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to train your students with **JAWS**software and eagerly look forward to receiving your response with details of the number of PCs you have to enable us to send you the quotation accordingly.

## 44. CSS qualified persons with disability can now join Foreign Service of Pakistan 03/15/2017

**LAHORE:**The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday struck down provisions of the Rules of Competitive Examination 2014 which barred the Central Superior Services (CSS) qualified persons with disability from joining the Foreign Service of Pakistan (FSP).

Releasing a detailed judgment in an already decided matter, Chief Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah on Friday directed the federal government to allocate two seats to the two visually-impaired petitioners in the FSP at the earliest.

He said if no such posts were available then the concerned quarters should create two new posts to adjust the petitioners in order to uphold their fundamental rights and to redress the unconstitutional deprivation they have been facing since 2014 after being compelled to join the Information Group.

The chief justice ruled that while Rule 9(ii) of the CSS rules 2014 has been struck down, the government should formulate rules to offer all or any occupational services to disabled persons in the All Pakistan Service, after thoroughly assessing possibility of providing reasonable accommodation before the next CSS exam.

The court passed this order on a petition of Muhammad Yousaf and Faisal Majeed – visually impaired persons –  who appeared in 2014 CSS examination.

Majeed secured 12th position in Pakistan and his first preference was the Pakistan Administration Services (PAS); however, he fell at serial number 11. After failing the All Pakistan Merit Quota of the PAS which includes 2 seats, he stood at serial number 9 against the PAS quota for Punjab that is 11 seats.

Yousaf secured 22nd position and the FSP was his first preference. He stood at serial number 4 but after failing the All Pakistan Merit Quota in the FSP – includes one seat – Faisal stood at serial number 3 of the FSP group against the 8 seats of FSP allocated to Punjab on open merit.

Their counsels submitted that the Rule 9(ii) said the disabled candidates – in categories of physically impaired, hearing/speech impaired and visually impaired  – are allowed to compete for competitive examination against four occupational groups/services, ie, Commerce and Trade Group, Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service, Information Group, and Postal Group.

The rule said: “Disabled candidates securing a position against prescribed 7.5 per cent merit quota on all Pakistan basis may be considered for allocation on the FSP on the basis of his/her choice.”

The counsels said the petitioners were not allocated seats in the FSP – for being visually impaired –under the garb of Rule 9(ii) despite their being on merit. They requested the court to declare this rule as illegal and issue directions to the concerned to adjust them in the FSP.

Supporting the impugned rule, the deputy attorney general said a disabled candidate can only be considered for the Foreign Service if he falls within the 7.5 per cent of All Pakistan Merit Quota. Otherwise, a disabled candidate is only allowed to compete for four occupational groups, he said.

However, Justice Shah held that if the petitioners were not visually impaired and were it not for Rule 9(ii) of the CSS Rules, they would be entitled to be allocated the occupational group of their choice in open merit quota reserved for Punjab.

While a candidate with disabilities can join the FSP against the All Pakistan Merit Quota, he cannot on the basis of the same result join the quota allocated to the province of Punjab, the judge observed.

“To allow a person with disabilities one category of merit based quota, but deny the same person another category of merit quota is outright discriminatory,” the judge noted.

He noted that it was painful to observe that a person with disability was first allowed to sit the CSS exam but when he scored and was entitled to allocation in the FSP in the provincial quota, he was denied the same on the pretext that he could only avail the All Pakistan Merit Quota.

Justice Shah said neither the Constitution nor the Act permitted or supported such classification; hence Rule 9(ii) was devoid of any reasonable classification and was therefore discriminatory, offending Article 25 of the Constitution.

“Rule 9(ii) also underrates a person with disability, hurting his self-esteem and dignity, thereby offending article 14 of the Constitution. Logic and wisdom, if any, behind this exclusion totally fails me,” he added.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 11th, 2017.

## 45. Smiling visually impaired woman 03/15/2017

Born sighted like any other person, she grew in a good health until 1955 when she lost her sight in a way that she branded as a ‘mysterious termite bite’ while sleeping in her aunt’s house.

EstereChungaMalula, 72, is an inspirer and a mentor of many. She challenges all obstacles to her success, proving humankind wrong on thinking that the visually impaired cannot execute household chores or engage in other manual work.

“Blindness is not a block to prosperity; it is wrong to think in that way. The visually impaired have the capacity to carry out any duties as the sighted can do,” she says.

Although she is visually impaired for 60 years now, she works to the surprise of many sighted women and men who cannot manage to work like her. She is an exceptionally talented woman admired by many; a living example in her community.

“I knit different products and some of these products are used by prominent people in society. I have been in this business for decades now,” she says.

She recalls that from 1997, she managed to pay her children’s school fees from the proceeds of her knitting trade.

“Now I train people in knitting and this brings me food on the table. This talent has helped me ably support my children with daily needs,” she explains.

Malula says currently over 27 learners meet every Saturday at M’buka CCAP Church at Area 36 in Lilongwe to learn knitting.

“I have taught knitting to a lot of women and of course a few men. This is one of the lucrative businesses people should venture into,” she says.

According to Malula, the church members are friendly and she applauds them for not being discriminatory over her disability.

“I find total happiness in preaching to women at my church.”

Apart from knitting, she teaches women house decorating using a mixture of soil, charcoal, porridge, cow dung and eggs. She says it is a unique way of decorating traditional houses.

“If women followed this way of decorating homes, they would be happy, the floor lasts long before smearing it again. It also shines and glitters, something that wins the hearts of men,” she says.

Malula also teaches women clothes ironing and standard cooking.

“Men admired my late husband for neat ironing of his clothes, I’m happy he always attributed his smartness to me,” she says.

According to her, she lost her sight when she was in Standard Three. Malula was taken to Nkhoma Mission Hospital for an eye surgery in 1956, where German eye specialists were to restore her sight.

“I was excited at hearing the news that my seven fellows who had undergone the eye surgery had their sight restored and I imagined myself in the normal sight again,” she says.

It never occurred to Malula.

She says in September 1958, the specialists surrendered offering further efforts on assisting her, after several attempts but to no avail.

“They were seeing tadpoles swimming in my eyes,” she says.

“I broke into tears after the doctors told me that there was no hope to restore my sight. Next morning, I was discharged from hospital,” she recalls.

Following this confirmation of her blindness, the Dowa district commissioner then wrote a recommendation letter introducing her to Chilunga School of the blind.

Since the school did not have Standard Seven classes, she applied for a place at Magwero School of the blind in Chipata, Zambia and she was admitted into the school.

“My academic journey became doomed when the only teacher we had impregnated a student, a development that made funders cut aid, learning was not as usual, and this made me not return to school in the next term in 1962,” she recounts.

She then got married to a MrChunga, sighted and a teacher by profession. They had eight children together till death separated them in 1997, at a time their children needed Chunga’s financial assistant most than before.

Malula revamped her skills in knitting which she learnt at school. She later found the work enjoyable with the sewing machine she received from government in 1984.

But things turned round and worsened when her machine got stolen as she was attending prayers at Msonkhamanja CCAP Church.

“I need a sewing machine that can re-estate my dwindling economic status, I’m worried.

“This theft drastically scaled down my income from the products and heavily affected my support to the children as a single–headed family, life became hard,” she says.

She was born in 1944 as EstereMalula at Moya Village, Traditional Authority Msakambewa in Dowa.

## 46. Government to introduce comprehensive package for blind schools 03/16/2017

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The state government has decided to introduce a comprehensive package for the functioning of blind schools - government and aided - in the state.

The Cabinet meeting on Wednesday took the decision to bring in a package for fixing norms for such schools.

The package will deal with all aspects related to the functioning of blind schools in the state including setting standards, finalising its norms, ensuring infrastructure facilities, staff pattern and appointments. However,  there is no time set for implementing the package.

## 47. Nano-implant may help restore sight 03/16/2017

Scientists have developed a new eye implant, using arrays of silicon nanowires that sense light and electrically stimulate the retina, which may help restore vision in millions of people worldwide.

The advance brings us a step closer to restoring the ability of neurons in the retina to respond to light.

The researchers from University of California San Diego and US-based startup Nanovision Biosciences showed response to light in a rat retina interfacing with a prototype of the device in vitro.

The technology could help tens of millions of people worldwide suffering from neurodegenerative diseases that affect eyesight, including loss of vision due to diabetes.

Performance of current retinal prostheses to help the blind regain functional vision is still limited.

“We want to create a new class of devices with drastically improved capabilities to help people with impaired vision,” said Gabriel A Silva, professor at UC San Diego.

**Groundbreaking technologies**

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The nanowires give the prosthesis higher resolution than anything achieved by other devices - closer to the dense spacing of photoreceptors in the human retina.

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Nanowires are bundled into a grid of electrodes, activated by light and powered by a single wireless electrical signal.

**Simple architecture**

This direct and local translation of incident light into electrical stimulation makes for a much simpler and scalable architecture for the prosthesis.

“To restore functional vision, it is critical that the neural interface matches the resolution and sensitivity of the human retina,” said GertCauwenberghs, from UC San Diego.

Power is delivered wirelessly, from outside the body to the implant, through an inductive powering telemetry system.

The research was published in the Journal of Neural Engineering.

## 48. Drishti’ brightens lives of 800 cataract patients

**Mon, 03/20/2017**

KOCHI: More than 800 patients got their vision back in 2016-17 after undergoing cataract surgery under Project Drishti, the flagship CSR initiative of Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL).Project Drishti was implemented in association with Canada-based NGO OEU and Little Flower Hospital and Research Centre, Angamaly. “The organisers are planning to expand it to other districts by providing free cataract treatment to the poor,” stated an official release.

“Project Drishti helps the poorest in society who are visually impaired to regain their eyesight. Most of the poor patients continue living with their ailments. Having proper vision is crucial for financially backward people as it increases their productivity, thereby helping them earn a decent living,” it said.

In the current fiscal, Little Flower Hospital screened 17,509 patients under Project Drishti, of which 2,325 were found to be suffering from cataract. Of the 1,101 patients who were brought to the base hospital for treatment, sight-restoring surgery was performed on 800.

## 49. WHITE GUIDE TO HELP VISUALLY IMPAIRED WALK WITH CONFIDENCE 03/20/2017

For visually impaired people it is not easy to find out who and what is around them. A walking stick is the only support which can boost their morale and help them escape all the hurdles.

According to the WHO’s report, 285 million people are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide in which 39 million are blind and 246 million have low vision. 82 per cent people living with blindness are aged 50 and above.

India has one of the largest blind population. Taking it as responsibility a group of students of Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology have developed an automated assistive aid (White Guide), which requires very less adaptation to a new walking style. White Guide is an electronic device that can be attached to the conventional white cane. It detects the presence of obstacles using ultrasonic waves that are conveyed through intuitive audio patterns. White Guide has two key features, one is obstacle detection another is SOS and real time tracking of the person by the support.

The device has a synced Android application linked to it. The app registers all the data entered into the user’s profile such as contact numbers of up to 3 people and their e-mail id. The device contains an emergency button. On pressing this button, it gives an offline message to the contacts of the user mentioning the current location of the person, which can be tracked through the white Guide app or Google map.

## 50. Arunachal teen develops goggles to help the blind

**Thu, 03/23/2017**

## Innovation uses echolocation to detect obstacles

A high school student in Arunachal Pradesh has invented a unique pair of goggles that uses ultrasound and infrared sensors to help the visually impaired detect obstacles on their path. On Friday, the State government pledged financial support for him to develop the gadget.

AnangTadar, a Class XI student of New Galaxy Academy, Nirjuli, was recently awarded the Dinanath Pandey Smart Idea Innovation Award for inventing a gadget called Goggle for Blind (G4B).

Impressed by his innovation and keen to launch it in the market, the National Innovation Foundation, set up by the Department of Science and Technology, has asked Anang to create a few prototypes for the visually impaired to test.

Anang, who comes from a poor family, approached Chief Minister Pema Khandu for assistance. The Chief Minister offered full financial support to him to develop the prototype.

The teenager said the googles could be used to detect any obstacles on all sides within a distance of two metres. He says he used the principle of echolocation as used by bats at night. There are two ultrasound sensors on the left and right of the goggles to detect obstacles.

“There is also an infrared sensor in the middle of the gadget to detect obstacles in case both the ultrasound sensors fail,” he said.

When an obstacle is detected, a beep sound is heard through the audio output along with vibration to alert the person.

## 51. Nonpayment of salaries: Visually impaired employees hold protest 03/24/2017

**DERA GHAZI KHAN:**Visually impaired employees of different government departments staged a protest demonstration on Thursday at Musharraf Chowk over nonpayment of their salaries for the last four months.

The protesters blocked the main Kachehri Chowk for traffic for three long hours. Dozens of employees working on daily wages and contract basis in Municipal Corporation, special education and social welfare departments took out a rally from Musharraf Chowk. Holding white sticks in their hands, the workers raised slogans in favour of their rights and demanded payment of their salaries pending for the last four months.

Addressing the protesters, Blind Association’s Divisional President Hafiz Abdul Razaq said visually impaired people always bear the brunt of injustices on part of the government.

Although the quota has been fixed for the differently-abled and visually impaired people, but what benefit this quota could provide to the people who diligently perform their duties like other employees but were denied of their salaries.

“We work like normal people. We do raise families and so we have to bear the expenses. Our jobs provide us means of respectable livelihood. So our salaries must be paid on time,” said Mohammad Irfan, a participant of the protest.

## 52. New innovation for access to learning towards access to learning for visually challenged 03/24/2017

Innovators from India have created a new device that has yet again changed what we can or cannot do without seeing.

Plastic sliding calipers known as Squirrel Devices, developed by MIT grad students, make geometry's continuous shapes and lengths measurable for blind and limited-vision students, who can read measurements in Braille.

Plastic sliding calipers known as Squirrel Devices, developed by MIT grad students, make geometry's continuous shapes and lengths measurable for blind and limited-vision students, who can read measurements in Braille.
Photo: Squirrel Devices
FULL SCREEN
"A student we gave the device to immediately measured the length of his finger - a thing we take for granted," says device co-developer Pranay Jain.
"A student we gave the device to immediately measured the length of his finger - a thing we take for granted," says device co-developer Pranay Jain.
Photo: Squirrel Devices
FULL SCREEN
Left to right: AnshulSinghal and Pranay Jain, MIT graduate students in mechanical engineering; and Danielle Zurovcik, a previous IDEAS Global Challenge winner for her WiCare project.
Left to right: AnshulSinghal and Pranay Jain, MIT graduate students in mechanical engineering; and Danielle Zurovcik, a previous IDEAS Global Challenge winner for her WiCare project.
Photo: Squirrel Devices
FULL SCREEN
Squirrel Devices are used and implemented by students.
Squirrel Devices are used and implemented by students.
Photo: Squirrel Devices
FULL SCREEN
Previous
Next
A measurable improvement in STEM access for the blind Two MIT graduate students have developed a device that provides better access to STEM materials for the blind and low-vision community.
IDEAS Global Challenge | Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center March 22, 2017
Press Inquiries
measurable-improvement-in-stem.
How would you learn geometry without seeing the shapes? How would you calculate Pythagoras' lengths without seeing the measurements? MIT graduate students Pranay Jain and AnshulSinghal asked these questions, seeking to address the fact that most blind students drop out of math and science after
8th grade because content becomes unavailable and the laboratory becomes inaccessible.
About 75 percent of the blind and low-vision (BLV) community is unemployed in the United States and is significantly underrepresented in the growing fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Jain and Singhal, PhD candidates in Course 2 (mechanical engineering) at MIT, co-founded Squirrel Devices to tackle this problem. Their first instrument aims to make geometry's continuous shapes and lengths measurable with a plastic sliding caliper that enables BLV students to read measurements in Braille, as one would on a regular ruler.

Jain and Singhal are not new to the assistive technology community; the two worked on a Refreshable Braille Display in their undergraduate years at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi. The team reflects, "One has a lot of questions when first interacting with the community. We wondered about using phrases like 'take a look at this!' or holding our hands out for a handshake. Would they care about the color of the device?" The answer is, yes, of course they care! BLV students may not be able to see color, but like any 13-year old, they know the connotations of pink or blue. As a result, Squirrel Devices chose a bright yellow for the caliper.
Many BLV students also asked for a talking, digital measuring instrument.
But Jain and Singhal knew that they wanted a mechanical solution, one that wouldn't be as prone to electronic failure, or as expensive. "We were repeatedly reminded that education is increasingly becoming digital, but
you can't listen to a diagram, can you?" notes Jain.

The MIT community has helped push Squirrel Devices forward. The team received support from the IDEAS Global Challenge, the annual innovation, service, and social entrepreneurship competition run by the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center. "IDEAS' support was critical - the network, coaching, training, and the application process itself - all were very useful. It forced us to create a business plan, prototypes, posters, and
get feedback from the judges. We got further along the process than we would have on our own, and were plugged into a community of people who truly care," states Jain. They also cited Paul Parravano, co-director of MIT's Office of Government and Community Relations, as a source of inspiration and motivation. He has blindness and was the first user to test the device and give feedback. The late professor Seth Teller was crucial in helping the team find the right partners, and they have taken advantage of the various maker-spaces on campus.

Squirrel Devices has achieved revolutionary impact without reliance on cutting-edge 21st-century technology. Unsurprisingly, the device has been an immediate hit with their users. They have already sold thousands of units since last year, in partnership with the National Braille Press, and received the Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation in recognition of their thoughtful integration of Braille with existing tools to open up new opportunities for BLV students. "The use-case always surprises us," says Jain. "A student we gave the device to immediately measured the length of his finger - a thing we take for granted." One teacher, who had previously wondered how students who had yet to grasp fractions could use the caliper, called the team to tell them how thanks to it, her students are becoming fluent in fractions. Another teacher was glad her students now had a way to accurately measure liquids in a graduated cylinder.

The success of the caliper has built excitement for Squirrel Devices' next instrument, the Tactile Protractor, which is currently under development.

Current device measures Inches and can go as low as 1/16th of an inch measurement. The Centimetre and Millimetre scale is also under development.

The inches  Scale sells for about 14 USD in the US. The   inventors wish to contribute back to the society that they came from. Thus the same device is made available in India at a subsidized cost of Rs. 550 through Saksham.

To know more about this device you could get in touch with Saksham helpline:
011-6450655

**53. This Teenage Wrestler from Gujarat Has Donated Rs 11 Lakh, Car, and A Flat To Disabled People 27.3.2017**

We are quick to calculate our spending once we get a particular amount of money. Sometimes, in order to satisfy our guilt of overindulgence, we think of sharing 'some part' of it with the poor people. And that's it. There are only a few who, right from the outset think about others.

In an example of selflessness, Simran Mecwan, a 19-year-old wrestler from a nondescript district of Gujarat gave away every single penny of the prize money she won in a national level wrestling championship.

In January, Simran won Silver in the Asian Sub-Junior Wrestling Championship 2017 held in Delhi. As a prize, she was awarded Rs. 11 Lakh, a Hyundai i20, and a 3 BHK bungalow in Gujarat. She, however, donated it to an NGO in Delhi that works towards the benefit of the physically challenged children.

Simran lives in Uttarsanda, Nadiad in Gujarat. It’s hard to believe that she is studying Occupational Therapy (OT) and aspires to become a doctor.

“I began wrestling as a hobby when I was 14. Winning a championship is a dream that’s come true for me. But while studying OT, I realised that I have everything that I need, but there are children who wish to do a lot more, but cannot do so because of their disabilities,” she shares.

Simran does not hesitate even once when we ask her if she felt she’s missed out even a little bit by spending all of her prize money and gifts, “Not at all. My parents have given me enough, including their support because of which I even got here. I do not need things that instead, can help those who really and truly need them,” she says.

# 54.Para shuttler Sukant Kadam bags two bronze medals

Unseeded para shuttler, Sukant Kadam, upset the form book by clinching the singles and doubles bronze medals in the recently-concluded Spanish Para-Badminton International 2017 held at Pabellón Municipal Alcudia, Majorca, Spain.

The 24-year-old shuttler, trainee at the badminton academy run by former national singles badminton champion Nikhil Kanetkar in Pune and handicapped with disability in the left leg, won the singles and doubles bronze medals in the ‘SL 4’ class of the event, said a media release.

“My target was the gold in this competition, but once the draws were out I realised the going was going to be tough as I had the top seed in my path,” said Kadam.

Playing his first tournament of the year Kadam ended his campaign by losing to the towering top-seed Lucas Mazur (France) 15-21 10-21 in the singles semis.

In doubles, the Sangli-born player and compatriot UmeshVikram Kumar went down fighting to the second seeded English pair Daniel Bethell and Bobby Griffin 17-21 21-13 21-13.

In the four-player group stage in singles he topped his group with an all-win record that included the scalp of third seed Raul Anguiano (Guatemala) whom he beat 21-17 22-10.

Success in Spain is the third for Kadam in international competitions. Earlier, he won a singles bronze at the Ireland Para Badminton International 2016 and thereafter a doubles bronze in the Asian Championship in China held in November 2016, the release added.

**55.India, Bangladesh lead in Asian chess for the blind event Mar 27, 2017**

India and Bangladesh are both leading at the end of the second round of the IBCA Asian Chess Championship for the Visually Challenged 2017.

Bangladesh's Husain Ejaz, and KishanGangolli, Ashwin K. Makwana and Yudhajeet De from India have two points each.

The games are being broadcast on Radio Chess application online. This is the first time in the history of the visually challenged that a move-by-move live audio commentary is being broadcast.

The games are also being live telecasted in Monroi.com and Follow Chess App.

# 56. Uber launches service for PwD in China Mar 28, 2017

Ride-sharing company Uber has launched a new feature in its mobile app ‘Uber-Assist’ in Macau in China.

The feature is designed to give extra help to seniors and people with disabilities.

It will connect them with specialized drivers who have received special training in meeting the needs of passengers with disabilities.

The initiative will be useful for those facing difficulty in walking or the visually impaired, people with disabilities, hearing problems, the elderly and pregnant ladies.

The company will start offering many free rides to people with disabilities soon to get feedback on how to improve the service.

# 57. T20 cricket for players with disabilities to be held Mar 28, 2017

The LIC Trophy National Inter Zonal T20 cricket tournament for people with physical disabilities will be held in Mumbai from 30 March to 1 April.

Five regions - north, east, south, central and west zones will be taking part in the tournament.

It is going to be organized by the All India Cricket Association for Physically Challenged, led by former India Test skipper AjitWadekar.

The tournament will be held under the International Cricket Council's T20 cricket tournament format.

Some relaxations to include cricketers with physical disabilities are done based on rules provided by the World Health Organization.

# 58. Ex Indian captain wants court order to be implemented for cricketers with disabilities Mar 28, 2017

Former captain of the Indian cricket team, AjitWadekar has expressed hope that cricketers with disabilities may get better support now. He said that if the orders of the Supreme Court are followed, then cricket conditions in India could be improved for players with disabilities.

The Indian cricket board has not done anything for players with disabilities or visually impaired cricket associations in the country till now.

The board announced a special fund for the players with disabilities when it was left with no choice. However, nothing much has been done in that regard.

Wadekar is president of the All India Cricket Association for the Physically Challenged.

**59. Vision impairment no barrier for this 12-year-old Mar 28, 2017**

12-year-old Sabari Venkat is passionate about his interests and he does not let anything come in his way of pursuing them.

At the age of three years, Venkat suffered from retinal detachment. It is a condition where the retina is separated from its attachment within the eye, which affects the vision. Sabari has no vision in his right eye, and his left eye has partial vision.

Sabari is well known as speaker who gives encouraging talks. As he was growing up he would listen to the verses of Swami Vivekananda and would write the meaning of the verses as well.

He has given more than 150 speeches which revolve around self-confidence. He has also won over 30 awards for his various skills and has been awarded the prestigious ‘Creative Child with Disabilities’ title by the government of India.

# 60. Government to amend definition of blindness to meet global standards Mar 28, 2017

The government of India will soon change the definition of blindness to bring it in line with the criteria of the World Health Organization. This is to ensure that Indian data on blindness meets the global estimates.

Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, a person unable to count fingers from a distance of six metres is categorized as blind in India. The WHO rule is three metres.

The government says that because of the current definition, India projects a higher figure of blind people. So India gets presented in a poor light compared to other countries.

India also has to achieve the goal set by WHO which recommends reducing the blindness prevalence to 0.3% of the total population by 2020.

**61. How to prevent avoidable disabilities in kids during pregnancy Mar 28, 2017**

Disabilities in children are difficult to diagnose. They can be seen in subtle ways like withdrawal, hyperactivity or inability to focus on a particular task at hand.

Since many disabilities are linked to behavioral issues, parents are often blamed for poor parenting rather. Doctors say that many of these disabilities may be linked to exposure to toxins in uterus during pregnancy,

A little bit of care in eating and in other aspects during pregnancy can help avoid preventable causes of learning disabilities.

These include reduce exposure to cigarette smoke, both active and passive during pregnancy, reduce chemical exposure by way of hair colors and bleaches.

Eating healthy and staying away from roadside food. Staying away from drugs and alcohol even in small quantities during pregnancy as these is known to affect brain development in the growing fetus.

It is recommended that fruits and vegetables are washed well by soaking them before eating. Peel fruits like apple before eating as the top layer has the highest concentration of pesticide.

# 62.SC: Colour-blind ban for MBBS regressive

NEW DELHI: Can a student suffering from colour blindness be allowed to pursue medical courses? The [Supreme Court](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Supreme-Court)has agreed to consider a plea of two students to open the door of medical colleges for them, saying the present practice of Medical Council of India not permitting colour-blind students to take admission in MBBS courses is regressive and should be done away with.

A bench of Justice Dipak Misra and Justice A M Khanwilkar appointed an expert committee of senior doctors to find out streams in which such students could be allowed. It said students with colour blindness were allowed to study medical courses in many other countries and the rules or guidelines followed in the country needed to be revived to allow such students to pursue courses where colour blindness might not be a handicap.

"Total exclusion for admission to medical courses without any stipulation in which they really can practise and render assistance would tantamount to regressive thinking. When we conceive of global phenomenon and universal brotherhood, efforts are to be made to be within the said parameters. The march of science, apart from our constitutional warrant and values, commands inclusion and not exclusion," the bench said.

The court directed Medical Council of India, the apex regulating body in the field of medical studies and profession, to constitute a committee of experts from genetics, ophthalmology, psychiatry and medical education from AIIMS and PGIMER, Chandigarh, to examine the issue. The court directed that the committee submit its report in three months.

The court passed the order on a plea of two medical students who were denied admission in college after clearing the entrance examination in 2015 as they were suffering from partial colour blindness. They had first approached Tripura HC which had turned down their plea, compelling them to approach the apex court.

Opposing the plea of students, senior advocate Vikas Singh and lawyer Gaurav Sharma, appearing for MCI, contended that the decision to bar colour blind people was taken on the basis of report of an expert committee which held that people with such handicap would not be able to perform their duty as a doctor. They said a doctor would not be able to do fair diagnosis and prognosis of a disease as it depended upon colour detection.

# Senior advocate K V Vishwanathan, who was asked to assist the court in deciding the issue, said a colour blind person may face difficulty in the stream of pathology, surgery, skin and general medicine but could efficiently perform in the field of psychiatry, social and preventive medicine. He said a complete ban on the admission to MBBS course would be violative of constitutional principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment.

# 63. New Australian TV program to feature people with disabilities Mar 29, 2017

A non-profit organization from Australia aims to change attitudes to disability with a new television series.

It has come up with a 13-episode program that will feature interesting stories of people with disabilities.

The program will show how people with disabilities live and how they are affected by how society views them.

The aim is to show positive stories made by people with disabilities.

The idea is to change the negative representation of people with disabilities in media, especially on television.

# 64. Municipal commissioner with disability inspires others to perform Mar 29, 2017

A R Pappammal is the Municipal Commissioner of a town in the Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu and will retire in one year. Pappammal, who got polio as a child, faces difficulty walking.

However, she has never let disability come in the way of performing her duty of collecting taxes.

She personally goes door-to-door to different homes in her municipality area and encourages people to pay their due taxes.

Even though district tax collectors in her area are on leave, she is making sure that the targets are met and people are informed about their dues.

# 65. Syllabus in science & engineering specially designed for the blind Mar 29, 2017

Mona Minkara, a chemistry professor at the University of Minnesota in the United States is working to create a STEM curriculum for blind children in developing countries.

STEM refers to the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Minkara wants the syllabus to be accessible to the blind and of low-cost. It will be implemented at a camp in Lebanon that has programs for both blind and sighted children.

The camp trains blind children in life skills and integrates them with sighted children through sports and artistic activities.

Minkara said that most syllabus that is accessible to the blind is expensive and she wants to translate visual science experiments into something blind students can understand.

# 66. NGO helps para-athelete Manoj Kumar get top-level wheelchair Mar 29, 2017

Manoj Kumar, who is a para-athlete, has won many medals in district and state level sports events like 100 and 200 metres running and power lifting. He has also won a gold medal at the state-level para-athletic championship.

Now his dream of playing in his first national level tournament at Jaipur on 31 March will be realized soon.

Thanks to the efforts of the NGO Soulfree, he has got a special wheelchair that will help him participate in both national and international level events.

The wheelchair costs Rs four lakh and has been imported. This is called the Ferrari of wheelchairs and is light, strong and extremely fast.

# 67. Important bill related to mental healthcare passed Mar 29, 2017

The Lok Sabha has passed a bill to make a better quality of life and healthcare available to people living with mental health problems.

It is called the Mental Healthcare Bill 2016, which was earlier passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2016.

The bill aims to make sure that people with mental illnesses are provided with proper treatment and rehabilitation.

The bill says that a person who attempts suicide should be understood to have severe stress, and shall not be punished.

Earlier, a person who attempts to commit suicide was charged under section 309 of IPC as it was considered to be an offence.

# 68.Sikh soldier with disability runs marathons Mar 30, 2017

Devender Pal Singh, an Indian soldier, was severely injured during the Kargil War in 1999. He did not let his injuries come in his way.

Today the former soldier and amputee is known as the 'Indian blade runner' and has been running marathons for 15 years.

Singh’s story is making a difference in the lives of other Indian amputees. He was not a runner before his leg was amputated but challenged himself to become one as a way to inspire him beyond his war injuries.

Today he is inspiring amputees across India with his presentations and his support group called The Challenging Ones. The group has over 250 and many are following his footsteps by becoming amputee runners.

# 69. Para athletes make India proud in Special Olympics Mar 30, 2017

Indian para sports persons received a grand welcome upon their return from the 2017 Special Olympics Winter Games in Austria.

India won 73 medals, including 37 gold, 10 silver and 26 bronze medals, at the Special Olympics World Winter Games. The Indian team had 89 athletes that took part in the events held from18-24 March.

The Indian team took part in several events like alpine skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. A total of 2,600 athletes with disabilities from 105 countries took part in the sporting event.

# 70.Differently-abled AKTU students to get more time for exam

LUCKNOW: [Differently-abled students](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Differently-abled-students) studying in [technical colleges](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/technical-colleges) in UP will now get 20 extra minutes during examinations. The decision, to be applicable from odd semester examinations in May-June, was taken by the academic council of APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University on Tuesday. Earlier, all students were given three hours to take an exam. In another decision taken by the examination committee, teachers awarding either more than 75% marks or failing any student in sessional exams will have to give reasons in writing.

According to university pro vice-chancellor V K Singh, the decision to give more time to differently-abled students was in accordance with the Central government rules. Such candidates will also be provided whatever facility they need. For instance, there was a student in a Noida college who wrote her exams with her foot. "For her, we had to make seating arrangements on the ground,'' said controller of examination J P Pandey.

In an examination reform which will put a check on impersonation, there will be online attendance of candidates inside the examination hall. The university, which is to link candidates' roll numbers with their Aadhar number, will make use of UID-compatible devices to take thumb impression of the candidates inside the examination hall. This, said Pandey, will check impersonation and also provide real time data. "Earlier, we used to get information once the exam was over. With online attendance, we will have real time data and can take action against proxy candidates,'' Pandey said.

In addition, question papers will be sent online to the examination centres an hour before the exam. The center in charge will be responsible to get print outs of the question paper.

# 71. NGO makes fashion accessible to children with disabilities Mar 31, 2017

Mindy Scheier is a fashion designer from the United States who has devoted her life to making a change within the fashion industry.

She runs a non-profit organization Runway of Dreams that designs clothes for children with disabilities.

She was motivated to start the initiative after she found that her son was unable to dress himself due to his muscle weakness.

Velcro and magnetic strips are some of the technologies used to help change famous jeans, t-shirts and dresses into accessible fashionable clothes.

The idea is to help children with disabilities overcome clothing challenges. It will make them feel both comfortable and confident at the same time.

# 72. Blind student from Pakistan wins youth worker award Mar 31, 2017

Suleman Arshad, a visually impaired student from Punjab University in Pakistan has won the Commonwealth Youth Worker award. Arshad was recognized for creating a first-of-its-kind para-climbing club in Pakistan.

The club gives people with disabilities an opportunity to participate in sports.

It also creates public awareness about what people with disabilities can achieve when given the opportunity.

Arshad is the winner not only from Pakistan but also for the region of Asia.

The Commonwealth Youth Worker awards celebrates inspiring young people who are working to improve the lives of people and communities in their country or region.

## 73. Odisha likely to conduct fresh disability census, 03/27/2017

BHUBANESWAR: With the Centre contemplating to broaden the criteria for persons with disabilities (PWDs), Odisha Government is likely to start a fresh enumeration of PWDs within a few months. The Centre is currently reviewing the proposal to include 22 additional disabilities apart from the existing eight conditions.

The Government will begin the enumeration process from the Capital City. As part of the initiative, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in association with Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) and State Institute for Disability Rehabilitation on Friday launched ‘Bhima Bhoi Samarthya Sibir’, a camp to enrol, enable and empower PWDs in the City.
PWDs registered themselves for the Unique Identity for Person with Disability (UDID) cards under ‘Swabalamban’ Scheme at the camp. The UDID for PWDs covers blindness, cerebral palsy, low vision, locomotor disability, leprosy-cured, mentally retarded, mentally ill and hearing impaired. The Department targets to enrol at least 3,000 PWDs at the camp which will end on Saturday.
Sources said the number of PWDs in the Capital City would rise significantly, from 30,000 to around 50,000, if the proposal to include more disabilities is approved by the Centre. Their number would reach upto one lakh if the new criteria are included as NGOs working for PWDs rehabilitation stated that there is a huge gap between official figures and actual number of PWDs in the City.
Director SSEPD Manasi Nimbhal said the UDID Card will streamline the tracking system of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at village, block, district and State levels.
Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Vice-Chairman Krishan Kumar said by-laws will be amended very soon to make the accessibility clause a must for all public buildings.
An awareness session on the recently constituted Autism Appellate Medical Board was also held at the camp.
Among others, Tourism Minister Ashok Panda, Mayor AN Jena, MLA (North) Priyadarshi Mishra and SSEPD Principal Secretary Niten Chandra were present.

## 74. Access hurdles of PWDs in Smart Cities decried: Javed Abidi 03/28/2017

BHUBANESWAR: The Centre is not serious about accessibility hurdles which have been a long standing concern for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in India.

While there has been much hype on implementation of Information Technology in an array of sectors, there is a large divide between ‘Digital India’ and ‘Accessibility India’ campaigns launched by the Union Government, said Javed Abidi ,Global Chair, Disabled People’s International here on Monday.

Speaking to mediapersons about Smart City Mission, Abidi said it fails to integrate disability as a key issue in its proposal. While there is no uniformity on incorporation of access for the disabled, the top 20 cities which have emerged victorious in the Smart City race, have completely neglected the role of digital inclusion for PWDs, he said.

"There are about 6000 Government websites in country and almost all cannot be accessed by a visually impaired person. It is an irony that Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), which was launched to supplement cashless economy, is also inaccessible for the blind,’’ said Abidi who is scheduled to conduct a seminar to discuss about PWDs’ inclusion in Smart City Mission.

Private firms, which have been hired as concessionaires to build Smart Cities, are extremely particular over inclusion of disabled-friendly components in projects which they have taken up in foreign countries. However, when it comes to India, the same companies ignore PWDs, rued Abidi.

A number of representations from disabled person forums has fallen on deaf ears of the Government. A lack of connect between Government policies/laws and technology developers has led to a situation in which the PWDs have been neglected in ambitious plans declared by the Centre.

It is high time the Centre and State Governments work in tandem and fix accountability of the private sectors, Abidi added.

**75. Rajnath Singh visits visually-impaired BSF officer's home for lunch, lauds his service to the nation** 03/29/2017

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh was in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, on Saturday to visit the BSF Academy in Tekanpur district. He was there to attend the passing out parade of the BSF assistant commandants graduating from the academy.

But in addition to his official engagements, the BJP leader took time out to pay a visit to visually impaired BSF officer Sandeep Mishra. Mishra, an assistant commandant of the Border Security Force Academy at Tekanpur, had lost his eyesight in a clash with the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants in Assam's Tinsukia district in 2000.

Rajnath lauded the decorated officer and paid homage to his wife, Indrakshi, for her dedication to her husband. He said in a tweet that, “Sandip Mishra derives strength from his wife Indrakshi, who decided to marry him in spite of him being specially abled.”

The Union minister had lunch at their residence, adding that it was a delight to be in their presence.

Mishra was commended with a gallantry award and a Police medal in 2004 for his service to the nation.

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## 76. Experts demand more FYJC seats for students with disabilities in Maharashtra 03/29/2017

After the state government introduced 30% reservation for women in the first year of junior colleges (FYJC) from this academic year, educators and child development specialists have demanded an increase in the quota for students with disabilities. They suggested starting special courses for the differently-abled students, which will concentrate on skill-based training instead of focusing too much on academics.

The government notified ‘The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act’ — a new legislation increasing the recognised types of disabilities from seven to 21 — in December 2016. One of the significant aspects of the newly enacted law is that it has included acid attack victims and people suffering from Parkinsons disease as persons with disabilities.

Although the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has recently extended its special concessions to students with disabilities recognised under the new Act, the Maharashtra state board is yet to implement the newly enacted law, depriving the needy students of their rights, said educators.

Ved Ahinave (17) who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis is the case in point. He was not allowed to use a scribe to write his HSC exam this year. “We submitted medical certificates including one from Sir JJ Hospital in Byculla but the board refused to give him any concession because they did not have provision for arthritis,” said Vishwas Ahinave, the student’s father. “He finally received an hour’s extra-time after we showed that he is also a slow learner,” he added.

Stating that disabled students are losing out on quality school education and college admissions, educators from Mumbai have sent their recommendations to education minister Vinod Tawde and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Similarly, students with disabilities are finding it tough to secure admission to junior colleges, despite having a 3% quota in the FYJC online admission process. Since this quota is shared by physically disabled and learning disabled (LD) students, officials said that a majority of the reserved seats get filled up by LD students alone because of increased awareness on its testing and certification centres.

“Visually-impaired or hearing impaired students often approach us at the end of the admission process complaining that they haven’t secured admission to any college, LD students score comparatively higher and get the seats” said BB Chavan, deputy director of education, Mumbai region.

In comparison, certification for many of the disabilities still remains difficult, said Dr Harish Shetty, senior psychiatrist, Dr LH Hiranandani Foundation Hospital in Powai. Even now, only those candidates with doctors’ certificate can avail the facility but there are a few certification centres. “The Maharashtra state board needs to adopt the new act soon so that more students can benefit,” said Shetty.

## 77. Accessibility a basic right of PWDs 03/30/2017

BHUBANESWAR: In an age when information technology has become a way of life, a section of the society - the Persons with Disabilities - have been ignored to a large extent. Accessibility for the disabled today is not just limited to physical access to buildings but to information, communication and services meant for the public, eminent disability rights activist Shruti Mohapatra said on Tuesday.

Addressing the urban lecture series on accessibility in Smart Cities here, Mohapatra said accessibility is no more an entitlement but a basic right of PWDs. As the Lok Sabha has already passed the Rights of PwDs Act in December last year, the Government should make it mandatory for implementation agencies to incorporate accessibility components in service sectors, she said.

Shilpi Kapoor, founder of ‘BarrierBreak’, a Mumbai-based accessibility and assistive technology company, said there is a common assumption that technology is solely meant for the abled and PwDs do not need or use IT-enabled applications. The Government is a key player in bridging the digital divide that has deprived the disabled section from accessing and enjoying the wonders of technology.

"If an information on a socio-cultural event to be held in a Smart City has to be dissipated, it must have feeds on whether the venue is disabled-friendly or not. There must be an accessible digital platform through which PwDs can gather this information,’’ she said.

Global Chairperson of Disabled People’s International Javed Abidi said stakeholders in the Smart City Mission should ensure that websites, mobile-based applications and utilities should include the accessibility-for-all criteria from the development stage itself.

Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan assured the participants that funds will not be an issue for making services accessible for PwDs.

Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited Managing Director Krishan Kumar said Janpath will be the first completely accessible street in the Capital City. Guidelines have been drafted for the project and the draft will be formalised soon after getting feedback from citizens. Bhubaneswar will also have audio guides at key traffic junctions to help PWDs, he said.

## 78. Holiday with a difference, 03/30/2017

**Accessible options now bring scenic destinations to the differently-abled**

“Do you know that sign language — even in English — is different in many countries,” says Alim Chandani, associate vice president, Centum Learning. Despite his hearing impairment, Chandani has travelled to 44 countries, and is eager to compare notes. Bhutan, he says, is his favourite. “It’s a small place; so everything is easy to locate and the people are very helpful.”

An equally ardent traveller is clinical psychologist Divyanshu Ganatra, who lost his sight at 19, but didn’t let that stop him from following his love for adventure. He was the first blind person in India to complete a solo paragliding flight.

Meeting Chandani and Ganatra brings home the fact that you don’t need five senses to enjoy travel. It’s by no means easy in India though — not many monuments or tourist spots have ramps, accessible toilets or Braille signages. But the good news is that today, there are several agencies trying to bring scenic destinations within reach of people with disabilities. Earlier this month, Cox & Kings launched Enable Travel, accessible holidays that have been curated with the help of people with different disabilities, including those with multiple sclerosis. To begin with, it is offering customised experiences in 14 cities. Sizeable investments have gone into equipment like collapsible ramps, specialised wheelchairs that can negotiate beaches and water, as well as trained guides who can handle a range of disabilities.

The entry of a large mainstream tour operator, into inclusive holidays is significant, as till now in India, it has only been offered by niche outfits or passionate social entrepreneurs. Take Neha Arora, who quit her job at Adobe to start Planet Abled, to bring destinations within reach of those with disabilities. Today, Planet Abled offers comfortable tours to 20 Indian cities, spanning the Golden Triangle, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Kerala. She says during the course of the last year, she has served nearly 100 travellers with disabilities, and a big hit is her river rafting itinerary. A few years ago, Chennai-based Travel Another India, which specialises in rural holidays, had tried offering sightseeing to destinations such as Ladakh to those on wheelchairs. This was a collaborative effort with Himalaya On Wheels, an initiative by Vidhya Ramasubban, who had years of experience working at the Spastic Society of India and with NGOs in Ladakh. When Ramasubban started her journey into inclusive travel, she recalls how the struggle began with sensitising State tourism agencies to put up accessible infrastructure at tourist spots. Today, the Government has at least started talking about inclusive travel, and is putting up accessible toilets and ramps at UNESCO heritage sites, though the execution and design leaves much to be desired. Train journeys are still unthinkable, with only air and road offering accessible options. And while hotels in the higher star category have disabled-friendly rooms, it’s tough to find these at budget levels.

People like Arora and Ganatra would rather talk about the exhilarating aspects than dwell on the hurdles. The sensory pleasures of inhaling the aromas at spice gardens in Kerala, feeling the spray of the water as the raft hurtles down the Ganga. Ganatra excitedly describes how his company Adventures Beyond Barriers has taken people with disabilities para sailing, cycling through the mountains and even helped some scale summits. Infrastructure challenges can be surmounted, but Arora feels the hardest part remains convincing people to break through the mental barriers, telling them that yes, accessible travel is possible. A good start may be the Disabled Travelers Guide, a free and inspiring online resource by Nancy and Nate Berger, that covers a lot of ground, including India.

Chitra Narayanan is an editorial consultant with *Business Line* who writes on consumer behaviour but keeps an interested gaze at the travel and hospitality sector.

## 79. GOVT TO DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE CITIES ACCESSIBLE’ 03/30/2017

City does not mean only signboards. The State Government would not lag behind and do everything possible to make the city accessible, be it information, communication, transport and the digital inclusion, said Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner R Balakrishna at the Bhubaneswar Urban Lectures on  “Smart Accessibility Solutions In Bhubaneswar” on Tuesday organised by the BDA, BMC, BSCL, Swabhiman and Mphasis

Balkrishna said infrastructure, communication, information should be accessible to People with Disabilities (PWD) and they should be made inclusive in all policies. There are still lots of gaps to be filled. There are people in the system who create problems. One has to walk the extra mile to achieve the goals.

BDA Vice-Chairman and Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) MD Kishan Kumar said, “There will be a paradigm shift on how we look into the issue. All the aspects would be looked into but transportation will be a big challenge. City design of Bhubaneswar will be changed and the business street of Janpath will be made more accessible initially.”

Not only the buildings, streets, schools , colleges, even the theatres, cinema halls ,restaurants and shopping malls should be made assessable for all, be it  children, the elderly , the PWDs or even the common people. Everybody will be included and focus will be laid on smart accessibility, digital inclusion and universal design to make the city inclusive. The State Government will provide all support, Kumar said. However, he expressed concern over the digital divide.

BSCL CEO R Vineel Krishna delivering the welcome address said, “Making the city more smart and accessible is a priority. We want to create a model city, with the urbanism principles that have the transformative potential to provide citizens with prosperity, safety and equity.

 Global Chair DPI’s Javed Abidi said politicians never took disability seriously till 199, when the Disability Act was passed. Now the laws are there but implementation is a challenge. Digital accessibility is still a problem. Hundreds of websites are there but the visually challenged and other PWDs cannot access them. These problems should be addressed.  Swabhiman chief executive Sruti Mohapatra and Global Strategy and Development (G3IT) vice president James Thurston and Barrier Break Technologies Shilpi Kapoor also spoke.

## 80TBI Blogs: How Technology Is Helping Visually Impaired People Take Exams Independently 03/30/2017

In the Digital India of today, there is a need to re-look at the modes of assessment for blind and visually impaired students.

Do you remember playing ‘Chinese Whispers’ as kids? Whispering words and phrases down a chain of friends, and ending up in giggles at the distorted line of communication!

For those who are not familiar with the game, one person whispers a phrase into the ear of the next person in line, who then whispers the word to the third in line. When the word reaches the last person in the chain, the phrase is spelled out loud. Usually, the phrase is very different from what was communicated by the first person in the chain. An ideal case of lost in translation!

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While the scenario between a scribe and a visually impaired examinee is not quite like Chinese Whispers, often, here too, things tend to get lost in interpretation. There are essentially two points of communication before an answer is put down to paper. There is scope for error at any of these two stages.

First, when the scribe reads out the question to the blind candidate. At this point, any linguistic or accent issues may lead to misunderstanding of the question. The scribe could also wrongly interpret diagrams or symbols in a question.

Second, when the blind candidate dictates the answer to the scribe based on their understanding of the question. The candidate doesn’t really spell out every word, so a scribe may misspell words while putting the answers down, which may result in changed meaning at times.

**Diagrams and symbols are difficult to explain orally, so the accuracy of the same depends on the scribe’s comprehension.**

In some cases, the scribe may be under-qualified, and in other cases, blind candidates may simply rely on the scribe’s intelligence to write the exam. At times, the blind candidate has clear understanding of the subject, but finds it difficult to articulate to a third person instead of just putting it down himself/herself. There are times when the blind student struggles to find a scribe in the first place, and there are also times when the promised scribe doesn’t turn up on the exam day.

Apart from these challenges that the system of scribe poses to a visually impaired student, the very nature of this mode of assessment screams the word “dependence”. The blind candidates have to “depend” on another person who may or may not be familiar with the subject to write their exam. The blind candidate’s performance in examinations “depends” on how well the scribe managed to comprehend and answer on his/her behalf.

The system of scribes encourages a culture of “dependency” that emerges from a notion of charity towards blind people, where a scribe “volunteers” to write for another. It is built on the premise that blind people are dependents who need to be looked after and provided for.

**This is contrary to a more empowering belief that blind people can be independent contributing citizens who are potentially a part of the human resource of the country.**

in today’s day and age, when technology is advancing by leaps and bounds to empower people across sections and geographies, why should blind and visually impaired people be left out? There are technological solutions that can be adopted for assessing blind students. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued clear guidelines that allow for the usage of computers, Braille, audio recorders, and other assistive technology in lieu of a scribe. Blind students can use computers with the aid of screen-reading software like JAWS and NVDA. This helps them listen to everything that’s displayed on-screen, thus enabling them to independently write their exam.

Even when there is a policy in place that can empower the blind candidate to independently go through the process of examination, schools and universities continue to latch on to scribes. This could be for various reasons. Schools and universities may not be adequately equipped with computers with screen-reading software and other similar infrastructure required by the blind examinee. This could also be because of a general closed-mindedness towards change and new technology.

## 81. 108 LAPTOPS DISTRIBUTED TO BLIND STUDENTS 03/31/2017

To connect blind students with IT world, the State Department of Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs (SSEPD) distributed 108 laptops to blind students at a function held at the VRCH premises here on Thursday.

Chief guest SSEPD Minister Usha Devi said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has created the independent department for persons with disabilities (PwDs) to focus on their rehabilitation and empowerment.

SSEPD Principal Secretary Niten Chandra said the laptops would certainly help the visually-challenged students not only in their higher education but would also connect them with the technology world.

SSEPD Director Mansi Nimbhal urged the students to utilise the laptop properly and enhance their knowledge and skill through information technology, which would contribute to their families’ economy as well as that of the country.

The laptops are installed with the Job Access with Speech (JAWS) software which helps the blind students in using them. Among others, SSEPD Under Secretary to Government Ambika Prasad Patnaik and Section Officer Asit Pani were present. SSEPD Joint Secretary Deba Prasad Dash offered a vote of thanks.

**6. Employment**

**1. Recruitment for Karnataka Examinations Authority**

Job title: PUC college lecturers

Total post: 1130

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –44

Last date for apply – 15.6.2017

For more details please visit: [www.kea.kar.nic.in](http://www.kea.kar.nic.in)

**2. Recruitment for Indian Air Force Maharastra**

Job title: store keeper

Total post: 03

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –1

Last date for apply – 17.4.2017

For more details please refer 18th March 2017 Employment news paper

3**. Recruitment for Delhi cantonment board**

Job title: D group posts

Total post: 217

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –3

Last date for apply – 31.5.2017

For more details please visit: [www.cbdelhi.in](http://www.cbdelhi.in)

**4. Recruitment for Andhra Bank, Hydrabad**

Job title: Sub staff

Total post: 10

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –1

Last date for apply – 15.4.2017

For more details please visit: [www.andhrababk,in](http://www.andhrababk,in)

**5. Recruitment for KPSC**

Job title: various posts in group C & D

Total post: 571

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –37

Last date for apply – 15.4.2017

For more details please visit: [www.kpsc.com](http://www.kpsc.com)

**6. Recruitment for Transport Department Haryana**

Job title: Helper & store man

Total post: 869

Reservation for Blind and Low vision - As per government rules

Last date for apply – 30.4.2017

For more details please visit: [www.hartrans.govin](http://www.hartrans.govin)

**7. Recruitment for Karnataka district & civil Court Udupi**

Job title: peons

Total post: 8

Reservation for Blind and Low vision –2

Last date for apply – 22.4.2017

For more details please visit: [www.ecourts.gov.in/udupi](http://www.ecourts.gov.in/udupi)