**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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67th issue

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**1. Editorial**

Dear readers,

Please find the 67th issue of the “Voice of the Blind”

We take this opportunity to mention some key facts that indicate why the sustained and self advocacy is a only key to bring change in lives of our multimillion brothers and sisters with disability and how it can be practiced.

Dear Friends,

1. This is a universal truth that how good our acts, policies and schemes might be, but their real benefits cannot reach upto the common stake holders till they are not effective in their implementation. 70 years post independents history of India proves this fact. In these 7 decades various laws and policies have been formulated for upliftment of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. But very less could be done on ground.

2. Lack of resources and their unfair distribution: - we should not forget that we live in such a developing country where resources are scare then their demand and distribution system of the limited resources is not fair. The allocation of the resources is not made as per the genuine needs of various socio-economic sections of the society, but as per their influence in the system.

3. Lack of knowledge and information: - Infact the lack of appropriate knowledge and information in decision making and implementing authorities is also a big road block. Because of that the welfare schemes and programs are not implemented in their real spirit and their benefit cannot reach to the common beneficiaries.

4. Prejudice attitude: - Even though, the time and again the person with disability have proved that they are second to none in every spheres of life. Moreover, the advancement in modern assistive technology has multifold enhanced the functional ability of persons with all type of disabilities. But still the ancient prejudice prevails in the society that the persons with disability are unproductive members of the society and good for nothing and this societal attitude influence our burocrates in preventing the persons with disability for inclusion in the mainstream.

These are some such road blocks that hold us back in the race to progress in pace with time and for readdressing all these road blocks this is unavoidable to think of ourselves to be the advocate for our exiting future.

The road to equality is indeed long for our disabled friends but if they march together and lend one and other their encouragement and experience they can certainly reach to their goal of creating such a society where they can lead decent living with dignity.

This is a crucial role of all our organizations representing different disabilities to direct the attention of policy makers and administrators to a number of problems faced by the persons with disability.

Let us call upon all our NGO to be more efficient strong and vigilant so that the good programs and policies may be implemented faster.

If we work unitedly we can meet many challenges.

Let us commit ourselves for working our best for pleasant future of our disabled brothers and sisters.

It need to practice all legitimate legal and civil means to draw attention of policy makers and implementers towards special concerns of persons with disability and to suggest appropriate action for their solution. Thus it is only through advocacy that we can get expected results from the progressive and comprehensive legislature called Right to persons with disability act 2016.

With Best Complements

Editor

**2. News from far & near**

**1. Meet the first blind judge of Rajasthan**

31-year-old Brahmananda Sharma is the first visually impaired judge of Rajasthan.

Sharma lost his vision at the age of 22 years due to glaucoma. He had always wanted to be a judge and did not let the loss of eyesight stop him.

Sharma belongs to the Bhilwara region and completed his education at a government-run school.

He appeared for the Rajasthan Judicial Services Examination in 2013 and cleared the test in the very first attempt. He scored a high rank of 83 in the competitive exam.

He is now serving as a civil judge and judicial magistrate in Sarwar, a town in Ajmer district.

Sharma is a fine example of how strong will and dedication can help battle any barrier.

Coaching centers were not willing to admit him because of his disability. His family helped him prepare for the examination.

Sharma uses an e-speak device that is connected to a computer. The device converts and records the notes made by a reader into speech.

The blind judge listens to the recordings of statements and arguments made by witnesses and lawyers.

His staff and other lawyers are awed by his intelligence and dedication to duty.

**2. Visually impaired Jayant cracks UPSC against all odds**

Mankale, a resident of Beed, studied mechanical engineering from Amrutvahini College of Engineering, Sangamner and cracked the civil service exam in his fourth attempt in the specially abled category. He now hopes to land his dream job in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

Jayant Mankale, a visually impaired 25-year-old and the son of water pump operator cleared the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination this year, securing an all India rank (AIR) of 923.

Mankale, a resident of Beed, studied mechanical engineering from Amrutvahini College of Engineering, Sangamner and cracked the civil service exam in his fourth attempt in the specially abled category. He now hopes to land his dream job in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

Mankale lost 75 per cent of his vision after suffering from retinitis pigmentosa, a group of rare, genetic disorders that involve a breakdown and loss of cells in the retina which leads to loss of vision.

However, his determination to crack the UPSC exam never faltered and he pushed on without any coaching. However, the situation grew dim when he has lost his father. His mother and sister came forward and took over all the financial burden of the family on their shoulders. His mother and sister sold handmade pickles, masala and other food items to make ends meet.

Mankale said, “I could not afford audio books or a screen reader. Therefore, I started listening various debates on the radio, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha TV. I took pictures of pages through my mobile and often zoomed in to read them. I have never read a National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) book and I couldn’t use hand-written notes, which made preparation very difficult.”

Despite his mother’s business, Mankale’s family faced a serious financial crisis. They were unable to repay the loan taken for Mankale’s college education and it was difficult to get by on his father’s pension of Rs.7,300.

Given the situation, Mankale, approached Pravin Chavan and Manohar Bhole for UPSC guidance, which they offered free of cost.

But after overcoming all these hurdles, Mankale is ready to join his dream job and give back to the community. But first, he plans to pay off his pesky his education loan.

# 3. 4 holiday ideas for travelers with disabilities

There are many places in the world that are a dream come true for travelers with disabilities. They can travel here comfortably without facing any difficulty.

Here is a list of four holiday ideas that will let you have a good time without causing discomfort.

* **Sailing holidays** - If you love adventure on the seas, consider Antigua, an island in the West Indies. Here a disabled person is paired up with someone who does not have a disability. They can then sail together.
* **Wheelchair safari** - The best countries that offer wheelchair safari are India, Botswana, South Africa, and Kenya. These trips about 7-12 nights long. They include game drives too.
* **River cruising** - The Netherlands offers river cruises that are wheelchair-friendly as well as group tours and villa holidays. The river cruise is a five-night affair through the historic towns of Harlingen, Zaandam, and Nijmegen. The cruise also has accessible bathrooms and cabins.
* **Group trips for blind travellers** - A travel company, called Traveleyes, founded by a blind entrepreneur, Amar Latif, takes 60 blind groups every year on a four-day city break in Amsterdam. The company also offers beach breaks, staycations, and activity holidays.

# 4. Free e-rickshaw service for disabled students to be started on Punjab university campus

The Punjab University (PU) has said that e-rickshaw service will be provided for free to disabled students on the campus.

The service was earlier given for free to only poor disabled students. Now it has been madefree for all.

The e-rickshaw service was started on the PU campus in May 2016 at a fixed rate of Rs 10 per trip.

The Punjab University Campus Students’ Council (PUCSC) had asked that the service be made free for physically disabled as well as blind students. This was approved, but only for poor students with over 40% disability.

However since no one came forward, a fresh order has been issued making it free for all physically disabled students.

The Chief Medical Officer of the PU health centre will certify the disability of the students and issue cards or certificates for the facility. Students who want the concession will have to apply to the office of the Dean Student Welfare (DSW)through the chairperson of their respective department.

The cost for providing students with the facility will be calculated on the basis of the number of applications received. This will then be reimbursed to the firm operating the e-rickshaws.

Authorities have also started building ramps at the students’ centre.

# 5. This self-driven wheelchair will move towards the direction you turn your eyes to!

A group of researchers from the Imperial College in London has created something unique for people with paralysis.

This wheelchair will help in mobility by justlooking at the direction that a paralyzed person wants to go! This self-driving wheelchair will benefit thousands of people.

Researchers are trying to make it low-cost so that the wheelchair can benefit people across the world. The team has already won 50,000 dollars for their remarkable invention so that they can work more on the project.

The researchers say that the wheelchair will help paralyzed people move around in their homes and outside. All the person has to do is move their eyes in the direction they want to go to.

The wheelchair uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensor so that users can operate it with their eyes. Researchers say that this self-driving wheelchair will make paralyzed people independent as well.

# 6. Meet Daniel Cluff, a driving teacher for people with disabilities

So if you think that driving is only for abled people, you need to meet Daniel Cluff, an occupational therapist from England

Daniel, who has a disability, started a driving school to help disabled people who want to try their hand at driving. Recently, he ventured into the profession of becoming anoccupational therapist. He has been helping people who meet with accidents resume a regular life.

Daniel has been making the lives of many disabled people better. He has a specially adapted automatic Ford Fiesta that he uses to teach people with disabilities.

Daniel says that he can cater to the requirements of people with all kinds of disabilities.

Daniel’s Disability Driving School is an inclusive one. He teaches people with and without disabilities. He can make anyone an expert driver!

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**8. Goa State Central Library to become accessible to people with vision & hearing disabilities**

The Goa State Central Library has over 2.5 lakh books, which is an extensive collection.

However access to the library has been difficult for people with disabilities. Now, in a move to make it inclusive, the library will offer facilities to people with vision and hearing disabilities by way of establishing aresource center.

Library authorities are looking at ways to improve the library’s services for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The resource center will enable disabled people to enter in wheelchairs, use audio books, and also have assistive devices to help them in reading and sharing information.

The Supreme Court had recently passed an order directing the central government and state governments to make public spaces accessible and inclusive to people with disabilities.

The Goa State Central Library recently received a grant of Rs 20 lakh under theNational Mission on Libraries initiated by the Ministry of Culture for the establishment of a resource center.

People with disabilities will be able to use audio books, screen readers, computers with talk-back feature, tectonic maps, Braille books, and different types of lenses.

# 9. 5 fun activities for kids with special needs this summer in Gurugram

In our series on summer activities for kids with special needs, we bring you a list from Gurugram.

If you are not traveling this summer and are looking for ways to keep your kids creatively occupied, there is plenty to look at in Gurugram.

**2018 Summer Camp** – This is a camp where children will be taught art, dance, pottery, yoga, social and vocational skills. The classes are open to children with all disabilities. Venue is not wheelchair accessible.

* Camp dates - 14 May to 22 June.
* Age group - 2 to 15 years
* Timings - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, 5 days a week.
* Cost per head – Rs 250 per week. Lunch and transport provided at extra cost.
* Location - Sector 43, Golf Course Road, Behind Dell Building,
* CONTACT - 8447241298

**Dance Movement Therapy** - Dance, music, and theater classes that use movement to improve the emotional, cognitive, physical and social integration of the individual. Classes for children and adults with autism and mental disorderslike schizophrenia. Center is not wheelchair accessible.

* Dates - 14 April to 28 April
* Age group - 5 years and above
* Timings - 3 pm to 4.30 pm. Every Saturday
* Cost per head – Rs 1,250 per class
* Location - B-2/14, DLF Phase-1, Gurugram
* CONTACT - 99900-33800/ +91 99990-40005

**My Dance and Fitness Center** - Dance classes for children with all disabilitiesavailable here. All children are first put through an assessment based on which classes are recommended. Center is not wheelchair accessible.

* Dates - All through April, May and June
* Age group - 5 years and above
* Timings - Classes start at 1 pm. Different sessions available.
* Cost per head - Rs 2,500 for 8 classes
* Location - M 22 South City 1, Gurugram
* CONTACT - 098714 97596

**UDAAN Center** – Painting, sketching and drawing classes held one on one for children with learning disabilities only. Center is not wheelchair accessible.

* Dates - April, May and June
* Age group - 3 to 6 years and 6 to 14 years
* Timings - Classes 2 days a week. Timings to be worked out as per mutual convenience
* Cost per head - Rs 600 per class
* Location - Sector 46, Near Amity International School
* CONTACT - 07838990791

**Aagaman Camp** - India's first learning, cultural and adventure camp for kids with special needs. This camp is open to children with all disabilities. They will get to learn art, the salsa, and do fun stuff like mud baths and pool dances. Wheelchair accessibility details are still not available.

* Dates - 31 May to 3 June
* Age group - 5 years and above
* Timings - Children will stay at the camp
* Cost per head - Rs 8,000
* Location - Nature Valley Resort, IMT Manesar, Gurugram
* CONTACT - 9873929367, 99995951

# 10. Mobile apps that make life easier for vision impaired people

Until some years ago people who are blind or have low vision were dependent on others to read anything. Today apps are enabling visually impaired people to overcome several difficulties.

Below is a list of apps that are making lives easier.

* **LookTel Money Reader** - This app recognizes a currency bill and speaks out the denomination. This helps blind and visually impaired people to identify and count rupee notes quickly without difficulty. All the user has to do is point the camera of their smartphone at the note and the app tells the value of the rupee note immediately. At present, the app supports 21 currencies, including the Indian Rupee. This app is useful while shopping to ensure that you’re getting the right amount of change. The app also displays the number in large numbers on the screen making it ideal for those with limited vision.
* **Kindle** - This free Kindle app allows users to purchase and download a vast collection of eBooks in a number of genres. The books can be bought from Amazon and downloaded on the smartphone. Accessibility features on the Kindle app include large prints, human narrators, computer-generated text, speech conversion and more.
* **TapTapSee** - is available for both Android and iOS. This helps blind people recognize and identify everyday objects. To identify an object, double tap the screen to take a picture of it and the app will speak the name of the object out loud. One of the best features is that the object can be held at any angle and the app will recognize it. You can also point a product barcode in the app and TapTapSee will tell you the product name, brand, expiry date and much more.
* **Be My Eyes** - This is also available for both Android and iOS, It lets people without visual disabilities help blind and visually impaired people in real time with the help of a live video connection. It works very easily. A blind or low vision person places a request for assistance on the app. The app then connects to a volunteer via a video call, who provides support.
* **AccessNote** - Available for both Android and iOS. The AccessNote is a note taker app to help blind and visually impaired people take notes with the help of easy-to-use VoiceOver and TalkBack features. Evernote is another popular app for note-taking that helps you share notes on multiple devices.
* **Dragon Dictation** - This app lets the user dictate messages to his or her cell and see it on the screen instantly. It also enables the user to add punctuation marks by specifying it out loud. The messages can then be shared with others via text, email, and also on social media.

# 11. This elderly doctor with low vision is helping blind people experience the joys of travel

66-year-old Cai Meiqi, a retired doctor in Chongqing in China, is helping people who are blind and have low vision to experience the joys of travel. Dr Cai does this by volunteering as a travel guide.

Dr Cai was bornpartially blindand has very weak vision in her left eye. She has led tours around China and to nearby countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Japan in the 10 years.

Thanks to her, many vision impaired people are getting to experience certain joys for the first time in their lives, like flying on a plane, walking on beaches, and standing on top of mountains.

Dr Cai decided to do this after meeting several visually impaired people during a massage training program. She gained their trust and they asked her to help them explore the outside world.

Dr Cai has also set up a volunteer team with her visually impaired friends calledLight of Love. During their trips they often provide free massage services and mini concerts.

For her team, travel is a chance to gain confidence, courage and dignity.

# 12. Socks in Braille to help make sure blind people wear the matching colours

Innocean Worldwide, a company in Korea, has developed Braille socks to help people who are visually impaired.

The socks are designed with Braille to help wearers match the right colors. The launch comes ahead of Disabled Persons Day in Korea on 20 April.

The company has started a 7 days Braille Socks Campaign, to take away the difficulties visually impaired people face on a daily basis.

The socks have been produced with a local fashion socks brand called I Hate Monday.

10% of the revenue from selling the Braille socks will be donated to the School for the Blind in Seoul for scholarships.

Before launching the campaign, we found out that the blind and visually impaired struggle the most when selecting socks daily - Innocean Worldwide

The campaign also features a short video with interviews of visually impaired people who share their difficulties choosing socks and the embarrassing moments they had experienced due to mismatched socks.

# 13. Early Intervention Centre set up in Karnataka government school to help identify kids with special needs

Children with disabilities benefit from early intervention. Establishing intervention centres in schools and in the community can go a long way in ensuring that such children get the attention they need soon.

In a critical step in this direction CBM India, which works to promote community-based disability inclusive development, across India has started an Early Intervention Centre (EIC) in a government school in Mugalur.

CBM India supports the establishment of early intervention and community-based resource centres in schools. This is to identify children with disabilities at the earliest stage and offer developmental and rehabilitative services.

It is rare for a child with a disability to have access to quality education in a mainstream school system, given the lack of accessible infrastructures and awareness among school staff.

To enable this, CBM India has come up with various methods to make it possible for children with disabilities to attend schools along with children without disabilities.

The EIC at Mugalur village, in the outskirts of Bengaluru, is a step in this direction. The centre has been set up in partnership with St. John’s Medial College in Bengaluru.

The Mugalur EIC is equipped with toys that help in the overall development of children with multiple disabilities. The children here will also be occupational, physiotherapy, speech, and mirror therapies to improve motor, self-help, and language skills.

The centre will also hold sensitization workshops for teachers to make them aware about issues related to disabilities. This is to enable them to effectively address the needs of children with and without disabilities in the same classroom.

# 14. This Smart Baby Buggy tells blind parents of dangers that lie ahead

Ramona Williams, a 34-year-old visually-impaired woman from the United Kingdom, has designed a buggy for parents, who have sight problems,

Called Smart Baby Buggy, this will make them aware of the obstacles in their path using technology employed in self-driving cars.

Williams has a series of eye conditions including congenital toxoplasmosis, which has affected her vision since birth. She says she would not feel comfortable using a pram or a pushchair as she would have to hold her cane folded up under her hands on top of the handle bar.

Williams wants to have kids but she knows there are many challenges, including travel. She decided to design a Smart Baby Buggy that parents with sight loss would be able to use.

She approached a team of second year biomedical engineering students to bring her idea to reality. The buggy has sensors on the front and a bracket at the foot of the buggy for holding the user’s smartphone. Through the smartphone, it finds out about the ground ahead of the buggy.

By installing an app designed by the team, the smartphone can recognize various landmarks such as Braille bumps, corners, and drop-offs, via its camera. The app then sends signals to vibration motors in the handlebar.

The designers have created a touch-based language for communicating to the user when they are approaching dangers.

The buggy also has a bracket for holding the user’s cane, and a bright yellow Visually Impaired Parent sign on its front to inform others.

The buggy will be showcased to the public on 28 and 20 April in the UK.

# 15. Cities must not isolate those with disabilities

One of the primary missions of the [Smart City](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Smart-City) project in Pune is to make the roads safer — for all road users including pedestrians, non-motorized transport, public transport and private vehicles. However, the needs of people with disabilities are rarely ever considered.

According to the 2011 census, [Maharashtra](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/maharashtra) is among the states with a high number of disabled people — 11.05% of the total population of India and almost 35% of them are working.  
  
World over too, the numbers are grim. The [United Nations](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/United-Nations) has released estimates saying that by 2050, a whopping 66% of the world’s population will be living in cities. About 15% of this number will be people suffering from disabilities that will limit their access to urban infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, community centers and even something as basic as a cash machine. Here’s another fact: According to the [UN](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/United-Nations), for an estimated one billion persons with disabilities across the world, ill-planned urban centres that lack accessibility often force them into corners — they are unable to take the trains; walk the footpaths; hail cabs or bus- for es; use public toilets. which It’s no wonder then were that those using wheelchairs or walking sticks are today faced with increasing loneliness. India has a space programme, but doesn’t have disabled-friendly footpaths.

Is it not the duty of the government then to improve accessibility for people with disabilities? Mind you, we are not talking about reconstructing entire structures, but the introduction of a few things can make their life easier. Several cities around the world are urging both public and private establishments to improve disabled access. In London, for example, almost every tourist centre has a flat surface. All of the city’s 8,000 buses can “kneel” for disabled passengers; the cabs have technologies to accommodate wheelchairs; and even some of the piers that passengers can use for river-based transport services , have step-free access from pier to boat.

In order to improve the quality of life, it is necessary to improve access to urban public transportation and footpaths both in developed cities as well as in developing cities. A good city is one that accommodates aspirations. It cannot stop a student in a wheelchair from reaching a school.

**16. National Commission introduces Braille books with safety measures for children**

The recent incidents of sexual assaults on children has highlighted how vulnerable children in India continue to be, despite tougher laws being put in place.

There is a great need to build awareness among children of all age groups. Keeping this in mind, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has prepared a book in Braille for blind children to be better informed about the Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).

The NCPCR has sent 60 copies of the book to various institutions for the blind across India. The handbook will give blind children detailed insight into how to stay safe in various situations.

The handbook will also be sent to the various offices of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) across different states in India.

**Yashwant Jain, of NCPCR,** , says that there are many instances of sexual assault against blind children. They go unreported as they don't get support.

# 17. Sahyogi - Caregiver Training Scheme to create workforce to look after people with disabilities

India has a vast population of people with disabilities who need care and support. The role of caregiver is a critical one, that is going to be in great demand.

The Sahyogi programme under the National Trust is working to build a workforce of caregivers for people with disabilities and their families. For those interested in being a part of this workforce, here are the key details.

**About Sahyogi**

* Provide training and build a skilled workforce of caregivers to provide care for disabled people and their families.
* Also seeks to train parents in caregiving if they so desire.
* Choice of training through two levels of courses - primary and advanced
* Primary training - Three-month course in basic care associate skills in areas like autism, cerebral palsy, family needs, health, nutrition, to name a few. Will also be trained in first aid care. Course has been designed by the Rehabilitation Council Of India (RCI). There is a paid internship.
* Secondary - Six-month course in advanced care associate skills. Will cover language and communication (including sign language), social interactions, socio-emotional management, learning and understanding, among others.

**Eligibility for Care Associate Trainee**

* Must be between 18 to 45 years of age
* No minimum qualification for parents
* Primary - Eighth class pass or equivalent are eligible to apply. Parents or guardians may also apply for this course but only up to theory period. Internship is optional for parents or guardians.
* Secondary - Class 10 pass or class 8 pass students who have completed primary care associate training successfully are eligible for this course. Parents or guardians of persons with disabilities may also apply for this course but only for theory. Internship is not mandatory for them.

**How to Enrol**

* Applicant comes to the specified centre with the required proof by deadline specified in notice regarding the training
* Come with the required documents while enrolment

**Documents for enrolment**

* Educational qualification proofs to meet the requirements of concerned training.
* Identity proof of the applicant
* Disability certificate and identity proof of the child in case of parents

# 18. Merit-based admissions to disabled students at Sathyabama University. Find out more!

Ability Foundation and Sathyabama University in Chennai are offering merit-based admission to 50 studentswith disabilities for the year 2018.

Application forms are now available for B.E, B.Tech, B.Com, BBA, B.Sc., BA and MBA programmes.

There is a full scholarship being offered as well. This will cover cost of tuition as well as hostel fees.

The study environment is such that it is accessible to students with varying types of disabilities. The hostel facilities are accessible as well.

For details and application, log on to - www.abilityfoundation.org

The completed forms must be submitted by 6 June 2018.

For more details, call 99623-86773 or email varsity@abilityfoundation.org

# 19. Disabled girls & elderly walk the ramp at a fashion show in Ahmedabad

The Government Polytechnic for Girls in Ahmedabad held a fashion show in which 12 physically challenged girls and senior citizens walked the ramp.

The show was called Samanvay, Fashion for Inclusive Society. It was an initiative by the Computer-Aided Costume Designing and Dress Making department in the college to change the notions of restricting fashion shows to abled bodied and skinny models.

The costumes were designed by students of the college specifically for girls with physical disabilities. The show was held for the first time last year. The first show was only for college members. This year, it was thrown open to people from the fashion industry.

The garments were created from low cost materials so they were affordable to all. There were many challenges in holding the show as parents of the disabled girls had to be convinced.

# 20. Chip implants may help restore vision in future

Daniel Palanker, a professor of ophthalmology in the United States, has created a system that can help restore vision lost due to age-related macular degeneration.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common cause of vision loss and blindness among people over 65 years.

It occurs when light-sensitive cells in the retina stop working properly.

The loss of vision can be corrected by s new system that replaces light-sensitive cells in the retina with chips.

The device is a combination of image-processing glasses and tiny silicon chips implanted in the retina.

The device is still being developed with the help of Stanford University researchers. The designers are working on getting a higher resolution from it.

At present the device allows for a 20/200 vision, which is not enough to read clearly or drive safely.

Researchers working on the device are hoping to use it as an effective means of curing blindness.

# 21. Jharkhand's oldest school for mentally disabled students to get free monthly counselling

Students from the School of Hope in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, will now get a free monthly consultation from a psychiatrist.

The free service will be provided by an expert from the MGM Medical College and Hospital.

The School of Hope is Jharkhand's oldest centre for children with special needs.

A free medical camp was held this month by a team of paediatricians from the hospital. The success of the camp led school authorities to request for free psychiatric help for its children.

Now a free psychiatric counselling session will be held every month in the school.

Experts have said that the counselling will have a positive effect on the children and help them develop well.

Children with learning disabilities, obsessive compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and cardiac problems at the school need psychiatric counselling.

# 22. Scientists in Iran develop a wheelchair that can help disabled people stand up

Researchers at the Islamic Azad University of Pardis in Iran have designed a wheelchair that can change the position of a disabled person from sitting to standing position.

This wheelchair will help improve thequality of life and enable disabled people to carry out their daily activitiesindependently. While in the standing position, their hands will be free. This will enable them to do a lot of activities on their own.

The multi-purpose wheelchair allows the user to sit, stand, and lie down.

The wheelchair will also help improve the health of disabled people as it will make the digestive and respiratory systems work better.

The wheelchair is run by two manual control systems and linear electric motors. It also has three jacks through which, by pushing a button, the linear motor switches from sitting to the standing position.

The person sitting on the wheelchair could be in standing position in less than 30 seconds. The wheelchair also ensures the security of the seated person with the aid of safety belts.

The wheelchair is capable of moving only in the standing position.

# 23. Disability rights activists say website of Nagaland Public Service Commission is not accessible

The Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC) website has been slammed for not adhering to theWeb Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

Disability rights activist, Diethono Nakhro, has said that the NPSC website is completely inaccessible to disabled people.

In a letter to the NPSC secretary, Nakhro said that while the NPSC has made efforts to improve service delivery in the state, it has bypassed people with disabilities.

Under the Sugamya Bharat initiative, 50% of government websites have to be made accessible by 2019.

In her letter, Nakhro has asked that the documents that are going to be published online must also be made accessible.

# 24. LG Electronics to provide free eye surgeries in India

World electronic appliances giant LG Electronics Inc. is all set to provide free eye surgeries to 1,000 Indians by the end of this year!

This is as part of their commitment to make a social contribution to countries in south Asia. LG provided 300 free eye surgeries in India last year in collaboration with Sankara Eye Hospital.

This will be a blessing to many blind and visually impaired people who cannot afford surgery.

According to LG, there are over 8.8 million blind people in India. This accounts for 20% of the world's blind population.

LG plans to start more projects in India to support people with disabilities. They have joined hands with the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to hold a Global IT Challenge for disabled youngsters. They aim to provide education and employment opportunities to disabled teenagers.

LG, which is a South Korean tech giant, first stepped into business in India 20 years back. Today, they are one of the biggest electronic giants in the Indian market.

**25. Para-athlete rues apathy at ITO passport office in Delhi**

NEW DELHI: Disability rights activist [Suvarna Raj](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Suvarna-Raj), who has made news on numerous occasions for receiving[in sensitive treatment](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/insensitive-treatment) of the sort that people of her ilk face daily in the country, had yet another discouraging experience on Wednesday. The international para-athlete visited the [Passport Seva Kendra at ITO](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Passport-Seva-Kendra-at-ITO), where she had to put up with the indignity of a passport office employee trying to help her by [lifting](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/lifting) her [wheelchair](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/wheelchair) up the stairs in the [absence](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/absence) of a [ramp](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/ramp) or a functioning stairlift.  
Raj waited for two hours outside the government office, where she had gone to get her son registered for a passport. Her husband went in and apparently asked for assistance in getting Raj into the building. The para-athlete alleged, “The officials told him they couldn’t provide any help and that he should himself aid me in going into the office.” Her husband, Pradeep Raj, too is physically disabled.  
  
It was only after this reporter went and spoke to the security officials that a person was sent to help Raj. On why just a single person was sent to assist Raj, a security official explained, “Other helpers were busy with other duties in the building.”

The wheelchair-bound sportsperson was aghast. “How can a government office like the Passport Seva Kendra not have facilities for the disabled?” she asked. The building’s narrow staircase does not have an inclined ramp for those who use wheelchairs to move, and while there is a stairlift for the use of such people, it has been collecting dust for months.

When criticised about the lack of facilities for the disabled at the passport office, a senior officer, who requested anonymity, claimed, “The stair lift had been in this condition for over five months. It was repaired recently but is not working now because its battery has died down and we don’t have anyone with the technical expertise to operate the machine.”

While the official agreed that people with limited mobility faced problems entering the building, he said, “We always send our people to aid them.” The lone employee sent to assist Raj had to request passers-by for help to lift her up the stairs. The official claimed the passport office was working to improve its infrastructure, and in the interim, many disabled persons “cooperate with us on seeing the crunch in our facilities”.

Pradeep Raj had his own complaints. “I was made to run from one counter to another. While they claim that there are VIP tokens for the disabled, no one came to help me,” he said.

**26. Disabled cricket - Haryana beats Uttar Pradesh in National Challenge Cup T-20 Cricket Tournament**

Haryana defeated Uttar Pradesh in the finals of the second National Challenge Cup T-20 Cricket Tournament. The event was organized by the Board of Disabled Cricket Association (BDCA).

Actor Pawan Kalyan kept his promise and sent a Rs one lakh cheque to the captains of all the 24 state teams’ that took part.

The disabled cricketers were in an upbeat mood after Pawan Kalyan said he would pool in Rs one crore as corpus fund for the BDCA.

Another Telangana MP, Balka Suman, also announced a contribution of Rs two lakh to the BDCA. The Indian cricket control board said that some of the matches held by BDCA could be organized with the support of the Andhra Cricket Association.

# 27. Elderly scientist with disabled son petitions Supreme Court to delink biometric ID from Aadhaar for senior citizens

81-year-old P.V. Manoranjan Rao is a worried man. For 54 years, his son Chandrasekhar has not been able to move from his bed.

This is because Chandrasekhar was born with a97% physical and mental disability. He cannot communicate with anyone and his parents have taken care of him all his life.

Mr Rao says his son is likely to live longer than him and wants to make arrangements so Chandrasekhar is provided for after he and his wife pass away.

However, all his attempts to make some arrangement have failed.

In 2017, Mr Rao tried to add his son's name to one of his bank accounts, so that Chandrasekhar could be looked after without Rao and his wife Anjali's active involvement.

But Mr Rao's fingerprints could not be read by the bank's biometric machine. As a result, he could not link his account to Aadhaar and add his son's name.

He tried to get an Aadhaar card for his son, but officials were unable to record Chandrasekhar's fingerprints and iris scan. Chandrasekhar's application for Aadhaar is still under process.

Biometric authentication is important for the Aadhaar card. Yet, most biometrics, especially fingerprints, degrade with age. This makes it hard for machines to recognize and match the prints of the elderly.

For senior citizens like Mr Rao, this means he and his disabled son could soon be locked out of their bank accounts.

Mr Rao has now petitioned the Supreme Court to allow Indians over 75 years of age to access Aadhaar services without biometric authentication. He has asked that senior citizens only produce a self-certified copy of their Aadhaar card to access services.

# 28. Delhi High Court stays admission of disabled students to Ph.D, M.Phil courses at Jawaharlal Nehru University

Under the law, a5% quota is given to people with disabilities in all educational institutions in India.

The Delhi High Court has decided to stay the admission for M.Phil and Ph.D courses for disabled students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

The bench decided this while hearing a petition from the National Federation of the Blind. The federation said that the JNU is giving 100% weightage is given to the viva voice examination for blind students, which is unfair.

Classes for the next academic year will start by July and the application process has begun. The JNU is not allowed to provide admission to students with disabilities in the 5% quota until further notice from the court.

The court has asked for a response from the JNU and the central government regarding this issue.

# 29. Dengue can cause blindness in patients

Doctors in Mumbai have identified that certain cases of dengue can lead to complete blindness.

The condition called dengue retinopathywill leave the patient blind and the condition can last for a lifetime. It is a result of the body’s aggressive attempt to remove the virus from the body.

Eye specialists say there are many cases of dengue retinopathy are reported every year. Dengue is a viral fever that is carried by mosquitoes.

Once a person has recovered from dengue, its aftermath can affect some parts of the body. Sometimes it can affect the eyes and that is how dengue retinopathy happens. It causes inflammation of the retina and blood vessels, or bleeding in the retina. Eventually it can lead to loss of vision.

However it can be cured with a surgery in many cases.

Mumbai is one of the cities that is worst affected by dengue. Last year, 13,000 cases of dengue were reported in the city. Seventeen people died because of dengue.

**30. Provide pedestrian facilities for disabled in urban areas, Centre tells road agencies**

NEW DELHI: The Centre has directed all national highway owning and maintenance agencies to ensure [pedestrian facilities](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/pedestrian-facilities) for the disabled on stretches falling in urban areas.

The [National Human Rights Commission](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/National-Human-Rights-Commission) ([NHRC](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/national-human-rights-commission-of-india)) recently sought a report from the road transport and highways ministry about the missing facilities. The ministry has asked the agencies to strictly follow the [Indian Roads Congress](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Indian-Roads-Congress) guidelines so that it can submit an "urgent" report to the human rights body

The IRC code specifies how footpath and other necessary features should be part of the highway plan when these pass through cities and other urban areas. "But all these years, the authorities have neglected these mandatory aspects only to cut cost. There cannot be any logic why an NH passing through densely populated areas should not provide the facilities for safe passage of pedestrians," said an highway ministry engineer, who did not wish to be named.

**31. No relief for learning disabled student from Bombay High Court**

Mumbai student Naman Varma has successfully completed all the semesters of a master’s degree in industrial design at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).

However, Naman will not get the degree.

The Bombay High Court has refused to give directions to IIT-B to issue her the formal degree. They say that she was not qualified to be admitted to the course.

Varma had applied for two-part entrance test for the master’s course through general category, even though she has a learning disability called dyscalculia.

Varma sought to take benefit of the reservation given to disabled persons only after realized that she had failed to secure qualifying marks in the Part-A entrance examination.

Varma secured 50% marks in the Part-A entrance examination. The rules require general category candidates to secure a minimum 64%.

After noting that qualifying marks for Part-B examination were 32% for the physically handicapped category, she sought admission through that category on the ground that she had a a learning disability.

Varma approached the court after IIT-B refused to consider her plea through this category. The court directed the institute to consider her plea and she got admission to the master’s programme.

All that remains is the formal issuance of the degree, which IIT-B has refused to do.

The judges said that although she has successfully completed the course, they cannot order grant of degree to her. Only the Supreme Court can issue such a directive by exercising its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India.

# 32. National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences to open in Maharashtra soon

The Maharashtra government is all set to start asatellite centreof the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in the state. The**Minister for Health in Maharashtra, Deepak Sawant**, who has confirmed the news.

NIMHANS in Bengaluru is one of the pioneer institutions for mental health and neurosciences across India. In 2012, NIMHANS was named as an Institute of National Importance.

Sawant said that NIMHANS Bengaluru has offered all the help to start off the satellite centre in Maharashtra. They will assist the Maharashtra government in setting it up.

The government has not finalized on the location for the centre. The chances are that it will eb based in Ratnagiri, Pune, Nagpur, or Thane.

Officials believe that the new centre will benefit patients from nearby states like Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

# 33. Corporates in Odisha must hire more disabled people, say disability groups in the state

Disability organizations from Odisha have asked companies based in the state to hire more disabled people into their workforce.

The talents of disabled people go unnoticed because they do not have an opportunity to showcase them. The government is also putting efforts from their side for the welfare of people with disabilities in the state of Odisha.

**Nitin Chandra, Secretary, Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD)**, said that the skills of disabled people must be tapped at the earliest. According to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016, Act, 5% quota is provided for disabled people in corporate companies. But many are still hesitant to hire disabled people.

Five companies were felicitated for hiring disabled people as part of their workforce. GINGER Hotels, Reliance Industries (Retail) Ltd, KARVY Data Management Services Pvt Ltd, Future Group (Big Bazaar) and Computer LAB Pvt Ltd. have hired disabled people and provided them with diversified roles in their organizations.

# 34. Delhi High Court tells state government to make pavements in Delhi University accessible in 4 weeks

The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi state government, police, and municipal corporation of north Delhi to take immediate action to make pavements in Delhi University’s North Campus disabled friendly within four weeks.

The high court noted that the pavements in the North Campus were inaccessible to people with disabilities.

This is especially in the case of people with vision impairments given the obstacles such as traffic lights, police posts, trees, and shops in the middle of footpaths.

The court said this after examining photographs and a report filed by the NGO, Nipman Foundation, that works to improve health and education facilities for people with disabilities.

The NGO had inspected 40 sites at the campus on the orders of the court to find out whether pavements were accessible to the disabled, especially the visually impaired.

The court said that many obstructions were in the middle of the tactile paths meant for blind people. It also noted that hand rails were put up randomly.

In its order, the bench directed the Delhi government’s Public Works Department (PWD), the municipal corporation, and the police to interact with the Chief Architect (Roads) of the New Delhi Municipal Council.

They have to come up with a plan to make sure the streets and pavements of North Campus were made disabled-friendly within four weeks.

The NGO, Nipman Foundation, has been asked to check the sites again after four weeks.

# 35. Delhi High Court asks Reserve Bank to consider recommendations for disabled friendly notes

An NGO and senior advocate have given a list of recommendations to the Delhi High Court asking to provide special features on bank notes that can benefit the blind. The recommendation was made by Senior Advocate SK Rungta who is blind from birth along with George Abraham, CEO of‘Score Foundation’, an NGO that works for the blind.

Rungta along with George has put forward a few recommendations to the High Court.

* A distinguished feature must be provided in every note for the blind to identify.
* If a bank note or coin is withdrawn from circulation, a substitute must be provided exclusively for the blind.
* The colour of different denomination notes must be different, and the coins for different denominations must also be made differently.
* If the government is issuing plastic currency and notes, they must ensure that the distinguishing features are added to it.

The The Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar has asked the central board of the Reserve Bank of India to consider these recommendations. The matter will be next heard by the Delhi High Court on July 31.

**36. Disability not a hurdle for this officer passing out from National Academy of Direct Taxes**

NAGPUR: As [Katta Simhachalam](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Katta-Simhachalam) walked slowly on the stage to collect his certificate, his visual impairment was not obvious to all. It became apparent when an officer got up from the dais to lead him towards Union finance secretary [Hasmukh Adhia](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Hasmukh-Adhia), chief guest on the occasion.  
From the 70th batch passing out from [National Academy of Direct Taxes](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/National-Academy-of-Direct-Taxes) ([NADT](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/NADT)) here, he is perhaps the first visually challenged officer joining income tax department through Indian Revenue Services (IRS) cadre. The officers join the department as assistant commissioners (income tax).

Simhachalam, who hails from East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, prefers not to speak much about himself, saying unnecessary sympathy can only leave people feeling demeaned about themselves.

“I am only a BA, and come from an economically backward but emotionally rich family that has always supported me. Instead of myself, I would rather say how one can overcome any kind of disability,” he said.

“Any person needs three factors to deal with a disability. First is the human factor, which means support from the family and friends, followed by use of technology like scanners, listening devices, and so on. These can make work easier. The last is attitude. There has to be a positive attitude towards such persons from others. The disabled person himself needs to be optimistic,” he said.

Simhachalam said government circulars call for providing aid to a disabled person. He said he may need a personal assistant during his service in the department. The need of a personal assistant increases as responsibility increases as an officer, he said.

# 37. Punjab University launches equal opportunity cell for disabled students

An equal opportunity cell has finally been launched by the Punjab University - PU for students with disabilities.

The disabled students of PU went through a lot of struggle over last two years to convince the PU administration regarding the EOC-PwD.

Universities such as Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University already have the EOC-PwD that work towards the welfare of university students that have disabilities.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines stating that all universities and colleges should form an equal opportunity cell for SC, ST, OBC and PWD students.

PU already has a SC/ST Cell but the disabled students had to wait for a EOC to be set up for them.

The next step will be to form a three-member core committee, including the EOC-PwD coordinator, and a six-member student executive body.

The Punjab University has also decided to launch a free e-rickshaws for disabled students on the campus.

# 38. Entrepreneur Smriti Nagpal recognized for encouraging deaf artists in India

Smriti Nagpal, a 25-year-old entrepreneur, is in the list of the100 inspirational women for 2015 by the TV channel, BBC.

Nagpal is the youngest Indian woman to be featured on the list.

She is the brain behind Atulyakala, a social enterprise that provides business opportunities for deaf artists.

Deaf artists are able to sell their products through Atulyakala. This helps them become independent and motivates them to continue with their work.

Nagpal has two siblings, a brother and a sister, who are both deaf. So, she was introduced to sign language at a young age.

Nagpal used to help her siblings communicate with others by acting as their sign language interpreter.

She also became a part of the morning bulletin for deaf people on Doordarshanwhile in college.

Through Atulyakala, Smriti has touched the lives of deaf artists and provided them much needed exposure.

Atulyakala works in three main areas.

• Deaf artists can sell products such as mugs and bags.

• Clients can also place special requests for design projects.

• Spreading design projects about sign language through workshops, videos, and other resources.

# 39. Map4all all helps disabled people navigate buildings in different cities of the world

Spanish businessman Josep Esteba was so fed up of trying to get around his country in a wheelchair that he made it a mission to map cities for disabled people all over the world.

The result is Map4all, a free mobile application. The Barcelona-based app allows wheelchair users, as well as the blind, hearing-impaired and others, to find out how accessible a building is before they visit it.

Users can check whether a cinema or museum has ramps or lifts, or if a restaurant has menus in Braille.

Establishments can register to add information themselves. The app also draws on data that is self-reported by users.

Map4all has been downloaded in nearly 3,000 cities and works across nine languages.

Like Mapp4all, there are other apps that have come up to help disabled people navigate cities.

Some of these are BlindSquare and Wayfindr, which also offer audio instructions to help blind people get around cities globally. The Wheely NYC app helps New York residents to use the subway by providing targeted information, like whether lifts are working.

# 40. This blind judoka from Bhopal is ready to stun the world with her throws

21-year-old Poonam Sharma is raring to show her best throws when she represents India at the Judo World Cup to be held in Antalya, Turkey.

Poonam will contest in the52-kg weight category at the tournament. The event is from 21 to 26 April.

Poonam, who is in Turkey, is determined to make a name for herself and for India.

Poonam has fought hard and long to get to this point. The changing point came after she met judo coach Bittu Sharma Bhatele, who runs an academy for blind judokas in Bhopal.

Bhatele's judo academy for the blind is the first of its kind in Bhopal.

For Poonam, the challenges were many. Her father had a paralysis attack two years ago. This was a financial and emotional setback for the family. Seeing Poonam's commitment, her brother also took up judo lessons.

Even though he did not win a medal, Poonam went on to win a silver at the national event. Her coach then decided to teach Poonam and her brother for free.

Now this young woman is waiting to seize the opportunity to show her talent to the world.

# 41. Meghalaya's architects & engineers get critical training in conducting accessibility audits

CBM India, an NGO that works to promote community-based disability inclusive development across India, recently held a programme to build the capacities of architects and civil engineers in Meghalaya in conducting accessibility audits.

This came soon after CBM held an Accessibility Audit for 24 government buildings in Shillong.

In 2015, the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** launched a nationwide Accessible India campaign.

The campaign, which is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, aims at creating barrier free societies for disabled people across India. Key to this is making government infrastructure accessible to people with disabilities.

While doing the Accessibility Audit for Shillong, CBM also identified and collaborated with the local Architect and Civil Engineering College. It organized trainings on universal design, accessibility standards, and access audits for members of disability rights groups, students, government architects and engineers.

Some of the trainees also conducted accessibility audits along with CBM for some hands-on learning experience. Based on the findings of this audit, the central government has allocated funds for renovating 24 buildings to make them accessible for disabled people.

In Meghalaya, CBM trained 45 architects and civil engineers to conduct accessibility assessments.

The trained officials will then conduct the accessibility assessments of 51 other government buildings in the state by the middle of 2018.

# 42. Delhi High Court highlights lack of accessibility for blind passengers on Indian railways

The Delhi High Court has raised a question about the need of human assistance to people with disabilities.

The court has asked how a wheelchair provided by the railways will help a visually impaired person. This is because a blind person needs human assistance to catch a train at the railway station.

The court made this observation when the railways submitted a report about providing wheelchairs to disabled people at stations.

The court is hearing a PIL that it initiated based on an incident, when the door of the disabled compartment remained shut and a man missed M.Phil test at Delhi University last year.

The court questioned the railways about the lack of free assistance given to the people who need wheelchair.

The same was the case for blind travelers. The court highlighted the need for free human assistance to be provided to people with disabilities at railway stations.

For disabled people travelling alone, wheelchairs are not very useful if there is no one to help them.

# 43. Blind para glider Divyanshu Ganatra heads a company that leads cross disability groups on adventures

Divyanshu Ganatra, India's first blind para glider heads a company called Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation, which aims to lead cross-disability groups on exciting athletic adventures.

In 2016, Ganatra also became India’s first blind tandem cyclist to travel the 550-kilometre stretch from Manali to Khardung La in Ladakh, which is one of the most scenic spots in India.

41-old Ganatra spends his weekends cross training. He does some form of exercise for one hour every day.

In November 2017, Ganatra took part in a 30-hour race from Pune to Goa. This meant riding a tandem cycle for 640 kilometres. In 2016, he earned a elementarypilot’s license after completing a paragliding course. Later this year he plans to go scuba diving in Bali.

He started Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation, which is a not-for-profit firm, to promote outdoor and adventure sports for people with and without disabilities.

Ganatra was a student when he found out he had glaucoma, and was going blind. By the age of 19 years, he had lost his vision completely. He wanted to study Information Technology, even though everyone told him that it was not possible for a blind person.

Ganatra's friends and family read chapters from textbooks out to him, and for hands-on practice, he turned to friends who were in the line. In 1996, he set up his own computer consulting firm.

He went on to do a master’s degree in clinical psychology and cognitive neuroscience. He later launched a company called Yellow Brick Road, which is a counselling and facilitation firm, with clients like Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, to name a few.

# 44. Madras High Court orders insurance firm to pay extra compensation of Rs 25 lakh to amputee

The Madras High Court has increased the compensation awarded to a bilateral amputee from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 45 lakh, as he has to depend on another person even for day-today tasks such as going to the bathroom.

The amputee, 32-year-old R Nagaraj, was a cleaner for a mini lorry, who was severely injured in a road accident in 2009. The accident involved a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus and a two-wheeler.

The accident took place on the Hosur-Bengaluru highway.

Nagraj's legs were amputated in the surgical procedures during treatment.

Three years later, the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal in Chennai awarded a compensation of Rs 20.9 lakh to Nagraj.

The insurance firm, New India Assurance Company Limited, which was to bear the costs, filed an appeal with the Madras High Court against the tribunal's order.

The court has increased the compensation to Rs 45 lakh on the grounds that Nagraj would not be able to move on his own for the rest of his life.

The court said that the increased amount includes Rs 10 lakh for attendant charges and nursing expenses. Another Rs five lakh is for Nagaraj's wife for loss of material pleasure.

The bench has asked the insurance firm to deposit the entire amount or whatever is pending, along with interest in Nagraj's bank amount within four weeks from the date of receipt of the order copy.

**45. Yashveer Goyal is a rising star in the world of para badminton**

The world of para badminton has a new star to look forward to!

Yashveer Goyal has brought honour to Bathinda district in Punjab by winning silver and bronze medals in the double and individual categories in the 9th Punjab State Deaf Badminton Championship. The event was organized in Chandigarh.

Yashveer, who is not even 19 years old, has been selected for the national badminton championship, which is likely to be held in Maharashtra this year.

This was Yashveer's first attempt in the state championship, and he is off to a brilliant start. He will play in individual and double categories in the national badminton championship.

Yashveer played six matches in the championship and won four matches easily. He lost two matches to players, who were much older than he is.

Yashveer was in the news earlier for being the only boy from Punjab to win the Achievement Award in the Global Information Technology (IT) Championship, held in Vietnam in 2017.

# 46. Nagpur railway station introduces wheelchair lift for disabled travellers

The Nagpur railway station is introducing a wheelchair lift! This new lift will help disabled passengers to arrive in front of their compartment berths.

Wheelchairs in Nagpur stations are often run by coolies. The authorities will teach the coolies on how to use the wheelchair lifts in two different phases.

The wheelchair lift has been introduced as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project of Nagpur railway station. Rs three lakh has been spent on the wheelchair lift. Authorities believe that this new lift will benefit disabled passengers a lot.

The vehicle will be operated with the help of rechargeable batteries. Once charged, it will run up to 25 kms. Any standard wheelchair that is used by the passenger can be lifted with the help of this lifting machine. It will help in rolling the wheelchair in and out of the compartment. It is also made in order to run thoughnarrow passages.

Very less effort is put into running this equipment as it runs with a joystick. Hence, the user needs to put minimal effort in controlling it.

# 47. Mumbai senior citizens come together to volunteer as scribes for disabled students

A group of senior citizens in Mumbai have come up with a wonderful initiative to help students with disabilities.

These retired seniors are giving their services asscribes or writers for disabled students taking exams.

This will be of great help to special needs students who have to run around and go through great stress during exam time, given the shortage of exam writers or scribes.

Among the volunteers is Sudha Gokhale, a retired banker from Thane, outside Mumbai. She regularly offers her services as a writer for blind students.

Another volunteer Suniti Desai is a 79-year-old retired human resources (HR) professional. She decided to volunteer after hearing about the shortage of writers for disabled students.

The efforts made by these senior citizens will help many disabled students during examinations.

Every year students with disabilities struggle to find writers for their exams.

Many of them fail to get a writer at the last moment, which affects their academic performance.

The Maharashtra government had proposed to set up a Writers’ Bank a while back. Little has happened so far on that front.

# 48. BanjoMaps is a voice activated app to help blind people move around independently

Technology is advancing rapidly to make the world inclusive for people with disabilities.

Mobility devices, smartphone apps, and gadgets are helping disabled people move around safely and independently.

A new app has been introduced called Banjo Maps by a start-up in Australia. This can help blind people travel around with ease and locate their destinations.

The voice-activated app is being tested by a blind person, who is also advising the company about changes that can make it work better.

The app uses low-powered Bluetooth radio transmitters installed around a building. These connect with smartphones to help find a path to a particular destination.

The app does not depend on GPS for navigation, like some other apps -Google Maps.

The University of Technology in Sydney is also testing the app. BanjoMaps can help create a smart campus for students with disabilities and make their lives a lot easier.

# 49. Blind students spend a fun day out with players from Kolkata Knight Riders!

It was all about fun and laughter for students from theRamakrishna Mission Blind Boys Academyin Kolkata.

Players from the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) team visited the school and played with the boys. The children could barely contain their excitement during the practice sessions. They cheered and bowled when KKR team members played some remarkable shots.

What was so incredible was that the KKR team played cricket blindfolded! Piyush Chawla, Rinku Singh, Javon Searles, Nitish Rana, and Shubham Gill were some of the players who visited students from the blind school. The children were excited when they batted for their favourite players.

Among the students was Montu Barui, from class 9. He got the chance to bowl to Rana, who is Barui's favourite player after M.S. Dhoni. He was even more excited when he bowled Rana out!

Former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly gave a motivational speech during the event.

# 50. Pauri district in Uttarakhand all set to make voting disabled friendly

Pauri district in Uttarakhand is all set to become disabled friendly for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2019.

**Pauri District Magistrate Sushil Kumar**has instructed all the election officers to make sure that the facilities are accessible for people with disabilities and the elderly.

One thousand disabled people have been identified as eligible for voting in the district.

There are many disabled people who have done commendable work in various constituencies. They will be nominated as ambassadors.

The authorities have also decided that all disabled people above 18 years will be added to the voter's list. Workers at NGO’s and government organizations that work for disabled people have been given instructions on how to transport disabled people to polling booths.

The health department will provide wheelchairs and crutches that are required during this time. Paths and ramps at polling booths will be made accessible.

Phone numbers and other details of disabled voters are being updated. A detailed report will be provided by authorities by June 2018

**51. Disabled people take out rally seeking benefits, facilities**

Madurai: A group of disabled people took out a rally from Teppakulam to Madurai collector office on three-wheelers pressing for fulfillment of various demands on Monday. They submitted a petition to Madurai district administration in the public grievance redressal meeting at the collector office.

According to them, they don't use bus as they can't board them and hence are forced to use three-wheelers. But they find the fuel prices escalating day-by-day and are unable to manage the cost. They sought petrol at subsidised cost.

In their petition, they appealed that if both of the partners were disabled, one of them should at least get a government job for supporting the family and their children should be provided with reservation in education and jobs. They also pleaded that they should be provided special consideration when it comes to free land title to disabled people.

Explaining their plight, the group pointed out that their three-wheelers are not allowed in the vicinity of Meenakshi temple. Besides this, they appealed state government to establish homes for disabled people as some of the women can't get married and sometimes suffer abuse at the hands of their close relatives.

P Karupiah, district secretary of Crawling Differently Abled Association explained the reason behind their rally at Teppakulam. A group of social activists flagged off the rally.

**52. Disaster management lessons for disabled people**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: As the first state to launch training for [disabled people](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/disabled-people) in [disaster risk reduction](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/disaster-risk-reduction) (DRR) management two years ago, Kerala now plays a lead role in strengthening emergency response capabilities of people with disabilities (PwD). Initially, 3,000 disabled people will be trained in [DRR](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/DRR) using Braille, sign language, video and audio format. Later, it will be extended to all people with disabilities (nearly 8 lakh) in the state.  
The national [disaster management](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/disaster-management) authority (NDMA) is expected to prepare the national guideline for PWD in DRR management in six months , taking a cue from the Kerala state disaster management authority’s (KSDMA) handbook on disability and DRR.  
  
“KSDMA had initially launched the DRR training for disabled on May 11, 2016 in the state capital with the first set of Braille brochures. Now, KSDMA is set to train 3,000 disabled people in the state as part of strengthening their emergency response capabilities. The Daisy software application used for training is easy to follow. This all inclusive format developed in eight months with the support of National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) would help all PwD,” KSDMA state project officer Joe John George said.

wo years ago, the then minister for revenue and disaster management Adoor Prakash had indicated the need for training the disabled in DRR. Following that the KSDMA member secretary Sekhar Kuriakose had told KSDMA state project officer to prepare the concept note and based on that a proposal was drafted, which was approved by the state. Then a state-level consultative meet was organized with a resource person from UNDP and working with Handicap International’s Kalika Mohapatra and an expert on disabilities, Chandrasekharan. A follow-up meet was held with experts in June 2016 after which KSDMA released the handbook on disability and DRR.

“We had submitted the handbook to NDMA. Kerala was also the first state to conduct a door-to-door survey to identify the people with disabilities and had identified over 7.93 lakh disabled people with 22 types of disabilities. Of which, we had broadly classified four types of disabilities visually impaired, speech & hearing impaired, physically challenged and intellectually impaired for training them in DRR,” George said.

The disabled are more vulnerable and they are trained in basic disaster management skills such as first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation with a mannequin. Methods for rescue of physically- impaired persons on a wheel-chair in case of an earthquake either with the support of a friend or by themselves are also part of the training.

A four-day long training programme for PwD in Idukki, Kottayam and Thrissur districts were completed on Saturday. Training will be conducted in Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kozhikode districts from April 25 and the programme will be extended to other districts by July-end, said an official.

**53. Mathura’s disabled man gets prosthetic leg from Rajasthan**

AGRA: [Badan Singh](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Badan-Singh), a disabled man who was carried by his wife on her back for getting a[disability certificate](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/disability-certificate) from Mathura CMO, will now be able to walk on his two feet, as a Rajasthan based philanthropic organization has provided him with a prosthetic leg.  
TOI had highlighted the plight of Badan Singh and his wife, Vimla in its columns on April 5. Moved by condition, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayta Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, invited him to their facility and provided him prosthetic leg.  
  
Prem Bhandari, Chairman of [Jaipur Foot USA](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Jaipur-Foot-USA) said that after reading the story in TOI, he immediately contacted [KK Sharma](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/KK-Sharma), DG, BSF and requested him to arrange for Badan Singh to be brought to BMVSS. Badan Singh was brought to Jaipur from Mathura on April 18.  
  
Next day, an artificial leg was put on his amputated leg. He was also given training about how to use it. Singh walked on his two feet for the first time since April 20, after his leg was amputated. .  
  
Talking to TOI, Badan Singh said that he has no words to express his feelings. “I thought, I would live my entire life on a wheelchair and crutches but now I can walk on my legs,” he said adding that doctors told him that he has to do exercises at least for a month in order to get comfortable with this prosthetic leg.

Badan’s wife, Vimla who used to take him on his back is happy, as he will be able to go anywhere on his own and do whatever he wants to do.

UP government had also provided him wheelchair along with crutches a day after TOI reported the story.

Badan, who worked as a truck driver, developed clots in his leg last year which turned gangrenous and it had to be amputated. The entire burden of their medical expenses fell on Vimla, who earns Rs 3,600 a month working as a cook. “We went to the AIIMS in Jaipur and Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital. The treatment did not help and doctors had to amputate his leg. We spent our entire savings, around Rs 7 lakh, on his treatment,” Vimla had earlier said.

**54. Microsoft Research fellow Venkatesh Potluri has never let lack of vision be a barrier to a brilliant career**

Venkatesh Potluri from Hyderabad was born with a vision impairment. Something that he never allowed to come in the way of what has been a brilliant academic career.

Throughout his childhood, Potluri came up with ways to use regular objects as assistive materials. He would build figures by sticking matchsticks and thread on paper to understand geometry. He went on to operate computers with the help of screen readers, a software that converts text-to-speech.

However, the barriers were many. Even though Potluri passed his Intermediate with 85%, he was stopped from taking the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE). He was also denied admission at most top engineering colleges because he was blind.

Potluri says he was disappointed at being denied the opportunity to study just because of his disability. Thanks to the support from his parents, he stayed positive.

After a six-month struggle, he finally gained admission to the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H). Even there he faced many challenges, like finding accessible mathematical content to study. The complex equations and other such technical study material were not easy to understand due to their visual representation.

That led him to focus on accessibility and assistive technology while doing his research paper. To improve the future prospects of blind students who want to take up STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) courses, Potluri came up with unique techniques.

The techniques are such that they render mathematical content in audio. This way blind students can understand and answer math questions with 95% accuracy.

His work has been presented at the 30th Technology in Persons with Disabilities Conference in San Diego. It has also been published at the 11th International Conference on Natural Language Processing in Goa.

Potluri , who is just 25 years old, is currently a Research Fellow at Microsoft Research Lab India in Bengaluru. He plans to continue working on accessibility and assistive technology to improve technology for people with disabilities.

# 55. Make up courses for blind women in Brazil finds many takers

The Laramara Association for Blind in Sao Paulo in Brazil has trainers from a local beauty salon called Jacques Janine helping blind and visually impaired women overcome the challenges of doing their own makeup.

It is offering a free makeup course to help blind and visually impaired women look better and boost their self-confidence.

The women were taught various makeup techniques and how to groom themselves with as little help as possible.

They were also taught how to use cosmetics with the help of Braille writing to decide among the various products and pick shades they liked.

The Braille dots on the cosmetics allow the blind women to find the products and shades that they need.

Among those at the course was 30-year-old Ana, a housewife, who was happy to finally learn how to apply makeup confidently.

The women were happy that they were able to enhance their beauty.

# 56. High noise at workplace can lead to hearing loss, says new study

A recent study has revealed that high noise at workplace can lead to many health disorders. including hearing loss People who are prone to loud noise regularly can have cholesterol, difficulty in hearing and high blood pressure. People who live at main roads are also prone to these problems.

Those who work at construction sites and heavy units are the ones who are impacted the most. They are prone to a lot of noise around them all the time. Constant honking of vehicles and sound pollution affects people who live on main roads of cities and towns.

The study says that 58 percent of people who work at such places have hearing problems. 14 percent suffered from high blood pressure. 9 percent had cholesterol. The study also throws light on the connection between high blood pressure and noise exposure.

Experts say that noise pollution can also lead to stress. It triggers the release of stress hormones called Cortisol. Lifestyle patterns can also lead to similar problems.

The study was published in the American journal of Industrial medicine.

# 57. IT competition for youth with disabilities announced

A National Infrastructure technology - IT Competition for youth with disabilities will be held in Kurukshetra, Haryana in June this year.

The competition is open for disabled people in the age group of 13 to 21 years.

The competition will be held in the following categories

• Visual Impairment

• Hearing impairment

• Physical impairment (locomotor)

• intellectual /development disorder

Who can participate

• Participants must be in the age group of 13 -21 years in the above four categories

• Participants must be able to work with Internet Explorer web browser, MS Office and Scratch programme.

• Participants must be able to communicate in English.

Note : College and university-going youth with disabilities are not allowed to participate. School-going youth and school drop outs are eligible.

The participants will be judged on the following parameters

Individual Assessment

• e-Tool Challenge – MS Office utilization ability

• e-LifeMap Challenge – Ability to respond to specific situations

Team Assessment

• e – Design Challenge – Ability to make design posters

• e – Creative Challenge – Ability to create animated story or games

To participate applications can be sent to

The Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Room No 518, Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi Or Send by email to kvs.rao13@nic.in

Last date for applying is 25 May 2018.

# 58. This NGO in rural Tamil Nadu is enabling kids with disabilities to realize their potential

A majority of India’s disabled population is based in villages and small towns. However, when it comes to public awareness and facilities, these areas lag behind.

A lack that the NGOAdhiparasakthi Annai Illam, based in a village in Tamil Nadu is working to address. Located in Melmaruvathur, Adhiparasakthi started off as a small physiotherapy unit in 2005.

Today, it looks after the needs of over 150 children with different types of disabilities.

The founder of Adhiparasakthi is Arul Thiru Bangaru Adigalar, lovingly called Amma by the locals. From occupational and vocational therapies to special education, the NGO caters to a range of needs of children in rural areas, under the guidance of the present head, Sridevi Ramesh. Education, food, and transport for their students is given free of cost.

No wonder that Adhiparasakthi ‘s work was recognized by the Tamil Nadu government in 2008.

We ensure that all the facilities come under one roof. As an institution that caters to disabled children, we are very sensitive towards their requirements. We have set standards and we strive to maintain them every day – Gopinath, Physiotherapy Department Head, Adhiparasakthi

The NGO received an award for being the best institution for rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu from former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha. It also conducts research for the Council of Medical Research of India.

Adhiparasakthi has 25 faculty members and each department has five members. All faculty members are highly experienced in the field. The facilities here like the buildings are accessible for people with disabilities.

Authorities at Adhiparasakthi are working towards making the lives of disabled kids in rural Tamil Nadu better. Given their passion and undying commitment, the future looks brighter for kids with special needs here.

**59. Just 163 disabled friendly toilets in Mumbai city**

A recent study shows that Mumbai has just 163 pay-and-use toilets for disabled people. Clearly, when it comes to the needs of people with disabilities, India's richest civic body seems indifferent.

The report by the NGO Praja Foundation says that toilets for the disabled make up for just 1% of all public toilets in the city.

Data from the Solid Waste Management department of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation shows that there are 10,778 toilets for men and 3,909 for women.

This means that for 66 men's toilet and every 23 women's toilets, there is one toilet for disabled people.

This means just one disabled-friendly toilet for 835 Mumbaikars.

Experts say that the municipal body does not check whether contractors build toilets that can be used by disabled people.

Designing a toilet for disabled people is a different skill. Guidelines have to be followed such that any person can use it, whether he is suffering from 10% to 90% disability.

However, all that the contractors do is to build ramps.

# 60. Supreme Court slams Delhi Metro travel provisions for leprosy patients

The Supreme Court has strongly criticized the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for allowing leprosy patients to travel in the Metro only if they carried a medical certificate stating the disease was non-contagious.

The Supreme Court said that the DMRC’s stand was unacceptable as it is now known that leprosy is completely curable given the advances in medical science.

The Supreme Court bench said that the condition imposed by the DMRC is unfair. The order said,

The Centre and states must remove the offensive legal provision discriminating against leprosy patients. The condition imposed by DMRC is unacceptable - Supreme Court of India

The court’s observation came on a petition filed by the NGO Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. The petition said that despite leprosy being completely curable, there are as many as 119 outdated laws, at the central and state level, that sanction isolation of those with leprosy.

The NGO has sought that these 119 laws be set aside for good.

Though the Parliament repealed the Lepers Act, 1898, in 2016, it has not acted on the Law Commission’s recommendations to integrate them with society, says the petition.

**61. Reaching court building tough task for disabled**

VADODARA: Vadodara may boast of having Asia’s largest district court, but it turns out that the litigants with physical disabilities do not have easy accessibility to the main court building.

While the heritage [Nyay Mandir](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Nyay-Mandir) building was not disabled friendly, the new court complex despite being disabled-friendly has minor flaws that do not allow physically disabled people to reach the main building.  
The roads and buildings department of the state government which constructed the building has created ramps and installed elevators in the building. However, barriers, low-height pillars and concrete blocks dividing the parking space and the inner compound do not allow disabled people to go towards the main building with their wheel-chairs.  
It was on Tuesday that [Vinod Mistry](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Vinod-Mistry), a wheel-chair bound litigant, reached the court complex, but he could not go towards the main building as his wheel-chair could not pass through the little space between the low-height pillars. “My case has been going on since the past 25 years. I had hopes that the new court would be disabled friendly. I have been trying to figure out how to enter since two hours but because of this barricades and pillars I can’t enter,” said [Mistry](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Mistry) in a video widely circulated on social media.  
“The government runs campaign for ‘divyangs’, but the state government has built such a building that people like me cannot enter,” he added. Mistry said that the security guards at the two gates told him that he could use the rear gate on [Parisnagar](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Parisnagar) side. “But when I went at the rear gate, the security guard there told me that litigants could not enter from there,” he said.

**62. Namakkal gets early intervention centre for disabled kids**

Namakkal: State electricity minister P Thangamani inaugurated an early intervention centre for disabled children at the Government Higher Secondary School at Kumarapalayam near here on Tuesday.

Thangamani said that the center has equipment such as parallel bar, neck control, truck balance, trampoline, calf-muscle exerciser, ankle exerciser, bean bag, wax bath, bolster, peg board and sand bags. “These would support disabled children aged between one and five to carry out their day-to-day needs on their own,” he said. He said that the disabled children could not do their works such as eating food, drinking water and even attending nature’s call. They have to depend on either of the parents or guardian.

The minister advised the youth not to marry close relatives. The minister allotted Rs 3 lakh from his constitutional development fund for the centre.

Thangamani handed over cheque for Rs 50,000 each to eight students who had lost their father or mother in road accidents. He also honored Kumarapalayam JKK Rangammal Girls Higher Secondary School headmistress M R Nalinidevi and Valaiyapatty government higher secondary school zoological teacher P Tamilselvan for not taking leave even for a single day in the academic year 2016-17.

**63. North Central railway introduces Braille stickers in train coaches**

The North Central railway has installed Braille stickers in selective train coaches. This will be of great help to blind passengers travelling between important stations. Currently, stickers are installed intrains to Delhi. But officials confirm that trains to other cities will soon be provided with this facility.

Prayagraj Express (Allahabad to New Delhi), Shram-Shakti Express (Kanpur to New Delhi) and the Kanpur-New Delhi Shatabdi are the trains that have Braille stickers now. A train from Allahabad to Jaipur is also given this facility.

Currently, all trains have instructions and seat numbers written only on flat vinyl stickers and metallic plates. This cannot be used by blind passengers.

The Agra division of Indian railways is gearing up to bring more Braille stickers for blind passengers in new coaches. Eleven trains under the Agra division will soon bring out Braille stickers for their coaches. These include the New Delhi-Agra Intercity Express and Agra-Jhansi train. Braille printing will be superimposed on stickers for blind passengers.

The Varanasi-Mysuru Express is the first train to have Braille stickers. The initiative was launched and financed in 2016 by the Mysuru Member of Parliament, Pratap Simha.

# 64. Spoken feedback to higher colour contrast - Pinterest's new features for visually impaired users!

Pinterest, the web and mobile application company that enables users to find information on the web using images and videos, has launched features for users who are visually impaired.

The features have been released for iOS for now. Pinterest has said that Android will be added soon. With this most of Pinterest is now accessible for people who are blind or visually impaired:

The new features are -

* **Screen reader support** - This will give spoken feedback to people with total or partial vision loss. It will make it easier for them to sign up for Pinterest, browse, and save content.
* **Clear focus indicators** - People with visual and motor disabilities can now navigate Pinterest without mice or trackpads. They can use keyboards or other devices to see which part of the site they are focused on.
* **Increased colour contrasts** - Text is now easier to read as its set against coloured backgrounds. This is helpful for users with sensitivities to bright colours or low vision.
* **Strong type hierarchy, sizing and bolding** - Pinterest has enabled support for dynamic font sizes. This will enable users to change the text size they see via its default accessibility feature.

# 65. Assam to host a job recruitment drive for disabled people

Assam will soon hold a recruitment drive for disabled people. The drive is expected to provide employment to many disabled people in the state.

Pratibandhi Suraksha Sangstha Assam is an NGO that works for people with disabilities. The NGo has submitted adraft to the Principal Secretary of the Social Welfare Department. Once the draft is accepted, a meeting will be held to decide more details about the employment drive.

The first part of the draft deals with bringing out rules on issuing calls letters for disabled people. They will be given letters according to educational qualifications and previous experiences.

The selection process might also be held through a viva. The NGO stresses on the relevance of looking at the educational qualification over anything else. Age limit of the candidate will also not be given much relevance during the selection process.

The **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** has asked authorities to look into the employment opportunities for disabled people. He has asked them collaborate with NGOs in order to give a detailed report.

Currently, there are 4,419 vacant posts for disabled people in Assam. Officials are trying to fill in these positions by determining the educational qualification of the person.

# 66. Tri-Nation T20 Series for Disabled begins, India, Nepal & Bangladesh fight it out for title

Faced with lack of proper training facilities, India's disabled cricketers were forced to practice on an artificial turf on a sixth-floor terrace in Kolkata ahead of the T20 Tri-nation cricket series with Bangladesh and Nepal that began this week.

This was the team's last net practice before the tournament began.

During the three-hour session, the cricketers, most of who have more than 40% disability, faced a bowling machine sending down deliveries at 145 kmph.

The team captain, Suvro Joarder, is the world’s first blade cricketer. Suvro was a highly sought-after cricketer and well-known in Bengal’s cricket circuit. A bike accident took away his right leg, after which he learned how to use use prosthetic limbs, and resume the sport.

The fastest bowler in the team is Mandeep Singh from Punjab. He had to change his game after losing his left wrist to a grass cutter. He was 15 years old at the time.

The team made the most of the facility where they practiced

# 67. Justice is literally inaccessible for people with physical disabilities in Vadodara

Vadodara in Gujarat prides itself for havingAsia’s largest district court. However, as it turns out people with physical disabilities struggle to enter the main court building.

The heritageNyay Mandirbuilding was not disabled friendly, a problem the new court complex was supposed to address.

However, even the new building is disabled friendly only in name. It has manystructural flaws that make it hard for physically disabled people to reach the main building.

The roads and buildings department of the Gujarat government has set up ramps and installed elevators in the building. However, there are barriers, low-height pillars, and concrete blocks dividing the parking space and the inner compound. These do not allow disabled people to go towards the main building on their wheelchairs.

As Vinod Mistry, a wheelchair user found when he tried to reach the court complex this week. Mistry, who was in court for a case, could not pass through the little space between the low-height pillars.

He has been fighting the case for 25 years and was very hopeful that the new court would be disabled friendly. Instead Mistry spent two hours trying to figure out how to enter the court.

Mistry slammed the government's Accessible India campaign. He said that he could not enter the court through any gate as the rear gate is blocked to litigants.

# 68. Blind railway employee cheated of lakhs by neighbour, police refuse to lodge FIR

Ameen Khan, a blind Northern Railways employee, is struggling for justice after he was cheated by his neighbour.

Khan and his wife, who is also blind, have a six-year-old son. They are struggling to get an FIR registered after he was allegedly duped of over Rs five lakh by one of his neighbours. The neighbour had borrowed money from him on the excuse of using it for hisdaughter's wedding.

Khan says that the police have not registered an FIR despite receiving the complaint.

Khan says that he was approached by an acquaintance who asked for financial help to marry off his daughter. He agreed to help him if he drew up a formal contract.

He asked someone he trusted to be a witness in the matter. Khan, who is a sanitation worker, loaned him Rs 2.4 lakh to begin with.

A week later, he was approached by the same person again for money, this time formedical reasons. Khan agreed to give him Rs three lakh and a contract was signed.

However, a few months ago, the person ran away from the area with his family and the money. Khan says he registered a complaint, but no FIR has been filed.

Police say they are investigating the matter.

**69. Pune's quest to build accessible, pedestrian-friendly roads for all hits bureaucratic potholes**

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) claims that it is trying to make all major roads in the city pedestrian-friendly as well as followuniversal accessibility norms.

This is to ensure that people with physical disabilities can access pavements freely and safely.

However, all this sounds better on paper than practice as none of the officials involved are working together.

To make sure there are no barriers on the pavements to make it easy for visually impaired people, the PMC asked the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) to shift numerous electricity distribution point (DP) boxes that come in the way.

However, the MSEDCL has put the responsibility on the PMC to provide the land to shift these DPs onto.

Meanwhile a local unit of the National Association for the Blind has said that PMC's efforts to install special tactile tiles on footpaths are not enough as there are many factors that go into ensuring universal accessibility.

The tactile tiles aid visually challenged persons via embossed lines that indicate direction. There are five footpaths that are being renovated at the moment. However there are many issues here as well.

One is the number of encroachments, while the other is heavy DPs embedded by MSEDCL in these pavements.

Other disability groups have also voiced their concerns.

People with mobility impairments say that the height of some pavements have increased by a foot, which increases the risk of accidents. There are no indicators or slopes either to mark where pavements end and roads begin for people with visual impairments. There is no indication for when chowks with traffic lights are approaching.

Unless these parameters are achieved, the path to building pedestrian-friendly for all citizens is incomplete.

# 70. Leading electronics retail store Vijay Sales slammed for insensitive ad depicting visually impaired person

Just how blindly popular media perpetuates stereotypes about disability is revealed in the latest advertisement campaign of Vijay Sales, the leading electronics retail chain with a presence across major cities in India.

The advertisement for an air conditioner features Jim Sarbh as a blind personholding a cane with two women holding his hands.

Noted disability rights activist **Dr Satendra Singh** has slammed the depiction asableist on Twitter and demanded that Vijay Sales pull the ad off immediately.

An ableist ad by @VijaySales ridiculing blinds. Internet dekh nahi sakta, @jimSarbh shown with a cane, two women hold his hands, shown helpless. Is this you portray disability? Bring down this ad at the earliest - Dr Satendra Singh, Disability Rights Defender

Dr Singh called the ad insensitive and said that Vijay Sales was guilty of perpetuating stereotypes. He said that the ad mocks blindness under the cover of creativity.

How insensitive? Hope you are aware that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (with serious penalties) is already implemented. take off ur ad before someone sue you - Dr Satendra Singh, Disability Rights Defender

Several other disability rights activists, like **Rati Mishra**, Advisor to the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) and **Jo Chopra McGowan** , founder of the Latika Roy Foundation, have also asked that the advertisement be pulled off.

It's a stupid joke of an ad. It makes it crystal clear what a flimsy foundation ableist thinking rests on - Jo Chopra McGowan, Founder, Latika Roy Foundation

# 71. SAHA, an organization to help disabled people launched in Kerala city

Supportive and Assistive Hands for All (SAHA), is an all-inclusivetraining andsupport cell for people with disabilities. The cell was inaugurated at the centre for people with disabilities of Bharatidasan University in Trichy.

The aim of opening the cell is so that people from various walks of life can come together and work for people with disabilities. Medical professionals, NGO’s, students and others can be part of this venture and do their bit to help the disabled.

Experts from the cell say that the main aim is to educate people about disabilities. Over 75% of disabilities are curable. But many people do not know that. This message has to reach people living in rural areas.

As part of SAHA, volunteers will be given training as sign language interpreters and scribes. They will be educated on how to provide rehabilitation to people with disabilities.

At the event certificates were distributed to 56 disabled students. These students had completed various courses including diploma, vocational courses in training and management, yoga, basic computer applications, and in assistive technology.

**72. China's only sign language lawyer's mission is to make country's deaf people aware of their legal rights**

Every day Tang Shuai, China's only sign language lawyer, gets appeals from thousands of deaf people in China seeking legal assistance.

Some ask him for help for financial trouble, some for filing a divorce case, while others have been sued. 34-year-old Tang worked as a sign language interpreter in Chinese courts for six years before he decided to study law himself.

Since then Tang has been dedicated to fighting for the rights of deaf people and making them aware of their rights.

Tang was born to deaf parents and has normal hearing. The environment he grew up in was a largelyd eaf one. Most of his parents' friends and colleagues were deaf.

Tang's parents were keen he move out of their world and sent him to live with his grandmother so that he could have people to talk to. They did not even want him to learn sign language, even if it meant he would be unable to communicate with them.

Tang still mastered sign language and grew up with a clear understanding of the difficulties faced by deaf people in China.

There are over 20 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people in China. However there are few people they can go to for legal help.

Chinese courts do hire sign language interpreters, but language barriers still exist.

Tang is also training deaf people who are interested in becoming lawyers and legal consultants.

He has also established a WeChat public account which acts as a platform for deaf people to seek legal help. He has also launched a new sign-language video series on law education.

# 73. Amazon promotes Deaf Pride, releases logo in American Sign Language

Amazon is promoting the American Sign Language (ASL) version of its logo. This is also an extension of its efforts to support the ASL community at Amazon, which is made up of deaf and hard of hearing employees.

The initiative was led by Brendan Gramer from Amazon who said -

We wanted to create something that would be culturally positive and demonstrate Amazon’s commitment to embracing employees for who they really are. Because AmazonPwD was already engaged in promoting ASL as a language, creating an inclusive identity for the deaf community felt like a natural starting point - Brandon Gamer, Amazon

# 74. Legendary blind card magician Richard Turner's story to be immortalized in film

Close-up card magician legend Richard Turner will be the subject of a new feature film.

The film will be based on the life story of Richard Turner who became a proficient card magician despite beingcompletely blind.

Turner was earlier the subject of Dealt, an acclaimed documentary about his life that released in 2017.

The filmmakers behind Dealt will also be a part of the team behind the feature film.

The team spent months with Turner and his family to get the magician to open up about his difficulty coming to terms with his disability.

Turner has entertained millions of people with his skills. He relies on his heightened sense of touch to determined what cards are being shuffled.

His love for cards began when he was a child. At the age of nine, his eyesight suddenly began to fail. He was diagnosed with a form of macular degenerationand was told he would eventually go blind.

Turner began to take many risks out of a sense of anger and frustration. He started motorcycling, cliff climbing, and became a black belt in karate.

It took him some time to make his peace with the card that life had dealt him.

# 75. Haryana government issues directives regarding job quota for disabled people

The Haryana Government has issued instructions about job reservation for people with disabilities in the state.

The instructions allow for 4% reservation in government jobs for people with disabilities. The reservation will be applicable in case of direct recruitment to Groups A, B, C & D posts or services.

The jobs will be reserved under the various benchmark disabilities as per the RPWD 2016 Act. These are as follows.

• Blindness and low vision

• Deaf and hard of hearing

• Mobility disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims, and muscular dystrophy

• Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability, and mental illness

• Other multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness

The reservations may be dependent on the type of disability. If a particular vacancy or post is suitable for a particular disability, then reservation in that post shall be given to persons with that disability only.

People with at least 40% of a relevant disability will be eligible for the reservation.

Disability certificate issued by a competent authority will also be required.

The appointing authority will have to ensure that the candidate is eligible to get the benefit of reservation.

The instructions also cover the age limit, exam fee, promotion, selection, and various other aspects of employment.

**76. Blind Tennis World Championships in Ireland to conclude today**

The Blind Tennis World Championships is being held at the Shankill Tennis Club in Ireland.

Around 60 blind tennis players from 13 countries are taking part in the championship.

The Blind Tennis World Championships is being held in Ireland for the first time. They will conclude today.

A bell is placed inside the tennis ball, which enables players to locate it by the sound it makes. The matches are played on a regular tennis court.

The players are allowed either two or three bounces of the ball and it depends on their level of vision.

Some of the countries participating are Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Pakistan, Poland, Great Britain, and Ireland.

Around 300 people including volunteers, guides, coaches, and officials are part of the competition.

Blind Tennis sports was created by Mr Miyoshi Takei in Japan in 1984. Now the sport has become quite popular and is played in several countries of the world.

# 77. United States military uses a pen made by blind people for 50 years

A simple ballpoint pen is used by the military and the United States federal government. Not many people are aware that the pens used are made by blind people.

These pens are called SKILCRAFT U.S. Government pens and they are in use for the last 50 years.

The pen was introduced to the U.S government by the National Industries for the Blind in April 1968. Since then they are being used regularly in military and government departments.

The pens have certain fixed requirements. For instance, they should be able tow rite 16 pages and they must write in a continuous line that is 1.6 kilometers long.

The pens should keep the ink flowing even in extreme temperatures.

For the past 50 years, these pens made by blind workers are being used by thousands of military personnel and government employees.

# 78. Pakistan hosted its 1st inclusive music concert for deaf

Pakistan hosted its first ever music concert that was inclusive for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The concert featured the famous pop music bandStrings.

The concert was held at Habib University and was a huge hit for the audience.

Habib University and startup ConnectHear organized the music concert which was attended by around 300 deaf people.

ConnectHear has been working in the field of breaking barriers of communication between deaf people and society.

The event was made accessible with the help of sign language interpreters.

The interpreters worked on the lyrics and the music was arranged in a way to ensure that the audience could feel the bass and enjoy the concert.

ConnectHear is also developing a software that can be used to convert any audio into sign language.

Strings is also celebrating their 30-year anniversary with their album titled, 30.

# 79. Centre set to make Delhi accessible for people with disabilities

The **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**has started making Delhi an accessible city for people with disabilities.

This includes people with visual impairments, those with physical disabilities, and people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

All government and private offices, cinema halls, theatres, parks, hospitals, police stations, tourist places, monuments, banks, post offices, metro stations, ATMs, commercial place, courts, etc., will have spaces for disabled people.

The Centre has written to the Delhi government to come up with a plan to change the Capital into a model city that others can replicate.

The government has said that all existing public buildings and places must be made accessible within a period of five years.

Under the Accessible India Campaign that was launched in December 3, 2015, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, all institutions should ensure barrier-free spaces, no discrimination, and services for people with disabilities.

The department is going to hold its first meeting on 7 May 2018 with the Delhi government and all stakeholders to discuss the identification of important infrastructure and recreational areas across the city.

# 80. First school for deaf children opened by Pingalwara society at Hoshiarpur city

The All India Pingalwara Charitable Society has opened its first school for children with hearing disabilities at a gurdwara in Garhshankar in Hoshiarpur.

By involving gurdwaras in this initiative, the aim is to make up for the lack of professional schools for deaf children in Punjab.

At present, sign language is taught in six schools where 270 students study. The Pingalwara society has appealed to all gurdwaras to give them space to hold classes.

The schools are using digital technology to teach the children. The students are identified by the field staff of the charitable society.

So far, deaf schools have been set up in 12 districts of the state.

# 81. Coimbatore Junction railway station to open exclusive parking spaces for disabled people

Coimbatore Junction railway station has always been inclusive. Authorities are now planning to start an exclusive parking space for disabled people at the main entrance.

Parking spaces will be provided at both sides of the main entrance to the railway station. The Salem Railway division released a statement confirming this. Currently, Coimbatore Junction Railway Station is under maintenance.

Coimbatore Junction railway station already has facilities for disabled people. Wheelchair ramps and disabled friendly toilets already exist inside the railway station. With this new parking space being introduced, the railway station is going to become even more accessible.

A bay near the four-wheeler parking space will be marked for disabled people. Marking of parking slots will be done soon. It will kick-start once the station improvement works are completed.

Many railway stations across India are not accessible for disabled people. They do not have enough facilities for people with disabilities. This initiative taken by Salem Railway division is indeed remarkable.

# 82. Valuable tips in dining etiquette for visually impaired people at this Mumbai meet-up

Do you know how to place your fork and spoon when you finish eating? Or which side of the table napkin to use to wipe your mouth?

These are questions that would confuse many of us.

Now imagine how much harder it is for blind and visually impaired people to understand dining etiquette in public situations. From deciding what to order to worrying about knocking down a glass of water, eating out is one of the biggest challenges that blind and visually impaired people say they face.

To help learn these essential skills, the Blind Graduates Forum of India (BGFI)held a training session in dining out etiquette for blind and visually impaired people in Mumbai. Well-known trainers shared techniques and strategies that will enable people to eat out confidently without worrying if their sleeve is in the soup bowl!

### Varied audience

The idea of doing this session came up during a team meeting of the BGFI, which is a non-profit organization working for the empowerment of people who are blind and visually impaired across India.

All of us at BGFI are doing fulltime jobs. We realized that when we go out for formal dinners, we are not sure if we are doing the right thing. When everyone around is using a fork and spoon and we use our hands to eat, we stand out. We had been using a series on independent living since last year. We felt that this was one area not covered and so we decided to take up this session – Aditi Shah, Secretary, BGFI

Thirty-six people, between the ages of 25 to 60 years attended the day-long session at Bombay Haveli, a well-known accessible restaurant in south Mumbai. The session was only for blind and visually impaired people and was for free of cost.

### Theory & practice

The first part of the training session covered theory aspects, like behavior tips at a restaurant. There was also an interactive session where people present talked about the challenges they face while eating out, like how to ask the waiter to read out the menu and how to narrow down the choice of food.

In the second session, they got down to action, with the focus on the practical side of things. There were four to five courses of menu served, which the participants had to eat using cutlery. The trainer gave instructions on how to eat through volunteers, whom the participants then had to follow.

There were different kinds of cutlery and we were taught how a glass of water is placed at the 1 o’clock position, while the soft drink is at 2 o’clock. Where do you put the cutlery when you take a break from eating for a while and how to unfold the table napkin and use it. We learned that the corner of the napkin should always be used to clean the corners of the mouth, and not the entire napkin – Payal Jethra, Honorary Secretary, BGFI

The result was a fun, lively, and interactive session. There were many learnings all in the midst of some great food and laughter.

The theory session was really useful. For the hands-on, I wish we had better seating to enable the volunteers to guide us properly by guiding our hands, especially in cutting with the knife. We could have probably sat on chairs instead of sofas so that they could stand closer to us while manoeuvring our hands. But for such a first session, it was a commendable job on BGFI's part! – Divya Ravindra Bijur, Physiotherapist

This is one training session that the BGFI is likely to hold very often, given the popular demand. Such skills are essential, especially today when dining out has become such a regular part of our working and personal lives.

**83. Sign-to-speech smart glove, BrightSign, a potential game changer for people with speech disabilities**

Bright Sign is a smart glove that empowers people with speech disabilities to communicate easily. When it launches, it will be available at a fraction of what other high-end assistive devices cost in the market.

The smart sensors in BrightSign are embedded in a thin transparent glove that can be worn inside many kinds of outer gloves. The hardware comes packaged in a slim wristband

It can be used by children in school or at a park to communicate with other non-signing children. It can also be used by adults, and by hospitals, airports and other public bodies that don’t always have a sign expert available.

There are 70 million people in the world who use sign language as their primary language. Only 1.4 million have access to expensive sign language education and assistive technology. This makes BrightSign a potential gamechanger.

The founder Hadeel Ayoub is looking to raise US$1.4 million to release BrightSign this year.

She wants people to enable people to become independent and have two-way communication while maintaining eye contact.

# 84. 29 disabled candidates make it to selections for the Indian Administrative Services!

Over 29 people with disabilities have made it to the Indian Administrative Services this year. Of these nine are people with mobility impairments eight have visual impairments, while 12 are deaf and hard of hearing.

These candidates say they were able to make it this far thanks to a lot of hard work and support from people who encouraged them to look beyond their disability.

Among the top candidates is Saumya Sharma, who stood ninth and has a hearing impairment. She said that she studied for a minimum nine hours every day. Even though she had high fever during the exam and was on saline drip, she did not lose heart.

The results of the Civil Services examination also prove the importance of inclusivity in the education system. Balalatha Mallavarapu, who has ranked 167, faced discrimination in school years because she had polio.

Her classmates would refuse to sit with her as they feared getting infected. The bias was so bad that she opted for home schooling until graduation.

# 85. Building a community network of parents with special needs kids - My Take by Prachi Deo, Founder, Nayi Disha Resource Centre

**children with special needs face many challenges when it comes to accessing the right information and facilities. A gap that Nayi Disha Resource Centre, an online information resource platform, is working to address, as founder Prachi Deo tells us on My Take this week.**

As a technology and project management professional with over 13+years’ experience and as sister to someone with Down syndrome, I always wanted to work in the field of disability. However, I was looking for the right place to step in.

I had grown up watching my parents struggle to find the right kind of support and guidance for my brother. They would travel to Mumbai frequently to meet experts and it was not easy. That was 44 years ago. When I started volunteering at a centre that my brother goes to today, I was bothered to find how little things had changed.

### How it began

I felt that volunteering was limited. Initially one of the ideas was to support special needs schools. This graduated to the idea of a resource centre for parents. That is because even today parents of children with special needs find it hard to get the right information, which is amazing given the access we have to technology. We found that while there are a lot of organizations working for children, there were barely a few organisations that focused on providing necessary information to parents.

This is especially true for children with learning and developmental disabilities. When it comes to accessibility for people with locomotor disabilities, it is easier to understand what the needs are. It means ramps, elevators, etc. However, when it comes to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), it is not so apparent. This is how Nayi Disha Resource Centre came about. The idea was to do whatever we could to support parents of kids with IDD, be it access to information or facilities.

It’s been over two years since we started Nayi Disha.

### Building an information resource

We have devised a technology-solution based on personal experiences as parents and siblings and from a deep understanding of the needs of families. The approach is holistic through our three pillars of services.

First is a **strong parent support group**. Our aim is to build a community of parents on a similar journey so they can share experiences, offer support and celebrate each other’s triumphs. We do this with online support groups and regularly conduct offline support group meets, where parents interact on various topics ranging from puberty and adolescence related issues, stress coping mechanisms etc.

Second, we have built a comprehensive and vetted directory for services that families need for their child. It is a comprehensive directory of all the services that parents need in a city, be it a sports coach or an occupational therapist. After a successful launch for Hyderabad, we are now expanding to Bengaluru, Dehradun, Indore, Pune, and Mumbai. The aim is to reach a wider audience across India.

The third is a knowledge repository with localized and relevant contextual information on developmental disorders, available therapies, etc. The idea is to go multilingual so we can reach out to more families and we have already started creating audios/videos in Hindi.

The Nayi Disha Resource Centre also conducts workshops on parent empowerment at various special schools in Hyderabad and Meet the Expert events to connect parents and experts from various streams.

In addition, we are also working on upgrading the website to make it mobile responsive and easily accessible through smart phones.

It is very satisfying to find more and more parents are getting involved in this initiative not just from Hyderabad but also other cities. Infact, doctors from reputed pedaitric hospitals are also referring parents of newly diagnosed children to join Nayi Disha support group and access our directory and knowledge hub services. There is lot more that needs to be done and we have truly only started with our journey.

# 86. Celebrities & diplomats take part in Kolkata awareness walk on vision impairment

More than 550 people came together in Kolkata to walk to promote awareness on avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

The event saw the participation of diplomats, government officials, as well as cultural and sports personalities. They walked blindfolded for the cause, which was titled Walk in the Dark.

Organizers said that the participants walked blindfolded in order to know the difficulties faced by the blind.

There are over 50 million people with vision impairments in India. The Indian economy loses Rs 1,26,500 crore due to uncorrected vision problems. There is a need to spread greater awareness in India about how to take care of vision impairment.

The walk was held at the iconic Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata. The event as flagged off by Harinder Sidhu, who is the High Commissioner from Australia to India.

Eminent personalities like chess Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua, hockey player Gurbux Singh, percussionist Bickram Ghosh, and actor Victor Banerjee took part in the walk.

# 87. Blind youth from Odisha display football skills at Kerala tournament

Blind youth from Odisha are getting a chance to display their football skills at a tournament in Kerala, will be held until 1 May.

The Odisha team is made up of blind players from various districts. They have been trained for 10 days at the campus of the National Career Service Centre for Differently-Abled (NCSCDA) in Gandamunda in Bhubaneswar.

The training programme was organized by the Football Federation for the Blind, Odisha, NCSCDA, Bhubaneswar, and National Association for the Blind, in Odisha.

The aim of the Kerala event is to give disabled youth a chance to take up sports in an organized manner.

# 88. Here is how you can enjoy an accessible vacation at Udaipur!

It is that time of the year when everyone is in vacation mode. People are looking out for different options to holiday with friends and family. A getaway to an exotic place is a good idea!

Enable Travel, which organizes accessible holidays in many parts of India and abroad, recommends Udaipur!

### Accessible Places in Udaipur

Udaipur is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in India. Located in the state of Rajasthan, it is popularly called City of Lakes and Kashmir of Rajasthan, thanks to its limitless beauty!

Udaipur also boasts of many palaces and lakes in all its grandeur. The city is known for its rich history, cultural and ethnic beauty.

Most of the tourist places in Udaipur are accessible to people with loco-motor disabilities. They have wheelchair ramps in many destinations with an elevator access.

Udaipur has some of the most beautiful lakes in Rajasthan. Rahngsagar, Doodh Talai, Fateh Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Pichola lakes are some of the prominent ones.

There are many small lanes in the city. These lanes give you a glimpse of how locals live. All the popular lanes are accessible.

Saheliyon Ki Bari is a huge garden and a popular tourist destination in Udaipur. This beautiful garden is maintained well by the government. It is fairly accessible for people with loco-motor disabilities.

A vacation is not complete without trying out the local delicacies. Udaipur is host to many treats. Their sweets are to die for! Make sure that you do not miss the authentic Rajasthani Thali at Udaipur. Street food too is very popular. Ensure that you relish them at a hygienic place. Gol guppas are a must try!

Udaipur is one of the cities in India that is worst hit by the summer heat. So if you do go on a holiday there, make sure you carry some cool cottons.

### Where to stay

The Trident in Udaipur is accessible for people with loco-motor disabilities. The hotel has wheelchair ramps. The rooms are spacious with a tiled floor. Bathrooms have an accessible sink and roll-in showers with an accessible commode.

The staff are friendly, and will cater to all your needs.

Now that you know the best places to go to, wait no more. Happy vacationing at Udaipur!

**89. The Accessible Graphing Calculator (AGC)**

The Accessible Graphing Calculator (AGC) from ViewPlus Software, Inc. is a self-voicing graphing scientific calculator software program. Unlike a hand-held calculator, it displays results through speech and sounds, as well as visually presenting numbers and graphs. This program is intended to have capabilities comparable to a full-featured hand-held scientific and statistical graphing calculator. The AGC is truly accessible for all students, and could be used for the entire class. The onscreen graphics are easily seen by a low vision student via an enlargement feature, and the graph can be listened to by using the sophisticated audio wave feature. Print copies can be made with any standard printer using a variety of fonts, including braille. The print copies with Braille fonts can be copied onto swell paper and run through a tactile imaging machine. One of the best ways to use the AGC is with a TIGER Braille/graphics embosser from ViewPlus Technologies, Inc., but the TIGER is rather expensive. Although considerable time is typically needed for training a blind student to use the ACG totally independently, the math teacher is usually able to assist the student because it is so user-friendly for the sighted individual. The AGC cannot do matrices or parent functions, but the various functions it will perform are quite impressive. (The vendor plans to continue upgrading the software, including working with matrices.) It has not been approved by TEA at the present time.

Teachers of the visually impaired must make many decisions about appropriate programming and technology for their students. They must not only be aware of the different kinds of technology that are available, but also be able to teach their students how to use them. For TEA to approve the use of a piece of technology, it should be routinely used by a student to complete assignments at school. The student should (a) have access to a graphing calculator, (b) know how to use a graphing calculator, and (c) use it to practice routine class work at the same time as his or her classmates.

# 90. Medical Council of India amends postgraduate admission rules as per RPWD 2016

The Medical Council of India has amended its Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations as per the provisions of the Right of Persons with Disabilities 2016, Act.

This step was taken five months after a medical student with thalassemia appealed to the Supreme Court for a disability certificate for quota in admission to a postgraduate course.

The change in the regulations now allow for 5% seats to be filled every year by students with disabilities.

Until now the quota was limited to only 3%, and that too only for people with locomotor disability.

The petition was filed by Rohan Jobaputra from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Rohan has thalassemia major and was not allowed to apply within the disability quota for the post-graduate courses as the RPWD 2016 was yet to be adapted and implemented.

The earlier rules allowed for only seven disabilities. The Act has raised the number of benchmark disabilities to 21.

This has allowed more disabled students to seek the benefit of reservation in higher education institutions.

However, delay in the implementation of the Act has led to loss of opportunities for disabled people.

**3. Announcement**

**1. [DFI] Mitra Jyothi announces the next batch of Career Centric Computer Training for VI Candidates - July to Dec 2018**

Mitra Jyothi Charitable Trust Bangalore is pleased to announce the next batch of Career Centric Computer Skill Training combined with Life skill Training for the visually impaired! Please read the below given details and disseminate the same among your contacts as widely as possible.

**Course Duration:** 02 July 2017 to 22 Dec 2018  
  
**Who should join this course?**

* Candidates who have completed their graduation and are seeking skill development to get into good jobs.
* Candidates who seek to be independent and look forward to employability training & over-all personality development.
* Candidates who are in-between jobs and want to develop/improve their skills to get better jobs by learning the usage of Computers
* Candidates who have written their exams and are awaiting their results before taking the next step ahead and those doing who are doing distance education

**Why should you join this course?**

* To make yourself more “Employable” by being “Computer Literate” and become “Internet Savvy” and there by open-up a whole new world of Education and Awareness
* To improve your personal competencies with the help of our personality development sessions
* To improve your communication skills with our spoken English classes
* To enhance your English writing skills and spellings
* To improve your Orientation and Mobility skills and become independent
* To know your rights and how to exercise them with the help of our Legal Awareness class
* To seek guidance avail help from Mitra Jyothi’s Job Placement cell which will facilitate placement support for trained candidates if they are eligible for the same.

**Course Content:**  
  
It is a 6 month residential fun filled life skill development program for the visibly impaired with Personality Development sessions, spoken and written English classes, Orientation and Mobility Training along with learning Job oriented Computer skills with Windows 10 Operating System.

* Introduction to Computers

o   Machine, Keyboard and Screen orientation

o   Typing lessons with ‘Talking Typer”

o   Screen Reader – Introduction to NVDA and NVDA training

o   Software and hardware overview

o   Storage devices

o   Computer Accessories

o   Screen Navigation and maneuvering across screens and tabs

o   Introduction to Windows

o   Files and file management

o   Notepad, Calculator and other simple programs

o   Software downloads

o   Using MS Office Products with emphasis on Microsoft Word, Excel & Power Point

o   Internet and browser screen navigation

o   Email usage and email etiquette including outlook mail  
o   Introduction to JAWS and tips on using JAWS instead of NVDA

* Enriching experiences with peer groups

**Other Activities:**

* Workshops on Legal Literacy, Health & Hygiene education.
* Workshop on support systems and assistive devices available for people with low vision
* Experience sharing from successful VI candidates from various Multinational Companies
* Visits to a bank and ATMs specially designed for the visually impaired
* Career Guidance
* Cultural events

**Teaching aides and equipment used:**

* Computers with

o   Windows 10 operating system and Office 2013

o   NVDA

o   Talking Typer

o   Spell tool

o   Head sets

o   Self paced exercises for each concept

o   Tactile Diagrams

o   Monthly Tests and final assessment

o   Curriculum designed with computer concepts and employment needs

* Other training equipment for O&M training

**Course Format:**  
  
Residential 6 month course with separate in-house dormitories for men and women.  
Computer classes from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM from Mon to Sat with specific time slots for;

* English classes
* Personality development sessions
* O&M training hours
* Planned dates for workshops and events

**Facilities:**  
Food and accommodation will be provided for the duration of the course at Mitra Jyothi Campus

**Eligibility:**

Must have completed graduation in any discipline and must know Basic English.

**Joining Procedure:**

* Call Mitra Jyothi at Ph: 080-22587623/25 Ext. 30, talk to Mr. Mansoor or Ms.Chaithra and register yourself if you are eligible!
* A basic telephonic screening/interview to check eligibility will be conducted
* All students will stay at Mitra Jyothi's dormitory during the course of the training
* The training is open to boys/men and girls/women.

Call Mitra Jyothi and register as soon as possible!  
  
**About Mitra Jyothi:**  
Mitra Jyothi is a registered Charitable Trust formed in 1990. Mitra Jyothi works for people with disabilities and enables them to lead independent lives. To know more about Mitra Jyothi check out  [www.mitrajyothi.org](http://www.mitrajyothi.org/)  and follow Mitra Jyothi on Face book at [https://www.facebook.com/mitrajyothiorg](https://www.facebook.com/mitra.jyothi)  
  
For further queries you may contact Mr. Mansoor, at 080 22587623/25 Extn: 30  
  
Mitra Jyothi  
CA Site # P22, 31st Main,  
18th Cross, Sector 1, HSR Layout,  
Behind National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT College)  
Bangalore - 560102  
Ph: 080-22587623/25

**2. Announcement of All India Online Aptitude Test (AIOAT)**

Dear readers,

The Rehabilitation Council of India as issued a circular with regard to conduct All India Online Aptituted Test for admission to Diploma/Certificate level courses for the academic year 2018-19.

If anybody interested to apply for Diploma in Education in Special Education in Mental Retardation [[D.ED.SE.MR](http://d.ed.se.mr/)] Course, may apply online from**21st May 2018 and last date for applying is 20th June 2018.**  Kindly hurry up.  If you have any problem in filling up the online form, you may contact KPAMRC Bangalore as per the following contact details.   :

**KPAMRC, # 12, 8th Main, 3rd Cross, Byrasandra Layout, Jayanagar 1st Block East, Bangalore - 560 011, Tel: 22444234, Mob: 9945699410.**

# 3. Musical hunt for little champs with disabilities to be organised by Radio Udaan

From Radio Udaan, India’s first ever radio station by visually impaired people, comes a new exciting show!

It’s calledUdaan Idol Little Champs and it’s a musical show for kids with disabilities from across India up to the age of 15 years.

The aim of the event is to offer a platform for kids with disabilities to demonstrate their musical talents.

Please refer the below reproduced announcement made by Radio Udaan to know more about the event

Our readers are appealed to encourage and facilitate kids with disability in their contact to participate in the event.

### Radio station with a difference

Launched in 2014, Radio Udaan has been working towards the empowerment of people with disabilities. The shows are conceptualized and presented by a team of visually impaired people.

It’s a unique initiative, one that has found fans in over 100 countries with a dedicated audience of over 20,000 listeners a month. Radio Udaan offers a platform for people with disabilities to showcase their talents and discuss issues close to their heart.

### Nurturing raw talent

The idea of Little Champs was born out of the success of Udaan Idol, which was a musical hunt show for people with disabilities held in 2017. Over 170 entries from across India were received.

The reach of Udaan Idol was quite impressive. Over two lakh people tuned in for the audition and other rounds. The winner, Muskaan, was from a remote village in Himachal Pradesh.

The response spurred the Radio Udaan team to come up with a similar idea for kids. This was how the Udaan Idol Little Champs was born.

If we get the required confidence and platform at an early age, we get more time to polish ourselves. So to achieve this goal of ours we are again here with another grand event where any kid with disability who is below 15 years of age and has a musical flair can take part – Danish Mahajan, General Secretary, Radio Udaan

Many kids with disabilities from across India have applied to take part in the Little Champs audition. Radio Udaan is in touch with blind schools, NGOs, and disability rights leaders to help source the best talent.

### Rules of the show

The rules of the competition are quite tough. The audition round is without any background music. Any technical effects like modulations of voice, echo and so on are strictly prohibited as the rounds advance. The recording of song has to be noiseless and clear.

The idea is to promote children with disability and make them reach a higher platform. The aim is to give them the required opportunity and make them learn from their mistakes and experiences. Thats why we want raw talent that they can polish accordingly - Danish Mahajan, General Secretary, Radio Udaan

The rounds of the competition will be held in a metro city. The final round will be live. Those interested have to apply by 15 May 2018 with evidence of disability and date of birth.

The winner of Little Champ stands to receive Rs 31,000, the first runner up Rs 21,000, and the second runner, Rs 11,000. Each winner will also get a musical instrument.

So, if you are 15 years and below with a disability, this is your chance to take your voice to the world!

# 4. National Conference On Inclusive Education and Technologies in Patiala

The Above said conference is going to take place at Patiala Punjab. The interested persons can make their registration as per the given details.

National Conference On Inclusive Education and Technologies

Quality inclusive education supported by emerging technologies is bound to make life of children with disabilities meaningful.

Registration has started!!

## Event Details

* Starts on: Thursday, 16 Aug 2018 at 09:00 AM
* Ends on: Saturday, 18 Aug 2018 at 05:00 PM
* City: Patiala, Punjab
* Location: Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology
* Event Charges: Paid
* Venue Accessibility: Contact Organizer

## Organizer Details

* Organizer Name: Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology
* Organizer Phone: 9899472065,981101206
* Organizer Email: [nciepatiala@gmail.com](mailto:nciepatiala@gmail.com)
* Organizer Website: <http://www.thapar.edu/>

**5. Free hostel accommodation of PUC 1st year V.I. students in Bangalore**

Bangalore based organization IDL foundation offers hostel accommodation to 1st PU visually impaired students with all residential facilities and study support absolutely free of charge. willing students ore their partents may contact to Dr. S.K. Paul to know more about this service. Mob: 8880268787 / 7892891363/9740288077

**6. onkyo essay competition 2018**

As our readers may be aware that The Asian Blind  
Union (ABU) is a Regional union of World Blind Union and it organizes  
every year essay competitions for blind candidates in the region  
through its affiliates in the country. This year, this ONKYO essay  
Competition 2018 is being organised by National Association for the  
Blind in India on behalf of ABU. We therefore appeal off of you to participate in this prestigious competition event at large and send your essays as per the following details.

Relevant information about the competition are as under

Send the essays as per the following email address so as to reach latest by 31st May 2018.

National Association for the Blind, India [administration@nab.india.info](mailto:administration@nab.india.info)  
  
1]      The participant must be Visually Impaired.

2]       Essay Topics: a) Types of discrimination in your society, its  
sources, how to foster culture of nondiscrimination?  
  
b) Happiness, how?  
c) Political leaders or ministers with visual impairment, why we don't  
have, how to make it happen?  
d) To be an independent blind person, how do you understand it and how  
is it achieved?  
  
  
3]       Instructions for Writers

a) Each visually impaired  
participant has to write on one topic only,

b)  Number of words of the essay ranges from 500 to 1000 words,

c)  Participant can write the essay in local language but they have to send along with the same its  
English translation, as the competition is on international level.

4]       Personal information of the participant should be sent in the  
attached format along with the essay before 31st May, 2018 at Email ID: administrationDnabindia,info

5]       Cash Prizes:

a) First prize is $1000

b) Second prize is $500 for one winner of the group below age 25 and one winner of the group  
above  age 25

c) Third prize is $200 for two winners below age 25 and  
two winners above age 25.  
  
The Essays so received will be evaluated by a local selection  
committee and five best essays so selected will be sent to the  
international selection committee of Asian Blind Union for further  
selection of the Essays for the prizes.  
  
You are earnestly requested to spread this information amongst  
individual Visually Impaired Persons /Special Schools for the Blind &  
Other Institutions working for the Education/Welfare of Visually  
Impaired Persons from your area so as to get the maximum participation  
in the competition.

**7. Spardhaspoorthi Kannada monthly Magazine is available in audio format.**

We take this opportunity to remind our readers once again particularly those who reside in state of Karnataka that NFB Karnataka is engaged for last one year in audio recording of above mentioned leading Kannada magazine which is considered very helpful for aspirants to clear various competitive exams.

Audio version of each monthly issue of the magazine is made available to its subscribers on MP3 CD at their home through postage free service of Indian postal department. Willing visually challenged persons or institutions of and for them may subscribe 12 issues of the magazine just by a nominal payment of Rs. 100 per annum.

For subscribing the magazine and for all other informations please contact Mr. Mohan at 8197900171

**4. Information**

# 1. Niramaya - Health Insurance for people with disabilities

Today we look at Niramaya, one of the schemes under the National Trust Act for people with disabilities.

**About Niramaya**

This scheme offers affordable health insurance to people with autism, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities.

* Health insurance cover of up to Rs one lakh on the basis of reimbursement.
* Single premium across age band.
* Provide same coverage irrespective of the type of disability covered under the National Trust Act
* Covers transportation costs
* No pre-insurance medical tests required
* Scheme available across India, except Jammu & Kashmir

**Eligibility for Niramaya**

* All persons with disabilities under the National Trust Act with valid disability certificate will be eligible and included
* OPD treatment covered including medicines, pathology, diagnostic tests, regular medical checkups for non-ailing disabled people, dental preventive dentistry, surgery to prevent further aggravation of disability, corrective surgeries for existing disability, including congenital disability, therapies to reduce impact of disability and disability related complications, and alternative medicine.
* Treatment can be taken from any hospital

**How to enroll**

* Apply for enrolment in the prescribed format given on the website and submit it to the nearest organization registered with the National Trust or to any other agency approved by the National Trust
* On successful enrolment and approval, Health ID No./ card will be issued to each beneficiary. An e-card can be printed from website
* Nominal processing fee as determined from time to time to be paid to National Trust
* Both the fresh enrolment and renewal will be from the enrolment date with the insurance company to the end of the financial year. Any beneficiary enrolled during any month of the financial year will be covered upto 31 March.

**Documents for enrolment**

* Disability certificate from district hospital or appropriate government authority
* Address proof
* One passport size photograph of the disabled person
* BPL card, if applicable
* Income certificate (Latest IT return, or income certificate from tehsildar
* Proof of payment of applicable fee (Bank receipt)
* Bank details for settlement of claims

# 2. NHFDC Scheme for Concessional Education Loans to Persons with Disabilities

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) was set up by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India on 24 January 1997.

The main role of NHFDC is to ensure that funds allocated for the welfare of disabled people reach the respective State Channelizing Agencies (SCA) nominated by the State Governments.

One of the schemes offered by NHFDC is **Concessional Education Loans to Persons with Disabilities**.

**About the scheme**

The scheme is a term loan given to people with disabilities to enable them to get higher education in India or abroad where admission has been secured.

**Who is eligible?**

Any student with 40% or more disability can avail the discount with proper disability certificate issued by recognized authorities.

**Eligible Courses**

All courses with employment prospects are eligible.

• Graduation courses/ Post graduation courses/ Professional courses

• Other courses approved by UGC/Government/AICTE etc.

**Amount of loan**

The loan is given to a disabled student based on the repaying capacity of the parents or students.

• A maximum loan of ₹10 lakhs is given for studies in India.

• A maximum loan of ₹20 lakhs is given for studies outside India.

**Rate of interest**

• Rate of Interest is 4% p.a.

• A rebate of 0.5% is given on interest to women students.

For further details, please contact the **State Channelising Agencies** of your State Or National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) Red Cross Bhawan, Sector-12, Faridabad – 121 007 Ph: (0129) 2287512, 2287513, 2226910 TeleFax : (0129) – 2284371 E-mail : nhfdc97@gmail.com

# 3. E-Wheelchair Service provided by the Indian railways

The Indian railways provide the E-Wheelchair Service for people with disabilities, sick and the senior citizens travelling on trains.

The service is available at some major railway junctions- Jn:Agra Cantt, Ahmedabad Jn, Bangalore City Jn, Bhusaval Jn, Howrah Jn, Indore Jn,Jaipur Jn, Jhansi Jn, Kanpur Central Jn, Lucknow Jn,Lucknow Ne, Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Mumbai Central, Mumbai Cst, Nagpur Jn, New Delhi, Pathankot Cantt, Pune Jn, Secunderabad Jn, Vadodara Jn,Varanasi Jn, Vijayawada Jn.

The wheelchair is provided free of charge, depending on the availability on first come first service with booking voucher.

**Booking an E-Wheelchair**

• Go to the IRCTC website and click on ‘E-Wheelchair’ page.

• Enter the PNR number and click on ‘Search’.

• Enter the required details and then click on ‘Book’.

• The booking details will show on the site and a printout can be taken.

**Cancelling an E-Wheelchair booking**

• On the IRCTC website, click on E-Wheelchair page and then click on ‘Booked Tickets.

• Enter the Email id and Mobile number used at the time of booking and click on “Go”. An OTP will be received for Cancellation.

• Select the ticket from “List of Booking” which is to be cancelled and click on the 'Cancel ticket' option.

• Select Number of Wheelchair to cancel, enter OTP which you have received on mobile & Email ID, then click on Cancel.

# 4. Tips for disabled people travelling to Europe

If you are a disabled traveler and planning to travel through European countries, here is some information that can help.

1. When travelling abroad, planning ahead is the most vital thing to do. Look for accessibility information regarding the places you wish to visit.

This will ensure that you don’t get stuck in places that are not accessible.

Some places are more disabled friendly as compared to others. Not all famous locations are accessible. Traveler can look for other locations that are more convenient for them.

1. Book accessible hotel in advance and avoid waiting till the last moment.

Also try and talk to the staff if possible to get confirmed information about the accessibility at the hotel.

Sometimes the hotel websites may not give the correct information. Book hotel in summer if you are planning to travel in December. Most good hotels get booked earlier.

1. A tour guide can make the trip more enjoyable for disabled travelers. Guides can help you move around a place faster while providing information about their history and features. This will save time and help you get the maximum benefit from the trip.
2. Before travelling to a new country planning the route is advisable. Make a basic plan of the spots you wish to visit and the destinations.

This will help to utilize the travelling time in the best possible way and also save time and money.

1. Try and stay in the central or most accessible parts of the town or city you are visiting. This will help you get better access in the locality.

Look for accessible restaurants or shops around the place you are planning to stay at.

1. Also check the condition or the options about transportation available locally.

# 5. 5 things to remember when traveling with a person with disability

Traveling with people with disabilities has become easier now thanks to technology.

However, when you are traveling with a disabled person, it’s good to keep some do's and dont's in mind.

Here are some tips from Jumia Travel, which is a leading online travel agency.

* **Choose your destination carefully** - Make sure your choice of destination is fit for a person with a disability. Make sure its not a place where you need to walk a lot or climb many stairs. So plan your destination and the route that you will take properly.
* Book ahead of time - Book your flight well ahead of time and inform the staff of the airline that you are using that you will be traveling with a person with a disability. This way you can avoid the luggage checks, long lines, and waiting time. You will be able to proceed through the lines prioritizing people with disabilities.
* Do your research - People with disabilities are prioritized in many places. They are given a number of privileges in hotels, restaurants, and other facilities due to their disability. They are also given amenities and lanes solely for them so they can travel with convenience. Do your research to discover some of these places and do not hesitate to take advantage of them.
* Consult a doctor - Certain activities may not be allowed for a particular disabled person. You must first consult a doctor if your trip may cause harm to your companion with special needs. Always carry additional pieces of medicines that will be prescribed by the doctor.
* Stay in accessible areas - Avoid staying and going into remote areas or to places that are far from the center of your destination. Make sure you are located close enough to establishments and hospitals. This way if there is an emergency, you can provide your companion with treatment soon.

# 6. These are the concessions given by Indian railways

A number of concessions are given by the Indian railways that lower the price of the tickets. These concessions vary according to the various categories and start from 25% to 100% discounts.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation or IRCTC website offers concession on senior citizen tickets booked online.

Other concessions can be availed at the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters at all the Indian Railways reservation offices. Children below 12 years are only charged 50% of the total ticket price.

Here is some information about the amount of concessions given by Indian railways.

1. Disabled Travelers

Passengers with disabilities can avail up to 75% concession in second class, sleeper, first class, third AC, AC chair car and 50% concession in 1AC and 2AC.

25% concession is available for disabled passengers in 3AC and AC chair car of Rajdhani and Shatabadi trains. Deaf and speech impaired people travelling alone or with an escort, can avail up to 50% concession in 2nd class, sleeper and 1st class.

1. Senior citizens

Men aged 60 years or above get 40% concession in all classes. Women who are either 58 years old or above can avail 50% concession in all classes. This concession is also available in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

1. Students

General category students going to hometown and educational tours can avail 50% concession in second class and sleeper class.

For SC/ST category of such students, the concession available is 75% in both the classes.

Girls up to graduation and boys up to class 12 between home and school are eligible for free second class monthly season ticket-MST.

* War widows

The widows of policemen and paramilitary personnel killed in action against terrorists and extremists, widows of martyrs of operation Vijay in Kargil in 1999 can avail 75 % concession in second and sleeper class.

1. Patients

Cancer patients traveling for treatment/periodic check-up, can avail 75% concession in second class, 1st class, AC chair car, 100% concession in sleeper and 3AC, 50% concession in 1AC and 2AC.

Thalassemia patients for treatment/periodic check-up, heart patients traveling for heart surgery. Kidney patients traveling for kidney transplant operation/dialysis can avail 75% concession in second class, 1st class and AC chair car.

50% concession is applicable for these patients in 1AC and 2AC.

# 7. 5 things to remember when interacting with a person on wheelchair

Do you know someone who is on a wheelchair? Then these 5 tips will be of help to you. Being disabled does not mean that the person does not understand the normal human behaviour. When you interact with someone on a wheelchair, be normal. Disabled people do not need sympathies. They are just as smart as you or me!

Be patient

Disabled people are capable of achieving things. They might not achieve it like how an abled person does. They do it differently. Disabled people might take time to learn new things. Being patient is the best way to befriend them.

Watch what you talk

Knowing what you talk to them is very important. Do not use demeaning words and sympathetic sentences. No one likes to be sympathized! Physical challenges have nothing to do with a person’s intelligence. It is all about the effort that you take to listen to what the other person is saying.

Use appropriate tones

Disabled people like to be talked to them! They do not appreciate talking down to them. Make an eye contact when you interact. Do not talk to them like how you would talk to a child. A disabled person can often find that extremely demeaning.

Do not stare at the wheelchair!

Want to ask a person on wheelchair something? Go and ask them. Do not stand in a corner and stare at them. No human being likes to be stalked or stared! Curiosity is fine. But know your limits.

Treat everyone with respect

This is the golden rule. Treat every person the way you want them to treat you back!

# 8. Some simple home maintenance tips for your hearing aids

Care and regular maintenance can go a long way in extending the life of hearing aids, without resorting to frequent repairs.

Here are some tips that you should follow at home to keep your hearing aids in good working condition for years.

* Wipe with a dry cloth or tissue - Water, moisture and dust can seriously damage electronic devices. So it is advisable to clean hearing aids externally with a soft dry cloth or a soft tissue. Do not use any spray or solvent to clean.
* Use a Stay Dry box or an electric dehumidifier - Before going to sleep at night, put the hearing aids in a Stay Dry Box or an Electric Dehumidifier. It is better to remove the battery and leave the battery compartment open. This allows air to circulate inside the hearing aid and remove the moisture settled on the circuit board. A dehumidifier is a device which removes the moisture collected in the hearing aid due to humidity or sweat. Do not expose your hearing aids to rain or use it in a shower.
* Check for dirt or wax accumulation - If the output in your hearing aid has reduced, first check whether there is a blockage in the opening of the Ear Mould or the ITC or CIC, Chances are that dirt from the hand or earwax has blocked the opening. It is advisable to clean your ears regularly.
* Check the batteries - Always keep spare batteries at hand. In case you are not using the hearing aids for a few days, remove the batteries and store them elsewhere. A leaked battery can damage the internal circuit.
* Keep hearing aids away from heat - Hearing aids have sensitive parts so keep them in a cool, dry place so that they keep working well. Do not keep them in direct sunlight, in the glove compartment of the car while the air conditioner is off, or the car is parked in the sun. Do not use a hair dryer while wearing your hearing aids.
* Keep hearing aids away from sprays, powder etc - Avoid all sprays or powder which can block the hearing aid openings or have solvents in them.

**5. Employment**

**1. Recruitment for General Insurance Corporation of India Maharashtra**

Job title : Assistant Manager

No of total post: 24

Reservation for V.I: 1

Last date for apply: 29th May 2018

website: [www.gicofindia.com](http://www.gicofindia.com)

**2. Recruitment for Human Behavior and Allied Science Delhi**

Job title : Technical Assistant

Reservation for V.I: 1

Last date for apply: 11.6.2018

website: [www.ihbas.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.ihbas.delhigovt.nic.in)

**3. Recruitment for Assam Higher Secondary Education Council**

Job title : Junior Assistant

No of total post: 31

Reservation for PWD: As per Government Rules

Last date for apply: 30th May 2018

website: [www.ahsec.nic.in](http://www.ahsec.nic.in)

**4. Recruitment for Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar**

Job title : Junior Assistant

No of total post: 7

Reservation for V.I: 1

Last date for apply: 9.6.2018

website: [www.iitbbs.ac.in](http://www.iitbbs.ac.in)

**5. Recruitment for Bihar State Power Holdings Company Ltd.,**

Job title : Junior Accounts Clerk

No of total post: 350

Reservation for PWD : As per government rules

Last date for apply: 31st May 2018

website: [www.bsphcl.bih.nic.in](http://www.bsphcl.bih.nic.in)