International Mobility Conference (IMC 19)

Hosted by: Blind People's Association, India

Theme: "Orientation and Mobility – A Step Towards Independence – Recent Research & Technology "

18-20 November 2026

Program Schedule

The time mentioned is Indian Standard Time (IST).
Kindly convert time as per your time zone: IST is UTC+5.30; CET+4.30; EDT+9.30; South Africa+3:30

Virtual Participation for Ganga Hall (All Plenary and Concurrent Sessions C1, C3, C5, C7 & C9) Zoom Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/R4xbemE5T6K5WyzaiRA81A

Virtual Participation for Tapi Hall (Only Second C2, C4, C6, C8 & C10 Concurrent Sessions) Zoom Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9SrPNrJ5TN2vuJHl2XayCQ

Sr. No	Day/Time	Details	
Day 1 – Wednesday, 18 November, 2026			
1.	**Ganga Hall**		
	8.30 a.m. – 9.25 a.m. Registration		
	9.25 a.m. to 11 a.m. Inauguration Programme:		
	9.25 a.m.	Prayer & Lamp Lighting	BPA Students with Disabilities and Guests
	9.30 a.m.	Welcome	Mr. Rajendra Shah, President, BPA

	9.35 a.m.	Highlights of the conference	Dr. Bhushan Punani, Chair Host Committee
	9.40 a.m.	Mementoes to Guests	By Trustees of BPA & ICEVI
	9.45 a.m.	IMC and History of Conference	Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson
	9.50 a.m.	Message from IMC	Mr. Richard Bounds, IMC
	9.55 a.m.	Keynote Address	Standards for Professional Behavior Ms. Eileen Siffermann-USA **(VIRTUAL)**
	10.15 a.m.	Keynote Address-Development of O&M Around the World	Dr. Nurit Neustadt-Noy & Dr. Laura Bozeman-USA (**VIRTUAL**)
	10.35 a.m.	Address by Guest of Honour	Mr. Vishnu Rajput, IAS, Commissioner, Persons with Disabilities, Government of Gujarat
	10.45 a.m.	Address of Chief Guest	Mr. Pravin Mali, Minister of State for Forests and Environment, Climate Change, and Transport, Government of Gujarat.
	10.55 a.m.	Vote of Thanks	Ms. Vimal Thawani, Project Director, BPA
		Master of Ceremony	Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, BPA

2.	11.05 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.	TEA BREAK	
3.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**Plenary Session-1**	
		CHAIR: Mr. Akhil Paul, Chief Mentor, Sense India & Vice President - ICEVI	
		P.1.1. Prof Nora Griffin-Shirley & Dr. Laura Bozeman- USA (**VIRTUAL**)	The Voices of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists who Instruct Individuals with Deafblindness
		P.1.2. Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson - Sweden, Co-presenter in Research: Leif Sunesson and Bo N. Schenkman	Experiences of room acoustics and The Importance of Hearing In O&M
		P.1.3. Dr. Fabiana Perla and Jamie Maffit USA (**VIRTUAL**)	From Theory to Practice: A Guide for Teaching Orientation and Mobility Problem-Solving Skills
4.	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH	
5.	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	**Plenary Session - 2**	
		CHAIR: Prof. T S Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Children's Research University	
		P.2.1. Prof. Boguslaw 'Bob' MAREK - Poland and Ms. Phia Damsma - Australia (**VIRTUAL**)	Developing Spatial Imagery and Mental Mapping Skills Through Tactile Graphics and Audio Games

		P.2.2. Dr. Justin Kaiser and Dr. Tina Herzberg - USA	Exploring Education Policy and Practice Inequities in Orientation and Mobility Referral Systems
		P.2.3. Dr. Sean Tikkun - USA	Emerging Technology for O&M
6.	3.30 p.m.- 5.00 p.m.	**Plenary Session- 3**	
		CHAIR: Mr. Richard Bounds - United Kingdom	
		P.3.1. Dr. Andrew Dodgson- UK (**VIRTUAL**)	AI As a Professional Co-Pilot from Practice Experience to Future Readiness: Planning the Effective, Responsible Use of AI in Professional Practice
		P.3.2. Mrs. Sofie Mangnus The Netherlands & Alies Aarts - The Netherlands	Resilience Training for People with a Visual Impairment - Interactive Workshop (40 minutes)
		P.3.3. Prof. Robert Wall Emerson – USA (**VIRTUAL**)	The Foundations of Orientation and Mobility: Changes from Edition 3 to Edition 4
Day 2 – Thursday, 19 November, 2026			
Ganga Hall			
7.	9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	**Plenary Session-4**	
		CHAIR: Mrs. Nandini Rawal	

		P.4.1. Ms. Moira Higgerty – South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	A Unique South African Model of O&M Service Delivery.
		P. 4.2. Ms. Thabelo Muofhe - South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	Orientation and Mobility Training with a Family of 4, All with Visual Impairment.
		P.4.3. Mr. Adam Musinski- Poland	Teaching Aids as Effective Support in Cultivating an Active Participation of Children During O&M Classes.
8.	11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m	Tea Break	
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 11.30 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.			
9.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**Concurrent Session- C 1** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Dr. Bharat Joshi (**VIRTUAL**) **Co-chair: Mr. Sunil Gaurier**	
		C.1.1. Ms. Boikhutso Queen - South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	Access to Education Through Mobility
		C.1.2. Dr. Justin Kaiser and Dr. Tina Herzberg - USA	Low to High Tech: Navigating in the Community
		C.1.3. Ms. Eileen Siffermann- USA (**VIRTUAL**)	Ethical Consideration for the O&M Instructor

		Concurrent Session – C 2 **(Tapi Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Dr. Uttam Kumar, CEO, Sense India	
		C.2.1. Dr. Phoebe Okungu- USA (**VIRTUAL**)	Two Systematic Reviews Focusing on Individuals Who Are Deafblind: The Need for O & M Specialists and Identification of Effective O & M Teaching Strategies
		C.2.2. Mr. Sachin Rizal & Mr. Rashmikant - India	Using Multisensory Strategies for Orientation and Mobility in Persons with Deafblindness: Insights from Lived Experiences
		C.2.3 Ms. Dvora Wiseman-Hoter- Israel (**VIRTUAL**)	The Human Blueprint - Assistive Technology from Policy to Practice
10.	1.00 p.m.- 2.00 p.m.	**Lunch**	
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.			
11.	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	**Concurrent Session – C 3** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson	
		C.3.1. Dr. Nurit Neustadt - Noy Israel (**VIRTUAL**)	Integrating Audio Description Methodology as a Tool in: Orientation and Mobility Training for People Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired: A Clinical Framework

		C.3.2. Mr. Peter Lock - UK & Jessica Jarrett (**VIRTUAL**)	Guide Dogs My Time to Play, Early Years Group Habilitation, Developing Early Skills & Independence.
		C.3.3. Mr. Archit Shah - India	Mobility – A Key to Success for Blind Persons to Outshine in the Physiotherapy Field
		Concurrent Session – C 4 **(Tapi Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Mr. Rajendra Shah - India	
		C. 4.1. Ms. Eileen Siffermann - USA (**VIRTUAL**)	Credentialing Concepts and Standards for Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Instructors
		C.4.2. Mr. Richard Bounds – UK Interactive Workshop (40 minutes)	How is the profession protected? Who sets the standards? A discussion about professional bodies and accrediting organisations around the world
		C.4.3. Ms. Ntungufhadzeni Mutele & Mr. Justice Phukubje - South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	Supporting Blind and Partially Sighted Students Transition into Institutions for Higher Learning in South Africa
12.	3.30 p.m.- 4.00 p.m.	Tea Break	

2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 4.00 P.M. - 5.30 P.M.			
13.	4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	**Concurrent Session – C 5** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Mr. Sunil Rathod - India	
		C.5.1. Prof. Dawn Anderson – USA (**VIRTUAL**)	O&M with Students with CVI, Screening and Interventions
		C.5.2. Ms. Ankita Sehdev – India	Beyond Mobility: Building Independent and Dignified Living through Integrated Assistive & Digital Technologies
		C.5.3. Dr. Michelle Botha - South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	Meeting the Support Needs of Orientation and Mobility Practitioners in South Africa:
		Concurrent Session – C 6 **(Tapi Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Ms. Kalpana Lalwani	
		C.6.1. Mr. Subin Baekhunthod – Thailand	The Development of Orientation and Mobility Instructors with Visual Impairment in Thailand
		C.6.2. Ms. Xoliswa Shozi- South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	The Long Cane: A Path to Freedom and Self-Reliance
		C.6.3. Dr. Sean Tikkun - USA	Teaching Next Generation Smart Cane to COMS

Day 3 – Friday, 20 November, 2026			
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.			
14.	9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	**Concurrent Session-7** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Ms. Krupa Velani	
		C.7.1. Prof. Yukti Suneel Gupta & Prof. Sujata Bhan - INDIA (**VIRTUAL**)	The Effect of Dance and Movement Therapy on Orientation and Mobility Skills in Children with Visual Impairment
		C.7.2. Prof. Jamie Maffit PA – USA (**VIRTUAL**)	A Screening Tool for Referral to Blindness and Low Vision Services
		C.7.3. Ms. Rashmi Maruvada & Mrs. Annapoorna Maruvada India	Reaching Beyond the Classroom: Mobility as a Gateway to Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities"
		Concurrent Session-8 **(Tapi Hall)**	
		Chair: Dr. Prakash Mankodi - India	
		C.8.1. Ms. Aniek de Smit – The Netherlands	Orientation and Mobility Skills for Children and Adolescents
		C.8.2 Dr. Tina Herzberg - USA	Advancing Independent Travel Skills: Summer Programs for Youth Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

		C.8.3 Mr. Sannyashai Kumar Behera - India	Enabling Independent and Safe Travel for Blind Persons
15.	11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	TEA	
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.			
16.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**Concurrent Session-9** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		Chair: Ms. Kinnari Desai	
		C.9.1 Dr. Francis BOE- France (to be read by Dr. Rajeshwari Shrimali)	The A.I. brings tools that Transform Everyday Life Blind or Visually Impaired People
		C.9.2 Ms. Petro Grove – South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	O&M and OT Collaboration to Support Optimal Mobility Independence and Safety Orientation and Mobility:
		C.9.3. Ms. Mpilonhle Buthelezi – South Africa (**VIRTUAL**)	O&M Core Training: Cane Designs, Methods of Assessing and Optimizing Mobility
		Concurrent Session-10 **(Tapi Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Dr. B. K. Panchal - India	
		C.10.1 Mr. Hunny Bhagchandani- India	Affordable Assistive Innovations Transforming Independent Mobility for the Visually Impaired: Saarthi Smart Cane and Jyoti AI Pro Glasses
		C.10.2. Ms. Camilla Madsen & Ms.	VR for Orientation and Mobility

		Susanne Borglit - Denmark (**VIRTUAL**)	
		C.10.3. Prof. Robert Wall Emerson – USA & Mrs. Doaa Mabrouk - Egypt (**VIRTUAL**)	O&M training in Egypt: Development of a training program
17.	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH	
18.	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	**Plenary Session- 5** **(Ganga Hall)**	
		CHAIR: Ms. Vimal Thawani	
		P.5.1. Prof. Nora Griffin-Shirley & Dr. Laura Bozeman – USA (**VIRTUAL**)	Success Strategies Employed by Blind O&M Specialists
		P.5.2. Mrs. Ruthie Lang – Israel (**VIRTUAL**)	Orientation and Mobility in Times of Emergency
		P.5.3. Prof. Kazunori Minatani- Japan	Integrating Tactile Architectural Models and Floor Plans Using 3D Printing: From an Experience of Exhibition at the Osaka Kansai Expo
		C.5.4 Dr. Bhushan Punani – India	Mobility & Human Guide during Covid
19.	3.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	**Valedictory** **(Ganga Hall)**	
	3.30	Welcome	Mr. Rajendra Shah, President, Blind People's Association (BPA)

	3.35 p.m.	Keynote Takeaway	Embodied Education in the field of O&M Dr. Inger Berndtsson, Sweden
	3.45 p.m.	Vision of Space, Vision of Time	A Roadmap for Self-Discovery and Character Safeguarding Dr. Arvind Agarwal - India
	3.55 p.m.	Conference Reflections	Dr. Bhushan Punani, Chair Host Committee
	4.00 p.m.	IMC Next Conference Announcements	Mr. Richard Bounds, Officials of IMC
	4.05 p.m.	Handing over Flag to Host of IMC20 Conference to held in Melbourne, Australia during 2027	Prof Laurn Ayton, University of Melbourne, Australia (**VIRTUAL**)
	4.15 pm.	Address	Chief Guest Prof. Amiben U Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Open University
	4.25 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	Mrs. Vimal Thawani, Project Director, BPA
		Master of Ceremony	Mrs. Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, BPA
	4.30 p.m. onwards	High-Tea	