

Mr. A K Mittal, legendary figure of Braille Development and Institution building in India expired at 10.30 a.m. on 22nd September, 2020 after a brief illness. The Secretary General of World Blind Union, Mr. Mittal was a great friend of ICEVI as well as ICEVI West Asia. He was also a Member of the Executive Committee of the ICEVI. He was also a great admirer of ICEVI, BPA and NAB Gujarat especially of Late Shri Jagdishbhai Patel, Founder of BPA and admirer of ICEVI. Shri A. K. Mittal had been providing his services as President of AICB since 2007, the position that occupied by Jagdishbhai during formative years of AICB, early 1980s.

In India, he is known as one of the most outstanding promoters of Braille as well as Training of the Special Educators. Apart from heading apex institution, the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability, Dehradun for a number of years, he was a member of a large number of National and international Level Committees, especially in the field of Braille Development, special education, teacher training and drafting of National Legislations.

With his excellent command over reading of Braille, he was known for using the latest technology for accessing the material. A great and prolific orator, he was invited as a Plenary Speaker on numerous national and international level conferences. He was truly a great friend and supporter of ICEVI West Asia. He was invited to all National and Regional Conferences organized ICEVI West Asia as Keynote Speaker or as a plenary speaker. He always provided his services in these conferences as a Member of the Resolution Committees also.

With Mr. A K Mittal's demise ICEVI, ICEVI West Asia and BPA have lost a great friend and India has lost a great crusader of Braille. We pray to Almighty God to grant peace to departed soul and give strength to his family members to bear the irreparable loss.