

Brief Background:

1. India, our motherland has benefitted a lot from contributions by the Non Resident Indian diaspora across the world in many forms of investment of time, money, knowledge sharing, expertise and a broader contemporary global perspective. Who can forget the role of the pioneer, Mahatma Gandhi and the spirit of serving, becoming a part of that positive change is the guiding principle of NRI Volunteers of [OVBI](#).
2. [Voice of The Specially Abled People](#), is a platform created by an NRI, Pranav Desai with the goal of Empowering the Specially Abled People also known as Disabled or Differently Abled people of India. Growing up in India and experiencing all the challenges faced by the individual and family in getting education and living independently and then being exposed to the world especially USA and experiencing the ease of independent living and normal existence motivated him to do his part to bring the transformation that is needed.
3. The Situation Analysis made it crystal clear that this challenge needed a TOP to Bottom 360 degree approach to make progress and break bottlenecks. A sample study/ testing the waters was done through the Group : Empowering The Specially Abled on the volunteer platform, election campaign website india272.com with Pranav Desai as the ANCHOR, where there was an attempt to politically mobilize and see the interest of the people in issues related to this weaker and largely marginalized section of society. The results were remarkably positive with 1,700 plus volunteers joining the group from all over the country and responding in detail and with conviction and knowledge to the 3 tasks created for volunteers by the group.
 - [Recommendations](#) for changes in the current and proposed Bill for Persons with Disability – RPWD 1995
 - Top 3 issues of Specially abled People of India
 - List of 3 NGOs working for Specially Abled People in the constituencyThe volunteer participation, the passion of the people to contribute and the inclusion of [7 commitments](#) from [VISION 2020](#) in the manifesto and H'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi winning with historical majority solidified the ground for taking up this task at a bigger level with hope that the time was right to push India to become Accessible and Inclusive for its Specially Abled People.
4. India became the first country to mandate CSR funding for large corporates in April 2014 and that was a great shot in the arm for our agenda.

5. With our experience gained while interacting with various components of the Disability ecosystem in India from Individuals, NGOs, Lawyers working in the field, CBR network, prominent leaders of organizations for Specially Abled people, educationists etc. it was clear that there was an urgent need to bring the issues of the Specially Abled People to the notice of all “Decision Makers” with possible solutions learned from global experience and possibility of indigenizing the solutions specific to the Indian environment. As part of the mission to represent the cause, emphasize its importance and urgency in the changing global context and eliciting the advantages that will result from making India accessible and Inclusive in all aspects of Social life, we have represented the cause of Empowering The Specially Abled People to our H’ble PM Shri Modiji, Lok Sabha Speaker, 10 ministers of Govt of India, number of Member of Parliament, industry giants like Reliance, Pepsico, Torrent, Wagh Bakri tea, Industry Organizations such as Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI) etc. and many bureaucrats in various ministries with the support of our friends, well-wishers and volunteers.
6. We successfully made our case for CSR funding for the cause of Sp. Abled People at IISc , Bangalore to an esteemed crowd of bureaucrats, industry representatives, scholars and NGOs working in the Disability sector and mobilized the grass root volunteer outreach through the “Saksham” organization that is nationally dedicated to the causes of Specially Abled People by addressing their National convention and participating in formulating strategic initiatives that will increase awareness all across India. We were very lucky that the AOL members shared our passion and we could represent our cause to His Holiness Sri Sri Ravishankar ji who is the contemporary global champion of compassion and we are now very excited to work with OVBI, AOL, BPA, Saksham, CBR network, Youth4jobs, Enable India and many more to bring the transformational change.
7. So far results have been very encouraging as seen in actions and [radio announcements](#) by H’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi on allocating Rs 1 lac to make every school accessible, Finance Minister making multiple announcements in union budget itself, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister announcing launch of Universal ID card for Specially Abled People and many more. www.voicefsap.com is emerging as platform connecting individuals, NGOs, mentors and several eco system partners.
8. While continuing the focus to reach out to larger community of corporate, social and elected leaders, it is very important to inspire thought leaders from NRI community to contribute in Empowering The Specially Abled People of India through their expertise and resources.