



Pranav Desai is a founder of [www.voiceofsap.org](http://www.voiceofsap.org), working as a Vice President with NTT DATA, IT Services Company (world's top 10). He was appointed as an Honorary Advisor to Govt. of India, Ministry of Social Justice. He is a polio survivor with both lower limbs affected by polio and lives in Los Angeles for past 20+ years.

Pranav's vision is to create an Inclusive, Accessible Society with Empowered Specially Abled People. He wants to achieve it with help of Assistive Technology Solutions and creating mass movement of volunteers enabled by VOSAP digital tools such as VOSAP mobile app, Art from Heart portal, virtual Exhibition of Assistive Technology etc. to be the "change makers" in their community, company, school etc.

Pranav started the VOSAP movement in 2014 from America with advocacy efforts at policy level with Govt of India to bring in structural changes such as new law – Rights of PwD Act 2016, Comprehensive Disability Policy, Accessible India Campaign etc. To accelerate adoption and implementation of these structural changes, Pranav started grassroots movement of compassionate volunteers, enabled by VOSAP digital tools.

As a result of advocacy and collective efforts of volunteers, leaders, thousands of places are getting upgraded in India with accessibility provisions, thousands of people are enabled with assistive devices and several initiatives on skilling, employment etc.

### **Key Achievements and Awards:**

As a polio survivor with both lower limbs affected by polio, Pranav faced enormous challenges while growing up in India as well in corporate America but he successfully converted those experiences, learnt lessons to now help millions of people with disabilities in India and around the world.

### **Academic Achievements:**

1. Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics and Communications) with final year project at India's prestigious institution Space Applications Center, Ahmedabad
2. MBA (Marketing) with merit scholarship, multiple sponsored projects including strategic project "Prospects and Feasibility of Software Exports from India" in 1992 when the industry was in infancy stage with only Rs 300 crore in exports

## **Professional Achievements:**

1. Multiple awards at NTT DATA, AIG and Arvind Mills where Pranav has worked including latest being Social impact award by CEO of NTT Corporation, Tokyo Japan for his social contribution in the field of disability in Feb 2019
2. For outstanding sales performance in FY 2020-2021, as Vice President of Sales (head of sales in North America for his business unit), Pranav received award from CEO of NTT DATA Services in Nov 2021

## **Social Achievements:**

1. Pranav started Voice of Specially Abled People ([www.voiceofsap.org](http://www.voiceofsap.org)), US based non-profit in disability sector, which now has close to 11,000 inspired, registered volunteers in 10+ countries, helping Persons with Disabilities
2. Pranav received appointment as Honorary Adviser to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India in 2015
3. Pranav received community award in Los Angeles from Consulate General of India, San Francisco in Feb 2019
4. Under Pranav's leadership,
  - a. VOSAP has directly helped more than 10,000 Persons with Disabilities in India in last 5 years
  - b. VOSAP received "Special Consultative Status" with United Nations Economic and Social Council (1 of 62 NGO in disability sector in the world has this status)
  - c. VOSAP became "Certifying Organization" for "President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)" to recognize volunteers with letter signed by US President
  - d. VOSAP has developed several digital tools for enabling volunteers around the world to promote accessibility and inclusion

## **Impact in India's disability sector:**

1. Pranav contributed to manifesto of BJP in 2014 for **Specially Abled People**, first time this word was coined in India in official government documents, which later in Hindi language was coined as "Divyang" by Honorable Prime Minister of India
2. Pranav proposed "Accessible India Campaign" to Government of India, which was accepted and launched by Honorable Prime Minister of India on Dec 3 2015
3. Pranav was instrumental, working directly with PMO (Prime Minister Office) in implementing one of the 7 manifesto goals of 2014 general elections i.e. new law for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD 2016), brought in India in Dec 2016