



Pranav Desai

Polio Survivor. Corporate Leader. Founder, VOSAP.

At the age of four, Pranav Desai lost the use of both his legs to polio. At the age of 57, he stands — in every sense that matters — as one of India's most consequential voices for its 100 million persons with disabilities.

Growing up in Gujarat with impaired mobility, Pranav's parents refused to let circumstances define him, becoming the force that supercharged his ambition with education. He earned a Bachelor's in Electronics Engineering and an MBA on merit scholarship and went on to build an illustrious career from Arvind Mills, AIG, and NTT Data — rising to become Managing Director, head of sales for North America for mid-market business. In 2019, the CEO of NTT Corporation, Tokyo, personally awarded him for social impact.

But his bigger ambition was to be a transformational leader in the disability sector. In 2017, from Los Angeles, Pranav founded Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP) — a non-profit that has since reached **100,000+ persons with disabilities across 28 states of India**, mobilised 12,700 volunteers in 10+ countries, and raised millions of dollars with the help of **2,000+ NRI donors**. VOSAP holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC — a distinction held by only 62 disability-sector NGOs worldwide and has spoken 9 times at the UN.

His policy fingerprints are on modern India itself. Pranav proposed the **Accessible India Campaign** — launched by the Prime Minister on December 3, 2015. He worked directly with the PMO on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016**. He contributed to the 2014 BJP manifesto, where the term “Specially Abled People” first appeared in official government language — later re coined as “Divyang” by the Prime Minister. He was appointed Honorary Adviser to the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India, in 2015.

One of VOSAP's current initiatives — Project HITARTH — works to bring India's 20 million intellectually disabled people under the government's Niramaya health scheme through a structured layer of trained social workers. In under two years, VOSAP has already sourced 45% of government beneficiaries under the scheme. His Vision 2047 outlines how India's disability sector can contribute \$1 Trillion to a Viksit Bharat.

VOSAP's programmes — A Snapshot

VOSAP's work spans assistive products access, accessibility ratings, digital tools for disability inclusion, eye surgeries, and grassroots volunteer mobilisation. The VOSAP mobile app connects divyangjan with resources, volunteers, and government schemes. VOSAP's “Art from Heart” contest on disability reached 53 countries. VOSAP launched the world's first 3D virtual exhibition of assistive technology products. It became a certifying organisation for the US President's Volunteer Service Award — recognising volunteers by name from the White House.

*At its core, VOSAP is a movement built on a simple belief: **disability is not inability. Pranav's own life is the most compelling proof of that.** | [linkedin.com/in/pranavpdesai/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pranavpdesai/)*