

VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE



Newsletter: May 2016

May 3, 2016; Los Angeles: VoSAP team met with **Shri Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys** and shared the vision of VoSAP, specifically on how corporations like Infosys can continue to make huge social impact by hiring People with Disabilities. As Shri Murthy ji is an extremely well respected corporate leader, he can help create awareness on this issue among other Indian corporate leaders. VoSAP founder, Pranav Desai proposed to Shri Murthy ji is (who is also Director at NIE - National Institute of Engineering) along with NIE President Shri Srinath Batni and NIE Principal Dr Shekar to consider **setting up an Innovation Lab at NIE for promoting innovation in Assistive Technology, ICT sector** to Empower Specially Abled People. Dr Shekar invited Pranav Desai to discuss this further at NIE, Mysuru.

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Updates on Accessible India Campaign (AIC): VoSAP's flagship thought Leadership, Vision, and now, Govt. of India's initiative of "Accessible India Campaign", continue to make good progress. Hon. Minister for Urban Development (UD) Ministry, Govt. of India, has launched **Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index** for built infrastructure, transportation, web accessibility, etc. as part of the AIC initiative. **VoSAP was invited** to witness this historic moment on Mar 30 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Subsequently, Ministry of UD also launched **Universal Accessibility Standards** for Architects, Planners and Civil engineers to train and implement these building codes. As part of AIC, hundreds of government buildings are now being audited for accessibility; consequently, huge capacity challenges have surfaced in past 2 months as our country seeks to address the challenge of providing sufficient professional Accessible Auditors.

Skill Development to Empower SAP: On Apr 11, Hon'able PM Shri Modi ji, in his message, stated that "Disabled people constitute a significant portion of the population of India and their need for meaningful employment largely remains unmet. The government of India has targeted training **25 lakh people with disabilities in the next seven years.**" There is an initiative under Skill Development ministry to setup several **skill development centers** across India, exclusively for Specially Abled People.

Inspiring updates from key volunteers and partner organizations of VoSAP

- 1. India's First Car Driving School for SAP:** Shri Harish Kumar started India's first car driving school for Specially Abled People, [Ability On Wheels](#). So far they have trained about 100 SAP with a goal of expanding their service across India. This demonstrates a great business model coupled with service to SAP to Empower them with mobility
- 2. Accessible Car/Mini Van:** Shri Ferdi Rodricks, founder of [Ferro Equip](#) has customized over 2,000 cars so far for Empowering Specially Abled People to get into the car and/or drive by themselves. He is now looking to scale up his operations so that hundreds of accessible cars/vans can be produced for providing Taxi services to SAP across India
- 3. Initiative of Member of Parliament:** H'ble MP of New Delhi, **Shri Maheish Girri ji** has taken initiative in installation of Accessible Toilet at Nizamuddin Railway Station. We congratulate him and hope our other MP friends will be encouraged to do so in their constituency as well

We have several tasks and projects for volunteers. Please check out on our website and let us know your interest .

Join our [passionate team of volunteers](#) at: www.voiceofsap.com

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