Ved Chikarmane

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Purpose

I am a high-agency individual. And very determined. My lived experience with hearing loss has shown me first-hand how technology can dramatically alter life outcomes for people. I am driven to work at the intersection of AI, human communication and assistive technologies. And to build solutions that can improve the lives of millions.

Education

University of Victoria (UVic), British Columbia, *1ˢᵗ Year, Bachelors in Psychology + Computer Science*

I am taking Math, Biology, Programming and Psychology courses. In high school I had taken Math, Computer Science, Business, English and Physics. My learning accelerates with building, experimentation, and real-world problem solving.

Passion Projects

Advocacy (Public Speaking & Policy Work), *2016 – Present*

Delivered talks at TEDx, educational institutions, NGOs, and multinational companies. Single-handedly advocated resulting in a newborn hearing screening mandate in Karnataka (population 69M) for the life-changing timely diagnosis of thousands. I was invited to speak at the A. G. Bell Sound Futures event in November 2025 in Washington, DC.

Kivvy Project (Founder), *Feb 2023 – Jul 2025*

An initiative to enable government executed early hearing-loss screening of children, previously unviable due to the cost of technology at massive scale. Facilitated a pilot, forging alignment across institutions: IIT Madras for ultra low-cost screening hardware; SRESHT-SRIHER-IA Lab for their hearing expertise, community-level workflow design; Government of Karnataka for public-health execution machinery; SRCISH for urban logistics and operational support.

Technical Internships

AI/ML Exposure Intern — Datasigns Technologies, **Bangalore**, *May 2024 – Aug 2024*

Rebuilt a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) pipeline using LangChain and Python in Jupyter Notebooks and VS Code. Used Pinecone for vector storage and semantic search. Built workflows with embedding and LLM APIs. Gained experience working with an unfamiliar codebase, prompt engineering, text embeddings and GitHub version control.

FPGA Programming Exposure Intern — Raman Research Institute, **Bangalore**, *May 2024 – Sep 2024*

Worked with the "all-at-once" programmable hardware paradigm. Implemented simple digital-logic modules in VHDL, deployed and tested them on Xilinx FPGA boards. Explored parameters, signal behavior, and hardware execution flow to understand how code maps to physical circuitry for building high-performance hardware systems.

Awards & Recognition

Deccan Herald Changemaker (2025) –for significant societal impact through innovation in the Health category.
Mangharam Award for Excellence (2024) – for exceptional achievement beyond academics.
Brand Ambassador (2023) – National Program for Prevention & Control of Deafness (NPPCD), Govt. of India.
National Inspirer (2023) – Cochlear Foundation, for personal achievement and global impact.
Rex Karamveer Puraskaar (2017) – Indian Confederation of NGOs (iCONGO).

Sports & Other Interests

Football (soccer), cricket, chess, table-tennis, swimming, tennis, pickleball, scuba diving and photography.