



# Vasavi Vani

A NRI VASAVI ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER  
August 2017 issue - The Convention Special



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Previous Editions: <http://www.nriva.org/vasavivani>



Get Convention at your  
finger tips. Scan the QR  
code using your phone and  
download the app.  
It's Safe, Secure and  
Informative!!!

## Convention Check List

- \* Register for convention, events and contests at the website <http://www.nriva2017.org/registrations>
- \* Open your heart and wallet to sponsor
- \* Send your picture to Souvenir team
- \* Know the event schedule of all three days (Details in the next page)
- \* Download the NRIVA App on your phone  
[contact@nriva2017.org](mailto:contact@nriva2017.org)

## All roads lead to New Jersey this fall...

Dear NRIVA Family,

Namaskaram! Namaskara! Vanakkam! Namaste! Hello!

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you and your family to join our extended family of Vasavites on the occasion of celebrating a decade long success story. New Jersey proudly presented a mini-convention years ago where the seeds of our growth were sowed and is set to bring you the grandeur event ever.

In the last few months, the leadership team travelled across the country visiting several chapters hosting NRIVA Days. The enthusiasm and outpour of support we received from our members energized us a lot. This enthusiasm didn't stop in USA, but was also prevalent amongst our family members back home. We had the pleasure of meeting several prominent members of our community in four different major cities (Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bengaluru, Coimbatore) and were overwhelmed by their support and recognition to our organization. The credit goes to each and every member of NRIVA.

"Together we can make a difference" to our community and mankind. To serve, coming together is the first step. Our Global convention provides a platform for Vasavites to come together, network and build partnerships for greater good.

More than 200 volunteers continue to spend their summer preparing for the convention. Hours of meetings over the phone and in-person, fill their evenings and weekends as the team gears towards smashing all the previous records in every aspect. We expect close to 5000 Vasavites from around the world come under one roof this fall. And, it is not fair for any NRIVA member to miss the joyous occasion. On behalf of the New Jersey NRIVA team, Executive committee, Board members and Volunteers, we cordially invite you all to join us at the NRIVA 4th Global Convention and 10th Anniversary celebrations.

Labor day is a celebration of the American labor movement and is dedicated to social and economic achievements of workers. It celebrates the contributions the workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws and well-being of the country. We all have chosen this Great country as our home and is really appropriate to celebrate our successes and contributions by coming together with our fellow community members.

We request you all to register for the convention as soon as possible and open your hearts with your generous sponsorships and donations. Your prompt registration will help our logistics team manage the logistical needs of your attendance in a timely manner. As sponsors and donors, you will enjoy several benefits during the convention. We urge you to visit us at <http://www.nriva2017.org>, contact your chapter leads or us for more information.

This fall, all roads across US leads to New Jersey for all Vasavites. Hope you are packing your bags and getting ready for a road trip, that will create memories you could cherish for long. We are eagerly waiting to see you all and shake hands with each of you in September.

May Vasavi Matha shower her choicest blessings on each one of us and a grand successful convention!

Jai Vasavi!

V Nagendra Gupta, President, NRIVA.  
TP Srinivasa Rao, Convenor, NRIVA 4th Global Convention.  
Suresh Chatakonda, Co-Convenor, NRIVA 4th Global Convention  
Praveen Thadakamalla, Secretary, NRIVA 4th Global Convention.

**NRIVA is honored to welcome**

**Sadhguru Sri Paripoornananda Swamiji**

**Who has graciously agreed to inaugurate the 4th Global Convention.**

**Do not miss the opportunity to seek Swamiji's divine blessings!!!**



## A look at the Convention Happenings...

Our ever-growing support has taken our Convention to new heights. The NJ convention has three full packed events that caters to all ages and all interests. Here is a quick high-level overview of what is being planned to treat you for three days including non-stop fun and delicious food. For more details, please visit us at <http://www.nriva2017.org/>.

Saturday—September 2nd 2017	Sunday—September 3rd 2017	Monday—September 4th 2017
Yoga/Meditation	Yoga/Meditation	Yoga/Meditation
Rukmini Kalyanam (Matrimonial)	Convention Kickoff	Kalyanam
CME (Continuing Medical Education)	Financial Planning Sessions	Entertainment for Kids
IT Business Owners Meet & Greet	Spiritual Sessions	Annual General Body Meeting
Personal Development Sessions	NRIVA STAR Competitions	Youth Activity
Speed Dating (Matrimonial)	Women Session	<i>Convention Venue:</i> <i>NJ Convention &amp; Exposition Center,</i> <i>97 Sunfield Ave Edison, NJ—08837.</i>  <i>Transportation to and from the Convention</i> <i>Center will be available from Select Hotels</i> <i>nearby. NRIVA has negotiated preferred rates</i> <i>for the Convention attendees. Please contact us</i> <i>at <a href="mailto:contact@nriva2017.org">contact@nriva2017.org</a> for details.</i>  <i>If you are sponsor/donor eligible for</i> <i>accommodation, our registration committee will</i> <i>contact you soon.</i>
Day long Sightseeing Tours	Taxes, Trust & Estate/Planning	
<i>Banquet attendees tours will end around 4pm</i> <i>tentatively.</i>	Pelli Choopulu (Matrimonial)	
<i>Non-Banquet attendees tours will end around</i> <i>9pm tentatively.</i>	Senior Citizens Meet	
Banquet	Real Estate Sessions	
Youth Banquet	Immigration Sessions	
Movie Night for Kids	Cultural Programs	

### Airports nearby Edison, NJ:

Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) is the closest to the NJ Convention center.

Other area airports are:

- \* Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN)
- \* New York's LaGuardia International Airport (LGA)
- \* John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)
- \* Atlantic City International Airport (ACY)
- \* Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)

## It's all about Convention - Word Search

Search for the listed words in the matrix of letters and mark them (all directions possible). If you wonder what a word means, visit <http://www.nriva2017.org> for more details.  
Answer in page #5

V	A	I	B	H	A	V	A	M	O	B	I	L	E
A	U	L	U	P	O	O	H	C	I	L	L	E	P
S	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	A	L	U	L
A	N	T	H	Y	A	K	S	H	A	R	I	Y	A
V	V	X	I	P	R	L	S	I	N	G	E	R	N
I	N	C	S	S	T	A	R	N	R	I	V	A	N
N	N	U	U	P	M	X	M	T	V	L	Z	S	I
T	E	L	A	S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	R	N
E	E	T	B	R	O	N	G	R	A	S	G	E	G
G	R	U	N	C	H	R	S	U	C	L	O	V	L
R	D	R	Q	S	A	R	P	O	L	L	G	I	O
I	B	A	U	N	D	U	P	A	R	O	D	N	B
T	U	L	T	C	A	P	P	E	L	L	A	N	A
Y	O	S	F	G	A	B	I	E	N	N	I	A	L

ANNIVERSARY

ANTHYAKSHARI

BANQUET

BIENNIAL

CAPPELLA

CULTURAL

DUBSMASH

GLOBAL

GRANTS

INTEGRITY

MOBILE

PELLI CHOOPULU

PLANNING

POLL

SINGER

SOUVENIR

SPONSOR

STAR NRIVA

VAIBHAVAM

VASAVI

VOLUNTEERS

## Making of the Convention...

An old saying back home (roughly translated) goes "Experience building a house or organizing a wedding...". These words reflect the logistical challenges involved in these two magnanimous tasks. A Convention these days is no less challenging in terms of logistics. Mr. Om Maduri and Mr. Raghu Argula of the Convention team have been busy tackling the challenge & keeping everyone on the move In spite his of busy schedule, Mr. Om Maduri spent a few minutes with our Editor sharing the ongoing journey in making the grand convention ever...

It all started in the cold winter months of 2016, when a few members from the New Jersey team held a brainstorming session on different aspects of hosting a convention. The list kept growing as the coffee pots got many refills. On December 11th 2016, the convention leadership team took the first formal step by presenting the vision, logo ideas and the mobile app details to receive a formal GO approval.

Once the approval was received, the group got more active preparing estimates, budget, expenses, number of attendees, categorizing the tasks to be accomplished, forming committees etc., Dozens of pivot charts were created to discuss several What-If scenarios that revealed more and more things to include in the growing list of to-do's. This exercise helped set expectations and identify goals for fund raising etc.,

On February 5th 2017, the Kick off event was organized in a grand manner to bring all the members of New Jersey team up to speed on the road ahead in the coming months. With six months left, every volunteer who attended the event was excited about being part of a signature event at NRIVA. While EC and board reviewed the high level plans the day before, these plans were shared with members-at-large during the event.

The leadership team coined the One Team concept, made of four main pillars, namely, Guest, Logistics, Programs and Sponsors. Several committees were formed and aligned to each of the pillar. During the event, the first issue of Vasavi Vani was published which has created a new medium of communication amongst NRIVA members.

When Passion meets opportunity, the success is guaranteed. "The most critical part of the planning exercise before we moved on to the execution is matching volunteers interests with the needs", says Om Maduri, "We took steps to ensure that the right person is aligned with the right team to do the right thing at the right time". As the teams started coming together, the roles and responsibilities of each team became clearer.

The biggest challenge in the months leading to the convention with so many volunteers and teams is managing the cross-dependencies across teams. This is where the project management expertise of the leadership came in handy. Creating a project plan helped identify monthly milestones and dependencies of tasks and the order in which they have to be performed. The detailed project plan outlines the tasks with a monthly target until July end, with a count down starting August 1st, when the milestones get much more frequent sometimes on a daily basis.

Om Maduri shared that the teams are working together to create a Run-sheet, which will have a minute to minute detail of all the things that needs to happen from the moment we receive the keys to the venue until the last person leaves after the convention. A command center will be established at the venue from which will serve as a central location for all activity coordination, broadcast

real-time communication, post updates on the mobile app etc., "Atithi Devo Bhava" (English: The guest is equivalent to God) will be the mantra of every NJ volunteer during the convention and the days leading to it. It takes a village and that is very true in the context of the convention. More than 200 volunteers including the young members of the NJ Vasavi community are doing their part to be the hosts of the upcoming convention. They are working tirelessly to ensure that every guest's expectation is met and in fact, exceeded.

The success of volunteers and their efforts are driven by the recipient's response. As one can imagine, there are lot of details in logistics that need to be worked out and this process will be efficient only if the committees know what they need to know. It is very important for the committees to know an accurate count of attendees, their needs as early as possible esp., the tasks such as printing Souvenirs, ordering gifts etc., are time sensitive.

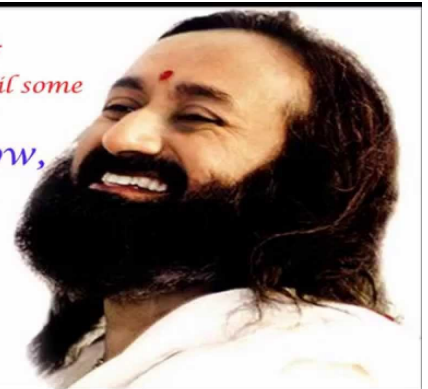
**We request all members to go to <http://www.nriva2017.org/> and complete their registrations, download the mobile app and join the elite group of attendees who will witness the biggest celebration of NRIVA.**



## Happiness is Art of Life!

NRIVA is proud to honor Sri Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder, Art of Living, as our Key-note Speaker. Don't miss your opportunity to hear him and seek his blessings.

*Don't Postpone your  
Happiness until some  
Perfect future date.  
Be Happy Now,  
Tomorrow will take  
care of itself*



## Less than a month away - Get, ready, go...

We are less than a month away — for the big day! You would've received several emails, flyers or attended a NRIVA Day where you heard a lot about what's in store. On July 22nd, Saturday, Executive Committee and Board of Directors from around the country flew to New Jersey to kick-start the run-up to the Convention.

The busy day started with Convention leadership team making a presentation to EC and Board members about the journey so far, revised plans based on new knowledge gathered, convention schedules, status updates on key activities, fund raising status and budget. The attendees held a passionate lively discussion where several key factors were discussed about the road ahead to the Convention. The EC and Board members shared their sincere appreciation with the convention leadership committee and unanimously approved the plan submitted.

After the meeting, the EC and Board members spent few hours with several convention committee members to review the committee level plans in detail, provide inputs and feedback and hold discussions on challenges faced and how they could help overcome the same. One of the volunteer shared "Having

in-person meetings with the advisors who represent EC/Board really motivated us and we were amazed to see their commitment and support provided to us. It also helped us do a reality check on our readiness."

These sessions were followed by Meet & Greet social during which several exhibits and stalls were put up to show case different aspects of the upcoming Convention. The highlight of these stalls was the one hosted by our Youth group where they discussed about NRIVA Star competitions, Banquet and all other exciting things planned for. The evening rocked with a cultural show from local talent and dinner. During the evening show, several donors came forward to announce their support and the leadership team thanks them for their kind gesture. The leaders gave a convention readiness update to the attendees and requested all NRIVA members to register as soon as possible.

The Run-up event that kick started the run-up activities of the next month left all attendees with a satisfaction of things done so far and a sense of commitment as we march towards the Convention day. Below are some pictures our camera caught.



## Bring out the talent in you & Be a Star!!!

**Singing, Dancing, Dubsmash,  
Anthyakshari, Essay Writing,  
Spelling Bee & Math**

**Registrations to close soon - Register Now @  
<http://www.nriva2017.org>**



# Why I am going to the Convention... -By Mannar Dhandapani, Cleveland, OH

Thousands of miles away, many of us cannot forget the days when calling back home was an expensive affair. Soon, the economics made us shrink the circle that we kept in touch over the years. Thanks to technology this is not an issue today; but for many the reality was different decades ago.

Have you ever looked for familiar things when you visit home? I did and many are gone — the people, the buildings, and my favorite cricket ground and much more...

As we started living the American dream, we have chosen to build a family and a circle of our own here. Yet, we struggle to comprehend with the reality.

- ⇒ How many parents debate if Prom is the right thing for their kids?
- ⇒ How many of us are ready to have our kids work in McD's, the American way?
- ⇒ How many of us are able to digest the fact that our kids have the right to chose their life partner?

Recently, a colleague of mine went to Europe in search of his distant family. This felt very naïve to me. "Why would you lose touch with your family?", I wondered and then it dawned - Oh my God! This might be my great grand children decades from now searching for their roots in India. "Nah, that cannot happen to Indians. We are different" said a voice in me. However, if I don't do something about it, it might happen.

As a parent, I have a duty to fulfill for my children to keep them engaged with their roots, understand their ancestral backgrounds and preserve their identity. Several communities in America have struggled searching for and establishing their identity, and Indians/Hindus may not be far from that reality.

Organizations such as NRIVA provides the opportunity to keep our values intact and helps us to stay in touch with our roots. Conventions are a medium to keep this alive and pass the baton to the next generation.

Besides the entertainment, fun and the galore, there is a hidden message these conventions give us: a message of oneness, a message of community and a message of common goals. Exposing our children to such events reminds them of their roots, culture and encourages them to follow and preserve it. Many youngsters who have been to a NRIVA convention have a different opinion about the sense of community today. Whether we accept it or not, India is a foreign country, Indian traditions are foreign to them and a constant reminder of the values is a must for our children to understand the traditions and practice them. Many things that we took for granted in our lives in India needs special effort here. Providing more opportunities to our Children to consistently remind themselves about who they are and what they stand for will help preserve their identity.

In the American dream, parents don't have to leave millions of dollars for their kids, but have to leave values and legacy. Gatherings such as conventions are necessary to create the legacy that we should leave behind for our future generation.

Yes, the schools would've started by labor day week end and it may not be possible for all the kids to join us. But, if they can, then as parents, we should take them to the convention. Even if they cannot accompany, we should go so that this will go on for years to come...

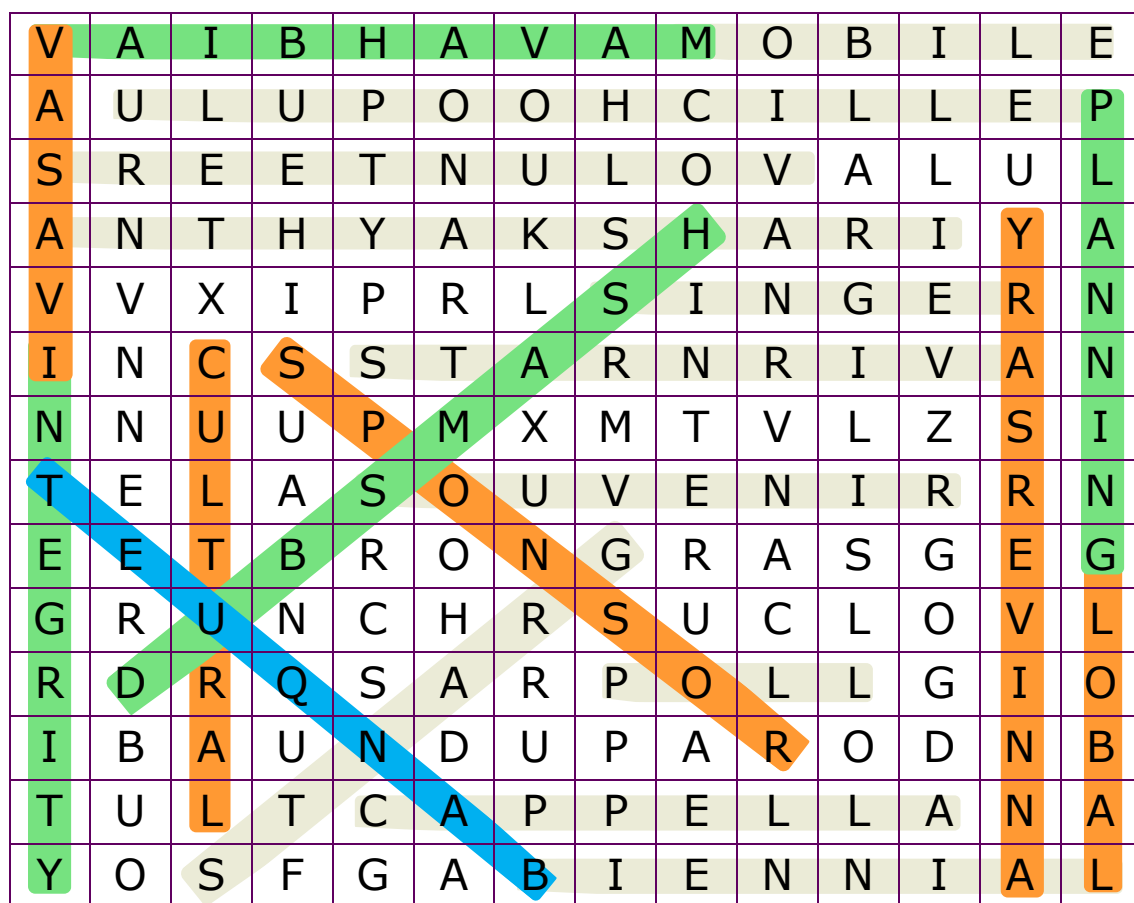
I have registered, I am packing bags, I am going to NJ convention to build a legacy that I can leave behind for my future generation.

## How about you?

**All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine.**  
~ Jim Rohn



**The Convention volunteers invite you and your family to be part of NRIVA's 4th Global Convention and 10th Anniversary celebrations!**



## NRIVA Days

NRIVA Days are celebrated by chapters across USA and in India, when the Convention leadership team makes a personal visit to the Chapters and host a road Show on the upcoming Convention. These days provide an opportunity for members to interact with the leaders in a leisure atmosphere and learn about the organization's vision, goals and achievements. The leadership shares the plans for convention, opportunities to participate and volunteer. Above all, it allows to invite every member personally to the convention. Here are a few pictures that our Editorial team could get from the chapters...



**Los Angeles, CA**



**Atlanta, GA**



**Bloomington, IL**



**St Louis, MO**



**Washington DC**



**Hyderabad, India**



**Vijayawada, India**



**Bengaluru, India**



India celebrates its 70th Independence Day on August 15th. This day is a day of great significance for people of India. We wish all Indians and NRIs across the world a Happy Independence Day! Many NRIVA members would've grown in a family with elders who were part of the great freedom struggle and through them would have heard a lot about the historical events and their experience of fighting for freedom. Take a few minutes out of your busy days this month and share those stories with our youngsters. By passing on such stories to our youngsters, we help them appreciate the freedom they have today and preserve the value of it.