



# Vasavi Vani

A NRI VASAVI ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

May 2017 issue



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



**GET CONVENTION NEWS AND INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGER TIPS. SCAN THE QR CODE USING YOUR PHONE AND DOWNLOAD THE APP IT'S THAT EASY!**

## NRIVA getting ready to host the largest Vasavites event outside India

NRI Vasavi Association Tri-state NY/NJ/CT chapters will be proudly hosting the 4th Global convention during the upcoming labor day long weekend. The scale of the convention will be big in many aspects ranging from the number of attendees, list of VIPs and invitees, amount of effort, opportunities for networking, food, entertainment and the unlimited fun. More than 200 volunteers have come together and formed 30 committees to address different aspects of the three-day long event, which is estimated to be attended by 5000 people from across the globe.

A preview of the grandeur was witnessed during the Convention kick-off event at Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel on February 5th, 2017, when more than 600 Vasavi families joined hands to announce the beginning of the seven month long preparation.

The convention leadership team comprises of some of the committed members in NJ community, namely, Mr TP Srinivasa Rao as Convenor, Mr Suresh Chatakondur as Co-Convenor and Mr Praveen Thadakamalla as Secretary. During a recent NRIVA Day speech, Mr TP Srinivasa Rao mentioned that the volunteers are working hard to make sure the guests will leave NJ at the end of the convention with lots of memories that they will cherish for years to come.

In addition to the grand scale of happenings, the Convention also will mark many First's in NRIVA history. The technology team has launched a mobile app to deliver real time updates on the Convention before and during the convention including Program Schedules, Venue details/directions etc., The app features live streaming capabilities used to stream NRIVA Day celebrations across the country, a discussion forum for members to share their thoughts and much more. You can download the app using the QR code in this page or from the App store for iPhone users and Play Store for Android users.

The Convention will host several sessions to suit the diverse interests of the attendees. Some key popular sessions will be Matrimonial, Business opportunities, Immigration, Estate and Tax Planning, Financial Planning, Medical Forum, Youth networking to name a few. The convention team is also planning to conduct national level contests **"Shining Stars"**.

The web team is diligently working on getting the convention website ready with all the information available by end of May. The website should be ready with all the information in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, watch for email communications from NRIVA and talk to your chapter leads, for any specific information on the convention.

NJ, NY and CT team is excited and waiting to see you all in September! Meanwhile, for any queries email us at [contact@nriva2017.org](mailto:contact@nriva2017.org)



**Convention Registration is open now. Register at <http://www.nriva2017.org/registrations>**

**Be Part of the Convention and leave a legacy to your children/grandchildren.**

# Convention in your fingertips



If there is one thing that we all would like to make it better in NJ this fall, based on our past convention experiences, it would certainly be the information sharing and availability. While the convention teams have done their best in this area, the 2017 leadership team realizes there is a lot more we can do with the latest technologies. A few volunteers explored the world of smart phones to find the solution and their efforts resulted in NRIVA launching its mobile app “NRIVA 2017” during the first NRIVA day at Boston.

The first of its kind in NRIVA events, the app has lot more to offer than one can imagine. Mr. Om Maduri, App Committee Chair said, “The app allows us to communicate real-time with the users via push notifications, which will enable us to keep the Convention attendees updated on the proceedings, session start times and rooms, Vendor Exhibits and so on”. He went on to add, “More than 750 members have downloaded the app so far and we strongly encourage all members to do so, as we continue to add new features that they should get familiar with. Members also have the ability to create a profile with their basic contact information. Based on the information in their profile, a unique QR code will be generated for their phone. When they visit vendor exhibits, they can provide their information by showing the QR code, thus saving time and helping privacy.”

Initial feedback has been very encouraging from the users who shared their views and feedback on the AppWall (a private and confidential Facebook type wall). The wall also allows users to like and comment on member postings, which has turned into valuable

discussions amongst the members.

Several other features also make the app very useful, such as,

- ◆ Convention registration
- ◆ News updates
- ◆ Community networking
- ◆ Youtube channel (plays within app)
- ◆ Convention Schedule and Agenda
- ◆ Maps and Directions to Convention venue
- ◆ Places of Interest and Sight seeing details
- ◆ Interactive floor map of the Convention center
- ◆ Online polls and real-time chat on app wall
- ◆ Ratings and Reviews

While technology has made the world small, the app has taken it further via its live streaming capabilities. Several members across the country have enjoyed watching NRIVA days hosted by many chapters and shared that they felt as if they were at the venue.



Networking is a key benefit when we attend the convention. The app makes the logistics behind this easier too. Imagine not having to exchange business cards, but save your friends details as a contact and message with them privately in a secured fashion.

More than 100 vendors will be at the convention promoting their products. The vendors will be given an app that they can use to scan the personal QR code from attendees phones and get their contact details in a secured manner. They can also push discount offers to the users via their apps.

**If you have not downloaded the app,**

**Please download...**

**If you haven't setup your profile yet,**

**Please setup your profile...**

You can scan the QR code in the first page using a QR Scanning app on your phone of search for “NRIVA 2017” in your Playstore (for Android phones) or the Appstore (for iPhones).

## **BECOME A NRIVA CELEBRITY!!!**

Are you good at writing or artwork? Do you have an inspirational story?

Here is your chance to show case your talent as a Contributor to Vasavi Vani.

**Send your contributions to [vasavivani@nriva.org](mailto:vasavivani@nriva.org).**

**All contributions should be original**

NRIVA members come from three different states with different language background. Moreover, our young generation may not be well-versed with Indian languages. Hence, in order to reach to all audiences, we request that contributors provide a translation/transliteration in English, if your creations are in Indian languages.

చిన్న నాటి స్నేహితులు  
మనసుకి చాలా సన్నిహితులు  
కలిసామా బోలెడు గుసగుసలు  
మాటలకూ ఉండవు హద్దులు  
అరేయ్ ఒరేయ్ అంటూ చనువులు  
అది ఇది, అలా ఇలా, అంటూ లేవు నియమాలు  
అదృష్టం తో వచ్చిన బంధాలు  
ఇక ఎప్పటికీ ముడి పడిన జీవితాలు  
కావాలంటే దొరికే సలహాలు  
వద్దన్నా పొంగిపోయే ప్రేమలు  
అప్పుడప్పుడు దొర్లి పడే బలుపులు  
వెంటనే పడే చురుకులు  
నా మిత్రులు, నా బంధువులు  
చిన్న నాటి స్నేహితులు  
మనసుకి చాలా సన్నిహితులు

*Chinna naati snehitulu*

*Manasuki chaalaa sannihithulu*

*Kalisamaa boledu gusagusalu*

*Matalaku undavu haddulu*

*Arey arey antoo chanuvulu*

*Adi idi, ala ilaa antoo levu niyamalu*

*Adrushtam tho vacchina bandhaalu*

*Ika eppatiki mudi padina jeevitaalu*

*Kaavaalantey dorike salahaalu*

*Vaddannaa pongipoye premalu*

*Appudappudu dorli pade balupulu*

*Ventaney padey churukulu*

*Naa mitrulu, naa bandhuvulu*

*Chinna naati snehitulu*

*Manasuki chaalaa sannihithulu*

ఓం జై వాసవి మాతా శ్రీ జై వాసవి మాతా

Om Jai Vasavi Matha Sri Jai Vasavi Matha

పరమ దయాకరి శరణ్యే త్రయంబకే దేవే

Parama Dayakari Saranye Thrayambake Devi

ఓం జై వాసవి మాతా

Om Jai Vasavi Matha

...(1)

సంసార సముద్ర రక్షని అఖిలాండేశ్వరి

Samsara Samudra Rakshani Akhilandeswari

దయ చూపే దేవీ సుఖ సంతోష ప్రదాయిని

Daya Choopey Devi Sukha Santhosha Pradayini

ఓం జై వాసవి మాతా

Om Jai Vasavi Matha

...(2)

దుష్ట శిక్షని శిష్ట రక్షని భక్త రక్షణీ మాతా

Dushta Sikshani Sishta Rakshani Bhaktha Rakshani Matha

భక్తరంజని శక్తి రూపిణి ముక్తి దాయిని దేవీ

Bhaktha Ranjani Shakthi Roopini Mukthi Dayini Devi

ఓం జై వాసవి మాతా

Om Jai Vasavi Matha

...(3)

హారతి తల్లి నీకోరక ప్రతి నిత్యము పాడుతూ

Arathi Thallee Nee Korakay Prathi Nithyamu Paduthoo

మే మంతా కలిసి పూజలు చేతుము మా తల్లి

Mey Mantha Kalisi Poojalu Cheythumu Maa Thalli

ఓం జై వాసవి మాతా

Om Jai Vasavi Matha

...(4)

\* Used "Jai Ganga Matha" Arathi song as basis.

\* Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wopMVYj-dBM>

## Beyond 1000 miles - An inspiration By Suresh K Volam, Atlanta, GA

Suresh is one of the first members to achieve the goal of NRIVA Walkathon Challenge. He did this in less than seven months, which got us interested to give us some tips and here is what he had to say. Hope more members can take some inspiration from his success story and join the NRIVA 1000 mile club.

I initially thought I can't do it based on my past experience, but wanted to try. I started slow averaging 2 miles a day climbing upto 12 miles a day eventually. I started a Whatsapp group for Atlanta walkers to motivate each other which kept me going. I completed 1000 miles in 187 days. My next goal is 10 million steps in 2 years. Here are a few simple things that helped me.:



1. Parked my car at the far end in the office parking lot.
2. Left my lunch box in the Car and walked to the car during lunch time to get it and drop it back in the car.
3. Parked car at far end when going to shopping.
4. Stopped calling colleagues on phone (in the office) and walked to their cube/desk instead. (This increased personal interaction too)
5. Reduced lunch time to half an hour and walked for about 30 minutes during lunch time.
6. Walked for about an hour every day continuously.
7. Maintained my own spreadsheet where I recorded my daily walking and verified my average numbers.

PS: If you've not submitted your walking progress, please do so at the earliest. Contact your Chapter leads on how to update and also inquire if there is a walking group in your chapter.



# Prayers and Service Projects mark Atmarpana Day

NRIVA observed Atmarpana Day earlier this year for the first time. Several chapters across US performed special Poojas to mark the day and also conducted service projects. Few chapters reported to us on the day's proceedings.



## Atlanta, GA



As part of Atmarpana day, Atlanta chapter prepared 200 food packets to distribute to Orphan/Homeless people placed in Atlanta Women Shelter in Downtown Atlanta. This programme helped 200 women/kids have dinner on a Saturday evening as the shelter doesn't provide dinner during weekends.

## Kentucky



NRIVA Kentucky NRIVA raised the \$750 in funds for local temple by sponsoring the lunch on Sunday March 26th.



Thanks to the unusual warm weather this winter, NRIVA Cleveland performed Homam in the patio to observe Atmarpana Day. The team also prepared lunches for the needy.



## Cleveland, OH



# Boston/New England, Colorado & Ohio lead NRIVA Days

NRIVA Day is celebrated by all chapters in the months leading to the Convention. The day provides Convention leaders to meet the members and educate them about the Convention happenings and invite them to NJ. Boston/New England & Colorado chapters took a lead in this year's NRIVA Day series by hosting them in April.



Boston/New England Chapter celebrated the 1st NRIVA Day of 2017 on April 2nd. The event was attended by the Convention Leaders. Attorneys Trupti Patel and Joanna Golding from Trupti N. Patel & Associates educated members by reviewing the current situation in the wake of Executive orders related to immigration and the rights of an immigrant, when encountered by the authorities.

Convention leaders shared the meticulous planning and the highlights of 4th Global convention. Boston/New England chapter took pride in releasing the "NRIVA 2017" mobile app developed to keep members engaged and make information available at their fingertips. A total of \$51,000 was raised to support the convention. The chapter leads also provided an update on Boston Vasavi temple and recognized the donors.

## Boston/New England

On the day of April 30th, several NRIVA leaders from the East and West travelled to The Centennial State of Colorado for inaugurating the chapter during its first NRIVA Day celebration. The program began with Jyothi Prajwalana followed by speeches by guests who educated the new members on NRIVA's decade long journey and the significance of the organization amongst Vasavites in USA. The young members (kids) of NRIVA Colorado entertained the audience with devotional songs, dance performances, fancy dress parade and Bhagavad Gita recitals. The Convenor of the Convention Mr TP Rao presented the details about the convention and benefits to NRIVA community. Thanks to our board member Dr. Jayasimha Sunku, who has been instrumental in setting up the newest chapter of NRIVA.

## Colorado







**Cleveland, OH**

**Columbus, OH**

Cleveland and Columbus Chapters of Ohio hosted their NRIVA days during the first week end of May. While Columbus recollected their victorious 2015 Convention, Cleveland celebrated its impressive membership growth in the past few months.



### Washington DC creates a new trend again

NRIVA Washington DC is known to be a leading chapter and has the credit of starting new trends and initiatives in NRIVA. Recently, the chapter leads published an Annual report to the EC and Board for the year 2016, the first of its kind in NRIVA. Here are a few highlights for our readers:

- ◆ New core advisory team formed with 32 long time NRIVA members in DC.
- ◆ Active member families increased from 80 to more than 350.
- ◆ Increase of 150% in event attendance and 300% increase in donations/ sponsorships.
- ◆ Instituted a new operating model to increase teamwork
- ◆ Increased connectivity amongst members via new whatsapp groups and Facebook page.
- ◆ Partnered with Vasavi Vidya Academy and offered Summer STEM Classes to kids
- ◆ NRIVA Walkathon program launched.
- ◆ Worked with Fairfax county school district to create 15 summer volunteering positions for middle/high school students in NRIVA to help elementary school children in Math, Reading and Science.

**"I am going to NJ Convention because..."**

While NRIVA members come together every year via Convention and Cruise for many reasons, Vasavi Vani would like to hear

# What is yours?

Complete the sentence "I am going to NJ Convention because..." in less than 100 words and email to [vasavivani@nriva.org](mailto:vasavivani@nriva.org)

On or before July 15th 2017.

## Surprise prize Awaits the Best entries!!!

It could be for meeting your friends Or looking for a bride/groom Or getting entertained Or looking for opportunities... What ever it is, share your reasons with your fellow NRIVA Members.

Note: Selected entries will be published in Vasavi Vani...