

## 2019 Konkani Young Adult Convention

Written by Priya Sorab

In continuation with traditions set in previous years, a Konkani Young Adult Convention was held in 2019. This year's event was held in Chicago between June 21-23, 2019. There were between 40 and 50 attendees, ranging in age from 20 to 33. The convention provided an opportunity for Konkani youth from various states to connect over shared heritage and cultural background, meet new friends, and also delve further into their Konkani roots.

The event commenced with an informal icebreaker and dinner on the evening of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Several attendees had been to prior conventions in 2016 and 2018 and enjoyed meeting their friends again. However, for multiple individuals, this was their first time at such an event. After icebreakers, the leaders conducted a Konkani Focus Group, with topics formulated with the help of **Mr. Sadanand Mankikar** of Toronto, ON. Points of discussion included Konkani culture and its role in attendees'

lives, as well as avenues to maintain it. Later in the evening, the Director of Carrier Sales at Uber Freight gave attendees a speech regarding career building. It was inspirational and had principles applicable to several fields.

The convention continued into the weekend. Attendees explored the city of Chicago and took an architectural boat cruise. A formal dinner banquet was held on Saturday night, and the event concluded with brunch on Sunday.

Throughout the event, attendees got the opportunity interact with and learn more about each other. There were students and professionals from several fields, such as medicine, engineering, and economics. The wide age range ensured that mentor-mentee relationships could be formed. Furthermore, there was significant diversity among attendees; several were born and raised in the US, but many attendees were from various states in India. The convention represented a meshwork of backgrounds and viewpoints, amidst the framework of a shared Konkani culture.

Furthermore, the event served as a springboard for the marketing of the 2020 Sammelan to be held in California.

Pictured is the leadership team. Left to Right: Sarvesh Baliga, Anissa Nashikkar, Priya Sorab, Ro Golikeri, Pratik Keni, Ajay Prabhu

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