



# Parsi New Year: Navroz

## Why in News

Navroz festival is being celebrated in India on **16<sup>th</sup> August in India**.

- **Across the world**, Navroz is celebrated at the time of the [vernal equinox](#) (marking the start of spring) in the **Northern Hemisphere**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Navroz is also known as **Parsi New Year**.
- In Persian, '**Nav**' stands for new, and '**Roz**' stands for the day, which literally translates to '**new day**'.
- Though **celebrated in March globally**, Navroz arrives **200 days later in India** and is celebrated in the month of August as the **Parsis here follow the Shahenshahi calendar** that doesn't account for leap years.
  - In India, Navroz is also known as **Jamshed-i-Navroz**, after the **Persian King, Jamshed**. The king Jamshed is **credited with having created the Shahenshahi calendar**.
- Interestingly in India, **people celebrate it twice a year** - first according to the Iranian calendar and the second according to the Shahenshahi calendar which is followed by people here and in Pakistan. The festival falls between July and August.
- The tradition is **observed by Iranians and Zoroastrian** around the world.
- Navroj was **inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India in 2009**.
  - This **coveted list** is made up of those **intangible heritage elements** that **help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness** about its importance.

### ▪ Zoroastrianism:

- Zoroastrianism, one of the **earliest known monotheistic faiths**, is practised by Parsis.
- It was **created over 3,500 years ago** in ancient Iran by **Prophet Zarathustra**.
- It was the **official religion of Persia (now Iran)** from 650 BCE until the emergence of Islam in the **7<sup>th</sup> century**, and it was **one of the most important faiths** in the **ancient world for over 1000 years**.
- When the **Islamic troops invaded Persia**, numerous Zoroastrians fled to **India (Gujarat) and Pakistan**.
- The **Parsis ('Parsi' is Gujarati for Persian)** are the **largest single group in India**, with an estimated **2.6 million Zoroastrians worldwide**.
- Zoroastrians (Parsis) are **one of the notified minority communities**.

## Traditional New Year Festivals in India

Name	Features
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<b>Chaitra Shukla Pratipada</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It marks the beginning of the new year of the <b>Vikram Samvat</b> also known as the Vedic (Hindu) calendar.</li> <li>Vikram Samvat is based on the day when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas, invaded Ujjain and called for a new era.</li> </ul>
<b>Gudi Padwa and Ugadi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrated in the month of <b>Chaitra Shukla Pratipada</b> as per the Hindu Lunar Calendar.</li> <li>Deccan region including <b>Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Navreh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the lunar New Year that is celebrated in <b>Kashmir</b>. It falls on the very first day of the Chaitra Navratras.</li> </ul>
<b>Sajibu Cheiraoba</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is celebrated by <b>Meiteis (an ethnic group in Manipur)</b> which is observed on the first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu, which falls in the month of <b>April every year.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Cheti Chand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is celebrated by <b>Sindhi community</b>. Chaitra month is called 'Chet' in Sindhi.</li> <li>The day commemorates the birth anniversary of <b>Ishta Deva Uderolal/Jhulelal</b>, the patron saint of Sindhis.</li> </ul>
<b>Bihu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is celebrated three times a year.</li> <li><b>Rongali or Bohag Bihu</b> is observed in April. Kongali or Kati Bihu observed in October and Bhogali or Magh Bihu observed in January.</li> <li>Rongali or Bohag Bihu is the <b>Assamese new year</b> and spring festival.</li> <li>The Rongali Bihu coincides with Sikh New Year- Baisakhi.</li> </ul>
<b>Baisakhi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is celebrated as the Indian thanksgiving day by farmers.</li> <li>It also has religious significance for the Sikhs community as the foundation of the <b>Khalsa Panth</b> was laid on this day by <b>Guru Gobind Singh.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Losoong</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Losoong also known as Namsoong is the <b>Sikkimese New Year.</b></li> <li>It is usually the time when the farmers rejoice and celebrate their harvest.</li> <li>It is mostly celebrated in the month of <b>December every year</b> with traditional gaiety and colour both by the <b>Lepchas and Bhutias.</b></li> </ul>

**Source: PIB**

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