

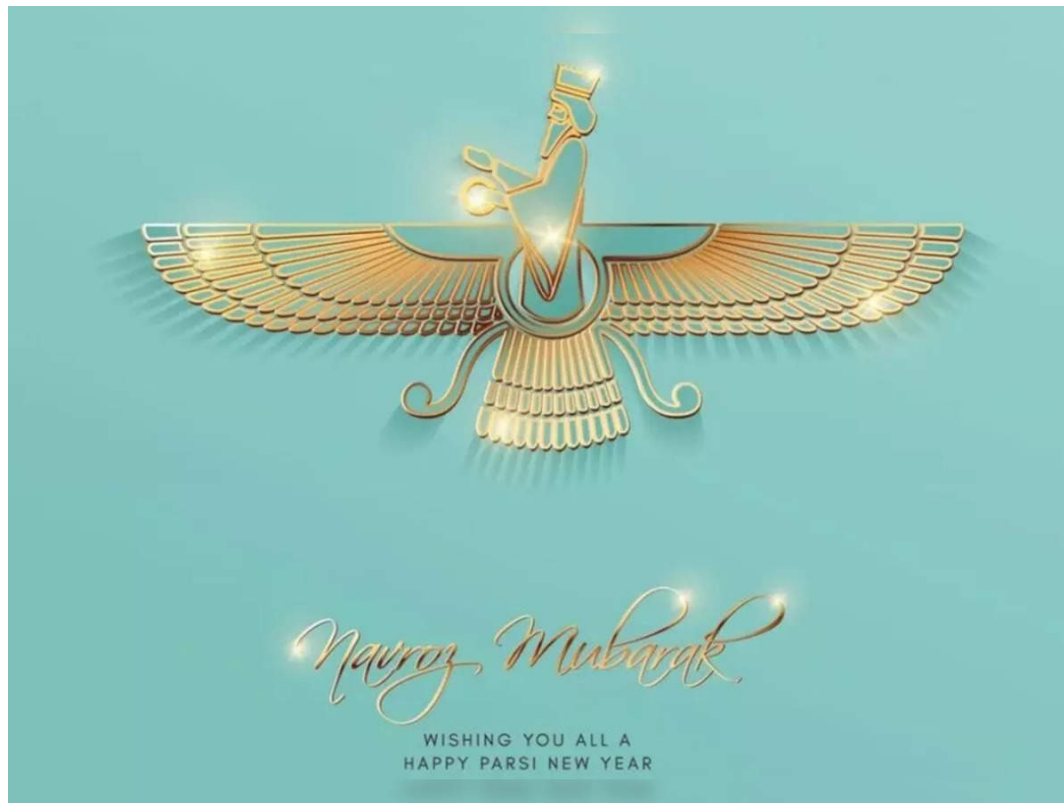
Navroz: Parsi New Year

By IASToppers | 2023-08-17 16:15:00



Navroz

Navroz was recently celebrated all across the India.



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About Zoroastrianism:

- Zoroastrianism is one of the **earliest monotheistic** religions 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** till the emergence of Islam in the **7th century**.
- Many **Zoroastrians** had fled to **India** and **Pakistan** when the **Islamic** troops had invaded **Persia**.
- Most Parsi community in India belongs in the states of **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat**, making Parsis the **largest single** group in India.

About the Navroz:

- Navroz is the **Parsi** or **Zoroastrianism** New Year that is celebrated on the **first** day of Zoroastrian calendar **Farvardin** and Gregorian calendar between **July** and **August** in India.
- It is also known as **Nowruz**.
- It was celebrated in India on **August 16**.
- The term is derived from the Persian words '**Nav**' and '**Roz**' which means '**new day**'.
- It has been observed by **Iranians** and **Zoroastrians** for the past **3,000 years**.
- Its celebration occurs around the **Spring Equinox** on **March 21** each year globally to mark the triumph of spring over **darkness**.
- The **Parsi community** in India follows the **Shahenshahi calendar** which does **not** count **leap years**.
 - This shifts the celebration by **200 days** from its **original** date.
- **Celebrated in:** India, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia

History and Significance of Parsi New Year:

- The festival was originated **3,000 years** during the reign of **king Jamshed**, who had saved the world from an **apocalypse** that had come in the form of a **winter**.
- Ten days before the festival, Parsis **pray** and **remember** family members and **ancestors** who are **not** alive anymore.
- It is believed that the **souls** of the **dead** visit their **family** and **loved ones** during this time to **bless** them.

Rituals of Navroz

- '**Four Fs**' of festivities- **fire, fragrance, food** and **friendship**.
- Parsi people on this day visit the fire temple '**Agiary**', where they offer **milk, flowers, fruits** and **sandalwood** to the **sacred fire**.
- The occasion involves indulging in **delectable Parsi cuisine**, seeking forgiveness for the past **year's transgressions, mental purification** and embarking on the new year with **harmony**.
- Delicacies like Prawn Patio, Mori Dar, Patra Ni Macchi, Haleem, Akoori, Sali Boti, Saffron Pulao and Falooda are cooked as a full feast.
- They decorate the **festive table** with auspicious items like a **sacred book, a mirror, incense sticks, fruits, flowers, coins, candles**, a bowl with a goldfish and an image of Zarathustra.