

Name of the Element: Nowrouz

Community/ies: Since, it is a festival the whole community of Parsi Zoroastrians and Irani Zoroastrians participate in it especially women who are mothers or grandmothers. The Parsi population currently in India roughly comprises of 60,000 people , out of which 40,000 approximately would participate. Alongside, in India it is also celebrated by the 'Bahai' community and the Kashmiris who call it ' Navreh'.

Region: All across India among the Zoroastrian community

Brief Description: Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz is celebrated on 21st of March, which is considered as New Year holiday and the beginning of Spring. There are various ceremonies, rituals, and cultural events held within every family and community. It enjoys traditional games, special cuisines, respect for nature, performances in music and dances, oral expressions and literature, handicrafts and painting masterpieces (in particular miniature arts). Values of peace and solidarity, reconciliation and neighbourhood, cultural diversity and tolerance, healthy lifestyle and renewal of living environment are transmitted from generation to generation. The element embraces a variety of different features of an intangible cultural heritage as of its antiquity, a very vast geographical scope and many periods, as well as a time of its holding. It consists of a variety of cultural forms and expressions based on myths just like Jamshid, the mythological king of Iran, for which Nowrouz has also been called Nowrouz-e Jamshidi. A similar myth exists in the Indian mythology, as well as the Turkish famous "Bozkurt" myth in Turkey; for legends, the legend of "Amoo Nowrouz" in Iran, Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries in which "Naneh Nowrouz" waits for Amoo Nowrouz to come but at the very moment of the beginning of the New Year, she falls asleep. Amoo Nowrouz comes and goes while she is asleep. This legend repeats every year.

Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz- Inscribed in 2016 on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO