Dear Sir,

I am happy to state that the community of Parsi Zoroastrians / Zoroastrians in India appreciate the inclusion of “Navroze” in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage Humanity, UNESCO.

We believe that this inclusion will increase the awareness of the festival, most certainly within the contours of the Indian Media and bring back the joy and pride associated with the festival. We are happy of India being a part of the Multinational Candidature of Navroze along with Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

“Navroze” heralds the advent of Spring, and all that is beautiful in nature. It is the day in our traditional Zoroastrian calendar to celebrate the start of another year, and nothing will please me more than the inclusion of “Navroze” in the UNESCO list mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,

(Noshir Shapuri Wadia)
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Yours faithfully,

Nawyer M. Battrivala

(NAUYER MARZBAN BATLIVALA)
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(Shrayor Katsari)
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Yours faithfully,

(X. D. Anulesaria)
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Yours faithfully,

(MANECKMAI ROHINTON SHAH)
Dear Sir,

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Navroze brings the people of the community together. We, in Surat celebrate it with lot of fervor. Organisations like ZWAS (Zoroastrian Women’s Assembly of Surat), bring the Zoroastrians of Surat together celebrating this festival with lots of enthusiasm. This undermines the true spirit of Navroze i.e. togetherness.

It is wonderful to know that your efforts have helped to increase the pride and joy of this festival.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

(Yazdi Karanjia)
Dear Sir,
I am happy to state that the community of Parsi Zoroastrians/Zoroastrians in India appreciate the inclusion of Navroze (ناوروز) in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO.

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This festival holds a very important place for us as it brings lots of togetherness, joy and compassion in the community. Especially in Surat we, the Zoroastrian Women’s Assembly of Surat (ZWAS) arrange a large number of programmes. Every year a prayer competition is held for the children under 15 years. A large number of young boys and girls take part and sometimes the youngest being just 3 years. The traditionally embroidered Tops and Jablas are exhibited and this adds to the colourful function. This prayer competition is held to keep up the holy spirit of the Gathas. Also competitions of making of Navroz cards and Monajat singing, Best out of waste are also held during the Gatha week. How can our tiny little ones be left out? So the healthy Baby competition is kept for them. Navroz is incomplete without good food and Rangoli. So our senior ladies accompanied by our talented teams take part in the rangoli and chalk competition. Competitions were also in good number for cooking specially grandma’s who were fun to watch, with their typical parsi food delights. What about our youth? They are engaged in ramp walking with full gusto. The ladies in beautiful Garas and Kor ni Sarres followed by the handsome boys in Dagli and Fente. To end the Gatha celebrations, music and song are the last to entertain the crowds. Antakshari is a favourite of the young and aged and the stage is set on fire by the heart throbbing dances of our youngsters.

For the “Parsi Ni Ghati Jati Vasti” youth meets are also held wherein the boys and girls from all over South Gujarat are invited Debates, Drama, Games, Rain dance, DJ all play a leading role in getting the youth closer to mingle with one
another. We have been successful in tying the knot of few couples. Navroze is a merry mix of entertainment, fun and education for us.

‘Parsi Thy name is Charity’ is a very old maxim and Navroze is the time when Parsees do charity irrelevant of Caste or Creed.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to increase the pride and joy of this festival among us Zoroastrians all over the world.

Thanking you once again.

Yours in community service,

(Maharukh Chichgar)

27th Dec, 2014
Intangible Cultural Heritage Department  
Ministry of Culture  
Government of India  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

I am happy to state that the community of Parsi Zoroastrians in India appreciate the inclusion of Navroze (Navroze) in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO.

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Navroz is the first day of the first month of the Zoroastrian year. Few Parsis follow the Fasli calendar (amongst the 3 calendars viz., Shahenshai, Kadmi and Fasli) and their New Year commences with the Vernal Equinox on this day.

The festival is celebrated with lot of gusto and enthusiasm. Parsee community follows all the rituals of Jamshedi Navroz dutifully and with great fervour.
Special prayers are offered on this day, special menu [Sofreh Haft Sheen (spread) for Navroze contains seven specific things together with a number of additional items on the Sofreh that will signify renewal, happiness, wealth, good health or anything that one desire for the New Year.: Sherab (wine), Sheer (milk), Sherbet Naranj (orange juice), Shagufeh (buds), Shama (candle), Shakar (sugar), Shahed (honey)], is savoured with exchange of greetings with each other.

In the end, it could be safely said that the Fasli New Year is perfectly in alignment with the Nature’s Season like summer, spring, winter and monsoon, as the 12 months of the calendar are in tune with the respective seasons and with the prayers thereof. Thus, there is perfect balance in the flight of time year after year.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dinshaw R. Mehta
Chairman
5th January, 2015

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Department
Ministry of Culture
Government of India
NEW DELHI

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Yours faithfully,

(NUMAZAR D. MEHTA)
Senior Trustee
5th January, 2015

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Department
Ministry of Culture
Government of India
NEW DELHI

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Yours faithfully,

(ROHINTON J. INDOREWALLA)
Trustee
5th January, 2015

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Department
Ministry of Culture
Government of India
NEW DELHI

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Yours faithfully,

(CYRUS J. MADAN)
Trustee
10th January 2015, Saturday

Dear Sir/Ma’am,

I am pleased to state that Parzor Foundation, New Delhi appreciates the inclusion of Navroze in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO.

Over time, the Parsi Zoroastrians of India have noted how this inclusion has helped the general public become more aware of this festival in all parts of India. It is also a matter of happiness that the media covers the event and related cultural activities across the country.

I, on behalf of Parzor Foundation, am happy to reiterate our support and consent as community members in the signature of India to the candidature, now including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. I am also happy to state that Parzor Foundation has actively worked on developing India’s candidature since the news of inclusion of the element of Navroze in the ICH.

We look forward to our content reaching you, and giving you a flavor of the celebrations and significance of Navroze for the people of India. I am also hopeful that our constructive suggestions regarding the festival and public information dissemination would be appreciated.

With Best Wishes,

Dr. Shernaz Cama
Dear Sir,

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Yours faithfully,

(BAHADUR S. POSTWALLA)
Trustee