



ZANC MONTHLY BUZZ



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We invite you to share your life updates for inclusion in future newsletters.

[Email us](#) your news so we can celebrate these milestones together with the community.

All content must be received by the 20th of the month to be included in next month's edition. Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you.

Editor's Note

Dear ZANC Community,

As always August was filled with meaningful events such as the Mukhtad prayers and the Navroz party. This year it was so beautiful to watch not one but four priests recite the prayers. A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our dedicated team of volunteers for putting up a super fun skit at the Navroz function and to Sarosh Dara Patel for volunteering as the DJ throughout the entire event. It is this dedication and community spirit that makes these events such a success. And the good times are not over yet! As we roll towards the end of the year, we've got more exciting member events on the way - including a seniors get together, the ever popular Ghambar and a cooking demo by a professional chef - so keep an eye out and be ready to sign up! This month I was also excited to have many members reach out to me with various ideas and articles for the newsletter. Thank you Zarine Batliwalla, Nazneen Spliedt and Zain Patel for your input.

Finally, if you missed the Navroz Skit, you can watch it [HERE](#). 🍁 Happy Reading 🍁

ZANC
ZANGA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EVENT FOR ZANC SENIORS 60 AND ABOVE

**SENIOR GAME, SNACK
& CHAT AFTERNOON**

FREE!

Join us for some fun games with Parsee friends.
Tea and snacks served.
Come relax, laugh, chat and make memories.



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
@ 2 - 5 PM**

THE BATLIWALLA HOME:
70 TOBIN CLARK DRIVE
HILLSBOROUGH
CA 94010

**LIMITED SPOTS!
REGISTER NOW!**

RSVP TO SENIORS@ZANC.ORG

ZANC SENIOR MEMBERS (60+)

Are you ready to have some fun? This is your event!

Join in for fun games, tea, snacks and a
whole lot of “guppa suppa neh majja”

Date: Wednesday, September 9th

Time: 2 PM - 5 PM

Place: 70 Tobin Clark Drive, Hillsborough

Price: FREE

RSVP: seniors@zanc.org

**Space is limited, so please reserve your
spot early.**

Note: This is a free event, but please RSVP so the hosts can prepare accordingly.

FUTURE EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wed, Sept 9th, 2 - 5 pm	Senior Games/Chat Afternoon	Batliwalla Residence
Sat, Sept 26th, 5:30 pm	Ghambar	Orchard City Banquet Hall
Sat, Oct 3rd, 2 - 5 pm	High Tea Cooking Class	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, Oct 24th, 5:30 pm	Halloween Costume Contest	Dar-e-Mehr
Sat, Nov 14th, 5 - 8 pm	Bingo Night	Dar-e-Mehr



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GHAMBAR EVENT

Volunteers are needed to help at the Dar-e-Mehr at 5 pm on
Fri, Sept 25th and 8.30 am on Sat, Sept 26th. If you can help
please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up! All help is greatly
appreciated and needed to make this event a success!

UPCOMING EVENTS



JAMVA CHALOJI REGISTER FOR THE GHAMBAR

**September 26th, at the Orchard City
Banquet Hall, Campbell, CA**

Jashan at 5:30 PM followed by dinner

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Members: Free | Non-Members: \$35
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Registration closes on Mon, Sept 21st

Questions? email events@zanc.org

Always Wanted to make Mawa cakes, Bhakhra or Cocktail Kavabs?

**Here's your chance to learn from a
professional chef - Peri Avari**

Join our talented chef as she generously shares her culinary expertise teaching us how to prepare much-loved Parsi delicacies served at tea time.

Date: Saturday, Oct 3rd

Time: 2 - 5 PM

Place: Dar-e-Mehr

 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) 

**HURRY - only the first 24 members to sign up
will get a taste of the action!!**

 Please note: Only registered participants may attend (no guests) as food will be prepared based on the number of registrations.



RECENT EVENTS

AUGUST

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS OF MUKTAD

Continuing ZANC's cherished tradition, the five days of Muktaḍ prayers leading up to Navroz were held at the Dar-e-Mehr, led by our esteemed Mobed, Er. Kobad Jamshed. This year, we were fortunate to have Kobad joined by our other local priests, Er. Farhan Panthaki and our newest member, Er. Sheherazad Pavri, as well as our youngest Navar, Viraf Motafram.



It was a wonderful experience for all those in attendance, with the flower-filled space, the wafting fragrance of sukhad and loban, and the beautiful chanting of all the priests in unison. In keeping with tradition, everyone brought homemade offerings of rawo, sev, malido, and



other delicious foods. There were also plenty of fruits and nuts to enjoy each day.

We are always grateful to our priests for keeping this cherished tradition going for the spiritual well-being of our community, and especially to Er. Kobad for his decades of dedicated service.



Write-up: Nazneen Spliedt | Photos: Firuza Vadiwala

NAVROZ DINNER AND DANCE PARTY

This year's Navroz Party, which took place in Sunnyvale on August 15th, was an absolute blast! From our incredible DJ (Sarosh Dara Patel) and packed dance floor to the fun-filled photo booth, a wonderful skit, and creative face painting, there was something for everyone. Kids, teens, parents, and grandparents all joined in the festivities, dancing, laughing, posing for photos, and making wonderful memories together. It truly was a night of joy, celebration, and community! 📸🎨🕺👯



More fun pictures on
the ZANC FB page



A Performance Celebrating Parsi Life and Traditions: This year's ZANC production was a fun skit celebrating the rich traditions and everyday life of the Parsi community. It beautifully brought to life cherished customs - from hanging torans and drawing chalk patterns to reading the newspaper in the morning - and followed the journey of Parsi life through meaningful ceremonies such as the Navjote, Parsi wedding, and Agani (baby shower). Through storytelling, humor, and tradition, the production offered a wonderful glimpse into the customs that connect generations and keep our Parsi heritage alive.



Many thanks to **Sheena and Maharukh Driver** for bringing us this performance and to all the ZANC volunteers who gave their time in rehearsals!

👉 Our talented skit performers

👏 Click [HERE](#) to watch the Emmy worthy performance 👏



Morning Rituals: toran & paper



The Navjote Ceremony



The Wedding Ceremony



Feeding 'agani no ladoo' to the mom-to-be

COMMUNITY NEWS

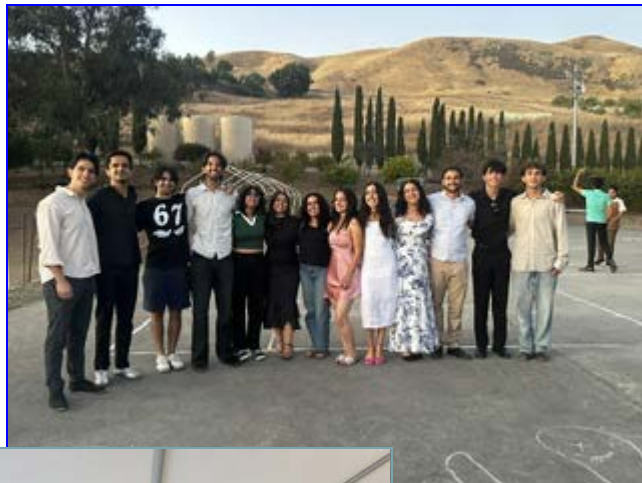


Z-CAMP A BIG SUCCESS!

The annual [Z-Camp](#), which was held in San Jose from July 23rd to 26th, brought together enthusiastic campers aged 13 to 17 from across North America for a fun-filled gathering centered on service,

engagement, and building community. This year's theme, **Saoshiyant**, encouraged campers to explore how they can make a positive difference in their schools, communities, and the world. Through daily prayers, guest speakers, discussions, team sports, games, creative skits, and other activities, campers strengthened their faith, and formed new friendships within the Zoroastrian community (all without their cellphones). The weekend concluded with a family night where campers proudly performed the skits they had created, celebrating everything they had learned together.

A HUGE THANKS to the camp organizers, daily volunteers who prepped and cooked for over a 100 people, and the wonderful counselors who took time away from work and family to mentor the spirited campers.



Source: PZO Newsletter, Aug 4, 2026



[CLICK HERE](#) to catch a glimpse of the 4 days of a fun time!



ZANC Members Rezwan Pavri and Parizad Patel Make an Impact

Rezwan Pavri Appointed Chairman of Wilson Sonsini

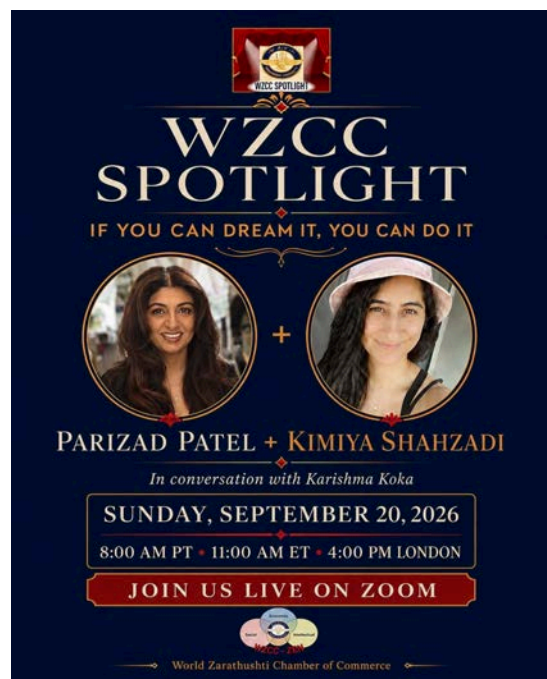
Longtime ZANC member Rezwan Pavri has been appointed Chairman of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, a prominent Am Law 100 firm known worldwide for its work with innovative and growth companies.

Rezwan has spent more than two decades at the center of the innovation economy, advising companies, founders and boards through some of their most consequential moments. Over the course of his career, his clients have included some of the best-known names in technology, including Twitter, Lyft, DoorDash, Dropbox, Palantir, AppLovin, Chime and AI companies such as Anthropic, Scale AI, Thinking Machines Lab and Runway. A Bay Area native and ordained Zoroastrian priest, Rezwan is the son of Dinar Pavri and the late Dinyar Pavri and has maintained close ties to the Z community throughout his life. He and his wife, Azarmeen are also proud parents of Farah, Tahm and Zar.



We congratulate Rezwan and the entire Pavri family on this wonderful achievement and wish him every success as he takes on this important new role.

Submitted by: Azarmeen Pavri



If you can dream it, you can do it!

Join us for a special WZCC Spotlight featuring **Parizad Patel**, founder of Pariz Salon, and **Kimiya Shahzadi**, founder of Shahzadi Capital and Love Story, as they share their journeys through entrepreneurship, purpose, mentorship, and community impact. From building careers behind the chair to creating financial, intellectual, and social value, this conversation is for anyone who has ever dreamed of creating something meaningful.



Sunday, September 20, 2026



8:00 AM Pacific | 11:00 AM Eastern



In conversation with Karishma Koka



Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87385901960>

Meeting ID: 873 8590 1960

Passcode: WZCC

Z-CLASS UPDATES



New Website Launched for the 2026-27 School Year

The new [Z-CLASS WEBSITE](#) is your one-stop destination for class policies, volunteering information, activities, calendar, photo gallery, registration and much more. Join the Z-Class community today!

CLASS DETAILS:

Days/Time: Classes meet at the Dar-e-Mehr every 2nd & 4th Sunday from 10-11:30 am

Pricing: 1 semester (\$110); Full year (\$200); Siblings get a 20% discount

Contact: For questions please email Fredy Kadva: Fkadva@gmail.com

REGISTRATION:

Register online or bring payment on the first day of class (*registrations will not be accepted after the first day of classes*). There will also be a **dedicated registrar available on the first day of classes** to assist families who may need additional help completing their registration.



2026-2027 SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

1st Semester: Sept to Dec 2026	2nd Semester: Jan to May 2027
September 13	January 10
September 27	January 24
October 11	February 14
October 25	February 28
November 8	March 14
December 6 (Yalda)	March 28 (Norouz - all can attend)
December 13	April 11
	April 25
	May 2 (graduation - all can attend)

A heartfelt thank you to **Naoshad, Shiroy, Fredy, and the entire IT team** for the tremendous effort, time, and dedication that made the new website possible!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bejan Malbari



This month, we spotlight a long-time ZANC member who has dedicated his life to service in many forms - professionally, spiritually and personally. Bejan is a proud Zarathushti and continues to contribute to the Zoroastrian community around the world.



A native of Karachi, Bejan and his family were sponsored to immigrate to the US by a dear friend and colleague, Joseph Klaczynski. In 1973, Bejan, his wife Perviz, and their two young daughters, Zenia and Anita, arrived in Walnut Creek, California, and never looked back. Bejan and Perviz settled in their home in Concord, where they enjoyed raising their daughters in the East Bay among other Parsi,

Gujarati, and American friends. Bejan's career eventually led him to Blue Cross, where he was the Director of Medicare Reimbursements. He spent the remainder of his professional life partnering with financial teams at large institutional hospital systems, including UC campuses, John Muir Hospital and numerous other smaller community hospitals. Bejan is also the proud father-in-law of Jamshed Karanjia and Andy Minwalla, and grandfather to Zara, Jay and Alex. He is passionate about family values and enjoys spending time with his family and friends.



Bejan has also devoted significant time to the Zoroastrian community of Northern California in various capacities. He was instrumental, along with several other founding families in the Bay Area, in creating the ZANC bylaws and securing ZANC's nonprofit status. He subsequently served on the ZANC Board and as a ZANC Trustee for many years. In

addition, he is an ardent supporter of other Zoroastrian communities - including those in Orange County, California, Ontario, Canada, and the Parsi General Hospitals in Mumbai and Karachi - helping to establish community centers, sponsor spaces for future generations, and provide financial support for critical community needs.

Throughout his life, Bejan has been an avid explorer and has a deep love of sports. His favorite activity is traveling to new places, both near and far. His adventurous spirit also extends to culinary experiences, as he is always eager to visit the newest restaurants where cultures and flavors come together. Upon celebrating his 90th birthday this past June, Bejan continues to live a remarkable and fulfilling life, creating new and exciting memories every day.

IN OTHER NEWS

Opening of the world's newest Atashkadeh in Ontario



Sunday, August 2, 2026, marked a historic moment for the **Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF)** with the grand opening of its long-awaited Atashkadeh. Founded in 2002, OZCF purchased the property in 2004 and, through the tireless efforts of countless volunteers and the generous support of

donors, brought this vision to life. More than 900 people gathered at the OZCF property for this momentous occasion, with the proceedings beginning at 9:00 a.m. EST as 28 priests conducted the ceremonies on an outdoor stage. The celebrations culminated in the lighting of the Afarganyu, which was



brought from Zanzibar, making the occasion a truly significant milestone for the Zoroastrian community. The afternoon continued with an impressive spread of food and refreshments. The mouth watering appetizers included fish pakoras, chicken tikka, shish kebabs, and aloo tikki. Lunch featured salads, Punjabi dal, channa, palak paneer, biryani, butter chicken, and goat korma, followed by gulab jamun for dessert. After lunch, another



table was set up with traditional Parsi foods such as malido, sev, sweet dahi, ravo, nuts, and fruits, along with tea and an open bar for guests to enjoy throughout the rainy afternoon.



A commemorative plaque was gifted to the OZCF by FEZANA 👍

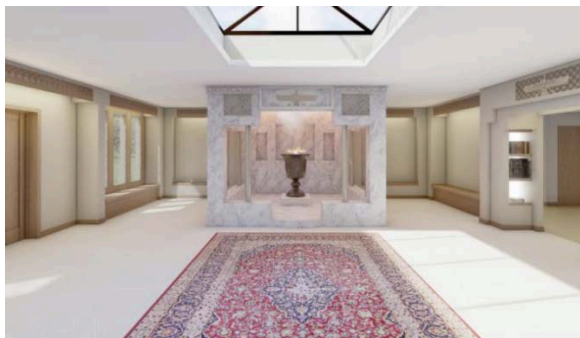
For more information:

Follow the OZCF on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for opening-day stories and videos. Read the full length article in [Parsi Khabar](#).



Sources: *Parsi Khabar* (August 4, 2026); Zoroastrian Community in Canada Facebook Page (images)

ZAKOI FUNDRAISER FOR THE PRAYER HALL CONSTRUCTION



The Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana (ZAKOI) is reaching out to fellow Zoroastrian communities for help with the final mile of fundraising for their new [Dar-e-Mehr and Community Center](#).

Last year, ZAKOI purchased a building that will be transformed into a Prayer Hall and community space. The architectural plans, prepared by Zoroastrian architect Cyrus Rivetna, are complete, and their local contractor is ready to begin construction. **Of the \$775,000 needed to complete the project, \$600,000 has already been raised! ZAKOI now needs \$175,000 more to bring this vision to life.** Please see these [pictures](#) that will tell you their story.

Let's help our fellow Zoroastrians at ZAKOI cross the finish line and create a lasting home for their community. **Every contribution brings them one step closer!**

👉 To learn more about the project or make a contribution, visit [ZAKOI's website](#).

You can help in one of two ways, or both:

- Direct Donation: [Donation Payment Options](#) - Please consider this as your opportunity to leave a perpetual legacy of our religion and make a lasting impact with your tax-deductible donation to our project. We will put your/your family's name on our Wall of Gratitude
- Purchase Products from the Fundraiser List: [List of Products](#) - All profits from purchases will be donated for the Prayer Hall Construction Project (**purchase by 09/05/26 - orders will be shipped out in the first 2 weeks of November**)

The Zoroastrian Matchmaking App is Here!

A Zoroastrian Matchmaking app created by **Kimiya Shahzadi**, founder of Shahzadi Capital and Love Story, is now available for download on iOS and Android. Kimiya, who holds a MS in Clinical Behavioral Psychology, launched the app at the last Houston Congress. She will speak about her entrepreneurial journey and motivation to create this app on **Sun, Sept 20th (see pg 8)**.



For more information, please click [HERE](#)

IZS AND WZC UPDATES

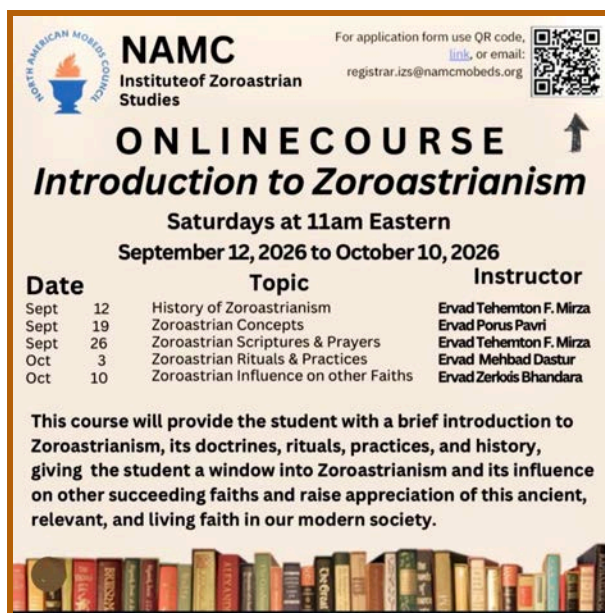
NAMC INSTITUTE OF ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES

This course will provide the student with a brief introduction to Zoroastrianism, its doctrines, rituals, practices, history and its influence on other succeeding faiths along with raising appreciation of this ancient, relevant, and living faith.

Sept 12th to Oct 10th at 8 am (PST)

Courses/Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Questions? [EMAIL](#) the registrar



NAMC
Institute of Zoroastrian Studies

For application form use QR code, [link](#), or email: registrar.izs@namcmobeds.org

ONLINE COURSE ↑
Introduction to Zoroastrianism

Saturdays at 11am Eastern
September 12, 2026 to October 10, 2026

Date	Topic	Instructor
Sept 12	History of Zoroastrianism	Ervad Tehemton F. Mirza
Sept 19	Zoroastrian Concepts	Ervad Porus Pavri
Sept 26	Zoroastrian Scriptures & Prayers	Ervad Tehemton F. Mirza
Oct 3	Zoroastrian Rituals & Practices	Ervad Mehbod Dastur
Oct 10	Zoroastrian Influence on other Faiths	Ervad Zerkis Bhandara

This course will provide the student with a brief introduction to Zoroastrianism, its doctrines, rituals, practices, and history, giving the student a window into Zoroastrianism and its influence on other succeeding faiths and raise appreciation of this ancient, relevant, and living faith in our modern society.

The 13th World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC)



Speaker Highlights

The Singapore WZC team will bring together diverse, exciting, and inspirational voices from across the global Zoroastrian community and is looking forward to welcoming them to the 13th World Zoroastrian Congress from December 28th - 30th, 2026



This 13th Congress will be hosted by the [Parsi Zoroastrian Association of Southeast Asia \(PZAS\)](#) and will take place at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre

[SPEAKER PROFILES](#)

Stay Connected: All registered WZC attendees are invited to join the WZC 2026 WhatsApp community to receive updates and announcements. [CLICK HERE](#) to join.

Get Updates: Sign up [HERE](#) for the latest updates

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Tiktok](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Contact](#)

CONNECT AND CONTACT

Join ZANC WhatsApp Groups, Facebook and Instagram



- WhatsApp: [CLICK HERE](#) to join WhatsApp
- Facebook: [CLICK HERE](#) to join Facebook
- Instagram: [CLICK HERE](#) to follow Instagram



Stay engaged with other Zs, post pictures, and strengthen our community connections.

NOTE: You will still continue to get the ZANC monthly newsletter and event notices via email.

Maintain Active Membership: Active memberships are vital to ensuring the continued growth and success of our community here in Northern CA. Your membership dues go toward maintaining our Dar-e-Mehr, sustaining ZANC's operations, and funding valuable programs that benefit all members. [CLICK HERE](#) to join or renew your membership.



All feedback & suggestions are welcome & encouraged:

General questions: email the [ZANC BOARD](#)

Membership: email the [ZANC SECRETARY](#)

Volunteering: email the [EVENTS COORDINATOR](#)



THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Stay connected with the ZANC Newsletter — your source for community news, announcements, and upcoming events. Please [EMAIL](#) us your personal milestones so we can celebrate and acknowledge them with the community. **All content must be received by the 20th of the month.**

Editor: Dianne Patel (newsletter@zanc.org)

Collaborators: Delzin Choksey, Kathleen Chothia

Contributors: Nazneen Spliedt, Zarine Batliwalla, Azarmeen Pavri, Zain Patel

And Finally...

Navroz in Mumbai - A Comparative Analysis by Zain Patel



For many youngsters born and raised in North America, their understanding of Navroz and its rituals is shaped by how the festival is celebrated here. ZANC youth member Zain Patel, a Bay Area native studying International Relations and Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at UC Davis, has been living in Mumbai for the past year where he had the opportunity to experience Navroz in a very different setting. In the article below, Zain shares his unique perspective on the traditions, celebrations, and experiences that make Navroz in Mumbai different from how we celebrate it here in the US.

Hello from Mumbai! 🙌 I've been living in Mumbai for almost a year now, and having experienced this celebration in both countries has made the comparison between the US and India especially interesting, both in atmosphere and in sense of community. Because Navroz's core rituals focus on home and family, I mostly celebrated at home, just like I do in the US. We cleaned our homes, decorated their doorways with flowers, and went to the agiary in our baug to give thanks, and then proceeded to eat sleep-inducing amounts of salli boti or shrimp patio. However, living in a baug also makes it much easier to meet as a community and celebrate. Having fellow Parsis for neighbors made it much easier to exchange sweets, gifts, and greetings. I've also had the opportunity to attend more Jashans and Ghambars here as well, which have helped me connect with other Parsi youth, though the overwhelming majority of people at such events are elders. In the early evening I'd only need to go downstairs to the community field to say hi to some of my friends here and wish them well.

One particular event that I have never attended before, and I believe is unique to Mumbai, is the Parsi Nataks, or Parsi theatre. I did not know of the Nataks before I arrived, and though the majority was in Gujrati, a language that I am not familiar with, it was nice to see the community be able to express itself through a form of theatre that was uniquely its own. Moreover, the event was as much a social reunion as it is an entertainment event, as it provided a good opportunity to catch up with a lot of other Parsis and their families. Despite taking place in different countries, both Navroz celebrations carried the same feeling of connection, community, and enjoyment. Navroz provides a reminder of the values and connections that make the occasion meaningful. At the end of the day, no matter where it is celebrated, the joy and sense of togetherness it brings are what make it truly special. 🎉