

For any religion, keeping up traditions in the modern world can be a challenge. Push To Revive Vulture Population These man-made fixes have helped but haven't solved the problem that started in the 1980s, when the vulture population across India began to mysteriously disappear. But that's where the similarities end, says Khojeste Mistree, head of the Zoroastrian Studies Institute in Mumbai. Parsis, who came to India from Persia (Iran) a thousand years ago with their Zoroastrian faith, have gone to great lengths to maintain their unique funeral rituals. Parsi funerals begin in a way familiar to many faiths: prayers are chanted and mourners pay last respects. "To dehydrate the body faster, the trustees introduced solar concentrators to focus heat," Mistree says.