



Jiyo Parsi Scheme

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** held a one-day biometric authentication drive for [Jiyo Parsi scheme](#) beneficiaries in Mumbai, Maharashtra to **support the Parsi community** and address its declining population.

- The successful biometric drive reflects the government's **commitment to transparency, accountability, and timely delivery of benefits to the community.**

Key Points

- **About Jiyo Parsi Scheme:**
 - It is a Central Sector Scheme, **launched in 2013-14.**
 - Offers financial [aid for infertility treatments](#) like surrogacy, and post-conception care.
 - Provides monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children and dependent elderly members.
 - Promotes early marriage, fertility awareness, and family support within the community.
- **Parsi Community:**
 - Parsis are members of the [Zoroastrian](#) faith, which follows the teachings of the ancient **Iranian prophet Zoroaster (or Zarathustra).**
 - The Parsis trace their ancestry to Persian Zoroastrians who **migrated to India to escape religious persecution** following the rise of Islam in Persia.
 - **Most Parsis live in Mumbai** and nearby towns and villages in western India, with smaller populations in Pakistan and Karnataka.
 - While not a Hindu caste, Parsis form a well-defined and close-knit religious community with a strong sense of identity and cultural heritage.

India's Minority Communities

- **Minority Communities:**
 - The Central Government determines minority status under the [National Commission for Minorities Act \(NCMA\), 1992](#), officially recognizing **Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains (added in 2014), and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** as minority communities.
 - Together, they constitute around 19.3% of India's total population ([Census 2011](#)).
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - [Article 29](#) protects minorities' rights to preserve their distinct language, script, and culture, and prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, or language.
 - [Article 30](#) grants minorities the right to establish and manage educational institutions.

