



Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary: Monkey Relocation

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News Context: Data released in January 2026 reveals that 6,591 rhesus macaques were relocated to the Asola-Bhatti Sanctuary in Delhi between 2021 and 2025.

- **The Policy Change:** Following a Delhi High Court order, monkeys are now treated as "**stray animals**" rather than protected wildlife. This shifts the burden of management to civic bodies like the MCD.
- **The Problem:** Relocation has largely failed as a long-term solution. Experts note that the sanctuary's "fragile ecosystem" cannot support thousands of urban-adapted monkeys. Without a natural food source, monkeys frequently wander back into residential areas or hospitals (the "Monkey Menace").
- **Wholistic Insight:** The focus is shifting toward **Immunocontraception** (non-invasive birth control) and strict bans on public feeding, which disrupts the social structure of monkey troops and keeps them dependent on urban waste.