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Parliament's Historic Law, An Extended Wait for Women

Context

- The Women's Reservation Act, passed in September 2023, promises **one-third reservation** for women in the **Lok Sabha** and **State Assemblies**.
- It seeks to correct the long-standing underrepresentation of women in Indian politics and was widely celebrated as a step toward gender equality and inclusive democracy.
- Yet the legislation postpones its own operation. The Act links implementation to future constitutional processes, meaning women will not immediately receive guaranteed political participation.
- The reform therefore recognises women's rights in principle while delaying their exercise in practice, raising questions about the real pace of democratic reform.

The Constitutional Framework Behind the Delay

- **The Two Mandatory Preconditions**

- The Act makes reservation conditional upon two sequential processes:
 - A national **Census** conducted after 2026.
 - A **delimitation** exercise based on that Census.
- Both steps are constitutionally required and cannot be bypassed.

• The Census Timeline

- The next Census is expected in **2027**. After enumeration, the data must be verified and officially published, a process historically taking **12-18 months**.
- Only after publication can the next constitutional step begin.

• Delimitation Process

- After publication, the President establishes a **Delimitation Commission** under **Article 82**.
- The Commission must redraw 543 parliamentary constituencies and thousands of Assembly constituencies while ensuring population balance, administrative boundaries, and existing **SC/ST reservations**, along with women's reservation.
- Previous commissions have taken several years. Even under optimistic conditions, delimitation is unlikely to finish before 2032-2033.

Why Implementation Before 2029 Is Impossible

- India's next general election is scheduled for **2029**. Because both Census and delimitation cannot be completed beforehand, reservation cannot operate in that election.
- The earliest likely implementation is around **2034**.
- The delay results from constitutional procedures rather than administrative uncertainty.
- Until prerequisites are completed, the promised representation remains legally inoperative.

Political Logic Behind the Design

• Avoiding Immediate Displacement

- Immediate implementation would convert roughly **181 constituencies** into women-only seats.
- A similar number of male incumbents would lose their positions. Political parties therefore faced direct **electoral cost**.

• Expansion Instead of Replacement

- By connecting reservation to delimitation, representation is introduced alongside an expected expansion of Parliament.
- A larger House allows new reserved seats without removing sitting members. Political loss is avoided through expansion rather than replacement, though the cost is a long delay in women's participation.

Historical Background: A Long Wait

- Efforts for reservation **began in 1996**, followed by repeated debates, amendments, and lapses. The proposal passed the Rajya Sabha in 2010 but never became law at that time.
- The **2023 Act** appeared to conclude decades of legislative struggle, yet implementation is postponed for another election cycle, extending a wait that has lasted nearly three decades.

Linkage with Delimitation and Federal Tensions

- Delimitation redistributes seats according to population. States with higher population growth may gain representation, while others may lose proportional strength.
- This **north-south imbalance** has historically caused political conflict and led to the **1976 freeze** on seat redistribution, later extended in **2001**.
- By tying women's reservation to this unresolved federal issue, the Act places women's rights within a broader **federal dispute** unrelated to gender justice.
- Any disagreement over seat allocation can postpone representation further.

Design Gaps in the Act

• Exclusion of Upper Houses

- Reservation applies only to directly elected bodies. The Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils remain outside its scope.

• Absence of OBC Sub-Reservation

- While Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women receive proportional representation, OBC women do not receive a separate quota despite forming a major demographic group.

• Rotation of Constituencies

- Reserved constituencies will rotate after each election, but operational rules are unclear.
- Frequent boundary changes and shifting constituencies may create uncertainty for candidates and parties.

Possible Solutions for Early Implementation

- Several options could enable earlier implementation:
 - A **constitutional amendment** delinking reservation from delimitation.
 - Temporary reservation within existing constituencies.
 - Immediate Lok Sabha expansion with additional seats reserved for women.
- **Article 15(3)** already allows special provisions for women. Implementation therefore depends primarily on **political will**, not constitutional impossibility.

The Larger Democratic Question

- The Act illustrates the tension between **symbolic reform** and **substantive reform**. Legal recognition alone does not guarantee participation.
- Representation is essential to democratic legitimacy, and prolonged postponement weakens the meaning of equality.
- A right that cannot be exercised remains incomplete within a democratic system.

Conclusion

- The Women's Reservation Act acknowledges the necessity of **women's political participation** but delays its realization.
- By linking implementation to future Census and delimitation processes, the law transforms a reform into a deferred constitutional project.
- The measure's success will depend not on its enactment but on its execution. Democratic equality requires not only recognition but timely application.
- Until women occupy the seats promised to them, representation remains unrealised. In democratic governance, **representation delayed becomes representation denied**.

Parliament's Historic Law, An Extended Wait for Women FAQs

Q1. What does the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 provide?

Ans. It provides one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

Q2. Why cannot the reservation be implemented in the 2029 general election?

Ans. The reservation cannot be implemented because it depends on a future Census and delimitation process that will not be completed before 2029.

Q3. What is delimitation?

Ans. Delimitation is the constitutional process of redrawing electoral constituencies based on updated population data.

Q4. How does the Act avoid displacing current Members of Parliament?

Ans. The Act links reservation to the expansion of parliamentary seats after delimitation, allowing new seats to be reserved without removing existing representatives.

Q5. What is the main democratic concern raised by the delay?

Ans. The main concern is that delayed implementation postpones real political representation for women despite the law being passed.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

India's Leap, From Back Office to Global Brain Trust

Context

- For decades, India was widely perceived as the **world's back office**, a destination for low-cost outsourcing and routine business services.
- However, India has emerged not merely as a support base for multinational corporations (MNCs), but as a strategic nerve centre that shapes global corporate decision-making and innovation.
- The rise of **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** marks a watershed moment in India's economic history.
- These centres have evolved from cost-cutting units into **global growth engines** that define product strategy, technological development, and enterprise leadership.

The Evolution of Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

• Phase One: Labour Arbitrage and Routine Operations

- The first wave of GCCs was driven by labour arbitrage. MNCs established captive centres in India primarily to reduce operational costs.
- These centres handled repetitive tasks such as IT support, data processing, and back-office functions. India's advantage lay in its large English-speaking workforce and lower wage structures.

• Phase Two: Process Specialisation

- Over time, GCCs expanded their scope to include specialised operational processes such as finance, analytics, human resources, and compliance.
- While still support-oriented, these functions required higher technical and managerial capabilities.

• Phase Three: Knowledge Integration

- The third wave saw Indian centres participating in product development, engineering support, and advanced analytics.
- GCCs moved beyond execution and began contributing to knowledge creation and innovation processes.

• Phase Four (GCC 4.0): Strategic Ownership and Innovation

- Today's GCC 4.0 era represents a decisive shift. Indian centres now:
 - Own end-to-end product lifecycles
 - Lead global research and development (R&D)
 - Develop proprietary intellectual property (IP)
 - Deploy advanced technologies such as Agentic AI
- Nearly 58% of GCCs are investing heavily in **autonomous AI systems** capable of reasoning and executing complex tasks.
- This reflects a **transition from experimentation to enterprise-scale innovation**. Indian centres are now indispensable nodes in global value chains.

Strategic Benefits for Multinational Corporations

- **Access to Scale and Talent**

- India hosts over **1,800 GCCs** employing nearly two million professionals. This provides MNCs with access to a multidimensional talent pool at a scale unmatched elsewhere.
- The **follow-the-sun** operational model enables continuous development cycles, accelerating innovation.

- **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)**

- Indian GCCs have evolved into global Centres of Excellence in areas such as:
 - Finance
 - Legal services
 - Human resources
 - Advanced R&D
- These centres centralise high-value corporate functions in a high-skill, high-efficiency ecosystem.

- **Shift in Corporate Power**

- In many cases, the technical depth and **execution capacity** within Indian GCCs rival or surpass those at traditional headquarters.
- This has created a form of **shadow leadership**, where strategic influence increasingly resides in India.

Socio-Economic Impact on India

- **Creation of High-Value Employment**

- The GCC boom has generated intellectually stimulating, well-compensated jobs, contributing to the emergence of a globally competitive professional class.
- These roles significantly exceed traditional service-sector wages.

- **Regional Economic Diversification**

- Growth is expanding beyond major technology hubs such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad into Tier-II and Tier-III cities like Coimbatore, Indore, and Kochi. This decentralisation:
 - Reduces pressure on saturated metros
 - Stimulates local infrastructure development
 - Boosts real estate and retail economies
 - Promotes balanced regional growth

Key Challenges Facing the GCC Ecosystem

- **The Talent Gap**

- While India produces millions of engineering graduates, demand for niche skills in AI security, cloud architecture, and quantum-resistant cryptography far exceeds supply.
- This has triggered intense competition and wage inflation, potentially eroding India's cost advantage.

- **Cybersecurity and Data Protection Risks**

- As GCCs handle increasingly sensitive global data, they have become prime targets for state-sponsored cyber-attacks.
- Compliance with data protection regulations has increased governance pressure. Cybersecurity has emerged as the most expensive operational mandate for modern GCCs.

- **Taxation and Fiscal Uncertainty**

- The introduction of the OECD's Global Minimum Tax (Pillar Two) reduces the tax arbitrage benefits previously enjoyed by MNCs.
- Additionally, ongoing debates regarding transfer pricing and Safe Harbour rules create fiscal unpredictability, making regulatory clarity a top board-level concern.

- **Geopolitical Volatility and Protectionism**

- Global trade uncertainties, tariff volatility, and reshoring policies, particularly in advanced economies, pose long-term risks.
- The growing emphasis on digital sovereignty may encourage corporations to relocate critical data operations back to domestic markets, slowing new GCC investments in India.

Policy Recommendations to Sustain the Momentum

- Introduce a Single-Window Clearance system for GCC establishment.
- Rationalise transfer pricing norms.
- Provide tax safe harbours for R&D-intensive operations.
- Strengthen industry-academia collaboration to address skill gaps.
- Offer capital subsidies to promote expansion into Tier-II cities.

Conclusion

- **India's transformation** from the world's outsourcing hub to a **global innovation command** centre represents a historic economic shift.
- GCCs have redefined the country's role in the global value chain, positioning it as a driver of strategy, research, and technological advancement.
- If managed effectively, **India's GCC revolution** has the potential to secure its position not merely as a participant, but as **a leader in the global innovation economy** for decades to come.

India's Leap, From Back Office to Global Brain Trust FAQs

Q1. What major economic shift in India does the text describe?

Ans. The text describes India's transformation from a low-cost outsourcing destination into a strategic innovation and decision-making centre for multinational corporations.

Q2. What are Global Capability Centres (GCCs)?

Ans. Global Capability Centres are advanced corporate hubs in India that manage research, product development, and strategic operations rather than only providing support services.

Q3. How do GCCs benefit multinational corporations?

Ans. GCCs benefit multinational corporations by providing access to a large skilled workforce, continuous global operations, and faster innovation cycles.

Q4. What challenge does the GCC ecosystem face regarding the workforce?

Ans. The GCC ecosystem faces a talent gap because demand for specialised skills in areas such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity exceeds the available supply.

Q5. Why is government policy important for the future of GCCs in India?

Ans. Government policy is important because regulatory clarity, skill development, and supportive infrastructure are necessary to sustain investment and long-term growth.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Street Dogs, Law and Compassion - The Need for Evidence-Based Urban Animal Management

Context:

- Recent incidents of violence against citizens feeding street dogs — including fatal and serious assaults in Raipur, Gwalior, and Kolkata — highlight growing **hostility toward** animal **caregivers**.
- The debate over managing India's large free-roaming dog population has intensified, marked by legal confusion, policy inconsistency, and vigilantism.
- These developments raise important issues related to animal welfare laws, urban governance, public health (rabies control), and citizen rights.

Rising Violence Against Animal Caregivers:

- Recent attacks reveal increasing **intolerance** toward people involved in feeding, sterilising, and vaccinating street dogs, despite such activities being lawful.
- **Key concerns:**
 - Citizens feeding dogs have faced physical assaults and intimidation.
 - Victims were engaged in activities consistent with legal animal welfare frameworks.
 - Public rhetoric and social media debates have contributed to anti-feeder **vigilantism**.

- Weak law enforcement response has emboldened perpetrators.
- This reflects a breakdown in rule of law and civic tolerance.

Legal Framework for Street Dog Management:

- **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023:**

- The ABC Rules framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals **Act, 1960** provide the official policy framework.

- **Core provisions:**

- Humane capture of free-roaming dogs.
- Sterilisation to control population growth.
- Anti-rabies vaccination.
- Release back to original location.
- Municipal responsibility for implementation.
- This model emphasises humane and scientific population control.

Judicial Interventions and Policy Confusion:

- **Supreme Court directions:**

- Recent (August 2025) judicial interventions have added **uncertainty**.
- The apex court directed municipal bodies in Delhi-NCR to remove street dogs and house them in shelters indefinitely.
- The critics argued that this contradicted the ABC Rules, 2023.

- **Subsequent developments (2026 hearings):**

- The earlier orders were reversed and partially restored.
- The court held that feeding should occur within private premises, and states could be liable for compensation if dog attacks occur.

- **Concerns:**

- Courts entering the policy-making domain. Lack of clarity for municipal authorities. Conflicting interpretations of animal welfare law.

Ecological Reality - Limits of Elimination Policies:

- **The “vacuum effect”:**

- Attempts to remove street dogs fail due to ecological dynamics, such as removed dogs being replaced by migrating animals, remaining dogs reproduce faster, and populations return to original levels.
- This phenomenon is well-documented globally.

- **Indian experience:**

- Cities (like **Chennai**) attempting removal policies have seen no long-term population reduction.
- Dogs continue to roam even where such directives are attempted.
- Street dogs are a resilient landrace embedded in South Asia's urban ecology.

Evidence-Based Solutions:

- **Strengthening ABC implementation:** Large-scale sterilisation is the most effective strategy. Scientific data shows that around 70% sterilisation coverage slows reproduction, stabilises populations, reduces bite incidents, and controls rabies transmission.
- **Adoption of Indian-breed dogs:** Encouraging adoption can reduce free-roaming populations, promote animal welfare, and reduce commercial breeding demand.
- **Legal protection for caregivers:**
 - Animal caregivers fill gaps left by under-resourced municipalities, assist vaccination and monitoring.
 - Therefore, policy should recognise caregivers legally, protecting them from harassment and violence.
- **Rabies and public health measures:** Dog bites can be reduced through vaccination campaigns, public awareness, safe human-animal interaction, and waste management.

Major Challenges:

- **Policy and legal ambiguity:** Due to lack of coordination between courts and municipalities.
- **Administrative weakness:** Poor funding for sterilisation programmes. Limited veterinary infrastructure. Inadequate municipal capacity.
- **Social polarisation:** Anti-feeder sentiment, vigilante violence, and public fear of dog attacks.
- **Public health concerns:** India accounts for a large share of global rabies deaths. Poor vaccination coverage.
- **Urban governance issues:** Poor waste management sustains dog populations. Rapid urbanisation increases conflict.

Way Forward:

- **Policy measures:** Strict implementation of ABC Rules, 2023. Dedicated funding for sterilisation and vaccination. National guidelines for municipal animal management.
- **Legal measures:** Clear judicial interpretation aligned with statutory rules. Protection of lawful animal caregivers. Accountability for violence and vigilantism.
- **Administrative measures:** Expand veterinary infrastructure. Create municipal animal management units. Data-driven population monitoring.

- **Social measures:** Public awareness on humane coexistence, community participation in ABC programmes, and responsible pet ownership.
- **Public health measures:** Universal anti-rabies vaccination, **bite-prevention education**, and improved waste management.

Conclusion:

- India's street dog issue cannot be resolved through elimination or reactionary policies.
- Policy must be guided by science, legality, and compassion, ensuring both public safety and animal welfare.
- A **balanced approach** — rooted in evidence-based governance and civic responsibility — is essential to prevent violence and build safer, more humane cities.

Street Dogs, Law and Compassion FAQs

Q1. What are the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules?

Ans. The Rules promote humane population control through sterilisation and vaccination, which is scientifically proven to stabilise dog populations.

Q2. Why have street dog elimination policies failed in India?

Ans. Due to the “vacuum effect”, where removed dogs are quickly replaced by migrating animals or increased reproduction.

Q3. What are the challenges posed by judicial interventions in the management of street dogs in India?

Ans. Judicial directions sometimes conflict with statutory frameworks, creating policy ambiguity and administrative confusion.

Q4. Why is it said that dog management in India is as much a governance issue as a public health issue?

Ans. Because effective management requires coordinated municipal action, sterilisation programmes, rabies control, and waste management.

Q5. How humane animal management contributes to both urban sustainability and public safety?

Ans. Sterilisation, vaccination, and community participation reduce dog populations, prevent rabies, and ensure peaceful human-animal coexistence.

Source: **IE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/daily-editorial-analysis-23-february-2026/>

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