

Protest

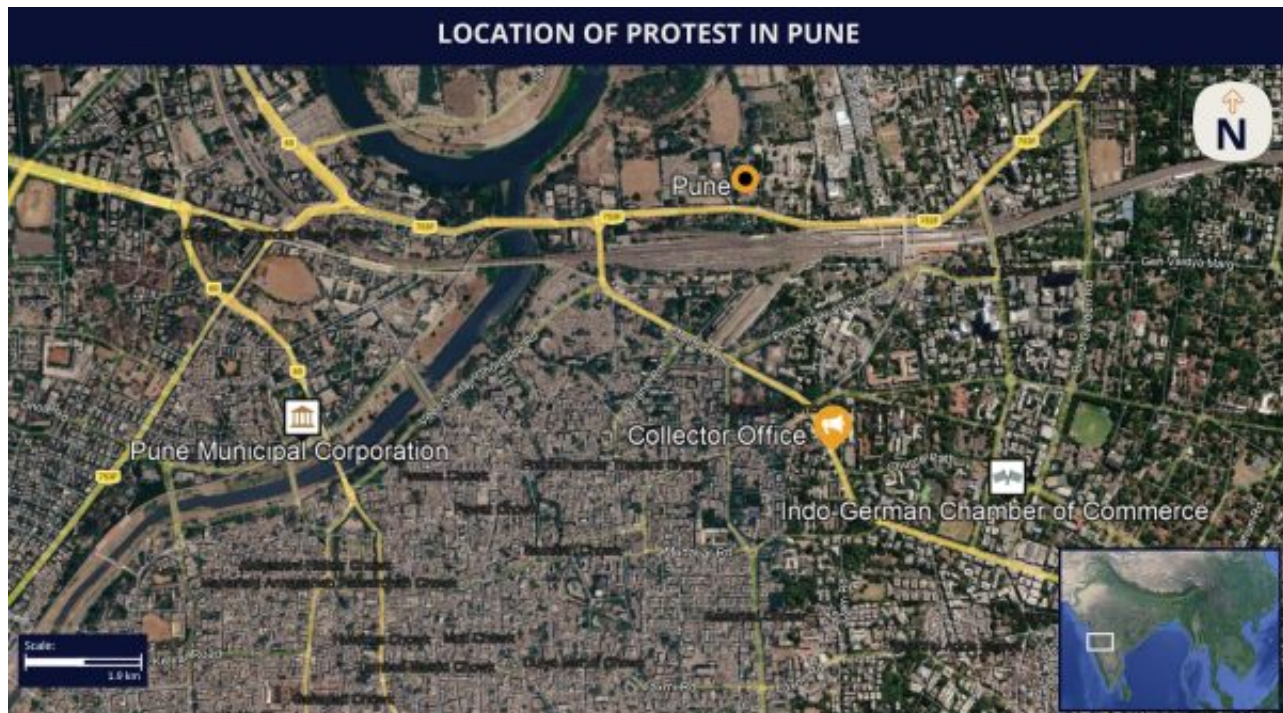


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India Alert: Autorickshaw, cab unions announce demonstrations in Pune on October 28, November 2; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- Pune's autorickshaw and cab unions announced a protest on October 28 in Pune. The exact timings and location of the protest remain unannounced, as of writing.
- Additionally, Baghtoy Rikshawala union and Indian Gig Workers' Front are slated to hold a protest outside the Collector Office in Pune on November 2. The exact timings of the protest remain unspecified, as of writing.
- The slated demonstrations will be held to oppose bike taxi services by Rapido company, which unions say continue to operate despite orders to suspend it.



Source: [Times of India](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The turnout at the slated protests is anticipated to range between mid-to-high dozens, based on the resonance of the issue. Further, attendance can be bolstered should similar associations, including Azad Rickshaw Chalak Sanghatana, decide to join the protests. Although specific locations for the October 28 demonstration remain unannounced, potential protest locations include district offices of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rapido, bike-taxi service provider, centers in Pune. Anticipating this, the authorities are likely to bolster security measures in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations, given their sensitivity. These measures will likely manifest through the deployment of additional police personnel and setting up of barricades to monitor the proceedings.
2. There remains a latent risk of scuffles between the police and protesters, particularly if participants engage in perceived provocative behaviors such as defying police orders, breaching security protocol, blocking major roads, or engaging in ad hoc sit-ins. In such cases, the police are likely to employ crowd-control measures such as temporary detentions and forced removal of protesters from the site. Disruptions to vehicular and pedestrian travel are anticipated in the vicinity of aforementioned locations during the protest hours on October 28 and November 2.

Recommendations:

Those residing or operating in Pune on October 28 and November 2 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of aforementioned locations due to slated demonstrations and associated latent risk of scuffles while allotting for travel disruptions.