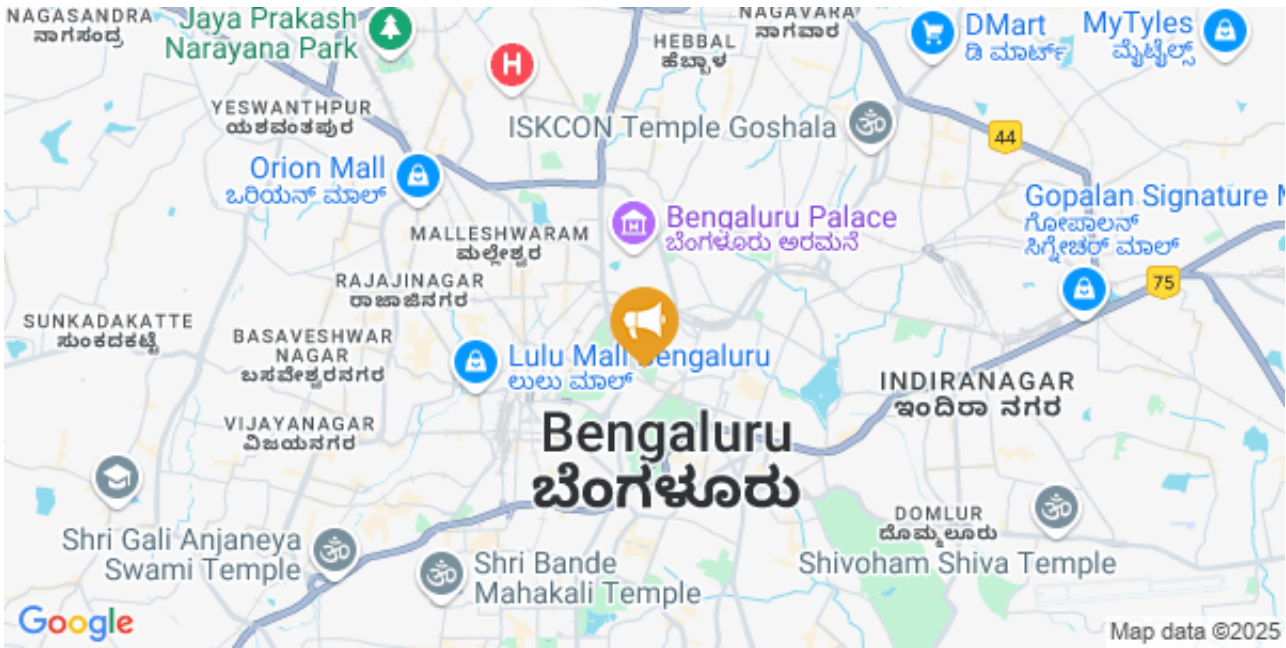




Protest



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JAN
4:39 UTC

India Tactical: Opposition BJP to hold statewide protest against bus fare hike in Karnataka on January 4; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is slated to hold a statewide protest in Karnataka on January 4.
- The exact location and timing of the protests remain undisclosed, as of writing.
- The gathering will be held to oppose the recent decision of the state-ruling Indian National Congress (INC) government to implement a 15 percent fare increase for state-owned road transport corporations. The policy is slated to take effect on January 5.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The anticipated turnout for the scheduled statewide protests is expected to vary across locations. In major cities, including Bengaluru, attendance is expected to range between the low-to-mid hundreds, based on the group’s mobilizing capabilities and the symbolic significance of these cities in amplifying their opposition. In other districts, turnout is anticipated to range from the mid-to-high dozens. Although specific protest sites have not been disclosed, the authorities are likely to

implement increased security measures, particularly around government buildings, due to the potential for demonstrations to be held in these areas. Such measures are expected to include the deployment of additional police personnel and the installation of barricades. In Bangalore, protests will likely occur at Freedom Park, Vidhan Soudha, and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation office in Shanti Nagar.

2. There remains a possibility of localized clashes between protesters and the police, given the latter's low tolerance for protests led by opposition parties in the state. This risk is further compounded if ruling INC supporters stage spontaneous counter-protests. The police will likely employ forcible dispersal measures such as baton charges and temporary detention of protesters. Travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of potential protest sites statewide on January 4 during the protest hours due to the anticipated turnout and security measures.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Karnataka on January 4 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of government buildings due to the slated statewide protests and associated risks of scuffles while allotting for travel disruptions.