

## **Protest**



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India Tactical: Unionized Anganwadi workers will hold indefinite statewide protest in Karnataka, including Bangalore, from December 1; maintain vigilance

## **Current Situation:**

- Anganwadi workers affiliated with the Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Naukarara Sangha will hold an indefinite statewide protest in Karnataka, including Bangalore, beginning from December 1.
- The exact locations and timing remain unannounced at the time of writing.
- Similar protests are also slated in Tumakuru, Mandya, and Hubballi districts.
- The participants will call on the central government to address long-pending issues related to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

Source: The Hindu

## **Assessments & Forecast:**

1. The participation in the demonstrations in Bangalore is likely to be in the mid-to-high hundreds, given the resonance of the issue and the mobilizing capabilities of the workers' union. Across other districts, protest turnout will range from the high dozens to the low hundreds. While protest locations were not announced, potential protest hotspots in Bangalore include Freedom Park, Vidhana Soudha, the Secretariat in Bangalore, and district government buildings in other locations.

- Bolstered security measures—such as installing barricades and deploying additional police—are expected in the vicinity of the potential protest locations.
- 2. There remains a latent risk of localized scuffles between the police and the protesters, should the latter resort to actions such as blocking major roads. The authorities are likely to respond with actions such as temporary detention and forced removal from the sites. However, the likelihood of the authorities using heavy-handed measures such as baton charges remains low, given that the majority of participants in the protest are women. Localized travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations on December 1 due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures.

## **Recommendations:**

Those operating or residing in Karnataka, including Bangalore, on December 1 and the coming days are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the potential protest locations due to the slated statewide protest, while allotting for travel disruptions.