

# INDIA RISK TRACKER

DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

DELHI	Security up ahead of New Year and as intel agencies warn of likely terror strike
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TAMIL NADU	Chennai Metro Rail to run trains past midnight on New Year's Eve

High	Medium	Low
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## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- **Bangladesh:** Crash involving six buses causes highway pile-up on Bangabandhu Bridge due to dense fog; 7km tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway after collision
- **Nepal:** Gurung community to Tamu Lhosar starting from today (December 30th) across Nepal
- **Sri Lanka:** Showers to prevail in several provinces of Sri Lanka
- **Pakistan:** 1,000 policemen to perform security duties on new year night in Islamabad

### Delhi: Security up ahead of New Year and as intel agencies warn of likely terror strike

Intel agencies have warned about a possible terror strike around the New Year and have asked for tightening of security in the capital. Delhi Police said they have increased security deployment around important installations in central and New Delhi. Metro and traffic restrictions will also be put in place at some areas around Connaught Place (CP). Police have been asked to watch out for lone attackers at crowded areas like CP and Khan Market. The intel input indicated the possibility of a knife attack or terrorists using a heavy vehicle to mow down pedestrians. As a measure, police would turn Connaught Place into a no-entry zone for vehicles, except for the ones with parking stickers issued by the traders welfare association or residents welfare association. Special commissioner (traffic) said that apart from entry restrictions in CP, movement of traffic and parking around major party hubs like malls in south and west Delhi would also be restricted. They will have special monitoring teams from the traffic and local police to streamline the movement of vehicles at these places. More than 2,500 policemen have been tasked to keep a vigil. An elaborate security

arrangements will be there in place for the New Year to prevent any untoward incidents. There will be an adequate deployment of traffic police, local police and PCR in Delhi in order to contain hooliganism and revelry in the name of New Year's celebration, 435 check-points will also be made to check traffic violations. Police personnel will be keeping a close eye on people's movement in the city.

Police would also increase vigil at the border posts over the next two days. Police would form 432 teams to check traffic violations at the party hubs around Delhi. Out these 125 teams would be posted with alcometers to check drunk driving. Senior officers said that drunk driving offenders would not only be booked under the MV Act, but might be jailed also. Specific passes will be issued in congested areas for parking. They will also be issuing an advisory. Unauthorized amusement activity should not be performed in pubs or club.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Enhanced security and traffic check points may lead to travel delays especially during the holiday period.
- Refer to local traffic police advisories for further route diversions.
- Carry valid ID cards to avoid inconvenience during security checks.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated regarding the situation.

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## **Rajasthan and West Bengal: By-polls in West Bengal and Rajasthan on January 29<sup>th</sup>**

By-elections to three parliamentary and two assembly constituencies in Rajasthan and West Bengal will be conducted on January 29<sup>th</sup>, as announced by the Election Commission. Results will be declared on February 1<sup>st</sup>. In Rajasthan, the bypolls will be held in Alwar and Ajmer parliamentary constituencies and Mandalgarh assembly constituency. The Uluberia parliamentary and Noapara assembly constituencies will go to the polls in West Bengal. A Gazette notification for the elections will be issued on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last date for filing of nominations is January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Electronic voting machines with voter-verified paper audit trail units will be used in all the polling stations. With the announcement of the schedules, the model code of conduct has come into effect in all the districts in which the constituencies fall.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

The Commission has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs at all polling stations. Adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines. While the Congress has declared Karan Singh Yadav's candidature for Alwar parliamentary constituency, the BJP is still undergoing rounds of discussions to finalise the list of candidates for these elections. Bharatiya Janata Party's Alwar Member of Parliament Mahant Chand Nath had passed away on September 17<sup>th</sup> after a prolonged illness. Earlier, BJP's Ajmer MP Sanwar Lal Jat had collapsed in the MLAs and MPs meeting with BJP chief Amit Shah in Jaipur on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jat breathed his last at AIIMS, Delhi, on August 9<sup>th</sup>. In the same month, BJP's Mandalgarh legislator Kirti Kumari passed away on August 28<sup>th</sup> in Jaipur while being treated for influenza A (H1N1) or swine flu. The last date for filing of nominations is January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cater for stringent security around the politically sensitive areas in the state during the election date.
- Carry valid identity proofs for speedy security checks.
- Traffic and normal business may run slow when people step out to cast their vote.
- Possibility of sporadic incidents of vandalism cannot be refuted.
- Stay away from large congregations to avoid incidental risks.
- Consult the local traffic police advisory for possible route changes.
- Follow the local developments closely to stay updated on the situation.

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## Telangana: Cold wave warning issued for Telangana for next five days

The Meteorological Department has issued a cold wave warning in Telangana for the next five days. Severe cold conditions are set to prevail in the districts of Telangana as the cold climate has already outdone the records of the coldest temperatures to be recorded in three districts over the last ten years. Adilabad, Bhadrachalam and Khammam districts on Thursday (December 28<sup>th</sup>) recorded 3.7 degrees Celsius, 8.6 degrees Celsius and 9 degrees Celsius, respectively beating the previous record in these areas. In the next few days, the temperature in Hyderabad is expected to drop further by another degree while the districts in northern Telangana are likely to prevail with cold conditions.

The warning has been issued due to a sudden drop in the temperature because of winds blowing from the north and north-easterly direction. If temperature drops by four degrees below normal on any given day, a cold wave is declared. The warning stands for 24 hours in northern Telangana. The temperature in Hyderabad is expected to plummet further by another degree in next few days. GHMC disaster cell officials have received a cold wave warning and have geared up to prevent deaths of homeless who sleep on streets at night

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Check for live flight and train timings if travel is planned.
- Driving at normal speeds in fog can be very dangerous and so slow down while you drive.
- Avoid using high-beam headlights in fog, as fog consists of tiny water droplets that spread and reflect light. Use headlights instead.
- Fog has the potential to reduce visibility significantly, so it is critical that drivers stay focused on the road in order to stay safe.
- Severe weather demands your undivided attention, so be sure to reduce any possible distractions by turning the radio down or turning off that phone to keep your attention fully on the road.
- Try not to drive at night due to lower visibility. If it is unavoidable, make sure you are extra cautious.
- Cater for delays in reaching destination due to the disruption or delays of all modes of transport due to the fog.

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## Karnataka: Police take tough steps for safer New Year's Eve in Bengaluru; Hindu priests oppose New Year celebrations in Bengaluru

From CCTV cameras to watchtowers to additional streetlights, police are to ensure New Year's Eve celebrations in Bengaluru go without a security hitch. These unprecedented safety measures follow reports of molestation on MG Road and adjacent areas last year. Additional streetlights have been installed on MG Road, Brigade Road and Church Street to ensure no corner remained unlit. Police said CCTV cameras and watchtowers will be installed at vantage points today (December 30<sup>th</sup>), while drones and mobile control rooms, which will monitor feeds from the CCTV cameras, will be deployed and made operational by Sunday. Police commissioner has ordered traffic checks, especially around the central business district, from 9pm Sunday and those found driving under the influence of alcohol will face stern action.

Meanwhile, barely a week after Indiranagar residents protests spurred authorities to close down illegal pubs in the area, residents now want New Year revelries to be kept out of Indiranagar. Fearing wild, booze-fuelled parties, residents have requested police to ensure their New Year's Eve is trouble-free. A group representing eight residents welfare associations (RWAs), under the banner 'I Change Indiranagar', met, additional commissioner of police (east zone) and requested him to avert untoward incidents in the locality. They claimed loud music and parties at pubs and bars around residential areas are a nuisance since that they go well into the night. They requested police to ensure that music from these pubs do not exceed 45dB after 10 pm as per a Supreme Court order. Parking should not be allowed in the residential areas and they wanted a ban on parties at rooftop bars.

Elsewhere, Whitefield division police held a series of meetings with event organizers, autorickshaw drivers and taxi drivers yesterday (December 29<sup>th</sup>) in view to ensure that New Year Eve revelry passes off peacefully. Police held separate meetings in each of the eight police stations in the division, including Marathahalli, Bellandur, Whitefield, Kadugodi, KR Puram, HAL and Mahadevapura. Police sought help from event organizers, autorickshaw drivers and cabbies during the celebration. Police asked them to provide information to the local police station or the police control room about any untoward incident that comes to their notice. Whitefield division police will hold a road show from Marathahalli bridge till HAL today, as part of the security drill.

Further, some Hindu priests yesterday opposed the idea of New Year's celebrations in Bengaluru claiming it is against the Indian tradition. They have also filed a petition in the court to stay the celebration of New Year in pubs, bars and in restaurants. They are demanding to stop any sort of celebrations in bars and pubs, especially in Mahatma Gandhi (MG) road. 'Ugadi' marks the onset of a new season and change in astrological positions wherein the temples should celebrate it and not English New Year. Even instructions to temples in Andhra Pradesh have been given to not celebrate New Year on January 1 by the state Endowments Department, which said it is not an 'Indian Vedic culture'.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Security have been heightened to avoid any untoward incident, co-operate with police authorities during checks.
- Enhanced security and traffic check points may lead to travel delays especially during the holiday period
- Whitefield division police will hold a road show from Marathahalli bridge till HAL today, as part of the security drill, cater for traffic diversions
- Refer to local traffic police advisories for further route diversions.

- Carry valid ID cards to avoid inconvenience during security checks.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated regarding the situation.

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## Karnataka: BJP plans massive rally in Bengaluru

The BJP has planned to organise a massive rally in Bengaluru to mark the conclusion of its Nava Karnataka Nirmana Parivarthan Yatra in January. Preliminary preparations have been made for the rally, which will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Palace Grounds has been selected as the venue for the convention. The BJP leaders are enthused by the fact that the yatra, launched on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been getting good response from the people. The core committee meeting to be chaired by party National President Amit Shah in Bengaluru on Sunday (December 31<sup>st</sup>) is likely to work out the details of the convention.

### ANALYSIS:

The state BJP is set to emulate one more success mantra from Uttar Pradesh in poll-bound Karnataka. The state unit has started distributing the motorcycles extensively used for campaigning during the Assembly polls in the Uttar Pradesh for Vistaraks (full-time volunteers) for party activities in Karnataka. The bikes, painted with white background, saffron stripes and a sticker of the lotus symbol, are considered lucky by the BJP. They were an integral part in the successful election campaign Uttar Pradesh. A total of 135 bikes will be distributed to Vistarks. Although the date of the rally is yet to be finalized, the venue 'Palace Grounds' has been decided. The proposed rally is likely to cause traffic disruptions.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cater for increased security and travel disruption around Palace Grounds on the day of the convention.
- Be prepared for delays and plan your commute accordingly once the date of convention is released. Keep sufficient lead time in hand while travelling in the vicinity.
- Situational awareness to be maintained at all times.
- If travelling to the concerned areas, consult local traffic advisories for latest updates on road diversions and closures.
- Monitor the local developments to stay updated on the ground situation.

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## Tamil Nadu: Chennai Metro Rail to run trains past midnight on New Year's Eve

Revellers heading out to ring in New Year can use Chennai Metro Rail trains on New Year's Eve. They can also make use of the trains to return home safe, as CMRL will run its trains till 12.30 am on January 1. There will be trains every 10 minutes. The services are extended on all operational lines from Nehru Park to Airport, Little Mount to Airport and Shenoy Nagar to St Thomas Mount. CMRL usually operates trains on a separate time table for Sunday and for the rest of the days. While the first train starts at 5.55 am from Monday to Saturday, on Sunday, the first train is at 7.51 am. The

last train is will depart between 9.50pm and 10pm, depending on the stations.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Enhanced security and traffic check points may lead to travel delays especially during the holiday period.
- Follow the Metro Rail website to stay updated for any further change in train timings.
- Carry valid ID cards to avoid inconvenience during security checks.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated regarding the situation.

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## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

### **Bangladesh: Crash involving six buses causes highway pile-up on Bangabandhu Bridge due to dense fog; 7km tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway after collision**

Dense fog has caused a highway pile-up on the Bangabandhu Bridge after several buses rammed into a bus that had hit another from behind. The crash involving six long-haul buses was reported around 6am yesterday (December 29<sup>th</sup>), when several people were injured. A seven-kilometre-long tailback has been created from Elenga to Rabna Bypass area on the Dhaka-Tangail highway following disruptions caused by dense fog and a cascade collision of 13 vehicles on the Bangabandhu Bridge yesterday. Police said traffic on the bridge was halted for three hours due to dense fog. The vehicles collided with each other on the lane to Dhaka after the traffic resumed around 6am, injuring 30 people. Traffic on the bridge has remained halted since the crash.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Driving at normal speeds in fog can be very dangerous and so slow down while you drive.
- Avoid using high-beam headlights in fog, as fog consists of tiny water droplets that spread and reflect light. Use low-beam headlights instead.
- Fog has the potential to reduce visibility significantly, so it is critical that drivers stay focused on the road in order to stay safe.
- Severe weather demands your undivided attention, so be sure to reduce any possible distractions by turning the radio down or turning off that phone to keep your attention fully on the road.
- Try not to drive at night due to lower visibility. If it is unavoidable, make sure you are extra cautious.
- Cater for delays in reaching destination due to the disruption or delays of all modes of transport due to the fog.

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### **Nepal: Gurung community to Tamu Lhosar starting from today (December 30th) across Nepal**

The Gurunj community of Nepal will celebrate Tamu Lhosar, New Year, starting from today

(December 30<sup>th</sup>) across the country. The members of Gurung community jovially mark the festival by organizing feasts and cultural programmes on Paush 15 (January 15<sup>th</sup>) as per the Gurung tradition. The festival is marked on Paush 15 as the sunrays come early in the geography of Gurung settlements including Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun, Syangja, Manang, Kaski and Parbat. The government has announced public holiday on the occasion of the Tamu Lhosar (January 15<sup>th</sup>). The members of the Gurung community are organizing a special programme at Tundikhel in the capital city today (December 30<sup>th</sup>).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Enhanced security and traffic check-points may lead to travel delays especially during the holiday period
- Refer to local traffic police advisories for further route diversions.
- Carry valid ID cards to avoid inconvenience during security checks.
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### **Sri Lanka: Showers to prevail in several provinces of Sri Lanka**

The Met Department has forecast that showers or thundershowers may occur at few places in Uva and Southern provinces and in Ratnapura and Nuwara-Eliya districts in afternoons. Mainly fair weather will prevail continue elsewhere. Misty conditions can be expected at some places in the Western, Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces during the morning. The Met Office also said that there may be temporary localized strong winds during thundershowers. It urged the general public to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by lightning activity.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Follow all the precautions from the weather department and the administration.
- Delays in train, road and air traffic has been reported in the city, plan your travels accordingly.
- Keep time at hand if travelling on the roads, as heavy traffic congestions has been reported in some areas of the city.
- Monitor the local developments to stay updated on the ground situation.

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### **Pakistan: 1,000 policemen to perform security duties on new year night in Islamabad**

Islamabad police has made an elaborate plan for security on eve of new year night in Islamabad. Around 1,000 policemen would be deployed to ensure fool-proof security and keep a vigilant eye during celebrations on new year night. Police contingent would be deployed at important places, shopping centres, and main markets for the safety of the public. The deployment would be made at Supermarket, Jinnah Supermarket, Blue Area, Karachi company market, sectors F-10, F-11, G-10, G-11, Faizabad, Aabpara Market, Shakarparian, IJP road and Express Highway. All the police stations have been directed to keep fool-proof security arrangements in their area of responsibility while

special ITP teams have been constituted to ensure smooth flow of traffic on the occasion.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Enhanced security and traffic check points may lead to travel delays especially during the holiday period
- Refer to local traffic police advisories for further route diversions.
- Carry valid ID cards to avoid inconvenience during security checks.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated regarding the situation.

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