

# The Democratic News

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## GRAND AYATOLLAH SISTANI ISSUES STERN CONDEMNATION OF US-ISRAELI AGGRESSION ON IRAN

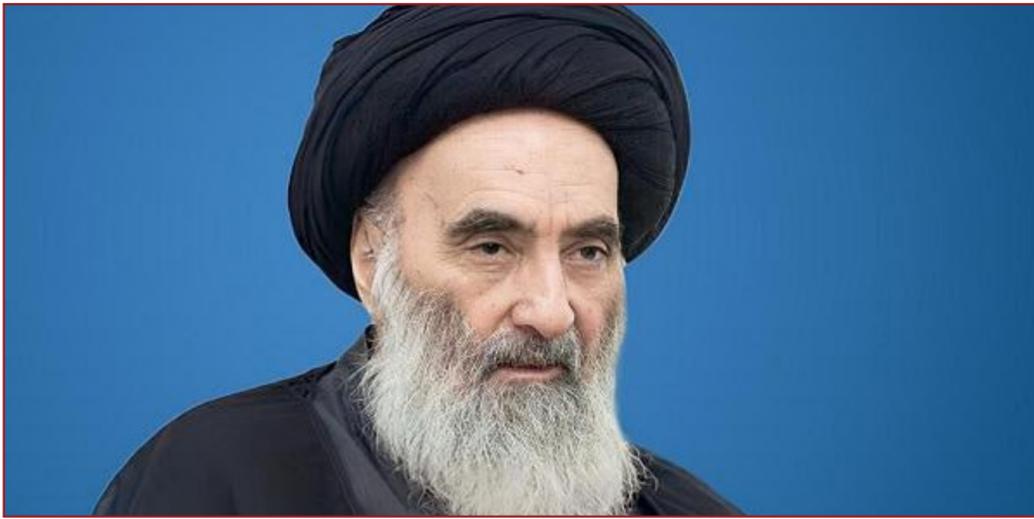
The Democratic News  
 , Mar,21

The top Muslim Shia cleric in Iraq has issued a statement strongly condemning the ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran.

Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Ali al-Sistani's statement was read during the Eid al-Fitr prayers held at holy Shia shrines in the Iraqi cities of Karbala and Kadhimiya on Saturday.

Ayatollah Sistani said in the statement that the flames of fire were still raging over homes in Iran and Lebanon while the two Muslim countries were under military aggression.

"We use the strongest words to condemn this oppressive war and call on all Muslims and freedom-seekers of the world to condemn it and show solidarity with the oppressed nations of Iran and Lebanon," the statement said.



Ayatollah Sistani, a source of emulation for tens of millions of Shias in Iraq and around the world, also called on influen-

tial countries and actors in the world as well as Muslim states to do their utmost to help stop the aggression.

The revered cleric also said he has allowed the use of religious donations and endowments made to his offices and

representatives for helping people affected by the war in Iran and Lebanon.

The strongly-worded state-

ment comes three weeks after the United States and Israel launched a military aggression on Iran.

Iran has successfully resisted the US-Israeli aggression by carrying out massive retaliatory strikes targeting the Israeli regime and US assets in Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

Muslims across the region, including in Iraq and other countries, have actively supported Iran's resistance against the aggression by carrying out attacks on US forces in their countries. The aerial assault prompted the Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah to carry out attacks on the Israeli regime to support Iran, a move that caused Israel to hit numerous locations in south and east of Lebanon, as well as its capital Beirut, displacing hundreds of thousands of people in the Arab country.



Excerpt from the will of Martyr Commander Ali Muhammad Naeini (r), spokesperson of the IRGC

My dear children, make love, understanding, and following the Ahl al-Bayt (A) and the divine commandments the guiding principles of your lives. Love for the Guardianship of the Jurist (Wilayat al-Faqih) and complete obedience to it is the path to success in this world and the hereafter. With all your strength and resources, support the Islamic Republic system and the Wali al-Faqih, for this system is the result of the blood of more than 250,000 martyrs, among the best and most beloved servants of God. I do not think I have any missed prayers, but due to my presence on the frontlines and digestive illness, I do have missed fasts. As a precaution, from one-third of my estate or my savings, arrange for ten years of prayers and fasting to be performed on my behalf by trustworthy and pious individuals. For more than forty years, I have worked in executive positions dealing with public funds. It is possible that some rights of the public treasury were unintentionally neglected. Although I have compensated periodically, I still make this will: First, I ask that my commanders forgive me for any shortcomings or possible negligence. Second, an amount of 50 million tomans should be given from one-third of my estate or savings as a precautionary settlement for any possible injustices. My books should be donated to a library where they can be accessed and read. The expenses for my ritual washing, shrouding, burial, and necessary memorial gatherings should be covered from one-third of my estate or savings, limited to necessity. Avoid unnecessary expenses, even if customary, and instead allocate funds to assist the poor. If possible, hold a mourning gathering on the night of the martyrdom of Sayyidah Fatimah (S) for up to ten years, funded from my savings.

### LOCAL & NATIONAL

#### KTR FLAGS DISCREPANCIES IN HYDERABAD IT JOBS NUMBERS, CITES GOVT DATA

The Democratic News  
 Hyderabad, Mar,21

Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday, March 21, highlighted a decline in IT sector employment in Hyderabad, citing figures presented by the Telangana government in recent official statements. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), KTR said the government had admitted twice within a week that IT jobs in Hyderabad fell from 9.46 lakh in 2023 to 9.39 lakh in 2026. He described the development as "shocking."

The data was first men-



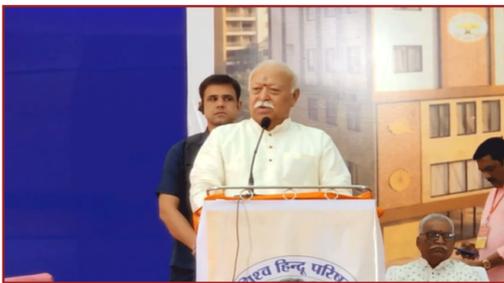
tioned in the Governor's address on March 16 and was reiterated in the state Budget speech delivered by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, KTR said. The former IT minister questioned whether the decline was due to the impact of artificial intelligence or the functioning of the Congress-led state

#### 'India can end ongoing war', says RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday underscored India's pivotal role in addressing global instability, saying that "India can bring an end to the ongoing war"

The Democratic News  
 Nagpur, Mar,21

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday underscored India's pivotal role in addressing global instability, saying that "India can bring an end to the ongoing war", during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Vidarbha Prant office in Nagpur. Speaking on the escalating global conflicts, Bhagwat asserted that the world is increasingly looking towards India to restore balance through the foundation of Dharma. Bhagwat noted that voices from various countries are increasingly looking towards India to mediate and end the ongoing war He



mentioned it is now widely recognised that "only India" has the capability to bring peace to the Middle East due to its inherent nature. He stated that it is India's responsibility to restore balance to a "stumbling world" by providing a foundation of dharma. In a pointed critique of the current geopolitical climate, the RSS chief contrasted India's historical values, especially "law of humanity" with the "law of the jungle" of the survival of the fittest, which is currently dominating global affairs. He used a traditional parable of a wolf and

a lamb to illustrate how power is often used to justify aggression. Bhagwat noted that without a strong moral force, truth and innocence are frequently suppressed by those with superior physical or military strength. Addressing the ongoing wars in the Middle East and Europe, the RSS chief highlighted a growing international expectation for Indian intervention. He argued that true global happiness is impossible until everyone is at peace, a philosophy he identified as the core of Sanatan Dharma and the Indian Constitution's preamble.

#### 22,000 accidents, 6,200 deaths in 2025: Telangana moves to rein in road crisis



Hyderabad: The Telangana government has stepped up its efforts to tackle the rising number of road accidents through stricter enforcement, enhanced awareness campaigns and stronger inter-departmental coordination under the "Arrive Alive" programme, part of the 99-day Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika initiative. He noted that work is already underway to address 17 such locations on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway.

#### US F-35 jet hit by Iran won't be operational anytime soon, pilot wounded: Report

A report has disclosed that the US military's advanced F-35 stealth fighter jet struck by Iranian air defense units, won't be able to resume operation anytime soon. According to the US public radio station NPR, the warplane took some serious damage, and the pilot sustained shrapnel wounds. Captain Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for United States Central Command, had earlier told CNN that the fifth-generation jet was "flying a combat mission over Iran" when it was forced to make an emergency landing at an undisclosed US air base in West Asia. This is the first time the US has admitted that Iranian air defenses managed to hit one of its fighter jets since the start of the unprovoked war of aggression against the Islamic Republic on February 28.

#### 'ENEMY TO BE ASTONISHED': IRGC DECLARES MISSILE DOMINANCE' OVER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Democratic News  
 Tehran, Mar,21

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force has declared "missile dominance" over the skies of the occupied territories as the war enters its 23rd day.

In a post on X on Saturday, the force's commander, Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Mousavi, declared that the skies over the south of the occupied territories "will remain illuminated for hours" tonight.

"The new tactics and launch systems to be employed in the



upcoming waves will leave American and Zionist commanders astonished," he stated. His remarks came hours af-

ter the IRGC carried out the 70th wave of Operation True Promise 4 against sensitive and strategic Israeli and American

targets throughout the region.

Launched immediately after the United States and the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran on February 28, assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and some top-ranking commanders. Iranian armed forces have so far carried out 72 waves of missile and drone strikes with advanced weaponry targeting Israeli military facilities in the occupied territories, as well as US occupation bases and assets scattered across the West Asia region.

#### EID-UL-FITR CELEBRATED WITH FERVOUR ACROSS TELANGANA

The Democratic News  
 Hyderabad, Mar,21

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with traditional fervour and devotion across Telangana on Saturday, March 21, with the faithful offering special prayers at mosques and Eidgahs. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi offered prayers at the Eidgah ground here, while several other political leaders also joined the faithful in the prayers. Police made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of Eid prayers. The historic Lad Bazar near Charminar came alive Friday night with the presence



of thousands of shoppers and women thronging bangle shops. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao

greeted people on the occasion. Shukla said Ramadan is a time of self-discipline and spiritual reflection, urging us to uphold the principles of dignity, the sanctity of life and adherence to religious teachings.