

IRAN WARNS SOUTH KOREA: HORMUZ DEPLOYMENT AMOUNTS TO 'DIRECT' SUPPORT FOR US



Iran has warned South Korea against any military participation in the Persian Gulf operations and the Strait of Hormuz, saying such involvement would amount to "direct" support for the US and lead to serious consequences. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei issued the warning in a post in Korean on his X account on Monday amid reports that South Korea is flirting with the idea of deploying military assets to the Persian Gulf. He said Iran and South Korea have maintained relations for more than 64 years and have consistently developed ties on the basis of mutual respect. He added that Tehran attaches great importance to its friendly ties with Seoul. He noted that the Iranian nation is currently defending itself against acts of aggression and responding decisively to US war crimes against women and children. Under the current circumstances, it is clear that any operational participation or military presence by other parties in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz will constitute direct support for the aggressor and will have serious consequences, the Iranian spokesperson emphasized. He further said that no sovereign and responsible country would succumb to US pressure and blackmail to cooperate with the US in its acts of aggression and heinous crimes against the Iranian nation. "No sovereign and responsible country will submit to US pressure and blackmail to collude in committing acts of aggression and heinous crimes against the great Iranian nation," Baghaei pointed out.

Grabbed by throat, hair pulled: BRS women MLAs allege police force

BRS calls it an insult to "entire women's community"; HC orders action against cops

Hyderabad, Sept 7:

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders on Monday accused Telangana Police of manhandling the party's women legislators during a protest outside the Telangana Legislative Assembly on the opening day of the Monsoon Session, calling it an insult to "the entire women's community."

The confrontation broke out after police stopped BRS MLAs and MLCs from entering the Assembly premises in black T-shirts, which the party wore to protest 1,000 days of unfulfilled promises by the Congress government. Police cited lack of permission for the attire, leading to a scuffle at the gate.

BRS MLA V Sunitha Laxma Reddy and former minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy were among those allegedly manhandled. According to the party, police grabbed the women by the throat, pulled their hair and allegedly tore Sunitha Laxma Reddy's saree. She was reportedly left with minor injuries after being trampled underfoot, and broke down in tears while speaking to reporters.



BRS MLA V Sunitha Laxma Reddy being manhandled by police during the protest outside the Telangana Assembly on Monday.

WHAT HAPPENED?

- Police stopped BRS MLAs and MLCs from entering the Assembly in black T-shirts.
- Scuffle broke out at the gate.
- BRS alleges police grabbed women by the throat, pulled hair, and tore sarees.
- KTR stepped in to shield the women.
- Several leaders, including KTR and Harish Rao, were detained and later moved to Telangana Bhavan.

BRS DEMANDS ACTION

- Party to file a formal complaint with the Assembly Speaker.
- Demands action against police personnel involved.
- Calls for statewide protests over the incident.

HC DIRECTS ACTION



The High Court on Monday directed the Telangana DGP to initiate action against the police officials and submit a report. It said no MLA should be prevented from entering the Assembly. The Court will hear the case after two weeks.

WOMEN LEADERS CONDEMN

- Kavitha called the incident "utterly reprehensible."
- "Even though TRS has different views from BRS, we strongly condemn the ill-treatment of women legislators."
- "If they are not safe in Telangana, one can only imagine the plight of ordinary women," she said.

THE BIG PICTURE

- BRS says the incident shows the government's failure on women's safety and governance.
- The party accuses the police of acting under political pressure.
- The issue has sparked outrage across the state, with calls for justice and accountability.

KEY REACTIONS



"This is not just an insult to Sunitha Laxma Reddy or Sabitha Indra Reddy; we view this as an insult to the entire women's community in a civilised society."
- Sabitha Indra Reddy
Former Minister



"This incident reflects poorly on the state government's claims of women-centric governance. We will lodge a formal complaint and demand action."
- KTR
BRS Working President



"If they are not safe in Telangana, one can only imagine how dire the situation must be for ordinary women."
Kalvakuntla Kavitha
TRS President

Owaisi-Beniwal rally fuels Third Front buzz in Rajasthan ahead of civic polls

Jaipur: Political activity around Rajasthan's urban local body elections intensified after AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) supremo Hanuman Beniwal shared the stage at a joint rally in Jaipur, fuelling speculation about the emergence of a potential third political front in the state. The two leaders addressed a public meeting in Municipal Corporation Ward 146 on Sunday in support of

the AIMIM candidate, while also attacking both the BJP and the Congress and pitching themselves as an alternative political force. Their joint appearance has triggered discussions over evolving political equations in Rajasthan and the possibility of a broader AIMIM-RLP alliance beyond the civic polls. Addressing the gathering, Owaisi said Rajasthan's politics has traditionally revolved around the BJP and Congress, but

claimed that voters are now being presented with a new political alternative. He described the September 11 civic elections as an important test for voters and appealed to the public to support the AIMIM candidate Beniwal described the joint appearance as a new beginning for Rajasthan politics and spoke about the political cooperation between Jat and Muslim communities.

'PURIFICATION' ROW: CONGRESS HOLDS PROTEST MARCH IN LATUR

Latur: The Congress took out a 'Constitution march' in Latur city of Maharashtra on Monday, September 7, to protest against the alleged 'purification' ritual carried out after a public meeting addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Uttarakhand and the registration of a case against Rahul Gandhi for raising his voice against the act. The march began after participants paid tributes at a statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar. It culminated in a protest meeting at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk. Protestors criticised what they described as attempts to undermine the values of the Constitution and create divisions in society, adding that the incident following Kharge's public meeting was an affront to the principles of equality and social fraternity. They also condemned the registration of a case against Rahul Gandhi, alleging the action was politically motivated and intended to suppress dissent. A controversy erupted following reports of a purification ritual being performed at the Ramlila Ground in Haldwani in Uttarakhand after Kharge's rally on August 8. It was alleged that holy water from the Ganga was sprinkled and Vedic mantras were chanted at the venue, with the Congress claiming that this act was "anti-Dalit".

Shrinking Media Space, Shaking the Pillars of Democracy

Will only corporate and big media houses be allowed to tell the story of government performance?



Syed Jaffer Hussain
Editor, Sada-e-Hussaini Urdu Daily

The shrinking space for small and medium newspapers and the increasing restrictions on media access to government institutions raise serious questions about the future of journalism and democratic accountability in Telangana.

Can the performance of a government be communicated to the public only through corporate media, big newspapers and major television channels? Certainly not. In fact, even many established newspapers and news channels are facing challenges due to changing guidelines and increasingly restrictive systems.

Whenever a new committee is constituted—whether in the Legislative Assembly or in another institution—its purpose should not merely be to receive instructions or follow the dictates of the concerned ministers. The media must also have a meaningful voice when decisions directly affect journalistic access and public information.

The situation inside the Telangana Legislative Assembly deserves particular attention. The media lobby and lounge have gradually become so restricted that if a large number of journalists arrive at the same time, there is hardly enough space for them. At the same time, large chambers and facilities are being provided for ministers and senior political functionaries. Their requirements may certainly be genuine, but the question remains: where is the space for the Fourth Estate?



A journalist does not merely collect press releases. A journalist observes, listens, verifies and reports what he or she sees and hears. If journalists are prevented from seeing and hearing what is happening inside public institutions, how can they provide independent and meaningful news to the people?

The Legislative Assembly belongs to the people. It exists to debate and address public issues. Therefore, the media has a legitimate responsibility to observe its proceedings and report matters of public interest.

A media card holder, subject to security regulations and applicable rules, should be provided reasonable and non-discriminatory access. Security is important, but security arrangements should not become a barrier to legitimate journalism.

The media must not be reduced to a collector of press releases. Its responsibility is also to ask questions, examine government policies, highlight public concerns and seek accountability.

The issue becomes even more important for small and medium newspapers. If a small newspaper is denied access to the Secretariat or other government institutions, how will it gather information? And if it cannot access information today, how can it grow into a major newspaper tomorrow?

Every major newspaper was once small. A democratic government should encourage diversity in the media rather than create a system where only the biggest organisations can easily access information. Urdu, Telugu, English and other language media all have an important role in reaching different sections of society.

KEY CONCERNS

Media space is shrinking, especially for small and medium newspapers.

Access to government institutions is becoming more restricted.

Only corporate and big media houses are getting easy access to information.

The media must observe, question, verify and report—not just collect press releases.

A democratic government should encourage diversity in the media, not limit it to a few.

Access to information should not depend on the size of a newspaper's corporate structure.

A shrinking media space ultimately means a shrinking space for public scrutiny.

Democracy thrives when the media is free, independent and accessible.

"The strength of journalism is not measured only by circulation, advertising revenue or the size of a newsroom. It is measured by its ability to reach the people, report facts and question those in power when necessary."
— Syed Jaffer Hussain

"If the doors of government institutions gradually close to small newspapers, the loss will not be limited to those newspapers. The real loss will be suffered by the public."
— Syed Jaffer Hussain

"The government needs a strong media. The media needs access. And democracy needs both."
— Syed Jaffer Hussain

'ENSURE PEACEFUL GANESH CHATURTHI,' TELANGANA DGP TELLS POLICE

Commissioners of Police, DCPs and SPs should visit the pandals and record their observations and remarks in point books, he said.

Telangana Director General of Police C V Anand on Monday, September 7, directed police officials to make comprehensive security arrangements for the peaceful conduct of Ganesh Chaturthi festivities across the state. The DGP held a video conference with SIs and senior police officers across the state and reviewed preparations for the festivities, which will commence on September 14 and culminate with the immersion of Ganesh idols on September 25, a press release said.

He said a dedicated online portal had been introduced to collect and monitor details of Ganesh pandals. Information on the location of pandals, organisers and committee members, as well as vehicles to be used for idol immersion, should be updated on the platform, he said. Commissioners of Police, DCPs and SPs should visit the pandals and record their observations and remarks in point books, he said. Police should pay special attention to electrical safety and traffic management around



Ganesh pandals and coordinate closely with the Electricity, Fire and other departments, the DGP said.

Election Commission EXTENDS SIR

Hyderabad : The Election Commission of India on Monday revised the schedule for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Telangana, extending the period of filing claims and objections by three weeks. As per the revised schedule, the period of filing claims and objections will be till October 7, 2026. The period, which began on August 17, was earlier scheduled to end on September 16. The notice phase/disposal of claims and objections will now end on November 5. It was earlier scheduled to conclude on October 15. The final voter list will be published on November 9. It was earlier scheduled to be published on October 19.

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