

5. Iran Protest– International Relation

US President Donald Trump warns Iran against violent crackdown on protesters, Rising economic distress in Iran, triggered by currency collapse and inflation, has led to nationwide protests which the U.S. President has used as a basis to threaten intervention. This follows a decade of escalating tensions, including the 2018 sanctions, the 2020 assassination of Soleimani, and recent military clashes involved Israel, threatening stability in the resource-rich West Asian region.

Escalation of U.S.–Iran Tensions Amidst Internal Protests

1. News Context

Presidential Warning– U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened intervention if Iran utilizes lethal force against protesters.

Current Situation– This threat marks a sharp escalation in tensions, coinciding with deadly nationwide economic protests sweeping across Iran.

2. About the Iran Protests

Background and Triggers

Timeline– The protests erupted in late December 2025.

Economic Drivers

Currency Collapse– A sharp depreciation of the Iranian rial.

Inflation– Worsening inflation rates eroding purchasing power.

Hardship– Prolonged economic distress aggravated by international sanctions and ongoing conflicts.

Demands and Demographics

Participants– The unrest involves a broad spectrum of society, including shopkeepers and urban workers.

Core Demands– The primary focus is on economic relief, currency stabilisation, and better governance.

Political Stance– Unlike previous uprisings, the initial demands focused on reform rather than immediate regime change.

Nature and Spread

Trajectory– Began as peaceful demonstrations in Tehran but quickly spread to several other cities.

Violence– The situation has deteriorated, turning violent with reported clashes between security forces and protesters.

Government Response

Official Stance– Iranian authorities have acknowledged legitimate economic grievances.

Crackdown– However, they have labelled violent elements as “rioters,” justifying a severe security crackdown that has led to reported civilian casualties.

3. Timeline of U.S. Interference and Escalation

Year	Event	Details
2018	Sanctions Reimposed	The U.S. withdrew from the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal and reimposed severe economic sanctions, crippling Iran’s economy.
2020	Soleimani Assassination	The U.S. killed Qasem Soleimani, Iran’s top military commander, in a drone strike in Baghdad, spiking hostility.
2025	Military Support to Israel	The U.S. backed Israeli airstrikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities (June 2025), followed by direct U.S. strikes and Iranian retaliation on a U.S. base in Qatar.
2025	Information Warfare	Israeli intelligence, with U.S. political backing, openly encouraged Iranian protests via social media.
2026	Renewed Threats	President Trump warned of fresh attacks if Iran rebuilds missile/nuclear capabilities, explicitly linking internal protests to external intervention.

4. Geographic Profile- Iran

Location- Situated in West Asia (Middle East), centered on the Iranian Plateau.

Land Borders

1. **West-** Turkey and Iraq.
2. **North-** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and the Caspian Sea.
3. **East-** Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Maritime Borders- Bounded by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to the south.

Topography

Mountains- Dominated by the Zagros Mountains in the west and the Alborz Mountains in the north.

Highest Peak- Mount Damavand (located in the Alborz range).

Desert Regions- Large portions of the central and eastern regions are occupied by the Dasht-e Kavir (Great Salt Desert) and Dasht-e Lut (Emptiness Desert).

Climate- Diverse range from subtropical along the Caspian coast to arid and semi-arid in the inland areas.

Natural Resources- The nation is rich in oil, natural gas, and minerals like copper and iron ore.

5. Potential Implications of the Crisis

Regional Instability

Conflict Spread- Escalation risks triggering a wider conflict across West Asia.

Targets- This threatens U.S. military bases, Israel, and neighboring Gulf states.

Global Energy Markets

Supply Disruption- Any military conflict involving Iran risks the closure or disruption of the Strait of Hormuz.

Economic Impact- This would severely impact global oil and gas supplies, leading to a spike in global energy prices.

India's Strategic Interests

Energy Security- Disruption in oil supplies could hurt India's energy import dependency.

Diaspora- The safety of the large Indian diaspora in the Gulf region is a primary concern.

Trade- Disruption to maritime trade routes and balancing diplomatic ties between Iran, the U.S., and Gulf partners will be a diplomatic challenge.

International Norms

Sovereignty- Direct external intervention regarding internal protests raises significant concerns about national sovereignty.

Precedent- It sets a complex precedent regarding international law and non-interference in domestic affairs.

6. Conclusion

The current crisis in Iran represents a dangerous convergence of internal economic distress and external geopolitical pressure. The situation holds serious consequences not just for the regime in Tehran, but for regional stability and global strategic interests.

Source- <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/us-president-trump-warns-iran-of-possible-intervention-if-security-forces-fire-on-protesters/>