

# Leader: National power related more to will of nations than to missiles

## National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Monday that national power is related more to the will of nations and their steadfastness than to missiles and aircraft. Unity, strong will, motivation, and resistance to the enemy's temptations are the pillars of national power, Ayatollah Khamenei said in a televised message ahead of the February 11 rallies marking the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. His remarks came as tensions between Iran and the United States have worsened in recent weeks after Washington threatened to attack Iran on the pretext of Tehran's response to recent riots which were triggered by protests over economic problems in the country. The Leader in his message called on the Iranian nation to demonstrate its will and steadfastness on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, saying such unity would frustrate the country's enemy.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issues a televised message on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran on February 9, 2026.  
● khamenei.ir

"Disappoint the enemy," the Leader stated, arguing that a nation remains exposed to harm as long as its enemies are not disappointed. He also urged the people to continue showing their resolve in various arenas. Ayatollah Khamenei described Bahman 22<sup>nd</sup> (February 11) as a manifestation of the Iranian nation's power and dignity. "Bahman 22<sup>nd</sup> (February 11) every year is the day of unveiling the power and dignity of the Iranian nation," the Leader said, describing the nation as motivated, resolute, steadfast, appreciative, and aware of its own situation. He said the Iranian people achieved a "great victory" on February 11, 1979, by freeing themselves and their country from "foreign interference," adding that foreign powers have sought ever since to restore the previous circumstances. "The Iranian nation is standing firm," Ayatollah Khamenei asserted. "The symbol of this steadfastness is Bahman 22<sup>nd</sup>." He called the annual rallies "unparalleled" in the world,

saying there is no other example of a nation marking its independence every year with such massive nationwide participation. The demonstrations "force those who covet Iran and its interests to retreat," Ayatollah Khamenei said. Ayatollah Khamenei also expressed hope that Iran's youth would advance in science, action, piety, ethics, and material and spiritual progress, creating pride for the country. He said February 11 reflects all these qualities, as people take to the streets to express unity, loyalty to the Islamic Republic, and commitment to the nation. He voiced hope that this year's rallies would further amplify the Iranian nation's grandeur, as in previous years.

## Iran says may dilute highly enriched uranium if all sanctions lifted

### International Desk

Iran may water down its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in return for the lifting of all US sanctions, the country's atomic chief said on Monday. Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, was responding to a question about the possibility of diluting uranium enriched to the purity of 60%. "This issue depends on whether, in return, they lift all the sanctions or not," Eslami told reporters in Tehran, according to ISNA. Iran began a new round of talks with the United States on Friday in Muscat, the capital of Oman, over its nuclear program, amid a US military buildup in the Persian Gulf.



Washington reportedly has put forward several demands, including a halt to Iran's uranium enrichment, the removal of Iran's stockpile of 60% enriched uranium from the country and a curb on the range of Iran's missiles. Iranian officials have repeatedly rejected the demands. Eslami also flatly denied reports that Iran had agreed to hand over the 60% uranium to a third country,

describing them as speculation produced by "pressure groups." "Such a thing has not been on the agenda, and even if it was, [certain] countries made proposals to contribute to the talks. Such a thing has not been discussed in the negotiations," he said. The latest talks resumed after a seven-month hiatus since June, when Israel attacked Iran during exchanges between Tehran and Washington. The strikes resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 military personnel and civilians, including senior commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and nuclear scientists. A few days after the Israeli aggression, which lasted 12 days, the United States bombed three Iranian nuclear sites.

## Iran's foreign policy ...

This approach allows Iran to maintain a minimum level of regional influence. Its drivers include shared security and economic needs and international pressure for regional stability. Opportunities include consolidating a foothold in energy markets, maintaining diplomatic channels, and leveraging a mediating role in crises. The challenges, however, are a fragile equilibrium between competition and cooperation, the risk of sudden crises, and a degree of reliance on external powers.

### 4. Expanded regional cooperation

Under this scenario, Iran forges meaningful strategic and economic partnerships with several Middle Eastern countries, particularly Iraq, Oman, and Turkey. Rivalries are largely confined to secondary issues, and through active diplomacy Iran works to solidify its regional position. Drivers include neighboring states' desire to lower tensions, energy security concerns, and the need for economic development. The opportunities range from expanded joint investment and sustained diplomatic influence to reduced military threats and greater regional credibility. The main challenges involve limits on cooperation with rival states and the need to carefully manage long-standing historical and sectarian rivalries.

### 5. Full convergence & regional leadership

In the most optimistic scenario, Iran achieves comprehensive convergence with Middle Eastern countries in security, economic, and energy domains. Tehran's role as a mediator and regional power is firmly established, past rivalries are reduced to a minimum, and durable regional agreements pave the way for economic growth and lower international pressure. Drivers include the need for collective energy security, shifts in regional perceptions, and a reduction in sanctions and political pressure. Opportunities include regional leadership, higher energy and goods exports, strong diplomatic influence, and diminished military and security threats. The challenges lie in sustaining convergence over time, preventing exploitation by rivals, and maintaining a high degree of diplomatic flexibility. In conclusion, an analysis of Iran's foreign policy in the Middle East shows that Tehran has consistently navigated between convergence and competition. Efforts to build alliances with neighbors, engage in security frameworks, and pursue economic development offer a path to stabilizing Iran's regional influence. Yet geopolitical, sectarian, and historical rivalries continue to impose serious constraints and complexity, turning the management of foreign policy into an ongoing strategic challenge.

Despite these obstacles, Iran retains significant capacity to capitalize on regional opportunities. Engagement with aligned states, mediation in regional crises, and the expansion of economic and energy cooperation can help strengthen Tehran's regional position. Building shared security networks with neighbors and easing historical tensions could also foster greater trust and more durable convergence. At the same time, Iran faces substantial threats and limitations. Regional rivalries with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Israel, sustained Western sanctions, and political volatility in neighboring countries all have the potential to narrow the space for cooperation. Long-standing mistrust and misunderstandings between Tehran and some regional actors further complicate efforts to balance rivalry and engagement. To achieve a stable and effective foreign policy in the Middle East, Iran will need to adopt a calibrated approach that expands cooperation while managing competition. Strengthening economic diplomacy, making use of mediation opportunities, and easing tensions with rival states will be critical to Iran's success over the next four years. Ultimately, Tehran's ability to balance convergence and competition will determine its strategic position and long-term influence in the Middle East.

## President: New talks good chance for 'logical' resolution of nuclear issue

Top security official to visit Muscat today



### International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian described the new round of negotiations with the United States as a very good opportunity for a "logical" and "fair" resolution of tensions over Iran's nuclear issue.

"We seek to secure our rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including on the issue of enrichment, and the lifting of unjust sanctions", Pezeshkian said in a ceremony held in Tehran on the occasion of the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Islamic Revolution.

Iran, for its part, will make its efforts for the success of the negotiations and hopes the other side would also commit to this goal without making excessive demands, Pezeshkian said.

"Our message to the world is clear; Iran is a country that honors its commitments, if it sees sincerity and adherence to obligations from others as well. The Islamic Republic of Iran extends a hand of friendship to all countries that are interested in sincere cooperation". Iran and the US have launched a new round of negotiations, mediated by Oman, to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program. The two sides described the first round of the negotiations as a good start, which were held in Oman's capital, Muscat, on Friday.

Iran had held five rounds of talks on a replacement for the 2015 nuclear deal prior to the US-Israeli airstrikes on the country and its nuclear facilities in mid-June.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani is scheduled to travel to Muscat today amid preparations for further talks between Tehran and Washington.

"During the visit, Larijani is set to meet with senior Omani officials and hold talks on the latest regional and international developments, as well as bilateral cooperation," Fars News Agency reported on Monday.

### International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting with foreign ambassadors and representatives of international bodies in Iran on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of Islamic Revolution in Tehran on February 9, 2026.  
● president.ir

### Iran serious in talks

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who is leading Iran's negotiating team, said on Monday that the Islamic Republic is taking nuclear negotiations seriously and is seeking genuine, result-oriented talks.

Nonetheless, the Iranian minister said, progress depends on the other side demonstrating an equal degree of commitment and seriousness.

He said Iran is approaching the negotiations with seriousness, and is pursuing real talks aimed at achieving results, provided that the other side also shows seriousness and preparedness for negotiations focused on outcomes.

Araghchi said the Iranian people resist when addressed in the language of force but respond positively when treated with respect.

### Distrust between Iran, US

The top Iranian diplomat further said there is a large wall of distrust between Iran and the US, stemming from the behavior of the latter in past years.

He also voiced hope that trust could be established to enable negotiations to achieve tangible results.

He emphasized that Iran's policy relies on strong collaboration with neighboring countries, hoping that all parties would unite to maintain peace and stability in the region while avoiding any escalation or confrontation.

Iran insists on its legal right to enrich uranium on its own soil, describing the issue as a red line in the talks. Tehran says any technical measures can only be considered within a framework that recognizes this right, warning that preconditions beyond it would be viewed as a sign of bad faith.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

### CARTOON

