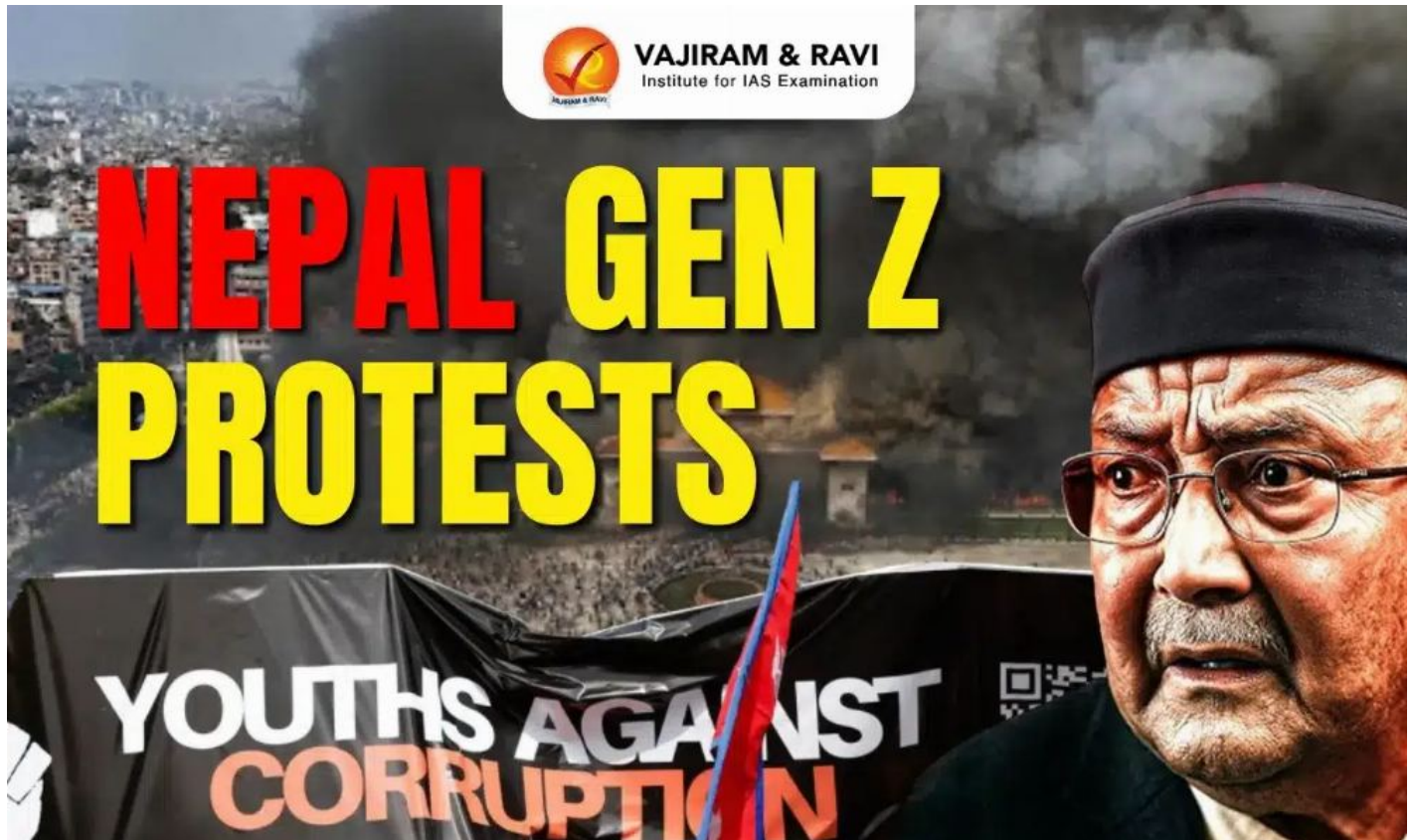


Nepal's Gen Z Protests: Social Media Ban, Unrest, and Political Fallout

September 10, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Nepal Gen Z protests Latest News

- Unprecedented protests erupted across Nepal on September 8, 2025, after the government banned major social media platforms.
- What began as peaceful demonstrations by thousands of youth soon turned violent, with at least 19 dead and over 400 injured.
- Protesters stormed Parliament and targeted politicians' homes, prompting curfews in Kathmandu and other cities.
- As the Gen Z-led agitation intensified for a second day, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned, his secretariat confirming the decision amidst mounting pressure.

Protesters on Nepal's Streets and the Reasons Behind Their Anger

- The protesters are primarily **Generation Z youth** — those born between 1996 and 2012.

- With the age group of 16-25 years, Gen Z youths accounted for 20.8 per cent of total population and 90 per cent of its 30 million people using the internet.
- Teens and young adults, frustrated with politics and governance, have taken to the streets in large numbers.

Corruption and Nepotism

- Gen Z has expressed deep anger at **Nepal's entrenched corruption** and the impunity enjoyed by politicians since the republic's formation in 2008.
- The extravagant lifestyles of politicians' children, mocked as "**Nepo Babies**" and "**Nepo Kids**," became a flashpoint of resentment online.

Immediate Trigger: Social Media Ban

- The government's decision to ban 26 major social media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, X, and YouTube, cut off Gen Z's primary platform for expression and solidarity.
 - Authorities accused these platforms of failing to register with Nepali regulators and of being misused for hate speech, misinformation and fraud.
 - TikTok was the only major platform to comply and remains accessible.
- This aggravated their frustration.

Protests and Violence

- The discontent culminated in mass protests on Monday. Police and security forces opened fire, killing 19 and injuring hundreds.
- The unrest represented the most forceful youth uprising in years.
- While the protesters had no detailed charter, they demanded lifting of the social media ban, which was fulfilled.
- More broadly, they sought an **end to corruption, social inequality, and lack of job opportunities**.

India's Concerns Over Nepal's Crisis

- India is closely watching Nepal's turmoil with concern, mindful of its sensitive political alignments in the country.
- Having once lost goodwill with the monarchy and Nepali Congress by backing Maoists, New Delhi now faces a delicate balancing act.
- Recently, PM Modi chaired a Cabinet Committee on Security meeting to assess the situation, stressing that the violence was "heart-rending" and reaffirming that Nepal's stability, peace, and prosperity remain of utmost importance to India.

Analysis: Nepal's Crisis Beyond Oli's Resignation

- The recent violence in Kathmandu, where protesters torched Parliament, ministerial homes, and media offices, reflects deep structural failures in Nepal's democratic experiment.
- PM Oli's resignation has not stemmed the unrest, which now questions the country's political future.

Systemic Revolt: From Social Media Ban to Nationwide Rage

- Protests began against the government's ban on social media but quickly transformed into a broader indictment of corruption, nepotism, and inequality.
- Security forces' killing of 19 youth on September 8 ignited nationwide outrage, galvanising Gen Z against decades of political dysfunction, unemployment, and institutional decay.
- Unlike past democratic movements, **these protests lack leadership or clear objectives, instead expressing nihilistic anger against all state institutions.**

Dangerous Precedents in Nepal's Democracy

- Despite two people's movements, a new constitution, and republican institutions, Nepal's governance remains **dominated by elite power-sharing and patronage networks.**
- This disillusionment has created space for anti-system forces, including pro-monarchy and Hindutva groups.
- The amorphous Gen Z protests, without clear democratic alternatives, risk being co-opted by such forces.

Regional Parallels and Outsider Appeal

- Nepal's turmoil mirrors **unrest in South Asia**, from Bangladesh's student-led uprisings to Sri Lanka's Aragalaya.
- The popularity of outsider figures like jailed Rabi Lamichhane and Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah shows youth distrust of mainstream politics.
- However, Shah's call for Parliament's dissolution raises fears of anti-institutional rhetoric undermining democratic renewal.

The Road Ahead: Reform or Ruin

- The Gen Z protests have exposed **Nepal's political bankruptcy and systemic failures.**
- Yet, their drift toward violence and institutional destruction threatens democracy itself.
- For meaningful change, Nepal's leaders must channel this energy into building credible alternatives, policy frameworks, and constructive institutions.
 - Without this, the movement risks destabilising an already fragile state without delivering sustainable solutions.

Source: [IE](#) | [TH](#) | [BBC](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/nepals-gen-z-protests-social-media-ban-unrest-and-political-fallout/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.