

## Iran to launch two major satellites in coming weeks



Iranian Space Agency (ISA) chief said the country will carry out two major satellite launches in the coming weeks.

Hassan Salariyeh told IRNA that the launches are scheduled to take place in the calendar month to July 21.

Salariyeh said the ISA is carrying out compatibility tests between the satellites and launch rockets.

"The compatibility and joint tests between launches and carrying rockets are among important and sensitive issues which sometimes can face delays because of certain technical problems," he said.

The official said, however, that Iran will carry out the satellite launches after it is ensured of 100% success in the compatibility tests.

Iran has carried out successful satellite launches in recent years despite West's pressure and sanctions on the country's space sector. Tehran has rejected accusations its satellite launches are a cover for its missile program with authorities stating that the satellites are used for various scientific and development purposes in the country.

Iran has also stated repeatedly that peaceful technological advancement in the aerospace field is the country's legitimate right.

In January, Iran simultaneously launched three satellites for the first time using a modern satellite carrier developed by the Iranian Defense Ministry. The ISA-built Mahda satellite was unveiled during the launches.

It came more than a week after Iran launched its Sorayya satellite into orbit with a rocket designed and developed by the country's elite military force, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Also in late February, an Iranian satellite was placed for a first time into an orbit of 500 kilometers. The Pars 1 research-sensing satellite was launched from Russia's Vostochny spaceport using the Soyuz rocket.



## CBI unveils digital currency to strengthen payment system

Iran unveiled the digital currency "CBDC" in a ceremony on Sunday attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad Reza Farzin and some senior CEOs of the country's banks.

The digital currency is similar to a banknote, committed by the Central Bank of Iran in an electronic form, wrote Press TV.

Earlier, the CBI said it is planning to introduce a digital currency to facilitate purchases for the clients of the banking network in the country.

According to the CBI, a pilot version of its digital currency was readied to be rolled out on the island of Kish, southern Iran, after several years of work and studies on the program.

The CBI hopes the pilot platform could enable the bank to finally launch a digital form of Iran's national currency the rial.

Iran's Mellat and Tejarat banks will contribute to the pilot project in Kish, which is to be launched in July. The Central Bank of Iran announced that the digital rial will be used for retail transactions, including purchasing goods and services. Iran initiated its digital currency program in 2021 after preliminary studies and approval from the country's High Council of Money and Credit. The CBI emphasized that the digital rial's launch aims to bolster Iran's digital economy and strengthen the resilience of its payment infrastructure.

## Iran, India discuss development of Chabahar port

Secretary for Economic Relations of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Shri Dammu Ravi talked on the expansion of economic ties with his Iranian counterpart Mehdi Safari in Tehran on Sunday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 18th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), both sides exchanged their views on the development of Chabahar port in southwestern Iran.

The meeting of senior officials of the ACD with the chairmanship of Safari was held in Tehran Sunday.

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## Iran's gold import more than triple in June quarter



The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported that 6.6 metric tons (mt) of gold worth \$476 million were cleared through customs ports and imported into the country during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - June 20).

That is three times more than the same period last year, when 2 mt of gold bullion worth \$130 million were imported into the country, according to IRICA figures reported by IRNA.

Imam Khomeini Airport Customs was the origin of over 91.64% of gold bullion imports in the first three months of this year.

Late in 2022, the Iranian government approved a plan to facilitate the import of gold as part of its anti-sanctions policy, allowing businesses to import gold to settle their export-related foreign exchange dues to the government.

## Iran ranks world's 30th producer of nuclear electricity in 2023

Iran managed to produce 6.6 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity last year, becoming the 30th producer of nuclear electricity in the world.

According to a report by the 'Statistical Review of World Energy', Iran accounted for one percent of the world's total nuclear electricity generated in 2023, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Iran generated 6.6 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity in 2023, showing a one percent growth compared to a year earlier. Iran's generation of nuclear electricity had about five percent growth during the administration of the late president Ebrahim Raisi.

According to the statistics, Iran had generated 6.4 terawatt/hour of nuclear electricity in 2020.

Only 33 countries in the world produced nuclear electricity in 2023.

The report put that total nuclear electricity generated in the world in 2023 at 2,737 terawatts/hour, which showed a 2.2 percent growth compared to a year before.



## Over 2m cellphone handsets imported in three months: IRICA

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said more than two million mobile handsets entered the customs offices of the country in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

A total of 2,049,279 cellphone handsets were discharged and imported from March 20 to May 22, 2024,

Mohammad Rezvanifar said, reported IRNA.

The mobile handsets were imported either by passengers or for commercial purposes, he added.

More than one million of the mobile handsets were imported for commercial and trade purposes while 98,796 cellphone handsets were imported by passengers, he said.

He put the value of the cell-

phone handsets imported into the country in this period at over \$527 million.

Rezvanifar pointed out that the import of cellphone handsets registered a 27- and an 8-percent decline in terms of weight and value respectively compared to the same period last year.





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