

Iran's DRI output up over 11% in five months: **ISPA**



Production of direct reduced iron (DRI) in Iran rose by 11.6 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), compared to the corresponding figure of preceding year, according to the data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

ISPA figures indicated that 17.506 million tons of DRI was produced in the country during the five-month period of the current year, while the opposite figure for last year stood at 15.693 million tons, IRNA reported. Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

Iran's steel output rose in the seven months to July despite a global fall in production and despite power cuts imposed on steel producers in the country this summer.

Figures released by the World Steel Association (worldsteel) showed that Iran had produced 18.4 million metric tons of raw steel in January-July, up 2.9% from the same period last year.

Iran remained the 10th largest steel supplier in the world in the seven months to July, the figures showed, which also indicated that total steel output by seven major steel producing nations of the world had dropped by 0.7% over the same period.

Iran building 2,800 km of new railways to boost cargo transit



A senior official in Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development says the country is building some 2,800 kilometers of new railways.

Kheirollah Khademi, a deputy minister, said that a bulk of the new railways being built across Iran is located along the north-south and east-west transport corridors that are aimed at increasing international cargo transit via the

country, Press TV wrote.

Khademi said the two main rail transport corridors in Iran are estimated to be 9,100 kilometers in length when they are completely finished.

He said the country has finished 5,100 kilometers of those railways while works are underway for another 2,800 kilometers, adding that the construction of the remaining 1,200 kilometers has yet to start.

The senior official said that a key section of the north-south railway network in Iran which connects the southeastern port of Chabahar on the Sea of Oman to Zahedan near the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan has progressed by 72%.

Khademi said the Chabahar-Zahedan railway could come on line by March 2026 if the government provides some 200 trillion rials (\$340 million) in

funding to the project.

He said that Iran is also building some 6,000 kilometers of new highways to boost its capacity for cargo and passenger transport, adding that the country is set to inaugurate some 1,000 kilometers of those highways each year.

Iran has invested heavily in its road and railway networks in recent years as part of a government plan to increase its reve-

nues from international cargo transit.

That has come as demand for freight transport via the Iranian territory has increased, especially from countries like Russia and India.

A key rail link was opened in northern Iran between Rasht and the Caspian Port in late June to enable direct freight transport from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf.

Tremendous role of industry in Iran's economic resilience



Iran has made remarkable advances in science and technology through education and training, despite Western sanctions blighting almost every aspects of research during the past few decades.

In recent years, the growth in Iran's scientific output is reported to be the fastest in the world where university population swelled from 100,000

in 1979 to 4.7 million in 2016, Press TV wrote.

In 2013, about 60,000 students were studying in all PhD programs in Iran, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Currently, Iran has 54 science and technology parks and about 12,300 technology units. Also 2,300 knowledge-based companies employ 113,000

university graduates, students and professors in the science and technology parks.

Industrial production in Iran increased 4.7 percent in the first quarter of 2024 over the same quarter in the previous year, according to the country's central bank. Industrial production in Iran averaged 7.4 percent from 1975 until 2024, reaching an all-time high of 102.50 percent in the second quarter of 1980. The industry, due to having strong links with other economic sectors, is a leading force in productivity, where as the main driver of growth, success and innovation of countries, it plays a key role in the development and welfare of nations.

The economic progress and development of a country is a function of the position which industry and mining, as a powerful arm of the economy and the basis for growth, prosperity and comfort, has in its planning. The field is one of the components of growth which makes it imperative on state planners to lay out their long-term visions for industrial progress and acquisition of new technologies by using all available capacities. Achieving sustainable develop-

ment is one of the major economic goals of the world countries, which depends on their industrial growth capacities.

Innovation in technologies and production processes which are often associated with creating new opportunities in the design and manufacture of new products and services leads to the economic growth of countries. According to British business daily The Economist, Iran was ranked 39th for producing \$23 billion of industrial products in 2008. From 2008 to 2009, the country leaped to 28th place from 69th place in annual industrial production growth rate.

The latest report by World Steel Association (WSA) suggests that Iran's steel output in January 2024 grew 39.9% year-on-year, putting the country at the ninth place of global ranking among top steel producers.

Scores of Iranian companies have been awarded foreign tender contracts worth tens of billion dollars in different fields of construction of dams, bridges, roads, buildings, railroads, power generation, and gas, oil and petrochemical industries in about 30 countries.

Iran's factories continue to produce out trucks, cars, appliances, electronics, and a wide range of fast-moving consumer goods. This is the key to the country's resilience in the face of sanctions, where industrial units have successfully reduced reliance on imported finished goods.

Where sanctions have typically interrupted imports of key inputs, Iranian manufacturers have generally been able to retool their supply chains and build up their own inventories of raw materials and parts.

The manufacturing processes and industrial designs that underpin the production of these goods are often old, however, which raises costs and reduces their competitiveness.

To renovate and modernize its industrial production lines, Iran needs foreign investment which is hard to come by under the shadow of sanctions.

Under the circumstances, Iranian officials have called for increased government investment and argued that the public sector must play a more active role in investing in physical capital in order to boost future production and household welfare.

Pager blasts signify ...

On Wednesday, Western intelligence sources informed the media that around 500 Hezbollah fighters suffered severe eye injuries in the pager attacks in Lebanon, with some losing their sight. The attack by Israeli intelligence and the military has unsettled the entire world and could set a dangerous precedent for other states and non-state actors, with Israel itself possibly becoming a target. Experts from

several countries have begun arriving in Lebanon, while Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate even more forcefully.

Pagers and walkie-talkies are not only used for security purposes and medical staff also rely on pagers because of their strong signals. The simultaneous explosion of pagers by Israeli intelligence in Lebanon and Syria resulted in the martyrdom of 12 people, including two children, and left around 3,000 others injured,

many severely. The Iranian ambassador suffered a serious eye injury in the attack. The Israeli terrorism through pagers also targeted people via walkie-talkies, leading to the martyrdom of 14 Lebanese civilians and injuring 450 more.

The West has remained silent on this two-day-long terrorism, but they should not assume they are safe from the flames as smart devices are used more widely in the

West. Western security sources reported that hundreds of Hezbollah members were looking at their pagers at the time of the explosion because the devices were designed to detonate five seconds after sending a message to maximize damage. According to Lebanese medical officials, injuries ranged from facial wounds, including loss of sight, to deep lacerations in the hips and thighs, and severe burns.

Experts have pointed out that the "Gold Apollo" pagers were delivered to Hezbollah members within three weeks to a month, and Israel received intelligence that Hezbollah had become aware of their plan to some extent, prompting Israel to act quickly. The pagers were filled with 2 to 20 grams of PETN, an extremely explosive substance.

The attacks have severely damaged Hezbollah's communication network and experts

believe that planning for this operation may have taken several months, requiring extensive intelligence gathering and technical expertise. The long-term effects of this attack are not easy to comprehend yet, but it marks a dangerous development in the use of cyber and warfare tactics, leaving people afraid of using smart devices. This will ultimately harm Europe and the US, while trust in Chinese products might increase.