

# Iran-Russia gas deal signifies 'excellent' cooperation: *Pezeshkian*



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets with Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in Tehran on September 30, 2024. [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)

gional transit and gas hub as a good example of joint cooperation between Iran and Russia. Pezeshkian also said regional cooperation in the framework of international organizations such as BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has led to the empowerment of independent countries such as Iran, Russia and China to confront the US unilateralism. Iran has been harboring the idea of becoming a regional "gas hub" in recent years. The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Russia's energy giant Gazprom signed a 30-year-long deal in June to transfer Russian gas to Iran. Under this "strategic"

agreement, Iran will receive 300 million cubic meters of Russian gas per day through a new pipeline that Moscow plans to build in the Caspian Sea. Iranian officials have said that the Russian supply will help address domestic gas shortages, sustainably bolster the country's gas export capacity and turn Iran into a regional gas hub. Most of Iran's gas production is consumed domestically as the country faces a daily deficit of 200 mcm that surges to 300 mcm in winters when demand skyrockets. Last winter, an average of 851 mcm of gas was pumped into the national trunk line per day. During the Monday meeting, the Russian official emphasized his country's interest in expanding interactions with the Iran, especially in the fields of energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, health-

care, and cultural affairs. Despite considerable increase in trade exchanges between the two countries over the past months, there are still great capacities for further cooperation, Mishustin said. He also emphasized the necessity of expansion of cooperation between Iran and Russia in order to realize the new world order for the benefit of all the countries. The Russian official said his country is waiting Pezeshkian's visit to sign the comprehensive strategic agreement between the two countries and participate in a BRICS summit in Russia. Mishustin also expressed his concern about the escalation of tensions in West Asia region with the support of the US, saying that Washington is seeking to secure its interests by inflaming tensions and conflicts in different parts of the world.

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian described a gas supply deal between Tehran and Moscow as an excellent example of coop-

eration between the two countries to secure their interests and create sustainable development in the region. Iranian president made the remarks in a meet-

ing with visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in Tehran on Monday. If important joint projects between the two countries are implemented, there

will be ample opportunities for both countries to confront "cruel sanctions" imposed by the West, Pezeshkian said. He also praised an agreement to turn Iran into a re-

## Sheikh Qassem: Hezbollah to vanquish Israel as in 2006

### International Desk

Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem pledged that the Lebanese resistance group will win the current war with Israel just as in the confrontation in 2006. He made the remarks on Monday as he delivered a televised speech broadcast live in Beirut in commemoration of late Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated by the Israeli regime in the suburbs of Lebanon's capital Beirut on Friday. "We will win, just as we won in our confrontation with Israel in 2006," Sheikh Naim Qassem said. Qassem also vowed that the Lebanese group will continue the path paved by its late leader Nasrallah, and will achieve the goals he set. "Despite the loss of our leaders and the great sacrifices, we will not renounce our stances and the resistance will continue to assist Palestine. We have persevered despite all the attacks," he said. "We will continue Nasrallah's path and Hezbollah will continue its goals. Hezbollah's operations continued after its late leader's assassination," he underlined. Israel has not hit Hezbollah's military capabilities, said Sheikh Naim Qassem. Despite the setbacks suffered during the bombardment of Lebanon by Israel in recent days, he insisted that the group will continue to fight. Hezbollah's operations have continued at the



Sheikh Naim Qassem

same pace and more since the killing of leader Hassan Nasrallah on Friday, Qassem asserted. He added that Hezbollah will install a new leadership soon via "internal mechanisms". The choice of new leadership is clear, Qassem continued, without offering further details. "We are quite ready, if the Israelis want a ground incursion, the resistance forces are ready for that," Qassem declared. Hezbollah will continue with its main goals despite Israel's aim of creating chaos with aggression and massacres against civilians in Lebanon, Qassem continued. "Israel is committing massacres in all areas of Lebanon until there is no house left without traces of Israeli aggression in it," he said. "Israel attacks civilians, ambulances, children and the elderly. It does not fight fighters, but rather commits massacres." Qassem also underlined the role of the US, which he called "a partner with Israel, through unlimited military support - culturally, politically, financially." Israel has in recent days been mounting heavy air

strikes in Lebanon against Hezbollah, killing more than 1,600 people, including several senior officials of the movement and a top commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. For the first time since stepping up its attacks on Lebanon, Israel on Monday struck a central area of Beirut, signaling further potential escalation towards an all-out war. With signs indicating a likely Israeli ground offensive, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, said on Monday in a news conference that the government remains committed to an immediate cease-fire. With that in mind, he said, Beirut is prepared to deploy the army in the south of the country to implement a United Nations resolution aimed at preventing war with Israel by ending Hezbollah's armed presence south of the Litani River. Mikati said Lebanon was ready to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and deploy the army south of the river, which lies about 30km (20 miles) from Lebanon's southern border.

## President stresses Iran's resolve to improve ties with world

### International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's resolve to improve the level of relations with its neighbors, regional countries and other countries in the world based on mutual respect and benefits. The Iranian president made the remarks in separate meetings with new ambassadors of Qatar, Niger, Sudan, Germany, Norway and Denmark in Tehran where he received the credentials of the ambassadors. During his meetings with new ambassadors of Germany, Denmark, Norway, Pezeshkian also said his government seeks to restore "friendly" relations with European countries. "In the past, we had good relations in the economic, commercial, cultural and social fields, and the 14th government of Iran is seeking to restore those friendly relations and expansion of cooperation, especially in the economic and commercial fields", the Iranian president said.



Since taking office in July and during the election campaigns, Pezeshkian has repeatedly emphasized his determination to improve the country's relations with the world, especially with neighboring countries. Relations between Iran and some European countries have soured over the past years after the countries' lack of compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement under the US pressure, from which Washington unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and reimposed illegal sanctions against Iran.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran, India to hold joint naval drill in Persian Gulf

### International Desk

An Indian naval fleet has berthed at Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas for a joint exercise with the Iranian Navy in the Persian Gulf's waters. The Indian Navy's "peace and friendship" fleet includes three destroyers under the command of Captain Anshul Kishore. According to Iranian Navy officer Captain Masoud Beigi, the naval forces of the two countries are going to hold a joint exercise north of the Hormuz Strait. The visit would also include training and sports events between the navies of both countries. Beigi said that the Indian forces will also tour the cultural sites of Bandar Abbas during their four-day stay in Iran. The Iranian commander said such visits would strengthen the friendly relations between the navies of the two countries. The relationship between Iran and India is centuries-old. There is a great deal of commonality in their language, culture, and traditions. In the past, the two countries' naval forces have participated in joint military drills. Iran's Navy has in recent years achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing surface and sub-surface vessels. It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.