

Iran, Russia ink strategic partnership agreement

Pezeshkian calls treaty 'new chapter' in relations

Putin: Long-term deal adds momentum to ties

International Desk

Iranian and Russian presidents signed a long-awaited strategic partnership agreement on Friday to further expand cooperation between the two nations. The 20-year agreement covers economic, transportation, energy, health, tourism and agricultural areas, in addition to Tehran-Moscow cooperation to deal with common challenges, reduce the consequences of natural disasters, combat organized crimes, fight terrorism, and make joint investments. After the signing ceremony, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin called the agreement a "new chapter" in relations between the two countries, especially in the economic area.

Pezeshkian said that the agreement, which is based on the interests of the two nations, can shape the path of cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian president said both Tehran and Moscow are determined to remove obstacles to customs tariffs, banking, investment guarantees, facilitation of

meetings among traders and visa issues.

He added that the increase in level of relations using the capacities of the Eurasian Economic Union, improving the level of cooperation on issues such as combating terrorism and organized violence have been emphasized in the agreement.

'Breakthrough document'

"It is truly a breakthrough document," Putin said after the signing ceremony, adding that the two countries were "united... in taking our relationship to a new level."

He said that the agreement offers variety to the economic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

He also said Russia and Iran are discussing the supply of Russian gas.

Putin said that if the project is implemented, gas supplies to Iran could eventually reach 55 billion cubic meters per year, but it would need to start with small volumes of up to 2 billion bcm.

Opposing external pressure

The Russian leader added that

his country and Iran were resolutely opposed to external pressure from abroad.

"Our countries firmly uphold the principles of the rule of international law, the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs... and resolutely oppose diktats from the outside," Putin said.

'Strategic relationship'

Ahead of the signing ceremony, both leaders held a meeting during which Pezeshkian said Iran considers its strategic cooperation with Russia as pivotal, sensitive and strategic and has tried to remove all the hurdles facing expansion of relations between the two countries.

He also said that Tehran and Moscow signed new agreements on the construction of a new power plant in Iran.

Pezeshkian, on his first Kremlin visit since winning the presidency last July, said that Iran believes that regional issues should be resolved by the countries in the region.

"There is no need for others from the other side of the world to come here and disrupt the region and implement



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting in Moscow on January 17, 2025.
● president.ir

their own policies," the Iranian president emphasized.

He said that the development of Tehran-Moscow relations will thwart their plans.

Russian president said the new treaty will add "momentum" to their ties.

'Solid foundation' for relations

"This will give us the opportunity to give additional momentum to almost all areas of cooperation," Putin told Pezeshkian, who replied that the document

would become a "solid foundation" for relations.

"We will discuss all areas of our cooperation and sign a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement," Putin said. "We have been working on it for a long time and I am very pleased that this work has been completed," he said, adding it should further boost trade and economic ties.

Putin said that the increase in trade between the two countries is acceptable, noting that, "In the first 10 months of

2024, we witnessed a growth of more than 15% in bilateral trade."

Iran and Russia are both subject to illegal Western sanctions. They have over the past years deepened their cooperation in various sectors.

In 2001, Tehran and Moscow signed a long-term cooperation deal, officially known as the Treaty of the Foundation of Mutual Relations and the Principles of Cooperation. It was initially set for 10 years but was extended up until 2026.

Iran: Gaza cease-fire result of Palestinians' resistance



A youth sits in the rubble of a building hit in Israeli strikes in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, on January 16, 2025.
● OMAR AL-QATTAA / AFP

International Desk

Iran welcomed a cease-fire agreement reached between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, calling it the result of Palestinians' resistance against the regime's aggression.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in a post on his X social media account on Thursday commended the sacrifices and valor of Palestinians and their resistance in the face of the months-long Israeli aggression

that resulted in the cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and forced the regime to back down.

"Today, the world realized that the Palestinian people's patience and the Palestinian resistance's resilience have forced the Zionist regime to back down," the Leader said.

"It will be written in books that one day, a Zionist group massacred thousands of women and children in the most horrific way and at the end, they were quashed." The cease-fire, brokered by Qatar, Egypt

and the US, was announced by Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani late on Wednesday. It consists of three phases and would come into effect on Sunday over a span of 42 days.

The truce deal, which would potentially bring an end to Israel's devastating genocidal aggression on the territory, stipulates that a large-scale prisoner exchange will occur, including the release of 1,000 prisoners from Gaza and hundreds of detainees serving lengthy sentences.

Negotiators from Egypt, Qatar, the US and Israel met in Cairo Friday to set out "mechanisms" for implementing the truce in Gaza.

During Friday's talks, negotiators agreed on facilitating the entry of 600 aid trucks per day into the Gaza Strip as per the deal, the source said.

The Israeli security cabinet also approved the cease-fire deal on Friday. Since the announcement of the cease-fire on Wednesday, Israeli strikes have killed over 100 people in Gaza.

Israel launched its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after Hamas-led resistance groups carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Since October, the occupying regime has killed at least 46,707 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured nearly 110,265 others, in Gaza.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also welcomed the deal but called for "the arrest, trial, and punishment" of Israeli leaders for committing "the most serious war crimes" in Gaza.

In a statement on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said the people of the war-ravaged Palestinian territory have suffered "one of the greatest acts of genocide and population displacement in history" since October 2023, when Israel's war machine began unleashing fire and destruction on the territory.

The cease-fire is also the result of "solidarity and unity of the people of Gaza in their honorable resistance and steadfastness against the forced displacement of Palestinians," the statement read, hailing the truce "as a historic victory for the Palestinian nation."

Iran dismisses claims of providing assistance to Yemeni forces

Iran's ambassador to the UN dismissed as "groundless" claims that Tehran has trained or provided assistance for the Yemeni Ansarullah resistance forces, saying such claims lack credible technical evidence and are driven by political agendas.

In identical letters addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the rotating president of the Security Council Amar Bendjama, Amir Saeid Iravani responded to a report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, Press TV reported.

The panel, Iravani said, had cited what it viewed as Ansarullah's limited capabilities to conclude that it was affiliated with "foreign trainers" and that similarities between the group's materials and those linked to Iran indicated technical support from Iran.

After "thoroughly reviewing the alleged evidence, Iranian authorities categorically rejected these claims, including the supposed similarities between confiscated weapons and Iranian productions," Iravani wrote in the letters.

"Such claims are unfounded, as similar weapons can be manufactured worldwide through reverse engineering, and the technology in question is neither advanced nor exclusive to Iran. Moreover, the photos and images presented by the Panel lack credibility and fail to meet the standard of reliable evidence. Regrettably, the Panel has compromised its own credibility by relying on speculative assumptions instead of providing substantiated and verifiable facts." The senior Iranian diplomat



IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC Amir Saeid Iravani

stressed that a significant portion of the report relies on "vague and unreliable" references, including so-called "sources," "confidential sources," and "multiple sources," undermining its credibility with biased and unsubstantiated claims.

He also roundly repudiated the allegations in paragraph 67 of the report regarding "the level of coordination between Ansarullah, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other resistance groups" concerning Operation True Promise against Israeli assets within the occupied territories.

"This operation was exclusively an Iranian military initiative, undertaken in the exercise of its inherent right to self-defense. It was a direct and proportional response to the Israeli terrorist attack on Iranian diplomatic premises in Damascus on April 1, 2024 - a blatant violation of fundamental principles of international law, particularly the inviolability of diplomatic premises and representatives. Such baseless claims seek to distort the legitimate nature of Iran's response to an unlawful act of aggression," Iravani stated.

Iran's UN ambassador also stated that his country has never had proxy groups nor considers other nations in the region as proxies.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi

Cartoonist

