

Leader highlights Iran's progress despite plots by 'arrogant powers'

National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Sunday that Iran has made progress in various fields over the past four decades despite plots hatched by the "arrogant" powers against the Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Qur'an reciters and memorizers attending the 41st International Holy Qur'an Competitions in the Iranian capital, Tehran. "The Iranian nation has shown patience and perseverance for over 46 years, while all the arrogant world powers stood against it, working and plotting against it," the Leader said. "Yet, not only has the Iranian nation not

been harmed, but it has also advanced and grown. Today's Iran is not the Iran of 40 years ago — we have progressed in every aspect," he added. The Leader stressed that the Islamic Republic is confronting global arrogance alongside other countries in the world. However, he went on, "What distinguishes Iran from many other nations is the Iranian people's courage to denounce the United States as an aggressor, a liar, a deceitful and arrogant power while proclaiming down with America." Ayatollah Khamenei also extolled the sacrifices of Palestinian resistance groups against the Israeli regime and underscored the imminent victory of people in the besieged Gaza Strip against the occupying entity.

"God willing, Gaza will prevail over the Zionist regime," he asserted. Ayatollah Khamenei underlined the victory of the people of Gaza over the Zionist regime and the American regime as an example of the realization of what seemed impossible. "If it had been said that the people of the small region of Gaza would fight against a great power like the US and emerge victorious, no one would have believed it, but this impossible matter has been realized by God's permission," he noted.

➔ Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (C) meets with Qur'an reciters in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on February 2, 2025. [khamenei.ir](#)



Pezeshkian: Only scholars, elites can help overcome Iran's problems

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Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday pointed to the importance of science in national progress as he underlined the role of scholars and academic elites in helping to overcome the country's problems and crises. Thanks to the efforts made by the country's youth and experts, Iran has achieved many successes in the field of defense technologies, Pezeshkian said while addressing a ceremony held in Tehran to mark National Space Technology Day. "We want science, knowledge, and technology in various fields, including defense and military, not for aggression, but for the defense, dignity, and pride of the people of our country." Pointing to Iraq's imposed war on Iran in 1980s, Pezeshkian said the entire world supported former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to destroy Iran's Islamic Revolution, but when the first Iranian missiles hit Iraqi soil, they refrained from aggression. The president underlined that, "We should transfer our knowledge and capability to the next generations in order to defend our beloved country's water and soil." Stressing that, "We are proud of the elites, youth, and scientists of this country," Pezeshkian said only scientists, experts, and those whose hearts beat for Iran can get the country out of the current situation.

New satellites unveiled

The president also attended a ceremony



at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), where three satellites were unveiled. Pars-1 and Pars-2 remote-sensing satellites and Navak communications satellite were the three satellites that were unveiled at the ceremony. The upgraded version of the Pars-1 satellite reportedly has made significant improvements in comparison with its predecessor. Pars-2 remote-sensing satellite enjoys much higher imaging accuracy, with a visual spectrum of 8 meters in color and 4 meters in black and white modes respectively. Moreover, the Navak satellite is manufactured to test communications in an elongated elliptical orbit and would be placed in such an orbit for the first time. Also on Sunday, Pezeshkian visited an exhibition showcasing the Iranian De-

fense Ministry's latest achievements. He oversaw the unveiling of a new ballistic missile named "Etamad" with a range of 1,700 kilometers. Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Pezeshkian said Iran's defense capabilities and space technologies are meant for deterrence and preventing other countries from thinking about an invasion against the Islamic Republic. "Iran's advancement in defense capabilities and space technologies serves to deter aggression and guarantee that no country dares encroach on Iranian soil or even thinks about it," he added. Pezeshkian also noted that despite attempts by the enemies to prevent Iran from standing on its own feet, the country — relying on its youth and experts — proudly produces and even exports military equipment and makes scientific progress.

China, Canada, Mexico vow swift response to Trump tariffs

Canada, Mexico and China vowed to respond to sweeping new tariffs to their exports to the US announced by President Donald Trump. Trump said a levy of 25% on Canadian and Mexican imports as well as an additional 10% tax on Chinese goods would come into force on Tuesday. The US president said the move was in response to his concerns about illegal immigration and drug trafficking — two of the main promises on which he was elected. In response, both Canada and Mexico said they were preparing similar tariffs on US goods, while China added it would take "necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests". The implementation of tariffs and the subsequent retaliation could mark the start of a new era of global trade wars. Economists have warned the introduction of the import taxes by the US, and the responses from other countries, could lead to prices rising on a wide range of products, from cars, lumber, and steel to food. Consumers in all countries could see an increase in the cost of living if businesses decide to pass on higher costs to customers, with US industry groups already raising the alarm. But Trump has indicated he is ready to escalate the duties further if the countries retaliate. "Today's tariff announcement is necessary to hold China, Mexico, and Canada accountable for their promises to halt the flood of poisonous drugs into the United States," the White House said in a statement on X on Saturday. Together, China, Mexico and Canada accounted for more than 40% of imports

into the US last year. Canada has already announced retaliatory tariffs against the US, with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau matching the 25% imposed on his country. The Canadian prime minister pushed back on the suggestion the shared border posed a security concern, saying less than 1% of fentanyl going into the US comes from Canada. He also added less than 1% of illegal migrants entered the US through the border. Canada is America's largest foreign supplier of crude oil. China said it "firmly opposes" the tariffs, but has not yet announced any retaliatory measures. The 10% tax on its imports to the US will be added over and above tariffs already imposed on China by Trump in his first term and by President Joe Biden. "Trade and tariff wars have no winners," said a spokesperson at China's Washington Embassy. Meanwhile, Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum ordered retaliatory tariffs against Trump's decision. In a lengthy post on X, she said her government sought dialogue rather than confrontation with its top trade partner to the north, but that Mexico had been forced to respond in kind. "I've instructed my economy minister to implement the Plan B we've been working on, which includes tariff and non-tariff measures in defense of Mexico's interests," Sheinbaum posted, without specifying what US goods her government will target. Sheinbaum also rejected as "slander" the White House's allegation that drug cartels have an alliance with the Mexican government, a point Trump's administration used to justify the tariffs.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
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Iran as key ...

Moreover, our country's academic and research capabilities have propelled us to the forefront of AI advancements.

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In 2023, Iran ranked second in the region in terms of the number and quality of scientific papers in AI, demonstrating our commitment to cutting-edge research and development. Moreover, Iran holds the second position in the region for the number of AI developers, highlighting the depth of our skilled workforce, and stands fourth in the region in terms of the number of AI firms, showcasing our dynamic and rapidly growing ecosystem. Our human capital, available at competitive costs is a strategic ad-

vantage that depicts Iran as a valuable partner in regional AI initiatives. This combination of talent, data, and innovation makes Iran a key player in the regional AI value chain, capable of driving meaningful cooperation and development. Looking ahead, Iran is committed to fostering regional cooperation and building a future where AI drives prosperity and unity. We propose a strategic framework for collaboration that leverages our collective strengths, combining Iran's skilled human capital and its infrastructure with the investment capabilities and infrastructure of our neighboring countries. By establishing AI acceleration hubs, facilitating joint investment in free trade zones, and

enhancing academic collaboration and elite exchange programs, we can unlock new opportunities for innovation and economic growth. The utilization of the regional processing capacity by Iranian companies, along with the creation of shared ecosystems, will enhance our collective competitiveness on the global stage. We envision a future where the Persian Gulf region emerges as a leading force in AI development, driving solutions that address our shared challenges and propel us toward a prosperous future. Together, let us act boldly, invest wisely, and transform our shared vision into a reality because the future of AI belongs to us. The time to act is now.