

Effective policies launched to diversify Iran's vehicle fuel mix

The head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) on Tuesday announced the implementation of effective policies to diversify the country's vehicle fuel portfolio, stating that plans to build 100 new CNG stations and introduce bioethanol are now underway.

Mohammad-Sadeq Azimifar, speaking during the inauguration ceremony of projects aimed at diversifying the fuel portfolio, said that by the end of the Iranian year 1403 (March 20, 2025), an estimated 71% of petroleum products (approximately 185 million liters per day) will be consumed on the roads, with an annual growth rate of around 7%, Shana reported.

He attributed part of the increased vehicle fuel consumption to natural growth and part to weaknesses in the implementation of structural



energy policies. Azimifar emphasized that 53% of the country's vehicles are outdated, burring two to

three times more fuel than the global average. The deputy oil minister noted that diversification

of the fuel portfolio in the transportation sector has not been adequately addressed.

He recalled that in 2020, Iran's High Energy Council approved a document outlining energy supply for

the transportation sector through 2041.

According to the document, CNG's share in the transportation fuel portfolio was projected to reach 23% by 2041.

However, CNG consumption has declined from 23 million cubic meters (12% share) in the first half of the Iranian year of 1400 (2021) to approximately 19 million cubic meters (6.5% share) in the first half of the current Iranian year.

Azimifar pointed out that reduced focus on CNG has been a key factor in its declining share in the fuel portfolio.

"Fortunately, with effective policymaking and the efforts of colleagues, we have initiated projects such as the free conversion of public fleets, the operation of new stations, and the construction of 100 new CNG stations across the country," he added.

PM Modi backs investment in Iran's Chabahar port: Indian official

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi supports India's investment in Chabahar port, Iran's only ocean port on the Sea of Oman, and believes it could enhance trade relations with Central Asia, an official said.

Secretary for East in the Ministry of External Affairs of India Jaideep Mazumdar highlighted the port's growing potential for improving connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia in recent years.

"As the Trump administration threatens to roll back the sanction waiver that allowed India to develop the strategic Chabahar port in Iran, the Indian government strongly backed the port, saying it has provided a much-needed alternative route to Afghanistan for its reconstruction and economic development, while boosting trade linkages with Central Asia," Mazumdar was quoted as saying by Times of India.

The remarks came ahead of Modi's planned visit to the United States to meet US President Donald Trump for dis-



cussions focusing on averting a potentially devastating trade war between the two allies.

Recently, Trump signed an order directing the secretary of state to consider modifying or rescinding sanctions waivers related to Chabahar port.

In January, Iran and India exchanged their views on the joint development of the Chabahar port and enhancing trade and economic ties as they discussed potential cooperation in agriculture and other sectors.

The 19th India-Iran Foreign Office Consultations took place in Delhi in early-January where Iran urged India to consider resuming Iranian crude oil imports after the latter halted the imports in mid-2019 due to US sanctions on Tehran.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said on January 3 that the relations between Iran and India are traditional and historical.

"This afternoon in New Delhi, I participated in the 19th Iran-India Political Consultations. We discussed bilateral, regional and international issues with Mr. [Shri Vikram] Misri, the Foreign Secretary of India," Takht-Ravanchi wrote on his X account.

"Economic relations, including Chabahar port, were prominent in the negotiations," he stated.

The senior diplomat said he also had a useful meeting with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Turkey, Turkmenistan agree gas supply via Iran



Turkey and Turkmenistan signed an agreement to facilitate the flow of Turkmen natural gas to Turkey through Iran, marking a significant step in energy cooperation between the two nations, Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said on Tuesday.

The deal, between Turkey's state-owned pipeline operator BOTAS and Turkmenistan's Turkmengaz, aims to begin gas flows on March 1, he said, according to Reuters.

Turkey consumes more than 50 billion cubic meters of gas per year. It relies on a mix of piped gas from Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran, along with liquefied natural gas imports from various suppliers.

"With this agreement, which we have been working on for many years, we will further advance the strategic cooperation between the two countries while strengthening the natural gas supply security of our country and region," Bayraktar said in a statement.

The minister had previously said Turkey could buy up to 2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas annually from

Turkmenistan, with the gas expected to be transported via Iran's existing natural gas network. A representative of the Turkmenistan government said that supplies of 2 bcm per year at the initial stage would be possible through Iran. He also said that a separate project to build a gas pipeline across the Caspian Sea from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan and further to Turkey is being discussed as part of the long-term cooperation between the countries.

Specific details regarding the volume of gas to be supplied under the new agreement and the exact terms of transit through Iran were not disclosed.

On Monday, the president of Iran and the national leader of Turkmenistan stressed the importance of expanding gas cooperation and strengthening peace and trust in the region.

In a phone conversation with the national leader of Turkmenistan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also emphasized

the country's support for enhancing cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral states to secure mutual interests and preserve the region's environment.

Pezeshkian highlighted the existing collaboration between Iran and Turkmenistan in electricity and energy, describing the two nations as neighbors and brothers capable of expanding cooperation in areas such as gas swaps, transportation, and electricity exchange.

He noted that the regular

convening of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission could significantly boost bilateral ties.

Turkmenistan national leader, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, congratulated Iran on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and wished success for the Iranian government and people.

Berdimuhamedow also advocated for expanded cooperation in transportation, energy, and gas swaps, stressing the im-

portance of regular meetings of the joint economic commission to strengthen economic ties.

He also expressed Turkmenistan's interest in deepening economic collaboration with Iran.

In order to expand cooperation in the electricity sector, Turkmenistan has proposed building a section of the power line (HPP) from the Mary HPP to the Iranian border as part of the construction project for the Merv-Mashhad transmission line, Berdimuhamedow said.

The necessary negotiations have already taken place with the Iranian side and a corresponding document has been signed stipulating that the project will be implemented by Iranian companies, he said.

Transportation is among the main areas of bilateral cooperation, the parties said.

They discussed a construction project for a highway that will run from the Iranian border to the Turkmen city of Gumdag. A memorandum on implementing this project has been signed and an Iranian company will serve as the contractor.

Iran to import renewables equipment for its 30,000 MW target

Economy Desk

The Supreme Economic Council of Iran approved the import of equipment to build 30,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable power plants, including 25,000 MW of solar farms and 5,000 MW of wind parks.

The council's resolution, issued on Feb. 8 by Hamid Pourmohammadi,

the vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, grants permission for the purchase and import of machinery and equipment needed for green energy projects, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The implementation of these projects require compliance with durability standards for equipment, as outlined by the Vice Presidency

for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy.

Previously, Mohsen Tarzatab, the head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), stated 10,000 MW of renewable energy, regardless of the type, must be added to the country's daily production capacity annually to meet the target of 30,000 MW of clean energy.

