

# Iran VP stresses importance of transit growth, productivity reforms

## Economy Desk

Iran's Vice President Mohammadreza Aref emphasized the critical importance of transit development and the activation of key trade corridors across the country and the West Asia region, calling for swift action to remove obstacles hindering transportation growth.

Speaking at the 9th meeting of the Supreme Strategic Council for the Seventh Development Plan on Monday, he highlighted the need for Iran to play a more active role in regional and international agreements, which present significant opportunities for transit expansion.

The meeting, chaired by the VP and attended by members of the council, focused on the three key topics of national productivity systems, trade corridors, and the mining and industrial chain.

Aref noted that while past development plans have emphasized productivity growth, Iran's administrative system remains inefficient.

He criticized the lack of motivation among employees and the absence of courage and creativity among managers, calling for a se-

rious overhaul of the system. "We must set aside formalities and address the root causes of inefficiency," the VP said, adding that, "Our administrative system is not productive, and neither employees nor managers are motivated. We have stripped managers of their courage and creativity, and now we expect productivity to improve. This is the reality we face."

The vice president also pointed out that Iran's bureaucratic system stifles the potentials of university graduates, contrasting it with countries where graduates thrive and contribute to growth. He stressed the need to identify and resolve systemic issues, including restrictive regulations, while emphasizing the importance of adhering to the law to prevent chaos.

During the meeting, a comprehensive report on productivity in Iran's past development plans and the proposed National Productivity System was presented.

The vice president underscored the importance of improving productivity across government bodies, particularly as the country aims for an 8% growth rate. He acknowledged that productiv-

ity has long been a chronic issue in Iran and expressed hope that the Seventh Development Plan would lead to serious efforts to address it.

The council also reviewed a draft proposal for the National Productivity System, with the vice president calling for further detailed analyses. He urged participants to identify specific obstacles to productivity and take actionable steps to create a more efficient system.

The meeting concluded with discussions on strategies to enhance productivity and address the challenges facing Iran's administrative and economic systems.

On March 1, the minister of roads and urban development emphasized that completing transit corridors is a top priority for the ministry to optimize transit operations, and neighboring countries are relying on Iran's efforts in the field despite existing limitations and sanctions.

Speaking at a meeting with provincial governors in Tehran, Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd stated that while the completion of transit corridors should have been achieved sooner, it is still not too late to act.



She highlighted that countries like China continue to view Iran as a more efficient, cost-effective, and shorter route for cargo transit. This has also encouraged Turkey to increase cooperation with Iran. Sadeq-Malvajerd stressed that developing border terminals is among the ministry's key priorities. Over the past five months, she noted, significant efforts have been made to enhance relations with neighboring countries through joint commissions, vir-

tual meetings, and invitations for them to visit Iran to discuss border issues, terminals, and regional connectivity.

Sadeq-Malvajerd underscored that despite current challenges, including energy shortages, limitations, and the potential for intensified sanctions, transportation and transit remain vital solutions. She called for the necessary infrastructure to be established within the country.

The minister emphasized that



Vice President Mohammadreza Aref (C) speaks at the 9th meeting of the Supreme Strategic Council for the Seventh Development Plan in Tehran on March 10, 2025.  
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the development of transit routes connecting to borders and railways will drive economic growth and wealth creation. She urged governors to advocate for this vision across the government, parliament, and judiciary.

## Minister: Iran aims to generate 30,000 MW of renewables within three years

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Abbas Aliabadi, Iran's energy minister, announced plans to significantly expand the country's renewable energy capacity, aiming to produce 30,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity within the next three years.

Talking to ILNA, Aliabadi expressed confidence in achieving a 25-fold increase in renewable energy production, stating that the necessary planning and infrastructure development are already underway.

Aliabadi emphasized that the financial resources for the expansion are available within the renewable energy sector itself.

He went on to say that the cost of fuel consumed for traditional electricity generation is substantial, and by adopting advanced technologies, the country can redirect these resources toward renewable energy projects. "If we can meet our energy needs through innovative technological methods, renewable power plants will undoubtedly increase 25-fold within three years," the minister said.

Aliabadi also expressed optimism that Iran's renewable energy capacity will reach 3,500 MW by the peak of next summer.

He added that the government is working to create the necessary conditions and infrastructure to achieve 30,000 MW of renewable energy production by the end of the current administration's term. The measure is part of a broader strategy to increase the share of renewables in the country's energy portfolio.



### Gov't voices commitment to promoting solar power

On Sunday, the Iranian president emphasized the government's strong determination to advance the development of solar power infrastructure, stating that the necessary resources for the project have been secured.

He urged contractors and relevant sectors to expedite their efforts, affirming the government's resolve to remove any obstacles hindering the plan's implementation.

The cabinet, chaired by Masoud Pezeshkian, convened on Sunday, during which, various ministry-related issues were discussed, and Energy Minister Aliabadi presented a detailed report on the challenges and programs of the ministry, including the latest status of the country's electricity supply.

The report outlined the ministry's plans and measures to reduce energy consumption, invest in renewable energy, construct thermal power

plants, repair and activate existing power plants, and combat electricity theft, particularly the illegal activities of cryptocurrency miners.

It was noted that 800 MW of stolen electricity related to illegal mining operations have been identified and eliminated. In a section of the report focusing on the government's plans to generate 30,000 MW of electricity using solar panels, as well as thermal and wind power plants, Pezeshkian reiterated the government's firm commitment to advancing the program.

He stated that, through strategic planning and negotiations with Chinese partners, solar panels have been purchased and will be imported.

The necessary resources for the project are available, and contractors and relevant sectors are expected to mobilize swiftly, Pezeshkian said, adding that the government is determined to address any challenges that may arise during the implementation of this

initiative.

Iran has long relied on fossil fuels, particularly oil and natural gas, to meet its energy needs. However, in recent years, the country has faced growing challenges including the need to diversify its energy sources.

Renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power, has emerged as a key focus for the government as it seeks to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The push for renewable energy is also driven by economic considerations. Iran's vast geography and favorable climate conditions, particularly in regions like Yazd, Kerman and Khorasan, make it well-suited for solar and wind energy projects. By investing in renewables, the government aims to create new job opportunities, attract foreign investment, and reduce the financial burden of fuel subsidies, which have long strained the national budget.

## First well of SP infill drilling project comes online: POGC



The first well of a 35-well infill drilling project in the South Pars field has been commissioned, according to the CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC). The project aims to maintain and sustain gas production from the field. Touraj Dehqani stated that Well No. 5 at the SPD12B platform in Phase 12 of the South Pars gas field has been completed and connected to the platform's existing processing facilities. This marks the first well of the 35-well infill drilling project in the shared field to enter production, Shana reported.

Dehqani noted that the well has a daily production capacity of over 2 million cubic meters of rich gas. The initiative is part of efforts to offset natural reservoir depletion at the SPD12B platform and restore the platform's gas production to its initial design capacity.

The CEO highlighted that the 35-well infill drilling project in the South Pars field is being executed in four work packages as the drilling and completion of Well No. 5 at the SPD12B platform, along

with its connection to the production platform, was carried out after months of continuous efforts by specialists from POGC and Petroiran Development Company and Drilling Company International (DCI).

The work was conducted under the second package of an integrated engineering, procurement, and drilling (EPDR) contract using the DCI-2 offshore drilling rig, Dehqani stated.

The infill drilling project is being implemented across 17 gas platforms in the South Pars field. Once fully completed and operational, the project is expected to increase the field's daily gas production capacity by 36 million cubic meters.

The contract for the 35-well infill drilling project in South Pars was signed in November 2023. The operational phase of the project began on July 9, 2024, at the SPD12B platform in Phase 12 of South Pars. After approximately seven months of drilling, the first well of the project has now been successfully completed and brought online.