

Gov't prioritizes building technology tower for biotech, AI, nanotech: *Pezeshkian*

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the construction of a technology tower focused on vaccine production, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and biological research is among the government's priority programs to elevate the status of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute.

During his visit to Karaj, Alborz Province, on Thursday, Pezeshkian met with the directors of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (RVSRI) and underscored the government's commitment to advancing this scientific-research institution, president.ir reported.

The president underscored the necessity of forming a working group comprising university professors, managers from the Razi and Pasteur institutes, and officials from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. This group will coordinate the planning, design, and construction of the technology tower in line with advanced global standards, he added.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) meets with the directors of Iran's Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (RVSRI) in Karaj on April 10, 2025.
● president.ir

The Pasteur Institute of Iran, founded in 1920, is a key institution focused on public health. It encompasses research, production, and education. The institute is a regional leader in vaccine development and manufacturing. The Razi institute is a state-run Iranian institute focused on vaccine and serum research, working to improve the quality and global accessibility of its snake antivenom. The RVSRI also participates in training programs and recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The president added, "Through the implementation of this major scientific-technological project, the groundwork will be laid for merging the Razi and Pasteur institutes, transforming them into a unified research, production, and service hub in the medical field for the entire country and the region."



Pezeshkian stressed the importance of leveraging the expertise of elites, particularly

those residing abroad, in the construction and operation of the tower.

He also highlighted that energy consumption patterns and meeting the tower's needs

through renewable energy sources must be central to its design and construction.

China's March Iranian oil imports surge amid US tightened sanctions

China's imports of Iranian oil surged in March as buyers stockpiled supplies amid tightening US pressure on Iran's oil industry, traders and analysts said.

China's oil imports from Iran surpassed 1.8 million barrels per day last month, an all-time high, coinciding with a rise in inventory levels in independent refining hub Shandong Province, according to data by ship tracking firm Vortexa, Reuters reported.

Data from analytics firm Kpler put China's Iranian oil imports at 1.71 million bpd in March, up 20% from 1.43 million bpd in February and a five-month high, while two traders who track Iranian flows into China estimated March imports at 1.67 million bpd and 1.8 million bpd, respectively.

China, which opposes unilateral sanctions, buys some 90% of Iran's oil exports, a trade that has been boosted as more vessels drawn by high fees replaced those under US sanctions, traders and analysts have said.

Iranian oil accounted for 16% of China's March seaborne crude oil imports, Kpler data showed.

Vortexa senior analyst Emma Li and a China-based refining source attributed the rush to buy Iranian barrels to worries among traders and refiners of further supply disruptions. The US administration has imposed



An oil tanker unloads crude oil at a crude oil terminal in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, China, on July 4, 2018.
● [REUTERS](http://reuters.com)

four rounds of sanctions on Iranian oil trade since President Donald Trump's February call for its so-called "maximum pressure" on Tehran, including March sanctions on Shandong teapot refiner Shouguang Luqing Petrochemical.

On Thursday, it slapped sanctions on Iranian oil trading networks, including on a China-based crude oil storage terminal linked via a pipeline to an independent refinery.

The Treasury Department also designated UAE-based Indian national Jugwinder Singh Brar, who owns shipping companies with a fleet of nearly 30 vessels, over what it claimed was "transfers of Iranian petroleum."

The sanctions block US assets of

those designated and prevent Americans from doing business with them. A trader, an executive at an independent "teapot" refiner, said Iranian oil seems to have "flooded in" last month, with some shipments delivered by dealers into tanks looking for buyers. Li expects China's Iranian oil imports to drop in April as overall demand has not picked up, which will stabilize the year-to-date average in the 1.3-1.4 million bpd range, in line with last year.

Iran, Azerbaijan to sign transport MoU during president's upcoming visit to Baku

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development announced that during a joint meeting with Azerbaijani officials in Baku, it was agreed to prepare a memorandum of understanding regarding transportation, border affairs, customs, and transit matters, which will be signed during President Pezeshkian's upcoming visit to Azerbaijan.

Upon her arrival at the Jolfa border in East Azarbaijan Province, Farzaneh Sadegh highlighted the outcomes of her three-day trip to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mehr News Agency reported.

"A review of bilateral interactions and agreements within the framework of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission was conducted, in light of President Masoud Pezeshkian's forthcoming visit to Azerbaijan," the minister said.

Referring to her meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Sadegh said, "The session emphasized all mutual agreements and collaborations in transportation, transit, increasing trade exchanges, oil, gas, energy, and other sectors."

The minister also addressed her discussions with Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Iran Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, noting, "In this meeting, bilateral issues and



agreements, along with preparations for President Pezeshkian's visit to Azerbaijan, were examined in greater detail." "Key topics discussed included maritime and port cooperation, expanding road transport and transit capacity, and facilitating the movement of Iranian and Azerbaijani trucks," she added.

The minister underscored the mutual emphasis on expediting the implementation of the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Azerbaijan during this visit.

Sadegh also announced plans to hold a specialized meeting of business delegations from both countries on the sidelines of the president's trip, aimed at boosting international cargo transport and transit.

She stressed the urgency of accelerating the implementation of a border terminal in the area, mentioning that land allocation, acquisition, and preparation for the terminal's construction have already been addressed.

Iran's offshore oil industry has 'unparalleled' potential to boost production

Economy Desk

Iran's offshore oil industry holds unparalleled capacities and opportunities for production and investment, said the head of Iran's Offshore Oil Company (IOOC).

Referring to the unique opportunities in the country's offshore oil industry, Ahmadreza Rasti stated realizing this potential could significantly boost oil production in the Persian Gulf.

During an internal company meeting on Thursday, Rasti stressed the mobilization of resources and personnel to accelerate project implementation, maintenance, and production enhancement in offshore oil operations, SHANA reported.

The IOOC head remarked, "The presence of capable managers, experts, and specialists in this company has ensured that Iran's offshore oil industry remains on a path of growth and

prosperity."

Salman Khosravi, Deputy CEO of Iran's Offshore Oil Company, also expressed hope at the meeting that "this year will witness remarkable progress in the development, maintenance, and enhancement of offshore oil production."

"Increasing production, maintaining oil and gas pipelines, gas injection, water injection, and expanding the number of drilling rigs were discussed. It was agreed that necessary measures will be

taken this year to achieve the target of 12 operational drilling rigs," he added. "The meeting also placed special emphasis on strategies to boost oil production through repairs of rotating machinery, diesel engines, gas generators, and expediting project execution. Accelerating major repairs of the Abuzar Field oil transmission pipeline on Kharq Island was approved by managers and is projected to have a significant impact on increasing the compa-

ny's output," Khosravi noted.

The session further addressed strategies for production enhancement, resolving existing challenges, maintaining oil fields, developmental projects, and improving employee welfare services. Operational managers from the Bahregan, Kharg, Lavan, Sirri, Qeshm, and Kish regions, along with corporate managers and department heads, presented their perspectives on current operational concerns.