

# \$7 billion investment capacity in national railway industry: *Official*

Economy Desk

The deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways announced at a railway industry investment ceremony that the sector holds a \$7 billion investment capacity. Referencing the quantitative goals of the Seventh Development Plan for the country’s railway industry, Nourollah Beiranvand was reported by ILNA as saying, “Raising the share of rail freight to 30% and increasing transit to 40 million tons are key quantitative targets under the Seventh Development Plan. To achieve this, a comprehensive program prioritizing private sector involvement has been developed, focusing on infrastructure, fleet, and non-operational sector investments.” Beiranvand added that, “The planned investment amounts to \$6.4 billion, with 77% allocated to fleet development and 23% to infrastructure. Specifically, \$1.5

billion will be invested in infrastructure and \$4.892 billion in fleet expansion. To facilitate this, an investment incentive package for the railway transport sector has been designed and presented.” The deputy of capital and transport economics at Iran Railways emphasized, “The incentive package focuses on economic returns, project financing, and risk reduction for investors.” “In March of last year, 330 billion tomans, and in April of this year, another 330 billion tomans in loans from fuel savings were allocated to private rail companies. Projections indicate a \$7 billion investment capacity across these initiatives,” he further noted. Beiranvand stressed, “The railway sector generates \$1.2 billion in annual benefits.”

**\$750 million investment memorandum**

Additionally, a \$750 million investment memorandum for the

national railway transport industry was signed on Sunday in the presence of the Minister of Roads and Urban Development. According to ISNA, Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Jabbar Ali Zakeri signed the investment memorandum with Avan Rail Trains Company and Pars Oqab Hashtgerd Agro-Industry Company.

Under this agreement, Avan Rail Trains Company will procure and produce 300 diesel self-propelled passenger units, 50 freight locomotives, and 600 tanker freight wagons. Pars Oqab Hashtgerd Agro-Industry Company, per the memorandum, will supply and purchase 650 bulk freight wagons for grain transport, leveraging domestic production capacity, collaborating with local manufacturers, and facilitating technology transfer.



## 12 projects in South Pars economic zone to be introduced to investors

Economy Desk

Director of Economic Development and Investment at the South Pars Special Economic Zone announced that “12 industrial, welfare, and infrastructure projects” will be introduced to investors at an international oil and gas event on Tuesday. The “Strategic Transformation in Iran’s Upstream Oil & Gas Sector” event will be held in Tehran on April 22. Mahmoud Sheikh-Mamoo, speaking on Sunday about the upcoming event aimed at attracting investors to the country’s oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, emphasized, “Investment in oil and gas projects, conversion industries, and downstream petrochemicals within the South Pars Special Energy Zone is both attractive and aligned with domestic and global market demands.” Stressing that “completing infrastructure and conversion industries will create significant job opportunities in the region,” he expressed hope that “the economic potential of the South Pars Special Energy Zone will materialize into tangible economic activity this year.” Sheikh-Mamoo added, “In this ‘Year of Investment for Production,’ we will make every effort to support and encourage investors to invest in the South Pars Special Zone as the nation’s



energy hub. Investors can register and submit their proposals through the electronic business process management system of the Special Economic Zone at BPMS.PSEEZ.IR.” He highlighted customs exemptions for imported goods and equipment, long-term tax exemptions for locally produced goods, and access to abundant and diverse petrochemical raw materials as key advantages of investing in the South Pars Special Economic Zone. The official also pointed to the private sector’s expertise and capital capacity within the country, noting, “Over the past decade, the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks for financing and executing projects across various

sectors through public-private partnerships (PPP) have been established. Infrastructure projects in this region can now be implemented via private sector collaboration under PPP contracts. Several industrial and service projects in the zone are already being executed through this model.” Sheikh-Mamoo reiterated that “special economic zones are designed to facilitate easier access to global markets,” expressing optimism that “with improved conditions and the full or partial lifting of sanctions, international investors will be able to participate in the region, boosting economic prosperity and employment opportunities here.”

## 30 foreign chamber heads to attend Iran Expo 2025

Economy Desk

Head of the Iran Expo Headquarters at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), emphasized the importance of the upcoming Iran Expo 2025 during a press conference on Sunday, confirming that more than 30 presidents of foreign chambers of commerce are set to attend the event. The country’s largest trade and export showcase will take place between April 28 and May 2 at the Tehran International Exhibition Center, IRNA reported. Speaking about the exhibition’s international participation, Ali Chaghavand said, “This year, 30 joint chambers of commerce will take part in the expo, and 30 chamber presidents from abroad have formally confirmed their attendance.” Managed by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the event will span nearly 2,000 square meters, said Chaghavand, who leads the Iran Expo 2025 Headquarters. “Several high-level associations will be present in halls dedicated to various commodity groups,” he added. Regarding the participation of African and American investors and traders at Expo 2025, Chaghavand stressed that, “The exhibition will host visitors from the Americas, though no specific trade delegation from the United States itself has been confirmed yet.”



The head of Iran Expo 2025 Headquarters identified Pakistan as having the most significant trade delegation presence, stating, “This year, we anticipate 400 visitors from Pakistan.” The Export Capabilities Exhibition, simply known as Iran Expo, is a platform to bring manufacturers, exporters, and investors together and provide foreign visitors with a comprehensive view of the country’s export capabilities with the ultimate goal of boosting non-oil exports. The exhibition this year is being held while indirect talks between Iran and the US have raised hopes of an improvement in trade with the Islamic Republic. Thus, the number of participants is expected to be significantly higher compared to previous years. Last year’s exhibition featured more than 700 knowledge-based companies, presenting some 1,500 products and a unique opportunity to expand scientific diplomacy with world countries.

# Iran Chamber of Commerce: Nuclear talks boosted hope among economic actors

Economy Desk

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture stated that the resumption of negotiations on the country’s nuclear dossier had boosted hope among the public and economic actors. During the first meeting of the Iran Chamber’s Council of Representatives on Sunday, Samad Hassanzadeh thanked the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for “supporting our country’s negotiating team,” and described the pursuit of negotiations “based on national interests and constructive engagement with

the global economy” as “a vital step toward consolidating economic stability and social calm.” He said the decision and “the consensus reached at the highest levels of governance to pursue talks reflect the rationality of the [political] system and will enhance social capital in the country.” Representatives from Iran and the United States held two rounds of talks on Iran’s nuclear program anti-Iran sanction relief. After nearly four hours of indirect talks on Saturday with the US delegation led by Steve Witkoff, the US special envoy for West Asia, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters that the

second round of talks had been “productive” and the overall process is “moving forward.” Hassanzadeh also said, “While we desire a favorable outcome from the negotiations, the country’s economy must not remain idle, awaiting their results. We expect the government to simultaneously initiate serious economic reforms domestically.” Iran’s Chamber of Commerce chief proposed that “our negotiating team include economic experts alongside political representatives.” Hassanzadeh emphasized the importance of “how the business community responds to the outcomes of the nego-

tiations,” stating, “In this regard, the Iran Chamber, as the representative of the private sector, must proactively and strategically plan for post-agreement scenarios. By leveraging all capacities of joint chambers, provincial chambers, specialized commissions, and trade associations, we can more effectively capitalize on potential opportunities.” Stressing Iran’s accession to international conventions linked to FATF (Financial Action Task Force), he noted, “Parallel to negotiations, necessary measures must be taken to reduce transaction risks and enhance transparency in the banking and financial systems. In this context, we urge the Expediency



Discernment Council to finalize Iran’s accession to the Palermo Convention and CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism) through expert deliberations and in light of the private sector’s perspectives.”