

Iran launches its first titanium concentrate plant in Kerman

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Iran inaugurated its first titanium concentrate plant in Kerman Province via video conference on Thursday, with President Masoud Pezeshkian presiding.

The Kahnuij Titanium Concentrate Plant, holding into proven reserves of 150 million tons, represents the first operational unit of the project. Constructed at a cost of 30 trillion rials (approximately \$51.7 million), it will create 1,100 jobs and meet the majority of Iran's titanium demand, particularly for the domestic dyeing industry.

Two more units are planned for this year, with an annual production capacity of 130,000 tons.

During the online conference, Pezeshkian called for the continuation of its second and third phases to achieve alloy steel production.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak also characterized the project as unique, stating, "This project is one of the unique factories established for the first time in the country."

"This plant will establish the first link in the titanium processing chain and

part of the strategic titanium chain for the country, including the production of colorants and pigments," he added.

The minister described entering the operational cycle of such plants as a factor in reducing raw material sales and creating value chains for wealth generation in the mineral industries sector.

He expressed hope that subsequent phases would achieve success in producing concentrate for alloy steel, noting it would continue in two additional phases.

Import substitution objectives

The minister emphasized that pigment is essential for domestic dyeing and paint production, expressing confidence that establishing such factories would halt "the outflow of foreign currency."

He noted the complex would create direct employment for 300 people and indirect employment for 800 people, adding, "The titanium plant will achieve alloy steel production in later stages, providing significant support to the industry."

Public-private partnership model

Atabak also highlighted that this com-

plex is "a prominent example of government cooperation with the private sector."

"IMIDRO (the Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organization) made the mines available to the private sector, which then utilized its technology and expertise to bring the plant to fruition."

He specified, "The titanium mine spans 40 square kilometers with proven reserves of 150 million tons and potential reserves possibly reaching 250 million tons."

"The localization of this expertise by the private sector has been successfully accomplished. These strategic reserves can be converted into commercial reserves, with benefits accruing to local communities," the Minister added.

According to IRNA, this mine in Kahnuij county constitutes the largest titanium reserve in Iran and West Asia. The plant commenced operations with an



annual production capacity of 130,000 tons at 45% grade.

Meanwhile during the minister's visit to Kerman on Wednesday, two mining projects were inaugurated and launched. The simultaneous copper and zinc production plant in Jiroft was inaugurated with an annual capacity of 20,000 tons of copper and 10,000 tons of zinc.

South Kerman IMT officials confirmed

this plant is the country's first private-sector copper and zinc concentrate processing unit, established on 25 hectares of land and generating direct/indirect employment for 700 people.

The operational implementation of the power transmission line project to the Sarduih mines in Jiroft, as the largest infrastructure project of the IMIDRO in the field of electricity supply, also began Wednesday.

National renewable capacity to reach to 4,000 MW by March



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Iran aims to increase its national renewable energy capacity to 4,000 megawatts by March 2026, according to the head of the country's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir).

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi stated in an IRNA interview, "Renewable capacity has risen to approximately 2,000MW, up from last year's 1,300MW."

Rajabi Mashhadi affirmed that planned measures and ongoing initiatives will boost national renewable capacity to 4,000 MW by

March 2026.

The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy.

Rajabi Mashhadi underscored these projects' role in reducing grid imbalances, noting, "Privately developed 5kW rooftop plants will substantially augment national supply capacity."

He further noted, "These 5kW plants are installed on residential rooftops and can meet required electricity demand."

Meanwhile, Iran's Vice President for Rural and Deprived Area Development proposed that provincial authorities establish solar farms in villages to generate income and incentivize rural population retention.

Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh stated on Thursday, "Solar plants in villages can address both energy imbalance and income issues," suggesting cooperatives could facilitate village solar farm development.

Tehran's key solar plant nears launch

Meanwhile, Tehran's largest solar power plant will commence operations imminently, according to Farhad Shabihi, CEO of Tehran Regional Electric Company.

In an IRNA interview, Shabihi confirmed the project has entered its final implementation phase, "Accelerated progress ensures this facility will soon support grid stability."

He emphasized the plant is part of Iran's national 3,000MW renewable program, which involves constructing 1,000 decentralized 3MW plants under centralized management.

"The company's objective extends beyond power generation to rapidly addressing grid imbalances and reducing strain on the national net-

work - a goal visibly materializing in less than six months," he added.

Shabihi further highlighted, "The construction of Tehran Regional Electric's 3.6MW plant represents one of the most unique implementation experiences. Merely one day after its official groundbreaking ceremony (February 6, 2025), it immediately transitioned to operational phase."

Next-generation solar panels

Regarding technical specifications, Shabihi explained that the company utilizes "new-generation 595W N-type bifacial dual-glass panels for each module, domestically manufactured."

"Over six full panel rows are already installed. Site excavation, foundation work, and concrete pouring are fully completed," he said.

The CEO pointed to the project's installation of Tehran's first solar energy storage system as a notable aspect, stating, "We are negotiating with a specialized energy storage firm. If agreed, this will be Tehran's first industrial-scale solar battery installed as a pilot on this plant - marking a significant stride toward maximizing solar energy utilization."

Israel's far-right perspective ...

The impact of this religious interpretation on Israel's security policy is also evident. A policy that appears defensive has, in practice, transformed into a form of aggressive deterrence that is alien to diplomatic mechanisms and primarily relies on the principle of preemptive strikes. As a result, not only has the possibility of political compromise diminished, but many military actions—whether in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, or even against Iran—can be analyzed in a context of ideological and religious confrontation.

Furthermore, the connection between the far-right and formal power structures, especially in recent cabinets led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has led to the formation of a fragile yet effective coalition. Parties that include figures such as Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich advocate for moving beyond moderate, negotiation-based solutions. They have replaced diplomatic frameworks with a discourse of absolute resistance, disregarding the principles of international law.

Many of Israel's military actions cannot be analyzed solely through the lens of security calculations. These actions, especially during periods of internal crisis, serve functions such as political cohesion, diverting public opinion, or strengthening the coalition's position for the far-right. From this perspective, war is not merely a tool of defense or deterrence but is also viewed as a form of political capital.

Ultimately, the issue goes beyond a territorial or even ethnic conflict. What accelerates the tensions is the dominance of a discourse that seeks to justify its policies via metaphysical narratives. The Middle East will not see stability as long as such narratives remain at the top of the decision-making hierarchy.

The far-right party possesses not only a security perspective but also a metaphysical and transcendental view of the world. This leads to a shift in Israel's approach toward the countries it has aggressed against and even regional states. For instance, the Zionist regime is unwilling to allow the transfer of F-35s to Turkey by the US. Moreover, the party and movements with a messianic and apocalyptic outlook dominating Israel are not willing to compromise. They aspire to territorial sovereignty from the Nile to the Euphrates and are even intolerant of larger and more powerful countries in the region, such as Iran and Turkey.

South Azadegan oil field output boosted by 38,000 bpd

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The head of Petropars Group declared that over the past 10 months, drilling, completion, and commissioning of 17 wells across various reservoir layers at the South Azadegan oil field have boosted production at this shared field by 38,000 barrels per day.

"It is also projected that completing acid stimulation operations on six additional wells will add approximately 14,000 barrels to daily production capacity," Hamidreza

Saqafi added.

He stated that during this period, Petropars, as Iran's largest oil Exploration and Production (E&P) company, successfully executed drilling and well-completion operations across multiple reservoir strata relying on domestic expertise and specialists' dedication, IRNA reported.

The Petropars CEO emphasized that in pursuit of maximizing output, "acid stimulation of six wells has been conducted with meticulous selection of acids and addi-

tives."

He further noted that bringing these wells online will substantially increase production capacity, adding that two additional wells have been successfully drilled and completed; following acid stimulation, these will contribute roughly 3,000 barrels to daily production.

Saqafi highlighted that in subsurface operations, Petropars has taken a major step toward self-sufficiency and enhancing national production capacity by tendering 50 electrical submersible



pump (ESP) packages. This process leverages Iranian manufacturers' capabilities while facilitating technology transfer from reputable foreign partners.