Pezeshkian: Unprecedented efforts underway to end Tehran water crisis

300 mcm of water to be transferred annually to Alborz, Tehran via Taleqan Dam

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian stressed on Thursday that unprecedented efforts are underway to address Tehran's water crisis via water transfer from the Taleqan Dam.

Visiting the Taleqan Dam — 135 kilometers northwest of Tehran — and noting the reduction in its water level causing supply issues, Pezeshkian said, "Unprecedented efforts are underway to resolve the water crisis in Tehran and the region through the transfer of water from the Taleqan Dam. With the efforts made, it is possible to stabilize the current situation."

The president asked the public to conserve water until the completion of the project.

He made an unannounced trip to Alborz Province to inspect two water supply projects — the Ziyaran to Bilaqan water conveyance line project and the Mahestan City water treatment plant project in Savojbolagh County, along with several other important provincial projects.

He also reviewed the latest water storage status of the Karaj Dam and, in a meeting with relevant provincial officials, discussed ways to accelerate the implementation of the visited projects.

Pezeshkian first inspected the progress of the new Ziyaran to Bilaqan water conveyance line project. The core concept of the project, launched in January, 2023, is to increase the water intake capacity from the Taleqan Dam and transfer it to Tehran via the existing route (Ziyaran to Bilaqan).

According to the project managers, the project has achieved 5% progress and has the capacity to transfer 6.5 cubic meters of water per second. Combined with the 5 cubic meter capacity of the old water conveyance line, it will enable the annual transfer of 300 million cubic meters (mcm) of water to Alborz and Tehran provinces.

The sustainable water conveyance line from Ziyaran to Bilaqan had achieved 27% progress during the previous three-year administration. With the attention and support of the current administration, its progress reached 70% within eight months.

The project is a strategic initiative for the future and one of the key projects in supplying drinking water to the metropolises of Tehran and Karaj.

The president also visited the Mahrestan City water treatment plant project in Savojbolagh County. The project, with 100% progress, is ready for operation. It has a treatment capacity of 105 liters per second and 90,000 liters per day to supply drinking water to Savojbolagh, Nazarabad, and Eshtehard counties in western Alborz Province.

In the current water year, the dams supplying drinking water to Tehran and Alborz provinces have faced a significant reduction in reserves. The Karaj Dam, with a decline of over 60%, and the Taleqan Dam, with a 33% reduction compared to last year, are currently in a fragile state.

During his trip, in a meeting with Alborz Province managers, Pezeshkian warned about the water resource situation in Tehran and Alborz provinces, pointing to the significant decrease in rainfall compared to the country's long-term average.

"This year's rainfall trend has been about 40 to 44 percent less than the country's 80-year long-term average. This has directly impacted the volume of dam reserves; for instance, the water level behind the Taleqan Dam has drastically decreased, which is a serious warning bell for supplying drinking water to the capital and surrounding cities," Pezeshkian said.

President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) inspects a water supply project in the northern Alborz Province on July 24, 2025.
president.ir

"Round-the-clock efforts are underway by the governor-general of Alborz, relevant ministries, municipalities, and with public participation to prevent more severe crises through the emergency transfer of water from the Taleqan Dam."

Corrective measures

"The administration decided to remove lawns requiring daily irrigation, and discussions with municipalities have emphasized using drought-resistant plant species to preserve urban beauty while reducing water consumption," he added.

Emphasizing the necessity of the present generation's responsibility towards the future, he stressed, "Changing consumption patterns and utilizing smart and sustainable agriculture is an unavoidable necessity for preserving the country's water resources and ensuring life for future generations."

Caution over environmental consequences

Pezeshkian also, referring to the water crisis and the consequences of land subsidence, said, "We are consuming resources that have no substitute; we are extracting groundwater hundreds of millions of years old, and the land is subsiding. Development disproportionate to natural resources will be disastrous. Therefore, we must seek help from elites, professors, experts, and the public to protect the environment."

The president, noting inter-sectoral and public cooperation, identified widespread water conservation as the most important solution to overcome the critical situation. He said, "If the current resources are depleted and groundwater is not managed, we will face a major crisis in the region."

Minister: 10,000 MW of industrial electricity entering national grid

Smartization as silver bullet to efficiency enhancement

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade Mohammad Atabak stated that, "10,000 megawatts of electricity generated by the country's industries is being fed into the national distribution grid."

Atabak added that factories in the industrial sector are active and not only generate their own required electricity but also inject surplus power into the national grid for urban consumption, IRNA reported.

The minister emphasized supporting industries as an essential step "to sustain production" under current conditions.

The country has struggled with a persistent energy crisis in recent years. Since early May, power blackouts returned across the country after a brief respite following winter shortages.

President Masoud Pezeshkian in May granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy.

Modern tech key to power sector survival

Meanwhile, a senior official from the Iran Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir) has highlighted weak energy productivity, infrastructure challenges, and the necessity of focusing on new technologies as primary solutions to overcome the country's energy supply-demand imbalance.

Speaking to IRNA about technological initiatives in the power industry, Abdolamir Yaqouti, director-general of energy and customer affairs at Tavanir cited grid smartization as the main path to enhancing efficiency, "Over 5.6 million smart meters have been installed, enabling precise consumption monitoring and control."

IRNA

He further noted that renewable energy development — particularly solar — is targeted to reach 10,000 megawatts by year-end.

Regarding power plant efficiency programs, Yaqouti added, "Increasing power plant efficiency and reforming production structures are crucial pillars for resolving the national energy imbalance."

He emphasized that Iran's energy productivity remains significantly below global standards, "The country's energy intensity index is 2.5 to 3 times higher than the global average. This means we consume triple the energy to produce one unit of output, rendering macro-level planning inefficient."

Addressing the importance of optimized building architecture and energy standards, Yaqouti concluded, "A significant portion of summer electricity and winter gas consumption stems from inadequate insulation and non-standard designs. Traditional architecture models have demonstrated that consumption optimization is achievable even without advanced equipment."

Iran ranks among top five in global heavy livestock

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljeh said that the country has become one of the world's top five countries in heavy livestock breeding.

"Iran has become one of the world's top five countries in heavy livestock breeding, and its produced milk is utilized by reputable international companies," IRNA quoted as Nouri Qezeljeh saying at a meeting with agricultural stakeholders in Isfahan's Science and Research Town on Thursday.

Nouri emphasized that planning is underway to enhance light livestock quality, aiming to reduce dependence on meat imports.

The minister did not elaborate on the details or criteria of the ranking, nor did he specify which five countries are included. But the top five countries in heavy livestock (primarily cattle and buffalo) were India, Brazil, China, United States, and Ethiopia. These countries led in terms of overall livestock population and/or beef and buffalo meat production.

"Currently, about 20% of the country's required meat is imported, but these imports have created numerous difficulties for domestic producers, administrative personnel, and national resources," Nouri said.

IRNA

Regarding drought's impact on wheat supply, he stated, "This year's drought has increased the need for wheat imports by 1 to 2 million tons, presenting unique challenges in import logistics."

Emphasis on knowledge-based agriculture

Addressing water crises and soil resource shortages in Isfahan, the agriculture minister asserted, "The solution lies in knowledge-based agriculture. High-tech greenhouses exemplify this sector's successes, recouping investments in under three years."

He urged investors to trust agriculture — particularly technology-driven initiatives — adding, "Knowledge-based agriculture is profitable today. We expect researchers, scholars, and progressive farmers in Isfahan to propose innovative solutions for optimal water consumption."

Nouri dismissed rumors about cost-effective imports, stating, "The world faces food shortages. The Ukraine war proved global markets cannot be relied upon. We must defend domestic production by increasing productivity and reducing water consumption."

He concluded by expressing hope that comprehensive cooperation would "achieve sustainable self-sufficiency in Iran's food security."