

Oil output capacity up 127,000 bpd over past year, minister says

Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said the country's crude oil production capacity has increased by an average of 127,000 barrels per day (bpd) over the past year.

"I usually avoid giving specific figures, but on average the country's crude oil production capacity has risen by 127,000 barrels per day over the past year," SHANA quoted Paknejad as saying.

According to the minister, under the quantitative targets set in Iran's Seventh Development Plan, output should reach about 4.58 million bpd, equivalent to 4.8 million bpd of capacity. "All the planning and investments being made are aimed at achieving this goal," he added. Paknejad noted that with the launch of new petrochemical projects and processing facilities at the Azadegan field, the country's production capacity will expand further, adding some 80,000 bpd.

According to OPEC's monthly report, Iran's oil production has been above 3.3 million barrels per day in the first

seven months of the year. The country has maintained its place as OPEC's third-biggest oil producer after Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Iran prepared to sustain oil sales

In response to a question about the possible activation of the UN "snapback" mechanism and its impact on Iranian oil sales, the minister said, "There is the necessary expertise within the oil industry to bypass restrictions."

"For years we have faced limitations on oil sales. This has led to the accumulation of the expertise needed to circumvent these restrictions."

He made the remarks after Britain, France, and Germany on Thursday triggered the so-called snapback mechanism under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, accusing Tehran of violating the 2015 accord. The move could allow for a return of six UN sanctions resolutions that were adopted between 2006 and 2010 in response to Iran's alleged non-compliance with UN nuclear regulations.

Experts say a re-imposition of the UN



sanctions would have almost no impact on Iran's ability to supply oil to international markets, as they do not directly target Iran's oil sector.

The Iranian minister added, "The oil industry team can plan ways to sell oil

under various constraints. Naturally, snapback could to some extent push conditions toward the need for new measures, but we are not powerless in the face of such restrictions and will do everything we can."

Tehran, Moscow ink rail data-sharing pact to boost INSTC efficiency



Economy Desk

Iran and Russia launched cooperation on electronic and intelligent data exchange for their rail fleets, initiating a move that will pave the way for expanding cooperation in the field of informational interactions and digitalization of transportation along International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) rail routes.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on "electronic bilateral data exchange related to the geographical location and status of the rail fleet" was signed by the chief executives of Russian Railways JSC and the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways. The agreement specifically covers data exchange for wagons and containers, IRNA reported.

The signing occurred during a working visit to Russia by Jabbar Ali Zakeri, the deputy minister of roads and urban development.

The MoU "will also provide for the exchange of experiences in the use of innovative information technology solutions in international rail transport," Iran's rail company stated. It is expected to "increase the productivity and safety of the rail fleet in international transportation and transit."

"With the implementation of the provisions of this memorandum, the transit time of export and transit cargoes of Russia and Central Asian countries through the rail corridors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the North-South corridor, will be reduced," the announcement detailed. Furthermore, it "will increase the possibility of more precise and intelligent monitoring and control of the rail transport fleet, especially in international traffic."

Textile plant reopens with '2025 technologies' in southeast



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A weaving line unit at the Gostaresh Sanaye Baluch company in Iranshahr, southeastern Iran, was inaugurated on Saturday by order of President Masoud Pezeshkian, using "2025 technologies."

Pezeshkian issued the order by video conference during a ceremony to launch the line at the Baft Baluch factory in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, IRNA reported.

Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak said at the event that the Baft Baluch plant in Iranshahr had been modernized and restart-

ed "with 2025 technologies" and now has an annual production capacity of 18 million square meters of fabric.

The reconstruction and reopening of the factory was one of the commitments from the president's provincial trip to the province and was completed within a year. The plant will employ 300 people, with the potential to expand to 630 jobs.

Speaking at the inauguration, the president credited the reconstruction team and urged provincial officials to "replicate this model at a faster pace" across other sectors and projects.

12 water, energy projects launched in Zanjan

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Twelve water and energy projects, including a wastewater treatment plant and a solar power plant, were inaugurated or launched on Saturday in Zanjan Province, northern Iran, with Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi in attendance on the seventh day of Government Week.

"Today we are witnessing the inauguration of eight projects and the launch of four other projects," Aliabadi said, highlighting the new facilities in Zanjan, IRNA reported.

On the sidelines of the launch of the second phase of the Zanjan wastewater treatment plant, Aliabadi underlined the importance of water consumption management and recycling. "Facilitating private sector investment in water and wastewater projects is one of the main goals of the Ministry of Energy," he said, adding that, "Technical and environmental standards have

been observed in the projects under implementation, and the quality of the treated water is such that it can be used for many purposes." According to Ali Mohammad Naderkhani, managing director of the provincial water and wastewater company, the second phase of the Zanjan plant was carried out to increase the population served to 410,000 and boost wastewater treatment capacity to 75,000 cubic meters per day.

"With the inauguration of this project, it will be possible to treat 100 percent of the wastewater generated in the city of Zanjan," he said, adding that the company is ready to complete the city's sewage collection network "in the shortest possible time if funding is secured."

Construction also began on the 500-megawatt "Paband" solar power plant in Khodabandeh county of Zanjan Province, attended by the minister.

Speaking at the ceremony,



Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi inaugurates the second phase of the Zanjan wastewater treatment plant in Zanjan on August 30, 2025.

● IRNA

Aliabadi said, "Until the end of the year, a significant capacity will be added to the country's electricity grid." He noted that nearly 4,000 megawatts of thermal power plants and about 800 megawatts of solar power plants have already been connected to the grid. Regarding the Zanjan solar facility, he said, "With the commissioning of this power plant and the increase in production capacity, we hope next year the country's energy imbalance will be minimized and the power grid will reach the desired stability."

Iran-China trade ...

"Iran is also a major market for Chinese goods, continuing large imports of industrial, electronic and mechanical products."

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Opportunities and potential

The chamber member said that energy and natural resources are among the main areas for future cooperation. As one of the world's largest holders of oil and gas reserves, Iran can be "a stable source" of energy exports for China, the world's biggest energy consumer.

Iran's geostrategic location as a crossroads between East and West also positions it as a key link in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, he added. According to the businessman, investment in railways, ports and transit routes could turn Iran into a regional transport hub for Chinese trade.

"China, already Iran's largest trade partner, could further increase imports of Iranian industrial, mineral, agricultural and food products, while investing in sectors such as steel, mining, automobiles, telecommunications and renewables." The two countries could also expand cooperation in technology and industry, he said, adding, "Iran needs China's technology and industrial machinery, while in return Iran can be a large market for

Chinese technology products and services."

"Financial cooperation could include using local currencies — the rial and yuan — or alternative payment systems to bypass Western sanctions, as well as creating joint investment funds."

Obstacles and constraints

Nikpey Salekdeh said that the US and Western sanctions remain a major barrier, with Chinese banks and companies cautious about engaging in large-scale deals with Iran. Weak investment protection laws, frequent regulatory changes and bureaucratic hurdles inside Iran have also discouraged Chinese investors, he added.

The merchant believes that political and economic instability, currency fluctuations, and lack of clear legal guarantees raise risks for Chinese businesses.

"Meanwhile, Beijing has expanded cooperation with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar, which could divert opportunities if Iran does not sharpen its competitive advantages."

According to him, the absence of a direct land border between Iran and China adds another obstacle.

Nikpey Salekdeh said that current overland routes

pass through intermediaries such as Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan, Afghanistan-Pakistan, or Central Asia, raising transport costs and exposing trade to security risks and tariff barriers.

"Security issues plague key routes like Afghanistan-Pakistan, while transit nations in Central Asia impose customs hurdles and tariffs. This reality means Iran's ability to serve as a transit corridor to China hinges on the cooperation of neighboring states."

"To overcome transit and transportation bottlenecks, Iran must prioritize developing critical international corridors. This includes activating the Iran-Kazakhstan-China corridor via Caspian Sea shipping routes and railways, boosting the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) while extending its connectivity to China through Russia, and utilizing east-west routes such as the corridor via Pakistan," he added.

The chamber member said that joint Iran-China investment in transit infrastructure offers another pathway.

He said that the two nations could cooperate on expanding rail networks, including the key Khaf-Herat line linking to Central Asia and China. Establishing shared port facilities at locations like

Chabahar or Bandar Abbas to enhance maritime links with China is also under consideration."

Problems facing Iranian traders

Nikpey Salekdeh noted, "Iranian traders often face long and complicated procedures to obtain visas for China." Direct flights are also limited, he said.

The joint chamber member said both governments could sign a bilateral agreement to ease business visas, including three-to-five-year permits for qualified traders, or launch e-visa and on-arrival systems. He suggested that more direct passenger and cargo flights between Tehran and Beijing or Shanghai would also reduce costs and speed up delivery of sensitive goods.



Arash Nikpey Salekdeh