

Tehran proposes roadmap to \$10b trade target with Islamabad

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd on Monday proposed that Tehran and Islamabad draw up and sign within three months a roadmap to meet a \$10 billion bilateral trade target, which was agreed during the Iranian president's visit to the Pakistani capital earlier in the month. Addressing the opening of the 22nd Joint Economic Commission in Tehran, Sadegh Malvajerd said, "This route requires strengthening banking ties and establishing a secure, mutually agreed financial channel," while urging ministers to finalize the roadmap. Bilateral trade reached \$3.129 billion last year, she added, with \$2.423 billion in Iranian exports to Pakistan and \$700 million in Pakistani exports to Iran. Sadegh Malvajerd said the commission's work could serve as a starting point to boost those figures closer to the countries' potential. The meeting, held after a three-year pause, was billed by officials as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation across trade, banking, transit, energy, agriculture and culture. At the meeting, Pakistan's

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan underlined that while both countries have strong economic potential, current trade remains far below that capacity, and that specialized committees, chambers of commerce and the joint commission are key to raising exchanges.

Transport and transit cooperation

Iran's minister of roads and urban development, citing the importance of transport cooperation, emphasized the need to develop border infrastructure, increase parking capacity at the Mirjaveh and Taftan crossings, and build the Zahedan-Taftan-Quetta railway line. Sadegh Malvajerd highlighted plans to launch shipping links between Karachi's Port Qasim and Gwadar and Iran's Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports, and said planners have mapped out a monthly ECO freight train on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul corridor as a strategic regional rail project.

On energy and communications, Sadegh Malvajerd said Iranian firms stood ready to export agricultural products and that the 132-kilovolt Pelan-Jiwani transmission line would



Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd (center, top) and Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan (center, bottom) co-chair the 22nd Joint Economic Commission in Tehran on September 15, 2025.

● IRNA

be formally commissioned. She also pointed to plans to connect fiber-optic networks and deepen telecommunications cooperation. Pakistan's Kamal Khan also emphasized the development of border markets, exports of technical and engineering services, livestock rearing and agriculture. Kamal Khan said Pakistan can share expertise in irrigation and modern agricultural technologies and highlighted renewable energy — particularly solar and wind — as a basis for sustainable bilateral and regional development. He described transport as a central axis for cooperation, saying improved road, rail and maritime links could help make Iran a gateway to South Asia and the Middle East. He urged investment in innovation, digital economy and innovation centers to boost employment, economic growth and international competitiveness.



Iran registers 13 new products with World Intellectual Property Organization



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Iran has registered 13 new products with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), bringing the total number of globally recognized Iranian goods to 87, a senior industry ministry official said. Mehdi Mirsalehi, adviser for international affairs at the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade said the registration process began in 2010 with the recognition of handwoven carpets from various regions of the country. Since then, 31 regional carpet types, along with ag-

ricultural, mineral and stone products, have been added to the list, he added. The registrations are based on Iran's accession to the Lisbon Agreement in 2004, IRNA reported. According to the official, the 13 newly registered products include Nahbandan Andalusi stone, Bahari agate from Ferdows, green granite from South Khorasan, Paeizi agate from Seh-Qal'eh, South Khorasan bentonite, South Khorasan fluorite, golden columnar basalt from Sarbisheh, magnesite from Zahedan and Khash, handwoven Yalmeh carpet from Aliabad Dehaqan in Fars Province, Aq Qala iodine from Golestan, Kashan rosewater, and grapes and apples from Urmia in West Azarbaijan. Mirsalehi, who represents Iran at the WIPO said global registration gives Iranian products key advantages, including exclusive branding rights that prevent third countries from re-exporting them under different names. "When a product is registered, Iran's name will always remain attached to it, and even the end consumer will know the product belongs to Iran," he said. He added that the recognition also helps create exclusive market advantages for Iranian goods that can supply regional and global demand. This, he noted, increases competitiveness, raises export prices, and strengthens the role of such products in driving domestic production and trade growth. The WIPO, one of 15 UN specialized agencies, was established in 1967 in Stockholm to promote intellectual property rights. Based in Geneva, it covers industrial property such as patents, trademarks and designs, as well as copyright for literary, artistic and audiovisual works. The organization plays a key role in fostering innovation and protecting IP worldwide.

NIGC in talks with Turkey on gas deal extension; eyes Russian, Turkmen imports

Economy Desk

The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said on Sunday that exports to Turkey under an existing supply deal will continue until 2026, and that talks are underway to extend the contract beyond that date.

NIGC head Saeed Tavakkoli told reporters that Ankara has also expressed readiness to renew the deal, and that Turkey's imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) would not affect its long-term gas purchases from Iran, Tasnim reported.

Talks with Russia and Turkmenistan

Tavakkoli said Tehran is also holding talks with Russia and Turkmenistan on importing gas, with a meeting scheduled this week with Russian energy officials. He noted that no final agreement has yet been reached on volumes, which depend on Iran's pipeline transmission capacity. Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said last week that the two sides have made significant progress on transferring gas to Iran as part of their joint energy cooperation. "One of the important matters agreed upon between Tehran and Moscow in joint energy cooperation is the gas transfer to Iran, and initial steps have been taken. It is now on the verge of finalization," he said. According to the envoy, the two countries must first reach an agreement on price and "once that's finalized, the entire operation can proceed." The forthcoming deliveries stem from a deal inked in April 2025 between Tehran and Moscow, which in turn followed a memorandum of understanding signed between the Russian state-run energy giant Gazprom and its Iranian counterpart, the NIGC.

Energy shortages

Tavakkoli, speaking on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the 10% energy consumption reduction campaign, warned that Iran faces a structural gas imbalance, with demand outstripping supply, and said efficiency programs are essential to easing pressure on the system. "Campaigns to cut energy use by 10% and any



move that corrects household and commercial consumption patterns can be very effective in reducing the gas shortfall," he said. The shortage this winter is forecast at 300-400 million cubic meters per day, Tavakkoli said, adding that fuel supply coordination meetings are already underway. He said Iran has taken steps to secure liquid fuel for power plants and is working to complete scheduled overhauls at gas refineries on time. He noted that 73% of Iran's energy mix comes from gas and that 83% of the country's power plants rely on it, compared with a global average of 20-23%. "If we continue with the current model, the gas industry will shift from being purely industrial to becoming a security issue," he said, pointing out that 95-96% of Iran's population is connected to the gas grid. The government is pursuing efficiency plans in the household sector with investment packages, including distribution of high-efficiency heaters and upgrades to boiler rooms and heating systems. But Tavakkoli cautioned that cutting consumption only during the winter peak does not solve the year-round imbalance, which requires systematic use of high-efficiency equipment. He added that in 2023, the warmest autumn in 50 years, gas use was split between industry (34%), power plants (34%), households (25%) and transport and other sectors (7%). The government's Seventh Development Plan targets a 55% efficiency rate for power plants, raising questions over whether current gas consumption in the sector aligns with international standards.