

Pezeshkian says partnership with Russia shows end of global unilateralism

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that successful cooperation between independent countries such as Iran and Russia proves that “the era of unilateralism in the world has come to an end,” president.ir reported on Thursday.

“We will be able to achieve growth and progress in our countries without dependence on unilateralist powers,” Pezeshkian told Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev and his delegation in Tehran.

Pezeshkian expressed satisfaction with the process of joint cooperation between Iran and Russia and the commitment of the officials of the two countries to implementing bilateral agreements in the fields of transport, energy and power plants.

He added that Iran is seriously pursuing the implementation of agreements between the two countries and that all the necessary conditions for joint cooperation have been prepared.

Tsivilev, for his part, presented a report on his trip to Iran, including meetings with senior officials and the follow-up to bilateral agreements such as those concluded in the countries’ joint economic commission.

Gazprom’s prospects of cooperation

Meanwhile, Russian energy giant Gazprom said its delegation to Tehran also



discussed prospects for economic cooperation with Iran, including in the gas sector, according to Russia’s Vedomosti. Gazprom added that the delegation held talks with the head of the National Iranian Gas Company. In late June 2024,

Gazprom signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with the Iranian company to develop a framework for supplying Russian natural gas to Iran. Moscow and Tehran reached a deal on 55 billion cubic meters of Russian gas

supplies a year, though prices are yet to be agreed.

According to Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, the agreed route would use Azerbaijani territory, with Iran receiving the gas at Astara.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (4th R) meets Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev (4th L) and his delegation in Tehran on September 17, 2025.

● IRNA

Armenia-Iran rail link to boost regional transit: Pashinyan

Economy Desk

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Thursday that restoring railway connections between Armenia and Iran would significantly expand economic cooperation and sharply increase the two countries’ transit capacity.

Pashinyan said the reopening of regional routes would boost transit potential not only for Armenia and Iran but also for neighboring Azerbaijan. “With this railway, any rise in Armenia’s and Iran’s transit role would inevitably also raise the transit role of Azerbaijan’s Nakhchivan region,” he said, News Armenia reported.

According to caliber.Az, he also said, “As a result of opening regional communications, we will gain a railway connection to Iran, which will become a very important logistical route and significantly enhance the transport capacities of Armenia, Iran, and also Azerbaijan, since the railway will pass through all these countries.”

Pashinyan highlighted the inclusive nature of the regional initiatives, stating, “No plan should exclude any country in the region from the benefits of restored communication links. Such an approach is misguided, particularly in an environment of peace and regional cooperation.”

The prime minister also highlighted progress on the construction of the North-South highway project, saying, “We



have relevant agreements and projects aimed at deepening partnership with Iran.”

Postal cooperation MoU

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in UAE’s Dubai on Thursday to expand cooperation in postal services, including logistics, e-commerce and the volume of bilateral exchanges, IRNA reported.

The deal was signed on the sidelines of the 28th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress by Mohammad Ahmadi, CEO of Iran’s National Post Company, and Shushan Alexanyan, CEO of Armenia Post.

The agreement aims to strengthen and develop postal collaboration within the framework of the two countries’ social and economic development programs.

Both sides stressed the importance of safeguarding mutual interests, improving service quality, and making maximum use of existing capacities.

Under the terms of the MoU, cooperation will cover logistics for parcel distribution, policy exchange, development of e-commerce, and an increase in bilateral postal trade.

Chamber head: Shalamcheh can become strategic trade, tourism hub

Economy Desk

The head of Khorramshahr Chamber of Commerce said the Shalamcheh border crossing with Iraq should be developed from a local gateway into a national hub for trade and tourism, highlighting its potential to serve as an economic and diplomatic base in western Iran.

“Shalamcheh must be transformed from a local border into the country’s trade and tourism hub. If managed properly, it can become a base of economic diplomacy and tourism in western Iran rather than just a limited crossing point,” said Mostafa Mousavi, who also chairs the tourism commission of Iran’s Chamber of Commerce, ILNA reported.

The formal launch of the crossing with Iraq has drawn the attention of business leaders and tourism experts to its new opportunities, Mousavi said, adding that many argue Shalamcheh is more than a local passage and could be a strategic link in expanding Iran’s trade and tourism.

Mousavi said the crossing should be seen through a national lens and as part of the Seventh Development Plan’s wider goals. He noted that Iran’s challenge is not a lack of border points but high logistics costs and an imbalance between exports and imports. Shalamcheh, he said, can help address this by shortening the route to Iraq’s Basra port, reduc-



ing costs, time and risks. The plan also calls for raising Iran’s transit capacity to 200 million tons, and Shalamcheh could play a strategic role in meeting this national target.

Part of national roadmap

Mousavi said past experience shows that border markets generate little added value if they remain purely local. Instead, Shalamcheh should be developed as a multipurpose border services hub, combining standardized trade centers with accommodations, transport facilities, restaurants and tourism services.

“Such a model,” he added, “could attract pilgrims to Iraq’s holy sites, business travelers and shopping tourists simultaneously.” The Seventh Development Plan explicitly states that border terminals should be turned into regional

development centers, so Shalamcheh’s markets must be designed within a national framework, not just to meet local needs. From an infrastructure perspective, the border crossing could also be used for car imports, whether by road or via rail links. However, Mousavi stressed that vehicle imports depend less on logistics and more on national industrial, currency and environmental policies.

He said that if Iran is to meet the plan’s goal of modernizing the transport fleet and cutting emissions, Shalamcheh could serve as a terminal for bringing in specific vehicles such as fuel-efficient cars or public transport fleets. “The crossing has the capacity, but it must be integrated into national industrial policy rather than treated as a short-term trade opportunity,” he said.

Industry minister: Mining revenues must fuel local jobs, investment



Economy Desk

Iran’s Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak said on Thursday that boosting the share of mining revenues in local development is a key priority, stressing that the proceeds should be directed toward job creation and investment in the same regions where resources are extracted.

Speaking at a meeting with a group of business leaders in South Khorasan Province, Atabak said under a decision by the Supreme Mining Council, and in order to accelerate exploitation and activate mining capacity, some authority over mining rights allocation will be delegated to provincial administrations to speed up decision-making.

He underscored that enforcing the mining act passed by Parliament and ensuring safety in coal mines are among the ministry’s top priorities.

The country is the 15th-largest mineral-rich country globally, and Iranian officials call mining the backbone of industrial development and say it should replace oil as the primary revenue generator.

According to the state-run Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the country exported \$4.1 billion worth of mining and mineral industry products in the first four months of the Persian calendar year (began on March 21, 2025), up about 14% in volume but down 4% in value compared with the same period last year.

The IMIDRO has also announced that last year nearly 600 mines were revived, activated, or developed, which represents the highest figure in mining revitalization. Atabak also noted that about 25% of the country’s industrial machinery has been modernized.