

President launches 250 MW solar initiatives, vows gov’t support to remove barriers

Economy Desk

Iran inaugurated and began construction of a total of 700 megawatts (MW) in solar power projects across the country on Saturday, in a virtual ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, as part of efforts to expand renewable energy and address power shortages. The event marked the inauguration of 250 MW of new solar capacity and the executive operation of an additional 450 MW, president.ir reported. Pezeshkian stressed the need to accelerate the construction of solar power plants, pledging government support to remove any barriers slowing down renewable projects and to facilitate private-sector participation. "The government is fully prepared to eliminate any obstacles to speeding up solar plant construction, addressing the country's power imbalance, and enabling private-sector activity in this field," Pezeshkian said. "Avoiding power shortages next summer is a top government priority. All existing solar power contracts could be completed and commissioned within a year."

President Masoud Pezeshkian orders the inauguration and construction of 700 MW of solar power projects across Iran, during a virtual ceremony in Tehran on October 11, 2025. ● president.ir

He added that developing solar plants will not only help resolve electricity shortages but also make a significant contribution to environmental protection by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Pezeshkian also highlighted the particular importance of building solar facilities along Iran's southern coasts, noting their role in supporting large-scale desalination projects and regional development around the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. At the meeting, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said that with Saturday's inaugurations, the country's total renewable power generation capacity has reached 2,550 MW — enough to supply electricity to about 145,000 households. "Of this capacity, more than 2,030 MW comes from solar power, around 370 MW from wind, 100 MW from small-scale hydropower, and 372 MW from expansion turbines and biomass and



biogas plants." Aliabadi noted that Iran is now commissioning roughly 100 MW of solar power each week, marking steady progress in

its clean energy expansion. Under Iran's Seventh Development Plan, the country is mandated to build 12,000 MW of renewable power plants.

The capacity stood at 1,036 MW at the start of the plan and has now grown to 2,550 MW. The government aims to raise that figure to 13,100 MW by 2028.

Trade balance improves 68% as non-oil exports pick up



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Iran's trade balance improved by 68% in the first half of the current Iranian year (began on March 21, 2025), driven by a rebound in non-oil exports and rising service revenues despite earlier setbacks caused by energy shortages, a senior trade official said on Saturday. Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that although total trade volume declined, the trade deficit narrowed sharply from \$7.5 billion in the same period last year to \$4 billion this year, Mehr reported. "Despite a decrease in total trade, our trade balance has seen remarkable improvement," Dehnavi said. "During the past year, the first year of President Pezeshkian's administration, we succeeded in bringing non-oil exports close to \$57.8 billion — a historic record — while oil exports also grew by 15.8%." The deputy industry minister

described the previous year as "one of the most outstanding years in exports," adding that the current year began with difficulties due to power shortages and widespread blackouts that heavily affected industries. "Fortunately, by the end of the first half, we managed to make up for the shortfall, and non-oil exports grew 15% compared with the same period last year," he said. The total value of non-oil exports in the first six months rose slightly from \$25.922 billion last year to \$25.944 billion this year, while export volume increased by 6%. Imports fell considerably, partly due to tighter controls on non-essential goods. "In the first half of last year, imports were valued at \$33.463 billion, which fell 15% this year to \$28.367 billion," Dehnavi said. "While part of this decline reflects import control measures, lower imports of raw materials and capital goods also played a role."

Dehnavi noted that Iran has set the target of achieving 23% annual export growth. "Despite domestic and external constraints, we are confident that with determination, planning, and private-sector dynamism, sustainable growth is achievable," he said. **Strong growth in service exports** Dehnavi also said that service exports — particularly in engineering and technology — showed notable progress. "In technical and engineering services, export value rose from \$600 million in the first half of last year to \$900 million this year, a 50% increase," he said. "In other service sectors such as information technology, foreign consulting, and international marketing, exports grew from \$885 million to \$1.26 billion, indicating a highly promising trend," he added. However, he noted that tourism revenues had declined due to ongoing challenges in the sector.

455 projects opened to strengthen digital, telecom infrastructure in Fars



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About 455 communication and digital infrastructure projects in the southern province of Fars were inaugurated on Saturday, in a ceremony attended by the minister of information and communication technology (ICT). The projects are part of the government's national program to expand digital and communication infrastructure, Sattar Hashemi said during the virtual inauguration ceremony, as reported by IRNA. The projects include initia-

tives in rural connectivity, fiber-optic networks, national infrastructure, and the rollout of new generations of mobile communication technology, the report said. Speaking at the Fars Provincial Planning and Development Council, the ICT minister underscored the central role of technology in driving Iran's economic growth. "If we are talking about economic development and growth, it is impossible to achieve without leveraging technology," he said. "Lawmakers attribute 35% of the mandated growth target to productivity — and that 35% is simply unattainable without technology." Hashemi added that the use of information and communication technology — from basic infrastructure to smart systems — is no longer optional. "In leading economies, the

digital economy accounts for more than 40% of total GDP, which is remarkable," he said. Hashemi emphasized that top global companies at the present are those engaged in the digital and technology sectors. "The more we invest in digital economy and energy-related technologies, the more enduring capacity we build for the province and the country," Hashemi said. The minister's visit to Fars and the inauguration of a large number of projects mark a significant step toward improving network coverage, expanding fiber-optic infrastructure, and boosting connectivity in underserved areas, IRNA wrote. The move is expected to strengthen Iran's digital infrastructure and foster closer links between academic, technological, and government sectors.

GSI ventures on hyperspectral imaging to boost mineral exploration

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Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) launched a major national project to conduct advanced hyperspectral imaging of the country's surface for the first time, ISNA reported. The large-scale initiative aims to improve the precision of geological studies, accelerate the discovery of mineral reserves, reduce exploration costs, and strengthen the country's technological capabilities, according to the GSI. Hyperspectral technology, one of the most advanced remote sensing methods in the world, enables the collection of highly detailed surface data with fine spectral resolution. It can detect even the slightest



variations in mineral composition, geological features, and surface materials, playing a key role in mineral exploration, environmental monitoring, natural resource management, and engineering geology studies, the organization said. According to ISNA, by implementing this national project,

Iran joins a small group of countries with the capacity to utilize hyperspectral data on a large scale. Iranian policymakers frequently describe the mining sector as the backbone of industrial development and argue that it should gradually replace oil as the country's main source of revenue.