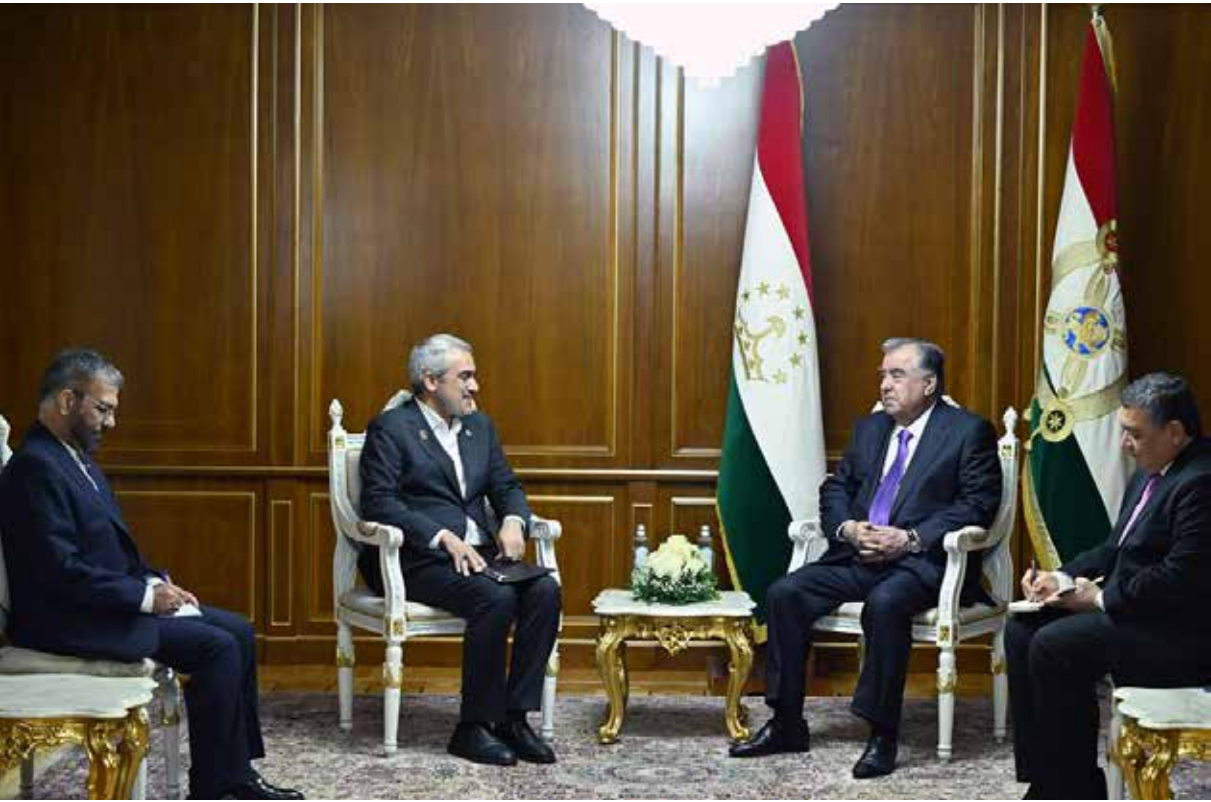


# Iran offers expanded infrastructure, energy cooperation with Tajikistan

## Tehran, Dushanbe nearing \$500m trade: Minister



Iran's Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh (2nd L) meets Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on October 14, 2025. [president.tj](#)

Economy Desk

Iran's Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh expressed in his meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon on Tuesday the Iranian companies' readiness to take an active role in Tajikistan's infrastructure, housing, and urban development projects. The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Dushanbe International Investment Forum 2025, highlighted Iran's efforts to deepen economic ties with Tajikistan despite the impact of Western sanctions. Madanizadeh proposed establishing special financial and banking mechanisms — including the use of national currencies, barter arrangements, and joint ventures — to expand cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe while reducing the effects of sanctions. Iran has been under Western sanctions for decades over its nuclear program, which have mostly affected its oil and energy sectors.

Madanizadeh said Iran's technical and engineering firms have strong capabilities in implementing major infrastructure projects. "Iranian companies are prepared to actively participate in Tajikistan's civil, power plant, road construction, housing, and urban development projects," he said. The minister emphasized that strengthening the presence of these companies in Tajikistan would not only boost the country's infrastructure but also transfer Iran's engineering and technical know-how.

**Key areas of collaboration**  
He also outlined several key areas of collaboration, saying, "In the energy sector, cooperation in constructing hydropower plants, developing the Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran power transmission line, and expanding renewable energy projects are among the practical areas of partnership." "In trade and banking, establishing direct payment channels, using national currencies, and creating re-

ciprocal credit lines will play a major role in facilitating economic relations," he added. "Iran is also ready to cooperate with Tajikistan in creating a joint science and technology park, developing knowledge-based companies, and advancing the digital economy." Madanizadeh said Iran and Tajikistan could play a significant role in the regional supply chain across energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and engineering services, enhancing their joint economic position through shared capabilities. The Dushanbe forum opened on Tuesday with more than 1,000 participants from dozens of countries attending the event aimed at promoting investment opportunities across the region.

**\$500m trade path focused on energy**  
Addressing the forum, the Iranian minister said Iran and Tajikistan are moving toward a \$500 million trade partnership centered on energy and

technology. "This conference, focused on green investment, serves as a bridge for exchanging ideas and a gateway to a sustainable and prosperous regional future," he said. Madanizadeh described the recent meeting between the presidents of Iran and Tajikistan as "a turning point" in bilateral relations, marked by the signing of 23 cooperation agreements worth half a billion dollars, demonstrating a strong determination to deepen economic engagement. "A shared vision for expanding trade beyond \$500 million — supported by agreements in transportation, customs, fisheries, mining, and agriculture — has solidified the foundations of this partnership," Madanizadeh noted. He added that Tajikistan, with its vast potential in green energy, mining, and water resources, provides a reliable base for investment. "Despite sanctions, Iran is ready to engage in regional cooperation, particularly with Tajikistan, in clean energy, digital economy, transportation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and mining industries," he said. "The world is on the verge of a digital transformation, and Iran — with its expertise in artificial intelligence and blockchain — is ready to share its experience with Tajikistan to develop technology and train specialists," he added. Highlighting the historical roots of regional cooperation, Madanizadeh said, "Regional collaboration is rooted in the legacy of the Silk Road, and balanced development can only be achieved through stronger bilateral and multilateral ties." He reiterated Iran's commitment to strengthening brotherly, economic, and infrastructural relations with Tajikistan, offering new opportunities to deepen ties under current global and regional conditions.

### VP: Gov't backs domestic space research, lauds 'Zohreh' satellite project



Economy Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref expressed on Tuesday the government's full support for the activities of the Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC), particularly the design and construction of the national communications satellite Zohreh. Equipped with 12 transponders, Zohreh is a national communications satellite being designed and built by Iranian researchers — a major step forward in Iran's space program. Speaking during his visit to the ISRC in Tehran, Aref said, "Advances in space science are one of the key areas for achieving the goals of the 20-Year Vision Document," vp-president.ir reported. He urged the center and researchers to focus on the design and construction of the Zohreh satellite. Aref said a three-year plan in the current government had been drawn up to compensate for past gaps in science and technology. "Given the country's needs, there is no way but to engage in space and access space sciences. In previous years, we approached this sector logically and fundamentally, but we have been far from the country's true position," he said. "Once, the country sought to reach a 36,000-kilometer orbit and could not even access lower orbits without foreign assistance," he added. "Today, relying on the capabilities of domestic scientists, we have reached the goal of accessing higher orbits."

### Foreign investors bring \$4m in gold to Iran after zero-tariff policy

Economy Desk

Two foreign investors have recently imported standard gold bullion worth around \$4 million into Iran, marking the first such transaction conducted through the country's Foreign Exchange and Gold Center, ISNA reported. According to the report, the first batch of imported gold bars was offered for sale on the Exchange Center's platform, a move experts describe as a sign of renewed foreign investment in Iran's precious metals sector and a shift in the country's foreign exchange policy toward using new channels for gold supply. The Exchange Center announced that an additional 700 kilograms of standard gold bullion will soon be imported by new foreign investors and sold through the same platform. Officials said the sale of imported gold follows a recent government decision allowing foreign investors to bring standard gold bullion into the country and trade it through the official exchange mechanism — part of broader efforts to attract external capital and diversify sources of gold supply. Tasnim news agency said in a Sunday report that the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had decided to restrict gold imports "to manage the foreign currency market and control the smuggling of gold from the country." It cited a statement from head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Mohammad Ali Dehghan, which showed that Iranian exporters could no longer be able to import gold to pay their hard currency liabilities to the CBI. Iran cut its tariffs on gold imports to zero in November 2022 to boost its gold reserves and to facilitate the return of funds held in other countries because of US sanctions.

## Renewables capacity up 43% to record 2,555 MW, official says

Economy Desk

Mohsen Tarzatab, head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said on Tuesday that the country's renewable power capacity had surged to 2,555 megawatts, marking a 43% year-on-year increase — the fastest growth in the country's history. "In the first six months of the Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), the total capacity of renewables reached 2,555 MW, including over 2,000 MW from solar, 400 MW from wind, and 100 MW from other sources," Tarzatab said at the opening ceremony of the 7th Iran Solar Power Plants Conference in Tehran, as reported by IRNA. "This represents a 43% rise compared with the same period last year — an unprecedented growth in Iran's power industry." During the same period last year, total renewable capacity stood at about 1,786 MW. Despite the sharp increase, renewables still account for only 2.7% of Iran's total electric-

ity generation capacity of around 95,000 MW. Under the Seventh National Development Plan, Iran aims to add 12,000 MW of new renewable capacity over five years, with President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration having set a more ambitious goal of 30,000 MW within four years. The deputy energy minister said, "The average monthly growth in renewable capacity during the past six months was about 140 MW, and it is planned to reach 800 MW by December. We hope to achieve this target with the cooperation of industry leaders and investors." However, speaking on the sidelines of the two-day conference, he noted that, "The administrative and industrial sectors have not performed as expected in building solar power plants." **Gov't offices' renewable share doubles to 40%** "As recently approved by the Supreme Energy Council, the share



of government offices in renewable power supply has increased from 20% to 40%," he added. "I strongly recommend that both administrative and industrial sectors move toward constructing solar, wind, and battery power plants to generate their own elec-

tricity. Waiting for others to act will only harm their own interests." The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline — effective June 21 — to source 20% of their required electricity from solar energy.