

Pezeshkian: Gov’t vows to remove trade barriers, boost value-driven exports

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined on Tuesday that the Iranian government is moving to facilitate exports by addressing obstacles that hinder trade, streamline regulations, and improve conditions for businesses. Speaking at the 29th National Export Day ceremony honoring the country’s top exporters, Pezeshkian said the government is committed to eliminating bureaucratic hurdles, excessive regulations, and trade-related financial and diplomatic obstacles to strengthen the export sector, IFNA reported. “How can other countries reach \$500 billion or even \$1 trillion in trade while we are proud of only \$40–50 billion?” Pezeshkian asked, criticizing what he described as a limited view of Iran’s trade potential. “There is no reason for Iran to fall behind. If our target is \$100 billion, we can achieve it; if our target is \$1 trillion, we can reach that too.” Iran’s foreign trade reached \$54.31 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21. Imports fell compared with the same period last year, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). Non-oil exports totaled \$25.94 billion, while imports reached \$28.37 billion. Downplaying the role of sanctions as

a barrier to the national economic growth, the president said, “We are ready to work with the Chamber of Commerce and all sectors to remove obstacles.” Highlighting the government’s ongoing engagement with the business community, Pezeshkian said every month the cabinet meets with entrepreneurs and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss problems. Ministries follow up weekly, and results are reported at the end of each month, he added. Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran has the capacity to dramatically expand its trade. “Every Iranian must believe that we should not fall behind any country or any industry,” he said.

‘Iran Export Atlas’

Pezeshkian’s remarks were followed by comments from Mohammad Atabak, the minister of Industry, Mines and Trade, who outlined steps to shift Iran’s exports toward higher-value goods and enhance trade infrastructure. Atabak emphasized that the future of Iran’s exports should focus on “value-driven exports,” aiming to align the monetary and physical value of goods to ensure sustainable foreign exchange earnings. “To achieve this, existing structures in foreign trade must be transformed,” Atabak said.



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 29th National Export Day ceremony in Tehran on October 21, 2025. ● IRNA

While the ministry has signed numerous memorandums of understanding, he said, “The government stresses that signing agreements alone is not enough; operational obstacles must be removed for these deals to yield tangible results.”

Atabak also announced plans to develop a comprehensive “Iran Export Atlas,” a guidebook detailing the country’s export capacities and markets. “At the president’s suggestion, it is necessary to prepare a detailed atlas of the country’s export capacities and

markets so exporters know which products can be sold in which markets,” he said. The minister added that the project, developed in partnership with the private sector, could significantly contribute to the growth of Iran’s exports.

Economy Ministry to set up funds to stabilize currency, boost investment IME unveils six commodity deposit certificates to lure investors



Iran’s Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh addresses the third conference honoring top figures of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in Tehran on October 20, 2025. ● mefa.ir

Economy Desk

Iran’s Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said on Monday that the ministry plans to launch new currency-based funds and bonds aimed at attracting public liquidity and stabilizing the foreign exchange market. “These instruments will soon be introduced and can both attract people’s liquidity and provide the

capital needed to finance large enterprises’ working capital,” Madanizadeh said at the third conference honoring top figures of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), as reported by Tasnim news agency. “Launching such funds will also help control the forex market and prevent further increases in exchange rates,” he added. At the ceremony aimed at developing the finan-

cial market of the Iran Mercantile Exchange and broadening investment instruments, trading officially began for six commodity deposit certificates covering copper cathodes, bitumen, iron ore pellets, rebar, zinc ingots, and the Kerman Khodro T9 pickup truck. The move is intended to diversify investment tools and attract wider participation from investors. According to IME data, by noon Monday more than 792,000 certificates — worth several hundred billion tomans — had been traded, signaling strong investor interest in the new

financial tools. Madanizadeh stressed that removing barriers to productivity is essential for Iran’s economic growth. He cited “price controls” as the first major obstacle, saying they have “trapped the economy and prevented markets from growing naturally.” The second major challenge, he said, is Iran’s “bank-centered financing system,” which has limited the role of capital markets in funding production and enterprise development. “In developed countries, large companies raise funds through capital markets so that bank resources can be directed toward small and medium-sized enterprises,” he said. “One of the main policies of the ministry is to guide large enterprises toward the capital market, making the country’s financial

structure more balanced and efficient.” Madanizadeh also emphasized that “making the economy predictable” is the top priority of the government’s economic team. “Predictability enables better risk management and encourages people to save and channel their small investments into the capital market,” he said. He announced the launch of a major “Rouyesh Plan” (Growth Plan), one of six flagship projects of the Economy Ministry, designed to mobilize small-scale public savings to finance large industrial enterprises. “The instruments unveiled today by the Securities and Exchange Organization and the Iran Mercantile Exchange mark the beginning of this program and a step toward fostering productive investment in the country,” he said.

Direct maritime passenger route launched between Chabahar, Muscat



Economy Desk

A senior official at Iran’s Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones announced on Tuesday that a direct maritime passenger and tourism route linking Iran’s southeastern port of Chabahar with Muscat, Oman, had officially begun operations. Reza Masroor, the secretary of the supreme council, said the new route was one of the key priorities emphasized by President Masoud Pezeshkian during his last year’s visit to the Iranian port, IRNA reported. “The Chabahar-Muscat passenger shipping line, developed through cooperation between the Secretariat of the Supreme Council and the Chabahar Free Zone Organization, has now entered into operation with Omani investment,” he said. Masroor noted that the cost of travel on the new maritime route is significantly lower than air travel from Chabahar, and authorities expect it to attract strong demand from tourists. Masroor said that developing maritime tourism is a main priority for the Chabahar Free Zone Organization, calling it one of the region’s strategic advantages. A series of programs are currently being implemented to boost this sector, he added. “Plans are also under way to expand similar shipping routes among Iran’s southern islands, a move that could play a major role in enhancing tourism and regional connectivity,” he said.

Iran proposes expanded water ties with Saudi Arabia, OIC states

Economy Desk

A senior official at Iran’s Ministry of Energy announced on Tuesday that Tehran is seeking to strengthen joint water management cooperation with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries. On the sidelines of the fifth Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in Saudi Arabia, Mohammadvali Alaeddini, head of the ministry’s International Affairs Department, met with a Saudi deputy minister, IRNA reported. He said one of the main objectives

of Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi’s visit and Iran’s participation in the conference is to advance shared water projects among OIC member countries. “Given the different strengths of each country in this field, these meetings provide valuable opportunities for mutual understanding and knowledge sharing,” he said. He added that Iran is willing to generously share its expertise in water resources management with all countries. Alaeddini highlighted Iran’s diverse water resources, which include more than 300 dams, underground

wells, rivers, and transboundary sources shared with neighbors such as Turkey, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan. About 4% of these resources is allocated for drinking water, with the remainder used for agriculture and industry. Inviting Saudi officials to visit Iran, he said, “Considering that water is the essence of life and should foster unity rather than conflict, we are interested in joint cooperation with Saudi Arabia in water-related matters alongside other ongoing collaborations.” He also emphasized the capabilities of Iranian knowledge-based compa-

nies, noting over 1,000 inventions in the water and electricity sector, and invited Saudi officials to visit Iran to see such innovations firsthand. Alaeddini cited Iran’s achievements in engineering and technical services in the water and electricity sectors, saying many countries in the region and beyond are already clients of Iranian expertise. “Iran is keen to expand these interactions with Saudi Arabia as well,” he added. The OIC conference, hosted by Saudi Arabia, brings together more than 49 countries and 20 ministers, including representatives from Iran, Egypt, Mauritania, and Indonesia.