

Renewable power capacity to surge to 11,000 MW by summer 2026: *Minister*



Economy Desk

Iran plans to raise its installed renewable energy capacity to 7,000 megawatts per day by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2026) and further to 11,000 MW per day by next summer, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday. According to the latest data by Iran's Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency Organization (SATBA), some 2,555 MW of clean energy is produced daily, account for only 2.7% of Iran's total electricity generation capacity of around 95,000 MW. President Masoud Pezeshkian's government has set a goal of installing 30,000 MW of renewables in the next three years to help ease daily power shortage which was around 12,000 MW last summer. The mismatch between production and consumption forced the government to cut power to households nationwide.

Aliabadi said the power outages depended on consumption levels.

"If people continue to cooperate with the power industry as they have in the past, we will not experience black-outs," he said.

Aliabadi said the situation in the electricity sector was improving. "This winter our situation will be much better. Things are going well in the power industry, and with continued effort and public cooperation, we hope to achieve tangible results," he noted.

The minister added that various projects were underway in both power generation and consumption management.

"We are working to establish sound governance in the water and electricity sectors," he said, adding that the government had set ambitious targets despite existing challenges.

He also expressed hope that the ministry would build 3,000 megawatts of storage capacity this year.

Annual inflation rises to 38.9%, point-to-point rate hits 48.6%: *SCI*



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Iran's year-on-year inflation rate up to the seventh month of the Iranian calendar year (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) climbed to 38.9 percent, marking a 1.4 percentage-point rise from the previous month, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) reported on Tuesday.

The report showed

that point-to-point inflation — measuring the percentage change in the consumer price index (CPI) compared with the same month a year earlier — stood at 48.6 percent, which means Iranian households spent, on average, 48.6% more than they did in the same month last year to purchase an identical set of goods and services,

IRNA reported.

The SCI added that the point-to-point inflation rate rose by 3.3 percentage points from the previous month. According to the data, the consumer price index for Iranian households reached 403.8 in the stated period, showing a 5.0% monthly increase, a 48.6% rise year-on-year.

Nahid marks step toward national satellite internet: *ISRC* Iran plans to develop own version of Starlink

Economy Desk

The head of Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC) announced on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic already has the infrastructure for satellite internet, with the Nahid satellite as its first example.

The satellite, now in orbit, can transmit and receive data in the Ku-band (a frequency band in satellite communication that spans from approximately 12 to 18 gigahertz (GHz) in the electromagnetic spectrum), marking a major milestone in the country's space communications capabilities, Vahid Yazdanian told ILNA.

"While Nahid provides the foundation," he noted that a "fully operational satellite internet network would require at least 40 to 50 similar satellites to ensure global coverage and connection to the international network."

Most countries build such satellites collaboratively, and Iran is exploring international partnerships, including discussions with China and Russia, to leverage external expertise, he added. The member of the Supreme Space Council highlighted that Nahid oper-



ates in low Earth Orbit (LEO), similar to satellites in the Starlink constellation, whereas geostationary satellites (GEO) would be needed for broadcasting purposes.

"The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has plans to develop an Iranian version of Starlink," he said.

According to the official, Iran annual-

ly launches several observation and communications satellites, and if tests prove successful, launch frequency will increase.

Financing and launch costs remain key challenges. Regarding a timeline for a national satellite internet network, he said. "An exact date cannot be announced, but medium-term access to this technology is achievable."

Test flights of indigenous 'Simorgh' transport aircraft begins in Isfahan

Economy Desk

Iran has begun test flying its domestically made Simorgh aircraft in the central province of Isfahan, aiming to meet the requirements for an airworthiness certificate from the Civil Aviation Organization, Mehr news agency reported on Tuesday.

The twin-engine Simorgh, designed to carry up to 6,000 kilograms of cargo over 3,900 kilometers, has a maximum takeoff weight of 21,500 kilograms and engines producing 2,500 horsepower each. It took 15 years to be designed and built at the Shahin Shahr Special

Aviation Industrial Zone.

Starting Tuesday, with approval from the Civil Aviation Organization, the Simorgh has entered the test flight phase to fulfill airworthiness requirements and is expected to complete approximately 100 hours of flight tests, the report added.

Once this phase concludes and the STC certificate is obtained, the aircraft will be added to the country's transport fleet.

The ceremony to begin the test flights was attended by Hossein Pourfarzaneh, head of the Civil Aviation Organization, along with senior military and government officials.



"Fewer than 20 countries in the world have the capability to design and manufacture aircraft," Pourfarzaneh said pointing to Iran's position in aviation technology.

"Iran is among them, having achieved technical knowledge to design and build transport aircraft relying on domestic expertise and young talent," he added.

Lasting Iran-US ...

However, Iran would be better off managing its affairs in a way that keeps the need for negotiations with Washington to an absolute minimum.

Araghchi has recently stated that as long as Washington's hegemonic policies persist and Iran continues to resist, differences will remain. In such circumstances, what scenarios could help de-escalate tensions or resolve disputes? Could third-party involvement make a difference?

The US has left Iran with no choice but to stand its ground.

The experience of negotiation and agreement with Washington has even brought Iran to the brink of existential threat. This has proven that the least costly path for Iran is to boost its military, economic, and political power.

Iran must continue on this path by tapping into its domestic strengths as well as regional and international capacities. After all, Washington faces challenges with numerous global players, and its hegemonic policies have triggered resistance across many fronts. This, in turn, presents Iran with opportunities to navigate its way through critical junctures in its confrontation with the US.