

# President pledges staunch support for domestic industry, production

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the government is determined “to remove barriers to production” and push the country forward with dignity and confidence, stressing strong coordination among the heads of the three branches of power to advance Iran’s development path. Speaking at a meeting with investors and business leaders during a provincial trip to Qazvin Province, Pezeshkian said the government has “no limitations” when it comes to creating the conditions needed for industrial expansion, IRNA reported. He emphasized that sustained, direct dialogue between the administration and the country’s economic sectors is essential, noting that the government has introduced a structured plan for monthly consultations with chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, and representatives from industrial and petrochemical fields. Two sessions have been held so far, Pezeshkian added. These conversations, he said, are meant to identify obstacles in detail and find practical solutions so that relevant ministries can work directly with producers to remove bottlenecks and implement agreed measures. Pezeshkian said economic actors play a central role in the national economy and that the government “never sees itself as a competitor to the private sector,” stressing that Iran’s governance system is built to serve those driving production and investment.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a meeting with investors and business leaders during a provincial trip to Qazvin Province, on November 20, 2025. [president.ir](#)

He said the state’s role is to provide security, a predictable regulatory environment and better investment conditions so private-sector operators can function with confidence, enabling the country to grow.

Shift from oil dependence to industrial growth

He added that years of reliance on oil revenues had diverted sectors from their core mission, leading many to finance their expenditures through crude sales rather than domestic industry and production. “With oil sales now facing constraints and difficulties, the need to return to a production-based path and support domestic industry is clearer than ever,” he said. If managerial mindsets are reformed and the ground is prepared for industrialists, producers and investors, “sanctions will lose their effectiveness.” Iran has been under Western sanctions for decades over its nuclear activities, pressure that has weighed most heavily on its oil and energy sectors. On energy policy, Pezeshkian said Iran is adopting a “fresh approach,” calling for full use of the country’s solar potential. “We should no longer rely solely on oil, gas and gasoline,” he said. “The sun is a constant and clean source placed at humanity’s



disposal and can support Iran’s energy future.” He said cooperation across institutions would accelerate the installation of solar panels in Qazvin and nationwide to ensure sustainable energy and strengthen domestic production. 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 president also highlighted the importance of Qazvin’s water recycling initiative, calling it a strategic project that can help address water scarcity and improve efficiency.

New projects rolled out

On Thursday, two major infra-

structure and investment agreements were signed: one for the Talaqan-to-Qazvin drinking water transfer project to support long-term water security, and another for the first phase of the Nasim Salamat medical tourism complex aimed at attracting investment and expanding health tourism in the region. In addition, Phase II of a de-

tergent powder project and a seamless steel pipe production project in the Khoramdasht industrial zone were inaugurated, marking a boost for the northern province’s industrial supply chain. Pezeshkian also launched 4,972 National Housing units online, a move intended to accelerate homeownership for residents of Qazvin Province.

## Iran’s aquatic exports top \$500m, reach 61 countries: *Union chief*

By Javad Mohammad Ali  
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Iran exported 202,000 tons of fishery products to 61 countries across the globe in the last Iranian calendar year starting March 21, 2024, with a total value exceeding \$500 million when aquafeed is included, according to Ali Akbar Khodaei, the secretary-general of Aquatics’ Production and Trade Union of Iran. Khodaei told Iran Daily that Iran’s seafood shipments — covering marine species; fish whose meat is considered haram (forbidden) under Islamic law, such as horse mackerel and cuttlefish; warm-water species like carp; cold-water species such as trout; as well as dried fish, canned tuna, caviar and ornamental fish — reached 202,000 tons last year. Based on customs benchmark prices, the value of these goods stood at \$401 million, but “if the value of exported aquafeed is added, the to-



tal exceeds \$500 million.” A comparison with the previous two years highlights steady growth. Two years ago, Iran exported 153,000 tons of aquatics (excluding feed) worth \$326 million. In aquafeed — including feed, supplements and fishmeal — exports jumped from 53,000 tons valued at \$45 million two years ago to 114,000 tons worth \$96 million last year. Khodaei said the aquafeed industry has “significant capacity to meet domestic demand and supply various export markets.” Marine species, particu-

larly “haram meat” fish typically sold to non-Muslim countries, account for the bulk of total fishery exports, followed by shrimp, carp, trout, dried fish, caviar and canned tuna. In the first half of the current Iranian year, which began March 21, 2025, Iran exported 84,000 tons of fishery products valued at \$208 million, slightly above the 82,000 tons worth about \$198 million shipped in the same period last year. Export momentum usually accelerates in the second half of the year, he said.

Marine and “haram meat” species again led first-half exports, generating \$82 million. Shrimp exports were valued at \$28 million, canned tuna at \$12 million, carp and other warm-water fish at around \$10 million and trout at \$2.5 million and caviar at \$2 million.

Export destinations

According to the official, Iranian caviar is exported to more than 30 countries, shrimp to 17 countries, and marine and “haram meat” fish to around 15 countries across East and Southeast Asia. “Iran exports aquatic products to all neighboring countries,” Khodaei said. Overall, Iranian aquatic products reach 61 global markets. Some buyers, such as the Netherlands and Germany, import only caviar, while others — notably Turkey — purchase “all products and even their aquafeed from Iran.” China mainly buys shrimp and marine fish, Russia imports trout and shrimp, and neighboring countries show stronger demand for trout and carp, he said.

## METAFO draws 700+ firms from 13 countries, depicts industry breadth: *Minister*

Economy Desk

The 22nd Iran Metallurgy Expo opened in Tehran with 723 companies participating from 13 countries, with Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak saying that the turnout “reflects the breadth and diversity of the metallurgy and mining industry in the country.”

The Iran METAFO opened Thursday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds with 723 participating companies, including 610 domestic and 113 foreign firms from 13 countries. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Atabak described the event as “one of the most active and reputable exhibitions in the country,” IRNA reported. The exhibition features the latest achievements, products, equipment, and innovations across iron and steel, casting and mold-making, non-ferrous metals,



mining and mineral industries, furnaces, refractory materials, and industrial ceramics. The event provides a platform for exchanging experiences, introducing new technologies, and fostering industrial cooperation at national and regional levels. Atabak noted that attendance this year has improved compared to previous editions, with both the number of participants and quality of exhibits rising, allowing visitors to see notable developments. Foreign participants in this year’s event include companies from



Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak (3rd from left) poses for a photo with other officials at the opening ceremony of the 22nd Iran Metallurgy Expo in Tehran on November 20, 2025. [IRNA](#)

Malaysia, Italy, China, Turkey, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Sweden, India, South Africa, Spain, and Austria. The 22nd Iran International Metallurgy Exhibition will continue through Sunday at Tehran’s Permanent International Fairgrounds, welcoming industry professionals, enthusiasts, and specialists.