

Pezeshkian: Gov't prioritizing rail corridors, electric public transport



Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the government's top transport priority is expanding public fleets — especially trains and buses — and completing national rail corridors, while steering public transport toward electrification to slash pollution and long-term costs. Speaking in Tehran on Tuesday at a specialized meeting reviewing the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development's actions on suburban and regional rail development around the capital, Pezeshkian outlined requirements for managing rail transport projects, according to president.ir. "The government's strategy is to move public transport toward electrification as much as possible, because this approach will reduce air pollution, improve energy efficiency and lower long-term costs," Pezeshkian added. He said universities and research centers play a key role in rail development, adding that leveraging the scientific capacity of universities and national elites is essential so that the rail network can

be designed, implemented and operated in a principled, scientific manner based on precise studies. The meeting assessed progress on presidential directives and examined the latest status of Iran's rail fleet, particularly across Tehran and surrounding cities. Officials presented updates including the relaunch of halted rail-buses, implementation of a national management structure for the suburban trains development headquarters, preparation of a draft strategic document for Tehran's suburban rail development, and reviews of financing plans for related projects. At the meeting, Pezeshkian said he had received "the progress report on the Tehran Province suburban train projects in person today," adding, "It is planned that within three years, with secured funding, passenger capacity will rise from 6.9 million to 160 million trips." According to Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd, there is a shortfall of 6,000 intercity buses, and two key measures have been taken to address the gap,

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) chairs a specialized meeting reviewing the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development's actions on suburban and regional rail development around Tehran on December 16, 2025. [president.ir](#)

with results expected by the end of next year. According to Sadeq Malvajerd, beyond infrastructure and the completion of rail corridors — which have been emphasized at the highest levels — locomotive shortages and a sharp decline in availability have been among the most serious challenges in recent years, with the number of operable locomotives falling below 50% last year, an unprecedented level in the railway's history. Under Iran's Seventh Development Plan, 30% of the country's freight must be transported by rail, with at least 40 million tons moved via rail transit by the end of the plan (2028). Parliamentary Civil Commission Chairman Mohammad Reza Rezaei Kouchi has said, "This shows that any level of investment in this sector will be in line with the law and the interests of the people."

Iran strikes preliminary extra-terrestrial farming deals on 1.7m hectares, minister says

Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah said on Wednesday that the ministry has reached preliminary agreements for extra-terrestrial farming on about 1.7 million hectares of land in Russia, Kenya and Tanzania. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran, Nouri Qezeljah said, "In extra-terrestrial cultivation, preliminary agreements have been reached for about 200,000 hectares in Russia, 500,000 hectares in Kenya and 1 million hectares in Tanzania," IRNA reported. He added that the executive guideline for overseas agriculture has been uploaded to the government portal, a move aimed at facilitating the implementation of the



policy. Iran has introduced major plans to boost its agricultural output in recent years as it strives to keep pace with rising food demand. The country has a population of more than 86 million people and a rising demand for food. According to an official in the ministry, Iran has set a target to expand its overseas farming to two million hectares by 2029. In November, Reza Fo-

touhi, who leads overseas farming projects in the ministry, said that lands used for corn farming in Brazil by Iranian companies had reached 50,000 hectares, adding that the country is also engaged in overseas farming of barley, oil seeds, and soybean in Kazakhstan and also in smaller projects in Belarus and Russia. He said private Iranian companies have also launched extra-terrestrial farming projects in

Ghana, Armenia, and Pakistan.

Performance in fisheries sector

On the ministry's performance in the fisheries sector, an assessment of achievements aligned with the development of the maritime-based economy showed strong growth, Nouri Qezeljah said. "We have seen about 30% growth in fisheries and fishing — from shrimp farming to distant-water fishing and aquaculture — which shows the high capacity in this field," he said. "In this regard, investments are being directed toward infrastructure so that we can make maximum use of this God-given potential and the opportunities available in our land and surrounding waters," he added.

Japan eyes post-sanctions investment in Iran's energy sector: Envoy

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Japan is interested in investing in Iran's oil, gas and petrochemical sectors and in partnering on the construction and rehabilitation of the country's energy infrastructure, the Japanese ambassador to Tehran said, stressing, however, that any such engagement depends on the removal of international sanctions against the Islamic Republic. In an interview with Iran Daily, Tamaki Tsukada said Japan is particularly focused on investment and joint participation in Iran's petrochemical sector and refinery construction, adding that Japanese companies had cooperated with Iran in such fields for many years before sanctions were imposed. "Japan had long-standing cooperation with Iran in these areas prior to the sanctions, and joint investment in oil, gas and petrochemicals is of great importance to us," Tsukada said, adding that anti-Iran sanctions have placed severe constraints on economic relations. The Islamic Republic has been under Western sanctions for decades over its nuclear activities. Beyond affecting the oil and energy sectors, the embargoes have imposed costs even on humanitarian areas, including access to medicines. He said the restrictions are not limited to Japan-Iran ties, but affect all countries seeking economic engagement with Iran due to the sanctions. "We hope Iran can resolve its nuclear issue as soon as possible and normalize relations with other countries, so that sanctions and economic restrictions can be lifted," he said. "Once sanctions are removed, we will be able to expand our relations further." On Japan's potential role in maintaining dialogue and reducing tensions between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Tsukada referred to Japan's experience following the Fukushima nuclear disaster about 14 years ago, when an earthquake and tsunami led to reactor failures and radioactive leaks. After the incident, Japan strengthened its relations with the agency, he said. "Japan can use its good relations with the IAEA, and whenever Iran's cooperation with the agency resumes, we can help



Tamaki Tsukada
IRAN DAILY

strengthen that cooperation and play an important bridging role between Iran and the IAEA," he added. The Board of Governors of the IAEA in November adopted an anti-Iranian resolution, drafted by the European Troika — France, Germany and the UK — and the United States that urges Tehran to "without delay" report on its enriched uranium stockpile and facilities damaged in the June aggression by Israel and the US, while omitting any mention of Iran's longstanding cooperation with the agency. Tsukada also highlighted shared priorities between the two countries in sports, science and technology, saying both nations place great importance on these fields and strive to achieve significant accomplishments. He said Japan-Iran relations have consistently been based on mutual respect and deep cultural and historical ties, with the two nations having a strong understanding of each other due to their long-standing relationship. Despite their geographical distance — with Japan located at the easternmost edge of Asia and Iran in one of its westernmost regions — Tsukada said history has linked the two countries for centuries, including through the ancient Silk Road. "As a result, relations between Iran and Japan date back around 1,500 years," he said.

NGL 3100 plant starts feeding processed flare gas into national grid

Economy Desk

An associated petroleum gas (APG) processing plant in western Iran pumped treated gas into the national trunkline for the first time, as cold weather pushed up energy demand in the country. The NGL 3100 plant in Ilam Province near the Iraqi border launched its first phase in August to capture APG from local oil fields and put an end to the wasteful practice of flaring. APG is a by-product of oil and gas production that is routinely burned off due to shortcomings in infrastructure and technical capability. Peyman Imani, chief executive of the state-owned Iranian Central Oil Fields Company, which runs the facility, said the launch of the full gas processing cycle had enabled methane to be injected into the national pipeline network, Mehr News Agency reported on Wednesday. "Currently, the methane gas produced at this refinery, with a daily capacity of 70 million cubic feet (about 2 million cubic meters) per day, is entering the national



grid," Imani said. The NGL 3100 project includes a gas refining plant and a natural gas liquids processing unit, nine pipelines for feedstock and product transfer, and associated infrastructure. The facility is designed to capture up to 6.8 mcm per day of APG from five oil fields in southern Ilam province, including Cheshmeh-Khosh, West Paydar, East Paydar, Dehloran and Azar. Its main outputs are lean gas, or methane, and natural gas liquids such as C-plus, including C2-plus components such as ethane and heavier hydrocarbons, helping Iran cut back flaring and bring onstream additional gas supplies.