

# Pezeshkian: Gov't reforms to energy, forex aimed at tackling rent-seeking, capital flight

## Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tuesday that the government is implementing sweeping reforms to its energy subsidy and foreign exchange systems, aiming to end entrenched rent-seeking practices and prevent capital flight.

"Through reforms on gasoline and gasoil, the government is directly and fairly depositing subsidies into citizens' bank accounts to root out rent-seeking and stop capital outflows," Pezeshkian said, SHANA reported.

"This recent move does not mean the elimination of subsidies. Rather, subsidies are now being paid directly to the accounts of all citizens to ensure justice in resource distribution and prevent corruption."

The administration decided to supply foreign currency for essential goods and production inputs through a secondary market platform operated by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). Under the plan — which will take effect with the new fiscal year beginning March 21 — priority access to foreign exchange for basic goods and inputs will be allocated via the designated market platform and the CBI's dedicated



gateway.

Officials said the redesign seeks to eliminate distortions caused by multiple exchange rates, reduce uncertainty for economic actors, and establish lasting market stability.

"In sectors like gasoline and gasoil, the public must first be assured that the government is directly and fairly transferring all subsidies into individual accounts," Pezeshkian said. "Instead of allowing select groups — through import

over-invoicing, export under-invoicing, and false declarations to obtain foreign currency — to drain capital from the country, we have decided to halt this harmful practice at its roots."

On the budget front, lawmakers in Iran's Parliament approved the general outlines of next year's budget bill in a public session on Monday by a majority vote. The government has capped overall budget growth at just 2%.

"A 2% budget increase means the government has compressed its expenditures as much as possible," Pezeshkian noted. "On one hand, there is public expectation for salary increases; on the other, we are committed not to raise taxes despite limited national revenue and oil sales constrained by sanctions." "In such conditions, if we fail to make realistic decisions, we will push the country toward crisis and then complain about its consequences," he added.

In the energy sector, Iran produces and consumes approximately 9 million barrels of oil and gas per day, with the bulk used domestically and a portion exported despite significant challenges. "Just a 10% reduction in consumption could free up substantial resources," Pezeshkian said.

## Solar inverter, testing lab launched to boost renewable chain

### Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref announced in an online ceremony on Tuesday the launch of a domestically produced 250-kilowatt solar inverter and the commissioning of a reference laboratory for solar inverters.

Aref described the production of the 250-kilowatt solar inverter as a very appropriate step that "can address part of the country's needs in establishing a domestic solar power supply chain," IRNA reported.



First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (c) orders the launch of a 250-kilowatt solar inverter and a reference laboratory for solar inverters in an online ceremony on January 6, 2026. [fvpresident.ir](http://fvpresident.ir)

He added that operating the reference laboratory for solar inverters "plays a significant role in harmonizing the solar power generation chain, achieving self-sufficiency, and enhancing production."

Aref emphasized the importance of solar energy in rectifying imbalances in Iran's energy sector, stating, "In the energy domain, we must pursue diversification and a decentralized strategy to minimize our vulnerability."

He noted that two years ago, the previous government approved a national plan for solar power systems and the full supply chain. "One component concerns solar power generation, but the plan goes beyond electricity production," Aref said, adding that the Pezeshkian administration aims to achieve a significant leap in output beyond the 5% annual target. The Pezeshkian government aims to install 30,000 MW of non-fossil capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year.

Separately, on Tuesday, Mohsen Tarzatab, head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), announced that the country's renewable energy capacity had surpassed 3,500 megawatts.

### Expansion of nuclear power capacity

Also on Tuesday, Musa Ahmadi, chairman of Parliament's Energy Committee, announced plans to develop 2,000 megawatts of new nuclear power capacity.

Speaking at an event marking the 303-megawatt renewable commissioning, Ahmadi told ILNA that "Iran's current nuclear power generation capacity stands at around 1,000 megawatts with the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran, but expanding nuclear electricity is on the agenda."

"Planning is underway to construct 2,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity, and nuclear power generation will expand in the coming years," he added.

## ADVERTORIAL

### "Mobarakeh Steel: From Promoting Environmental Awareness to Reducing Pollutants International Certifications and the Path Toward Lowering Our Carbon Footprint," stated the head of Environment Department of Mobarakeh Steel Company



"Mobarakeh Steel's participation in the first Green Technologies Exhibition was not merely about showcasing equipment; rather, the company aims to introduce a new pathway focused on managing resources, reducing pollution, and raising environmental awareness, extending from power plants throughout the entire supply chain," said the head of the Environment Department at Mobarakeh Steel Company.

Behnam Kaviani, the head of the Environment Department at Mobarakeh Steel, elaborated on the company's objectives for participating in the first Green Technologies and Clean Energy Exhibition: "Mobarakeh Steel Group seeks not only to present its environmental achievements but also to promote a culture of environmental protection among its employees and across the nation."

He further emphasized the necessity of leading companies' involvement in such events, adding, "Familiarizing stakeholders with Mobarakeh Steel's environmental status and the measures already implemented helps raise public awareness and fosters a culture of carbon reduction."

The head of Mobarakeh environment department put stress on the fact that transitioning toward clean energy, particularly solar power, is a global imperative and Iran must increase its contribution along this path to ensure cleaner cities and more sustainable prosperity for future generations.

He then outlined Mobarakeh Steel's environmental initiatives, stating: "Over recent years, the company has taken concrete steps to manage its environmental impact. Environmental considerations have been integral since the plant's inception, and extensive studies, including Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), have been carried out for all major projects."

As stated by Behnam Kaviani, the measures implemented include:

- Significant expansion of green spaces within the plant premises;
- Execution of water recycling projects and reduced extraction from natural water sources;

- Deployment of heat recovery and thermal recycling systems in power plants;
- Enhancement of combined-cycle power plant efficiency, recovering approximately 300 megawatts of energy.

Kaviani stated: "These initiatives demonstrate that Mobarakeh Steel has sought to go beyond its conventional responsibilities by dedicating part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs specifically to carbon reduction and environmental protection."

He added that this year, Mobarakeh Steel successfully obtained ISO 14064 and ISO 14067 certifications for greenhouse gas accounting and management. "These certifications enable the company to identify high-risk areas in its production processes and implement more targeted strategies to reduce emissions," he explained. The head of Mobarakeh Steel's Environment Department further emphasized: "Alongside these efforts, emerging tools such as the circular economy, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation have been prioritized as key enablers for carbon reduction and enhanced productivity."

Kaviani also outlined Mobarakeh Steel's proposed future plans. In his view, the company should:

- Increase its share of renewable energy;
- Transition its internal transportation fleet toward clean electricity;
- Utilize higher-grade iron ore with lower carbon and sulfur content;
- Optimize the use of desalinated seawater transferred from the Sea of Oman and prevent wastage.

He identified the adoption of hydrogen as a clean fuel in steelmaking processes as a critical future direction for the steel industry, noting: "Success in this area hinges on the affordable and cost-effective production of hydrogen, a subject that must be placed firmly on the national research agenda."

Kaviani also stressed the importance of strengthening the circular economy, stating: "Greater use of scrap metal in production reduces both energy consumption and pollution. Establishing a comprehensive, integrated system for scrap collection and utilization can significantly minimize waste and boost efficiency."

He added: "Moreover, monitoring supply chain and distribution partners and requiring them to comply with environmental standards is another essential focus that must be pursued more rigorously."

In conclusion, Kaviani highlighted the significance of digital transformation, data analytics, and artificial intelligence, saying: "Any delay in adopting these technologies could undermine the company's productivity and competitive advantage. Purposeful use of industrial data will lead to better decision-making and further reductions in pollution."

## Armenia to access Iran's railway via Nakhchivan: Azeri president



### Economy Desk

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on Monday that Armenia will gain access to Iran's railway network through the autonomous republic of Nakhchivan, as part of broader plans to connect the region's railways, according to Azerbaijan's Azertaj news agency.

Aliyev said that Baku intends to connect the regions of Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur to Nakhchivan, noting that Armenia would also benefit from the project. "Roads between Armenia and Azerbaijan and between Armenia and Turkey will be opened, and Armenia will have access to Iran's railway through Nakhchivan and to Russia's railway through Azerbaijan," he said in an interview with Azerbaijani media, IRNA reported.

Back on August 8, Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed the US-mediated peace deal at the White House. The accord includes the creation of a transit corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan — a longstanding demand of Baku.

"Currently, travel from Azerbaijan's main territory to Nakhchivan requires a longer route through Bilasuvar, — the capital of the Bilasuvar District of Azerbaijan," Aliyev added. In the future, the journey will cover only 45–50 kilometers through Iranian territory, creating two connections from the main part of Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan; one via Iran and the other via Armenia, Aliyev said.

The Azerbaijani president also emphasized the need for a railway line connecting Nakhchivan to Turkey.