

Minister says essential goods supply secured amid international pressure

Economy Desk

Iran is capable of supplying essential goods and foodstuffs under any circumstances, whether through the coupon system or without it, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah said Wednesday on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting.

"In the past 1.5 years, essential goods have been abundantly supplied throughout the country despite war and international pressures, and we have no supply problems," IRNA quoted the minister as saying.

"In the first days of coupon-based sales, occasional shortages were reported which our colleagues immediately addressed, but we have received no shortage reports since two to three days after the food coupon plan's launch," he added.

The presidency's website said in early January that amid continued economic pressures and with the aim of ensuring food security, improving livelihoods and increasing stability and predictability in the economy, a comprehensive government support plan comprising 15 articles has formally entered the implementation phase. The

government also announced a major expansion of its food coupon program to help ease pressure on consumers from rising staple food prices. In the first phase, and on an interim basis, the plan would allocate 10 million rials per month (approximately \$6.25) in purchasing credit per person for 80 million Iranian citizens for a period of four months.

"In the past two weeks we faced a sudden mass demand in the market; in the first phase of the coupon system, nearly 80 million people purchased essential goods valued at \$481.25 billion," the minister said.

According to an ISNA report Wednesday, customs data showed 158,232 tons of various essential goods entered the country in the past 24 hours, including 245 tons of red meat. During the same period, 6,640 trucks carrying essential goods were loaded and departed from the country's customs points. The minister continued: "Needed goods, primarily essential items and agricultural food products, have been made sufficiently available to the people." "This situation demonstrates the government's efficiency and



coordination across all sectors related to food security, which

has been able to meet needs to this extent, and the country's

food security infrastructure is capable of supplying food re-

quirements under any conditions," he said.

Wastewater network reaches 9m connections, covers 56% of population: *Official*



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Iran's wastewater connections have reached nearly 9 million and the network's length has expanded to 75,000 kilometers, a senior official from the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company said at the 18th national conference on

wastewater operations in southern port of Bushehr, according to ISNA.

"Currently 41 million people are covered by the wastewater network, meaning nearly 56% of the country's population falls under this network's coverage," said Mor-teza Ehteshami, Director General of the Wastewater Op-

eration Supervision Department at the company.

"Currently, 278 urban wastewater treatment plants and 44 rural treatment plants are active across the country," he added.

"Over six million cubic meters of wastewater are collected daily in more than 300 cities covered by

the wastewater system," he said. "The country's current effluent production volume stands at 1.8 billion cubic meters." "For better maintenance of the wastewater network, dredging, videometry and network washing have been placed among the strategic priorities of the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, and companies must improve their performance to reach the predetermined percentages in relevant indicators," Ehteshami said. "The largest volume of produced effluent is used in agriculture, with a small portion allocated to industry, and companies are required to increase the industrial usage share," he added.

Deterrence in shadow

The inability to accurately model the "escalation ladder" has turned every attack scenario into a high-stakes gamble—a gamble in which the initiator of the conflict will not necessarily call the shots on its course and conclusion. In today's interconnected world, where the global economy and energy security have become the Achilles' heel of major powers, this risk takes on more complex dimensions. The concern over Iran's creative and unconventional responses

es—responses that could impact energy flows, the security of international waterways, or the stability of global markets—drives up the cost of war beyond the "acceptable" range. When a state actor cannot be sure that a conflict will be confined to purely military targets and sees the possibility of the rules of the game being transformed, strategic logic dictates that the military option be set aside. From this perspective, the current situation should not be seen

as a sign of lasting peace. What has prevented war is a kind of balance based on fear and ambiguity—a situation in which the adversary steers clear of entering a dark tunnel with an unknown end and, instead of direct confrontation, falls back on political, economic, and diplomatic pressure tools. As long as this ambiguity regarding the manner, timing, and intensity of Iran's response persists, the likelihood of a full-scale war in the short term will fall victim to rational cost-benefit calculations.

Foreign trade value drops 11% despite 2% rise in volume

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Iran's total foreign trade value reached \$94.123 billion in the first 10 months of the current Persian calendar year that began on March 21, 2025, marking an 11.36% decline. By weight, the country's total foreign trade amounted to 163.213 million tons in this period, showing a 2% increase, Iran's Customs Administration announced on Wednesday, as reported by ISNA. During this period,



130.036 million tons of various goods valued at \$45.015 billion were exported to different countries, registering a 1.44% rise in weight but a 6.3%

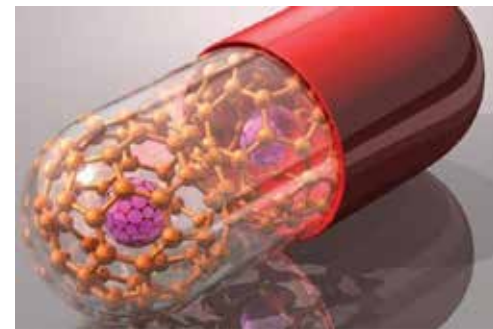
drop in value compared with the same period last year. In the first 10 months of the current year, 33.177 million tons of goods valued at

\$49.107 billion were imported into the country, reflecting a 4.6% increase by weight and a 15.6% decrease in value year on year.

Iranian firm secures US patent for nano-cocrystal curcumin tech

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A nano-cocrystal curcumin invention developed by an Iranian knowledge-based company has been registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, with support from Iran's Intellectual Property Management Center (IPMC), ISNA reported on Wednesday. The invention has been commercialized with the technology already introduced to markets through three human-consumption products — oral lozenges, oral vials and beverages — and two animal products. Nano-cocrystal cur-



cumin represents a next-generation bioactive compound technology designed to enhance oral absorption of curcumin. The compound traditionally suffers from less than one percent oral absorption due to extremely low water solubility. The nano-cocrystal approach

has increased this absorption rate by more than 100 times. According to Iran's Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the technology integrates cocrystal and nanocrystal sciences to create a fully soluble and stable nano-dimensional form of curcumin.

The advancement enables incorporation of curcumin into diverse food and pharmaceutical formulations while reducing required dosage to less than one-tenth of existing market products, potentially delivering significant effects for joint pain, migraines and various cancers, vice presidency said. Unique features of the technology include a more than 10,000-fold increase in water solubility, high stability under varied storage conditions, and the capacity to convert curcumin into a natural energizer, the vice presidency added.