

Pezeshkian hails completion of Ardabil-Mianeh railway after 22 years

Economy Desk

Iran has completed the 173-kilometer Ardabil-Mianeh railway in northwest of Iran after 22 years despite crises, wars, sanctions and other challenges, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, Pezeshkian made the remarks during a webinar marking the inauguration of the railway line, saying construction of the project had begun more than two decades ago. He said that, based on standard procedures and the usual pace of project execution in recent years, the remaining sections should have taken three to four years to complete, but the government finished the work within 18 months by mobilizing all its capabilities.

"The completion of this project has shown that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to move forward even under the

most difficult crisis conditions and, with the cooperation of officials, lawmakers and the noble people, will overcome challenges," he said.

The country, already hit by Western sanctions over its nuclear program, has also faced growing external economic and maritime pressure following a US-Israeli military conflict that began on February 28. The tensions were accompanied by additional US restrictions targeting Iran's shipping and oil trade, including measures described as a naval blockade imposed since mid-April.

The railway line was completed to facilitate passenger and freight transportation, expand transport infrastructure in northwestern Iran and respond to the long-standing demands of the people of Ardabil Province.

Also speaking at the official inauguration ceremony on

Tuesday, Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd described the railway project as "a technical and engineering masterpiece created by the sons of Iran and a symbol of resilience in the face of limitations."

The project consists of 12 sections, with 35% of the route passing through mountainous and difficult terrain, 45% through hilly areas and 20% across plains.

Its technical features include the country's tallest railway bridge, standing 81 meters high, 27 kilometers of tunnels and the excavation of seven kilometers of galleries, making it one of Iran's most challenging infrastructure projects.

According to project officials, the Ardabil-Mianeh railway ultimately included the construction of 62 tunnels with a combined length of 23,810 meters, four kilometers of large valley



Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd unveils a memorial plaque at the inauguration of the 173-kilometer Ardabil-Mianeh railway on June 9, 2026.

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bridges, three kilometers of waterway bridges and 10 galleries extending four kilometers.

The scale of construction was extensive, requiring about 35,000 metric tons of steel materials, including structural

steel, reinforcing bars and cables, as well as approximately 220,000 metric tons of cement to complete the railway.

Mobarakeh Steel furnace resumes production after wartime damage

Economy Desk

A production furnace at Iran's Mobarakeh Steel Company that was damaged during an Israeli attack has resumed operations after repairs, Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak said on Tuesday.

According to Mehr news agency, Atabak said at the site that Furnace No. 8 at Mobarakeh Steel "today was brought back into production through the efforts of specialists and workers after sustaining damage during the attack."

"Steel is one of the most influential sectors in the national economy and employment, particularly Mobarakeh Steel, which, as the country's largest steel complex, plays a significant role in Iran's industrial production and development," he said. Mobarakeh Steel and Khuzestan Steel, which account for nearly half of the country's steel output —



Furnace No. 8 at Mobarakeh Steel resumes operations in a ceremony attended by Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak (4th L), along with specialists and workers, on June 9, 2026.

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were targeted in airstrikes during the US-Israeli war that began in late February, according to industry sources. The attacks in March struck storage silo facilities, the sources said.

He said assessments showed that 3,003 industrial units across the country had sustained damage. Many of them, including the Mobarakeh Steel complex, were key upstream industries whose products serve as raw materials for a large number of companies and downstream manufacturers.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley have

estimated that the attacks eliminated between 13 million and 15 million metric tons of Iran's annual steel production capacity. That loss is equivalent to 24% to 27% of the country's total installed capacity and roughly 41% to 47% of Iran's estimated 2025 steel output.

Vahid Yaghoubi, secretary of Iran's Steel Association, also announced last month in a report on the industry's postwar outlook that the country's steel sector was expected to maintain its position as the world's 10th-largest producer despite losing about 30% of its capacity in the attacks.

Tehran airport says foreign airlines set for return 'in coming weeks'

Economy Desk

A senior official with Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport City announced on Tuesday that foreign airlines have begun the process of returning to the Iranian market "in the coming weeks."

Javad Salehi Artimani, deputy for airport operations at the Imam Khomeini International Airport City Company, said the airport was ready to handle all scheduled and extra flights after maintaining operational readiness during a period of flight restrictions.

"With the completion of the audits and evaluations required by foreign airlines in line with national and international standards, we will witness the gradual return of foreign carriers and an increase in the number of international flights in the coming weeks," he said.

Salehi Artimani said that throughout the period of flight restrictions, airport infrastructure, equipment and operational personnel remained fully prepared while planning was carried out

to ensure the rapid and safe resumption of services, he added.

Iran's airspace gradually reopened after a ceasefire was reached between Washington and Tehran on April 8, ending a 40-day conflict launched by the US-Israeli coalition in late February.

Last month, Imam Khomeini International Airport City Chief Executive Ramin Kashf-Azar said foreign airlines were in talks to resume flights to Iran and had announced their readiness to return to the market. He said negotiations were underway as conditions stabilized following the conflict.

Iran Air European routes

Separately, Iranian lawmaker Mohammadreza Rezaei Kouchi told ILNA on Saturday that, after about a year of legal follow-up and continuous negotiations, Iran Air would once again operate flights to European destinations. He said European routes for Iran Air would gradually become operational and described the development as the result of what he called Iran's display

of military strength in recent months, as well as continued negotiations and dialogue with the other parties.

The European Union imposed sanctions in October 2024 on seven individuals and seven entities, including Iran Air, Saha Airlines and Mahan Air over their alleged links to Iranian transfers of ballistic missiles to Russia. According to Tasnim, Iran Air Chief Executive Taher Abdolahi said last week that the efforts to resume flights to European destinations were ongoing.

However, there has been no official announcement from the EU indicating that the sanctions have been lifted. Instead, the Council of the European Union has decided to extend EU sanctions in response to alleged human rights violations in Iran until April 13, 2027.

Rezaei Kouchi also said two Airbus A330 aircraft had returned to the Iran Air fleet after financial issues were resolved. He said the aircraft had previously been taken back from the airline and were returned after those financial problems were settled.

Minister says 30m cubic meters of gas processing capacity restored after war

Economy Desk

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Tuesday that Iran has restored about 30 million cubic meters of gas processing capacity lost during the US-Israeli war, which began in late February. Speaking at a meeting with lawmakers in Parliament's Article 90 Commission, Paknejad said around 30 million cubic meters of the 230 million cubic meters of gas processing capacity that had been lost during the conflict had now been recovered.

He made the remarks during the session with members of the parliamentary commission, describing the restoration as a recovery of part of the country's lost gas pro-



cessing capacity. Israeli air strike in March damaged several gas-processing facilities along the coast of Bushehr Province.

The partial recovery follows earlier efforts by the oil and gas sector to restore production after the conflict. Touraj Dehqani, chief executive of the state-run Pars Oil and Gas Company, said previously that technical and operational measures implemented in

the downstream sector, together with the use of spare capacity at operating refineries, had helped mitigate the impact of the disruption.

Dehqani also said gas extraction had resumed at three offshore platforms in the South Pars gas field after output was suspended following the air strike. The offshore platforms themselves were not damaged in the attacks, he said.

War-inflicted communication infrastructure losses hit \$386m: ICT chief



Sattar Hashemi
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Economy Desk

Iran's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Minister Sattar Hashemi said on Tuesday that damage to the country's communication infrastructure during a recent 40-day war with a US-Israeli coalition was estimated at 68 trillion rials (\$386

million). Speaking at his first postwar press conference with reporters, Hashemi outlined damage to the space industry and communications infrastructure following the conflict, which began in late February, according to IRNA.

"During this war, parts of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology's infrastructure were damaged, with total estimated losses across all sectors announced at around 68 trillion rials," he said.

He said a significant portion of the damage was related to the space industry, including the

Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC) and several ground stations.

"However, the most important point is that, fortunately, there were no casualties in these incidents," he said.

He added that some equipment that could be moved had been relocated before being damaged, but other systems could not be transferred quickly due to complex dismantling procedures and time-consuming relocation requirements, and were therefore damaged.

During the conflict, 500 communication sites and more than 100 telecommunications centers were hit, he said.