Government backs green development in industry

287 industrial units vied for top environmental honors

Economy Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Saturday that environmental considerations must be incorporated into all development plans, as 287 industrial and mining units, and services took part in the country's latest assessment of green industries, with 31 receiving the designation.

"Protecting the environment is the ethical and cultural component of every development plan," Aref said at the 25th National Conference on Green Industry, Mining and Services in Tehran.

Aref described the assessment of 287 industrial units for their green practices as encouraging and called for efforts to strengthen the process.

He said the Islamic Republic had never taken a political approach to environmental issues, while saying that Western countries used environmental concerns to pursue monopolistic goals.

The vice president accused Western civilizations of wielding environmental regulations as a "club" to pressure emerging economies, arguing that developed nations had remained silent on carbon emissions and global warming during their own industrialization over the past five decades.

Aref said Iran believed in green development and that environmental issues should be incorporated into development plans rather than treated as an optional annex.

Also speaking at the conference, Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak said industrial development and environmental protection were no longer competing priorities and that sustainable industrial development required a healthy environment.

"Environmental protection is not possible without an efficient, technology-driven and responsible industry," Atabak said.

"The criteria for industrial competition have also changed, and production quality is no longer measured only by the volume of output, the level of investment and access to markets. Water and energy consumption, waste management, production technology, emissions reductions and resource efficiency also directly affect the costs and competitiveness of businesses," he said.

"Green industry today is part of the economic logic of production and is no longer, as in the past,

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref addresses the 25th National Conference on Green Industry, Mining and Services in Tehran, Iran, on August 22, 2026.
ERFAN KHOSHKHOO/ISNA

a decorative and ceremonial choice," Atabak said.

He said a national strategic document on industrial development and upgrading the country's value chains, approved by the government and issued last year, had incorporated environmental considerations, green industry development and energy efficiency into Iran's industrial policy.

The minister cited the recycling of some wastewater from industrial estates, expansion of the recycling industry and waste-management programs as examples of efforts to use resources more efficiently.

He said the selection of leading green industrial units could provide practical models for reducing resource consumption, improving efficiency and creating economic value through green solutions, adding that successful experiences should be measurable and transferable to other production units.

"The issue today is not choosing between industry and the environment, but building a development model that puts both in the service of the country's progress," Atabak said.

The conference was attended by Aref, the head of Iran's Department of Environment, the industry minister and the government spokesman.

The Department of Environment said the assessment covered the performance of companies and industries over the previous two years. About 287 industrial and mining companies and workshops took part in the competition, following a process that began with companies' self-reporting and continued with assessments at the provincial and national levels.

Of the participants, 31 units were ultimately selected as green industries.

Saeed Mahmoudi, the department's deputy for human environment, said Iran had taken legislative steps to protect the environment but had not been successful enough in preserving it.

"We should have done better," Mahmoudi said, adding that environmental attention had focused largely on air pollution while other issues, including soil erosion, had not received sufficient attention.

Tehran Metro Operating Company was the only service-sector unit among the 287 participants and received one gold and two silver trophies at the conference.

Minister opens major chemical plant in Semnan industrial zone

Economy Desk

Iran inaugurated a plant producing adhesives and chemical products in the Semnan Industrial Town on Saturday in a ceremony attended by Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei Saraf.

The facility, located in the eastern Semnan industrial zone, has an annual production capacity of 15,000 metric tons of powdered tile adhesive, 5,700 tons of antifreeze, 260 tons of two-component epoxy adhesive, 3,250 tons of cyanoacrylate-based adhesive, 400 tons of polyurethane-based adhesive and 180 tons of silicone-based adhesive, according to Semnan Province's director-general of industry, mining and trade, Yadegar Ahmadi.

The plant also has an annual capacity to produce 1,100 tons of aluminum tube containers and 2,700 tons of adhesive liquid, according to IRNA.

Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei Saraf (C) inaugurates a plant producing adhesives and chemical products in Semnan Industrial Town, Iran, on August 22, 2026.
IRNA

Ahmadi said the plant's products would be used to meet the needs of various industries, including construction, automotive and home appliances.

He said the plant was one of Iran's specialized producers of industrial adhesives and silicone, with output aimed at meeting part of domestic demand and entering export markets.

The plant is expected to consume 5,950 cubic meters of water, 900 kilowatts of electricity and 140,000 cubic meters of gas annually. Its raw materials will be sourced from domestic and foreign suppliers.

During his one-day visit to northeastern Semnan province, Simaei Saraf also inaugurated two workshop projects at the Science and Technology Park and a geothermal heat pump system at Semnan University's Science and Technology Park. He also attended the launch and groundbreaking of several infrastructure, educational and economic projects.

Tehran stocks hit record high above 6m points

Economy Desk

Tehran's main stock index rose more than 126,000 points on Saturday, breaking above the 6-million-point mark for the first time as the market began the new week with a strong rally.

Thran's main stock index rose 1.83% on Saturday to close at 6,061,000 points, its highest level on record, as liquidity continued to flow into the stock market.

The benchmark index gained 126,447 points by midday, building on gains in recent trading sessions that have been accompanied by increased demand and significant inflows of liquidity into the stock market, according to ISNA.

The index had been steadily approaching the 6-million-point level in recent days and reached the 5.9- million-point range on Wednesday.

The broad-based rise was not limited to a handful of stocks, with increased demand across the market helping drive the index higher. By midday, about 293,785 trades had been recorded, while trading value exceeded 12 trillion rials.

IRNA

Tehran stocks rank second globally in June returns

The strong performance follows a 20.4% monthly gain in Tehran's price index in June, which ranked the exchange second among 75 major stock markets worldwide, according to the World Federation of Exchanges.

Tehran's price index rose 20.4% from the previous month to 884,239 points in June, the federation's latest report showed.

Spain's Valencia Stock Exchange ranked first, with a 23.4% gain, while Indonesia ranked third with a 19.1% increase.

Twenty-four major stock markets recorded declines in June, including US and some European and Arab markets. The Nasdaq fell 2.8% during the month, while the New York Stock Exchange index declined 1.1%.

Most Arab stock markets also fell. Saudi Arabia's index declined 2.5%, Abu Dhabi's fell 0.3%, Kuwait's dropped 1.2% and Jordan's Amman Stock Exchange declined 5.2%.

Hong Kong recorded the steepest decline in June, falling 10.9%, followed by Luxembourg, which fell 10.2%.

Iran pistachio exports to EU rise 6%

Economy Desk

Iran's pistachio exports to the European Union rose 6% in the first half of 2026 to €33.94 million, according to Eurostat data, while overall trade between Iran and the bloc fell 26% to €952 million.

Iran's pistachio exports to the EU totaled 31.85 million euros in the first half of 2025.

Shipments of shelled pistachios rose 8% to €33.6 million in January-June 2026 from 31 million euros a year earlier, while exports of pistachios in shells fell 60% to 340,000 euros from 850,000 euros.

Germany remained the largest European market for Iranian pistachios, with imports of €24.38 million in the first half of 2026 – accounting for 70% of Iran's total pistachio exports to the EU. German imports of Iranian pistachios fell 3% year-on-year.

The United States was the EU's largest supplier overall, with pistachio exports rising 86% to €82 million. US shelled-pistachio shipments to the bloc were roughly on par with Iran's, at about €34 million.

Iran-EU trade drops 26%

Total trade between Iran and the 27-member EU fell 26% year-on-year to €952 million in January-June 2026, from €1.287 billion in the same period of 2025, Eurostat data showed.

EU exports to Iran declined 26% to €754 million from €1.025 billion, while EU imports from Iran fell 24% to €198 million from €262 million.

Germany was Iran's largest trading partner among EU members, accounting for 32% of total Iran-EU trade. Bilateral trade fell 36% to €304 million in the first half of 2026, with German exports to Iran dropping 41% to €212 million and German imports from Iran declining 18% to €92 million.

Trade between Iran and the EU fell 27% after the US-led military action against Iran in late February, reaching €574 million in March-June 2026, compared with

€786 million a year earlier, according to Eurostat.

Bilateral trade had already declined about 24% in the first two months of 2026, before the conflict, suggesting that tensions in the Strait of Hormuz did not significantly alter the downward trend. A significant share of Iran-Europe trade is conducted via road and air routes.