

Iran sets two-year plan to boost trade, transport and AI ties within SCO: *Veep*



Economy Desk

Iran has drawn up a two-year action plan to expand its economic, trade, transport and advanced technology cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said ahead of a trip to Tajikistan for a meeting of the bloc's prime ministers. The plan aims to make greater use of the organization's potential across various sectors, with logistics, transport infrastructure, advanced technologies and artificial intelligence among Tehran's priorities, Aref said, according to IRNA.



Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) is welcomed by Tajik First Deputy Prime Minister Hokim KHOLIQZODA in Dushanbe on October 19, 2026.

● IRNA

Iran's strategy is to maintain an active and effective presence in the organization while leveraging its domestic capabilities, he added.

Aref arrived in Dushanbe on Monday to attend the meeting of prime ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states, where he was welcomed by Hokim KHOLIQZODA, First Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan.

Aref also said he planned to hold bilateral meetings with prime ministers attending the summit, expressing hope that the talks would strengthen bilateral ties and broaden cooperation.

Aref said Iran would present its position at the summit on countering unilateralism and reforming global governance. He noted that while the SCO had initially focused on security, it had gradually expanded its economic cooperation, whereas BRICS,

a grouping of major emerging economies, had emphasized global governance reform and opposition to unilateralism from its inception.

The annual meeting of SCO prime ministers is intended to assess member states' performance and examine ways to deepen cooperation. This year's agenda focuses on the effectiveness of trade and economic cooperation and humanitarian initiatives, with the outcomes to be set out in several documents and declarations, Aref said.

Budgetary issues will also be discussed and considered for approval, as the meeting brings together the member states' top executive officials, he added.

Founded in 2001, the SCO now has 10 full members: China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Belarus and Iran.

CBI: Annual producer inflation rises to 92.3%

Economy Desk

Iran's annual producer inflation rate rose to 92.3% in the sixth month of the Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21, while year-on-year producer inflation climbed to 117.3%. Monthly producer price inflation also accelerated for a third consecutive month, reaching 4.9%, according to the Central Bank of Iran's latest report.

The overall producer price index stood at 758.5 in the sixth month (August 23-September 22), up 4.9% from 723.1 in the fifth month (July 23-August 22), Eqtesad Moaser reported, citing the central bank. The year-on-year, or point-to-point, producer inflation rate – which measures the percentage change in the price index compared with the same month a year earlier – rose to 117.3% in the sixth month from 116.8% in

the fifth month.

Annual producer inflation, which measures the change in the average price index over the past 12 months compared with the average for the preceding 12-month period, increased to 92.3% from 86.6% in the fifth month.

Monthly producer inflation also continued to accelerate, rising from 1.8% in the fourth month (June 22-July 22) to 4.2% in the fifth month and 4.9% in the sixth month.

All three measures of producer inflation – monthly, year-on-year and annual – increased in the sixth month.

Iran's national currency, the rial, has fallen to record lows amid mounting economic pressure. It has traded at more than 2.5 million rials per US dollar on the open market in recent weeks.

The sharp depreciation has underscored growing strain on

an economy already grappling with high inflation amid Western sanctions. The country has also remained on a war footing since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks in late February, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure during a 40-day conflict.

Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said at an International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting in Bangkok that the country's economy had shown strong resilience despite the US-Israeli war and Washington's maximum-pressure campaign, dismissing claims that the economy was on the verge of collapse. The central bank's priorities are to curb inflation, stabilize inflation expectations, maintain financial stability and ensure the continued operation of banking and payment systems, Hemmati said.

Iran, Turkmenistan agree on measures to expand cross-border cargo capacity

Economy Desk

Iran and Turkmenistan have agreed to explore raising the daily truck-handling capacity at their shared Sarakhs border crossing to 700 vehicles, while pursuing measures to facilitate rail freight movements and streamline customs procedures to boost bilateral trade, IRNA reported.

The agreement was discussed at a meeting between senior customs officials from the two countries on Monday at the Sarakhs border crossing, attended by Foroud Asgari, Iran's deputy economy minister and head of the Iranian Customs Administration, and Maksat Hudaykuliye, head of Turkmenistan's customs service.

Under the proposal, technical teams from both customs administrations will examine the feasibility of increasing daily truck-handling capacity to at least 350 trucks from each side, bringing the combined total to 700. The teams will also prepare the groundwork for implementation, with the aim of easing traffic, reducing waiting times and increasing trade flows. The measures are part of Iran's efforts to implement a new presidential directive stipulating that borders should serve as transit points and goods should not remain there, IRNA reported.

The officials also discussed expanding rail freight capacity at Sarakhs in Iran's northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province. They reached agreements



● IRNA

aimed at increasing the handling and movement of freight wagons and facilitating rail transport between the two countries.

Faster movement and the return of freight wagons across the shared border were also discussed, with the two sides agreeing to work toward reducing delays and improving the efficiency of rail operations.

Summing up the talks, Asgari said the meetings

would pave the way for more effective customs cooperation and further facilitate bilateral trade.

Hudaykuliye said trade between the two countries was growing steadily and their customs administrations maintained close ties. He added that the installation of smart equipment and the facilitation of foreign trade were on the agenda, with Turkmenistan ready to increase rail traffic as well as road transport.

Iran sees potential for \$1b in daily exports, trade chief says



Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi
● ISNA

Economy Desk

Iran has the capacity to achieve \$1 billion in daily exports by leveraging its natural resources, skilled workforce, and scientific and technological capabilities, the head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran said, citing the need to increase the value added of exported goods and remove trade barriers. Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi made the remarks on Monday at

a national conference of export associations in Tehran, saying the target would require planning and greater participation by business associations.

Iran's non-oil exports reached \$58 billion in 2024, the highest level recorded in previous years, he said, according to ISNA. The figure fell to \$52 billion in 2025 despite the country's economic potential, amid a series of events including an explosion at the southern Shahid Rajaee port, a 12-day Israeli war in June 2025, and a US-Israeli war that began in late February 2026.

Dehqan Dehnavi said around 75% of Iran's trade passes through maritime routes, leaving a large share of the country's trade exposed to disruptions along these routes.

Since late February, when a

US-Israeli coalition launched a 40-day war, Iran has been operating under wartime conditions and facing a maritime blockade from the south. The blockade aims to reduce Iranian oil exports to zero and deplete government revenues. Iran has also been subject to decades of Western sanctions over its nuclear activities.

According to Dehqan Dehnavi, the weight of trade fell by around 30% to 35% during the six-month period under review, while the value of exports declined by about 20%. He attributed part of the drop to higher transportation costs, which have made exports of some goods economically unviable.

He added that the average value of Iran's exported goods was around \$300 to \$400 per metric ton.

Notice of AMENDMENT for the bid submission tender for export sale No. Z/1405/18

With reference to Tender Notice Z/1405-18, we hereby informed that the bid submission and bid opening have been revised as follows:

All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 25 Oct.2026- to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission office of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 14:00 P.M. on 25.Oct .2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.