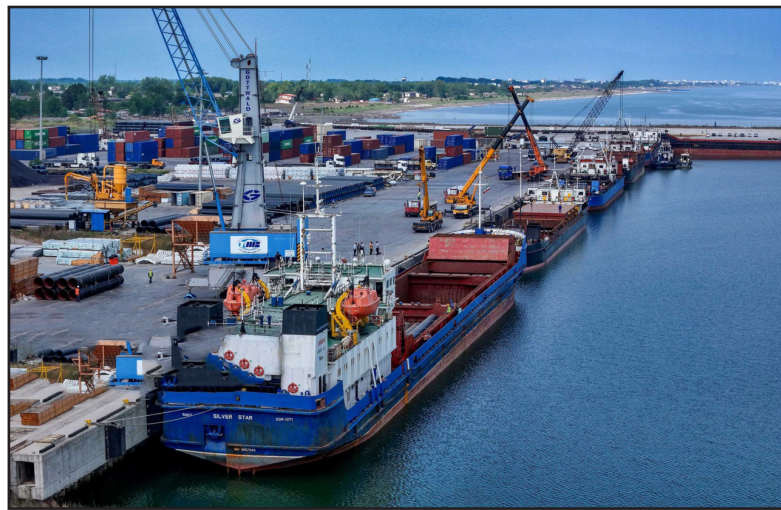


Official: Caspian Ports Hold Untapped Potential to Boost Trade



TEHRAN — The head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Samad Hasanzadeh, says the country's northern ports remain underutilized and could play a significant role in importing essential goods under current conditions.

The Caspian Sea ports of Anzali and Nowshahr are among Iran's most important gateways for foreign trade.

"Given the problems at southern ports, we need to make better use of other ports' capacities to resolve trade issues and facilitate the import of essential goods," Hasanzadeh said.

He added that essential goods currently need to be imported through provinces with large capacities.

Noting that Iran faces major challenges, particularly in importing essential goods, Hasanzadeh said large quantities of products are being brought in through the north or via Iraq's borders.

However, he said this is not sufficient, as the vast capacity of southern ports has been lost.

And also on Wednesday, Muhammad Reza Farouqi, the head of the ICCIMA's Customs Committee said that despite intensified U.S. sanctions, Iran's foreign trade will

not be strangled and insisted that Tehran's geographic depth and regional foothold make a total blockade "impossible."

"Our neighbors need Iranian capacity as much as we need their markets," Farouqi told IRNA, pointing to land, sea, and rail corridors that circumvent pressure. He added that domestic red tape is being slashed to ease logistics for traders.

Membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, he argued, already offers alternative lanes for exports and imports. Meanwhile, bilateral monetary pacts—bypassing dollar-dominated systems—are gaining traction to secure liquidity and boost non-oil sales.

"Even under maximum pressure, exchange flows will not freeze," Farouqi said. "We are pursuing multiple routes, financial accords, and internal reforms simultaneously." The remarks signal a calculated push to project resilience, as authorities seek to reassure business circles rattled by renewed U.S. threats. While challenges persist, officials frame Iran's connectivity as a strategic asset—one they believe will outlast any siege.

Ministry Connects 290 MW Dalahoo Power Unit to Grid, Showcasing Elite F-Class Turbine Technology

TEHRAN - Iran has successfully added 290 megawatts (MW) of new electricity generation capacity to its national grid with the inauguration of the steam unit at the Dalahoo combined cycle power plant.

The milestone highlights Iran's status as one of only seven nations in the world capable of manufacturing advanced F-class gas turbines.

Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi inaugurated the new unit on Monday during a two-day visit to the western province of Kermanshah as part of the national Government Week celebrations.

The newly launched steam unit operates without consuming any additional fuel. Instead, it captures and utilizes the exhaust heat from the plant's existing gas turbines, significantly boosting the facility's overall energy efficiency and output.

The Dalahoo facility, the biggest combined cycle power plant in Iran, is designed with a total capacity of approximately 910 MW, comprising two 310 MW gas units and the newly activated 290 MW steam unit. With the steam unit now fully operational, the com-



bined cycle has been successfully completed.

The gas units powering the Dalahoo plant rely on Iranian-made, cutting-edge F-class gas turbines.

The development and mass production of these high-efficiency turbines place Iran in an exclusive global club of only seven countries possessing the indigenous technological know-how to design and build them.

These advanced turbines are not being used in Iranian power plants for the first time. Iran's domestic engineering conglomerates, most notably the MAPNA Group, have

previously developed, tested, and deployed indigenous F-class models (such as the MGT-70) in other national power plants over the past few years.

By transitioning from older E-class models to highly efficient F-class turbines, Iran has drastically reduced its reliance on foreign suppliers like Siemens or GE.

This indigenous capability has effectively insulated Iran's critical energy infrastructure from international sanctions while significantly lowering the fuel consumption and carbon footprint required per megawatt of electricity generated.

CEO: Iran Leads World in Gas Discoveries

TEHRAN - The Chief Executive Officer of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced that Iran has secured the top global ranking for natural gas discoveries, following major finds in the country's southern regions.

Hamid Bouard reported that the combined discovery of 17.5 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas across the "Takhteh" field in southern Fars province and the "Pazen" field represents the largest volume of gas discovered worldwide since 2025. This achievement places NIOC at the forefront of global gas exploration within this timeframe.

Bouard detailed that drilling operations at the Takhteh gas field successfully yielded 7.5 Tcf of gas-in-place and 5.5 Tcf of recoverable gas reserves. He noted that these exploration activities proceeded



without interruption, even amid the heightened regional conflict during the 12-day war and the Ramadhan military escalation.

Looking ahead, the NIOC chief outlined strategic plans to address national energy imbalances by deploying additional exploration rigs

and expanding seismic projects.

He stated that exploration management will increasingly focus on the northeastern, northern, and northwestern provinces to leverage the country's diverse hydrocarbon potential and unlock new domestic supply streams.

Oil Industry Strengthens Offshore Drilling Capacity

TEHRAN — A review of the two-year performance of Pars Oil and Gas Company shows a significant expansion in offshore drilling capacity, the simultaneous development of multiple work fronts and the creation of new operational capacity for development projects and production-maintenance programs.

The South Pars gas field, after more than two decades of continuous production, has entered a sensitive stage of its reservoir life. At the same time, development projects at other gas fields are moving forward. Against this backdrop, maintaining a drilling fleet suited to field conditions and operational requirements has become a key factor in sustaining gas production, developing reserves and protecting Iran's interests in shared fields.

Accordingly, strengthening the offshore drilling fleet has become a major priority for Pars Oil and Gas Co. during the first two years of the 14th administration. The results are evident in the increased number of active rigs, the expansion of simultaneous operations across several projects and the ability to accelerate drilling, maintenance and development programs.

The pace of field development depends not only on the size of reserves or investment but also on the operational capacity of the drilling fleet. A larger, more capable and flexible fleet allows more development and production-maintenance projects to move forward simultaneously.

Getting a drilling rig from project approval to an offshore operating

location is a lengthy and complex process involving legal approvals, financing, contracts, rig mobilization, support-vessel preparation, offshore transportation, technical and environmental permits, and preparation of the drilling site.

Moving an offshore rig is itself a complex project. Delays in equipment procurement, adverse weather, logistical challenges or shortages of support vessels can affect project schedules. As a result, deploying every new rig in the Persian Gulf requires overcoming a chain of technical, financial, logistical and managerial challenges.

In August 2024, when the 14th administration began, only four offshore drilling rigs were deployed at fields operated by Pars Oil and Gas Co. Since then, extensive planning to strengthen and manage the fleet has added eight offshore rigs to the company's operational capacity for development and production-maintenance projects, bringing the total number of deployed rigs to 12.

The company has also gradually shifted from simply assigning rigs to individual projects toward integrated drilling-capacity management based on production priorities, reservoir conditions and the value generated by each operation.

Today, 10 drilling rigs are operating at South Pars, one at the Belal gas field and one at the Kish gas field. This configuration enables several operations to proceed simultaneously, including development projects, infill drilling at South Pars and maintenance work on existing wells aimed at sustaining produc-

tion from the world's largest gas field.

Compared with the beginning of the 14th administration, the expansion represents a significant increase in the company's execution capacity in one of the most specialized and influential segments of Iran's gas development and production chain. It is also creating opportunities for domestic companies and employment.

South Pars is now at a different stage of development than it was during its early years. Most of its phases have been producing for years, and maintaining stable reservoir output increasingly depends on a range of technical and engineering measures.

Infill drilling, drilling new production-maintenance wells at locations with additional capacity, well repair and restoration, acidizing, well completion and reservoir evaluation have become integral parts of production-maintenance programs.

Each of these activities requires access to drilling rigs. A shortage of rigs can force projects into a queue, increasing the time between identifying a reservoir opportunity and converting it into actual production.

The increase in the number of active rigs in the Persian Gulf allows Pars Oil and Gas Co. to manage multiple drilling operations simultaneously at different locations rather than carrying them out sequentially.

This capacity is particularly important as the shared South Pars field enters a period in which the need for production-maintenance operations is expected to increase.

South Pars Sixth Refinery Set for Early Production

TEHRAN — The National Iranian Gas Co. has successfully completed a hot-tapping operation on a pipeline carrying sour gas, paving the way for early production at the Sixth Refinery of the South Pars gas complex before the start of the cold season.

Saeid Tavakoli, CEO of the National Iranian Gas Co., said the operation was carried out at the request of the South Pars Gas Complex to help restore one of the refineries damaged during the recent war. Specialized hot-tapping teams from

gas transmission regions 4 and 5 were deployed to the site.

Following technical and safety assessments, equipment and the work site were prepared and necessary precautions were taken. The operation was conducted around the clock and completed successfully on Aug. 17 despite difficult environmental conditions, high humidity and the heightened risks associated with working on a sour-gas pipeline.

Tavakoli said welding and connection work was performed using modern tech-



niques and in line with international standards. Key measures included the use of low-hydrogen welding materials, advanced welding methods and hydrogen-removal procedures before and after welding.

A domestically manufactured hot-tapping machine was also used, allowing the operation to be performed while the pipeline remained in service with minimal reduction in operating pressure.

Tavakoli described hot tapping as one of the most special-

ized and complex operations in the oil and gas industry, requiring technical expertise, operational experience, specialized equipment and strict compliance with safety procedures.

He said the operation was particularly sensitive because the main pipeline contained sour gas with high levels of hydrogen sulfide, or H₂S. The associated risks required special safety measures, which were successfully implemented through strict adherence to technical and safety standards.