

with Latin America. In addition to meetings with Latin American leaders on the sidelines of the UN annual sessions, in June 2023, he started a five-day tour that saw him visiting Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. By signing 35 cooperation documents in various areas, he took a long leap to restore Iran's considerable trade share in this region.

During his presidency, relations with Africa also saw a surge. His efforts manifested, for example, in the Iran-Africa Summit initiative held earlier in April in Tehran at the level of senior officials, including finance ministers of over 30 African countries. Furthermore, president Raisi toured the three countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe in July 2023, marking the first visit of an Iranian president to Africa in 11 years. The tour secured significant achievements for Tehran.

The jump in the country's oil and gas revenues in the middle of tough sanctions and energy agreements with neighbors were among the other accomplishments of the economic diplomacy of president Raisi's government. According to officials, Iran managed to increase oil and gas production and export revenues to levels higher than before the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Revamping the country's energy diplomacy and boosting cooperation with neighboring countries have been on the agenda of the oil

ministry since the beginning of the late president's government. Ending the five-year hiatus in gas trade with Turkmenistan, the signing of a three-party gas swap deal between Iran, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan paved the way for Tehran to access the European gas market in the future.

Another key step in increasing energy exports was taken by Raisi in his recent trip to Pakistan. The two neighbors agreed to conclude the construction of the Iran gas pipeline to Pakistan. By taking the final steps of this agreement, Iran's share of the region's energy market will surely witness a fundamental transformation. Since the 11th phase of the South Pars Gas Field in a shared field with Qatar was rolled out during his term, Iran's production surpassed that of the Qataris even in the midst of sanctions.

Unlocking Iran's corridor capacities

Iran is a country with a unique geopolitical position on a highway connecting the east, west, north, and south of the world. This has created an opportunity for Iran to play a key role in major transit projects and the international trade network. Both of these can contribute to its economic development and secure income sources for it.

During Raisi's tenure, a change in Iran's approach to the "resistance economy" caused the government to prioritize putting more into the development of the International



North-South Corridor, consequently allowing the rail and road projects to experience a remarkable expansion in a short period. In this regard, cooperation with India to further develop Chabahar port took place. Moreover, Iran's rail connection to Afghanistan was concluded with the inauguration of the Khaf-Herat railway in July last year.

The East-West Corridor is also a