



## [A meeting was held to examine business opportunities in Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan](#)

With the presence of the Rais of Tatarstan Republic, the Governor of Isfahan, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and some other officials, a meeting to examine the business and investment opportunities of Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan was held in the conference hall of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce.

**Sayed Reza Mortazavi**, Governor of Isfahan, said in this meeting: We are very pleased that you chose Isfahan province as your second destination, and this trip provided us with an opportunity to introduce the capacities of the province.

He continued: New conditions have been formed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, and these capacities can provide an opportunity to define clear horizons for a bright future in relations and interactions between Isfahan Province and the Republic of Tatarstan. He also notified that the province with a population of over 5 million and an area of 107 thousand square kilometer can provide good base for this new season of cooperation. He add that having a diverse climate, this province provides ample attractions for tourists.

While referring to the production and industrial capacities of Isfahan province, he further highlighted that: 45% of the country's steel, 35% of the pharmaceutical and health equipment, and 55% of the jewelry products are produced in Isfahan province.

Governor of Isfahan continued: This province is the major base of home appliance production in the country and has about 30% of the production capacity of textile industry in the country, 30% of the country's building materials and sanitary appliances, and has a lot of capacity in the field of food industry.

Governor of Isfahan stated: Also, this province is rich in experienced and expert human capital, which we consider to be the most important asset of the region, as well as great capacities in the field of nature and historical tourism in its heart.

He continued: These cases are a brief overview of the capacities and talents of the province, which can be taken into account in its interactions with the Republic of Tatarstan.

He added that during this trip, we can set a path to promote cooperation between Isfahan and Tatarstan in the future.

**Rustam Minnikhanov**, the Rais of Tatarstan Republic, stated in this meeting: Our goal of this trip is to establish commercial and non-commercial relations with Iran and especially Isfahan province. I hope that friendly and strong interactions will be formed in this meeting. The Republic of Tatarstan will appreciate these bilateral relations and will evaluate it as a high success.

He said: International relations between the two countries of Iran and Russia have improved in recent years, so that many business delegations have traveled to different regions of Iran and performed various business missions. He further pointed out that the religious similarities and spiritual ties of the two regions are considered as the influential factors in the development of relations between Iran and Tatarstan. The Republic of Tatarstan is hosting international events this year, so we invite Iranian businessmen and economic activists to attend these events. Also, one of the most important summits in the Republic of Tatarstan is the BRICS summit, and we sincerely look forward to the presence of Iranian officials.

He stated that the Republic of Tatarstan is one of the 10 most important industrial regions in Russia based on the data of gross regional production, industrial production, the share of attracting investors, the amount of construction, etc. It supplies 43% of the amount of synthetic rubber, 1.2% of cargo tires and 1.3% of the production of Russian trucks. This region is very powerful in the field of oil and oil products production and processes 65% of its oil production throughout the year. Considering the religious and economic similarities between the two countries, the Republic of Tatarstan can be a suitable place for Iranians to invest.

**Andrei Zhiltsov**, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Isfahan, also stated in this meeting: Today, the bilateral relations between Iran and Russia are increasing, and Iran has been chosen as a friendly and neighboring country of the Russian Federation, and the main role of the development of the relations between Iran and Russia is the Isfahan province. According to the customs data of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the last 10 months, the volume of goods transaction between the two countries has doubled and reached 21 million dollars per year. The share of Isfahan province in this amount of goods turnover was 7 million dollars and we hope that the process of developing relations between Isfahan and Tatarstan will continue.

Pointing out that the number of Russian tourists arriving in Isfahan increased four and a half times last year, he said: For the first time, Russia has been noticed as the second destination of Iranian tourists after China, and we are looking for it to make the Republic of Tatarstan introduce it as one of the important tourist destinations for Iranians. Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan have high economic potential and are considered leaders in the economic field in their countries. I believe that the ongoing agreements between the two countries will lead us to further cooperation and the role of Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan will be much wider.

**Amir Keshani**, the president of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce in the meeting, to examine the business and investment opportunities of Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan, pointing out that Isfahan is known as the city of peace in the Middle East, said: During the past centuries, different religious minorities have coexisted without any tension and recorded conflicts. The Republic of Tatarstan is also known as the center of religions in Russia, and in this sense, a good opportunity for proper interaction has been established. I congratulate the Rais of Tatarstan Republic and his accompanying delegation for choosing a suitable destination for their commercial and non-commercial interactions.

He continued: Isfahan Chamber of Commerce will welcome the proposal of the Rais of Tatarstan in order to develop relations between Isfahan and Tatarstan Chambers of Commerce, and for this reason, we will be fully prepared to set up a joint table of Tatarstan and Isfahan Chambers of Commerce at our Chamber of Commerce. At present, businessmen have not access to information about the Tatarstan markets, and for this reason, we are ready to immediately deploy our forces there whenever the table of Tatarstan is handed over to Isfahan, and in this way, cooperation will develop.

**Keshani** said; we request the Rais of Tatarstan to establish a distribution center for Iranian goods in the Republic of Tatarstan so that traders can export and introduce their goods to that region. Now, one of the important issues regarding the development of relations between Isfahan and the Republic of Tatarstan is the need to establish a direct flight from Kazan to Isfahan and vice versa. This can accelerate the amount of trade between the two countries. In this regard, the Chamber of Commerce is fully prepared to host the tour of leaders of Tatarstan in order to identify the tourism and economic capacities of Isfahan.

The president of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce said: I invite the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Russian Federation and the Chamber of Commerce of Tatarstan to attend the meeting of the chambers of commerce of ACD that will be held in Isfahan. In order to develop relations between the two countries, special attention should be paid to the eastern branch of the North-South Corridor. This eastern branch can have many effects in the development of strategic relations between the two countries.

In this meeting, Mahmoud Haqghighat Seresht, acting deputy for the coordination of economic affairs of the Isfahan governorate, said in this meeting, about the operational solutions for the development of cooperation between Isfahan and Tatarstan, holding Isfahan cultural week in Kazan, and Kazan week in Isfahan, concluding a memorandum of understanding with Tatarstan officials in order to produce joint knowledge-based products and establishing industrial cooperation, concluding a cooperation memorandum for the exchange of university lecturers and students and carrying out joint research work, availing exhibition spaces in Isfahan exhibition to Russian companies in local exhibitions and vice versa, creating a memorandum of cooperation between Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and Tatarstan, the attendance of Iranian companies in the Kazan halal food exhibition and two-way communication between the Consulate General of Iran in Kazan and the Consulate General of Russian Federation in Iran. The purpose of following up the approvals and achievements of this meeting is among operational solutions for the development of cooperation between Isfahan and Tatarstan, which should be given special attention.

**Oleg Korobchenko**, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Tatarstan, also stated in this meeting: The Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Tatarstan is one of the largest chambers of the Russian Federation, and now it has more than 2,500 members.

Pointing out that one of the main economic activities in the Republic of Tatarstan is oil extraction and processing, he said: More than 35 million tons of oil are produced in this country every year, and more than 65% of it is processed by economic units. Currently, in the Republic of Tatarstan, there are large production complexes of helicopter construction, shipbuilding and edible oils, and this issue can help to expand cooperation.

Currently, Tatarstan is considered to be the flagship of Russia's agricultural products export and annually it exports products such as grains, meat, eggs and milk to more than 80 countries worldwide.

He said: This country has more than three special economic zones and is one of the main centers of Russia for the production of plastic and petrochemical produces. We hope that the amount of international communication with Iran will increase and good communication will be established between the Iranian Consulate in Kazan and the Russian Federation Consulate in Isfahan.

**Mohammad Reza Golahmad**, a member of the board of representatives the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, also stated: The history of cooperation between the two countries of Iran and Russia goes back several centuries. The opportunity to consult with the authorities of Tatarstan in the past few days has provided an opportunity to expand the scope of Iran's relations with Russia. During the past few days, Isfahan women entrepreneurs had good interactions with the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan, and we hope that these contacts will gain good results. The two countries have scientific common points and the Minister of Education of Tatarstan emphasized the development of cooperation during his visit to Isfahan scientific centers.