

# Iran's 7th Development Plan forecasts 5% yearly decline in drug consumption: **Minister**



● IRNA

## Social Desk

In an attempt to combat the nation's drug crisis, Iran's Minister of Interior, Ahmad Vahidi, announced on Monday a strategic plan to reduce drug consumption by 25 percent over the next five years. The announce-

ment, made on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, underscores Iran's commitment to tackling the drug problem head-on. Vahidi criticized the international community's approach to the drug trade, accusing it of turning a blind

eye to the illicit money laundering associated with narcotics. He pointed out the paradox of global efforts to combat money laundering while seemingly ignoring its prevalence in the drug trade, IRNA reported. "The world is quick to fight against money laundering,

drafting various conventions and protocols, yet in the realm of narcotics, money laundering is conducted with impunity," Vahidi said. The Minister further criticized the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), suggesting it was politically motivated to sanction countries

like Iran, which are at the forefront of the fight against narcotics. He questioned the West's handling of the vast sums of money generated by drug smuggling and the narcotics economy, suggesting that these funds likely end up in European banks.

Vahidi also raised concerns about the international community's role in the drug trade, pointing to the export of 12,000 tons of drug precursors to Afghanistan for the production of industrial materials, most of which originate from western countries.

"Behind the scenes, there are forces seeking to bolster the production and trafficking of drugs," Vahidi said. "It is the political currents behind the drug curtain, both domestically and internationally, and the countries that profit from the drug economy that are to blame."

Despite receiving no international assistance, Vahidi stated that the Iran has made the most significant number of drug discoveries and has given approximately 4,000 martyrs in the fight against narcotics. He expressed skepticism towards global drug policies, accusing them of harboring malicious intentions that hinder any real struggle against drug production and trafficking.

The minister also addressed the issue of drug consumption patterns, emphasizing the need to protect society from the use of dangerous, often irreversible drugs. He called for a scientific approach to health and treatment measures to combat drug use.

"Changing consumption patterns is a double-edged sword," Vahidi said. "On one hand, it could be misconstrued as condoning drug use, which is entirely false. On the other hand, we must shield society from the dangers of drug use, necessitating a scientific approach to health and treatment measures."



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In an official statement, the chair of the executive committee for the 13th National Environment Award underscored the critical role of public participation and support in environmental initiatives.

"No program or action, particularly in the environmental sphere, can achieve significant success without the active involvement and backing of the populace. It is essential that platforms facilitating such participation

are adequately established," Alireza Mazinani said, according to ISNA. He emphasized the urgency of addressing environmental crises that have plagued human societies in recent years. He also advocated for a greater focus on the advancement of science and technology, coupled with the engagement of local communities in environmental matters.

"Crucially, environmental preservation can only be achieved through the cultivation of a culture of

awareness and education, fostering motivation, and establishing a cooperative and accountable platform," Mazinani added. He further highlighted the inherent value of environmental protection within the religious and social fabric of Iran's society, viewing it as a potent resource and support. "If we fail to instill trust and delegate environmental responsibilities to the public, it would be futile to anticipate collective efforts towards improving environmental

## The need to foster public participation in environmental affairs

conditions," he cautioned. Mazinani further noted that the National Environment Award aims to boost public participation and incentivize environmental conservation. "In accordance with Article 46 of the Executive Regulations of the Environmental Protection and Improvement Law and the resolutions of the Supreme Council of Environment, the National Environment Award seeks to acknowledge the commendable efforts of individuals and organizations in environmental preservation," he explained. The chair of the executive committee for the 13th National Environment Award also acknowledged the contributions of environmental activists and academic figures in organizing this national event.

"To date, nearly 26 meetings of the national and provincial executive committee and 15 meetings of the scientific committee have been convened to ensure the successful execution of this event," he reported.

He also revealed that the creation of the festival's statue and the design of the event's poster are nearing completion, with the unveiling expected to occur soon during the official ceremony.

In conclusion, the Director General of Tehran's Department of the Environment expressed satisfaction with the enthusiastic response to the National Environment Award. He emphasized the public and exclusive nature of the event, stating that its annual and continuous or-

ganization would contribute significantly to promoting a culture of environmental protection.

The Department of the Environment's information center disclosed that the National Environment Award focuses on innovations, inventions, and flagship projects aimed at preventing environmental pollution or destruction. It also recognizes creative initiatives that reduce the costs of environmental protection, scientific research, and exceptional services that enhance societal environmental knowledge and awareness, thereby fostering a broad and comprehensive environmental culture.



● ISNA

## New university majors required to have employment prospects: **Official**



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## Social Desk

The deputy of education of the Ministry of Science,

Research and Technology, Qasem Amu-Abedini, announced on Monday that all new academic fields

proposed by universities must demonstrate a clear link to employment opportunities. This statement was made during the national congress of Targeted, Skill-based, and Need-based Education.

Amu-Abedini emphasized the importance of skill-based education at all levels, stating that the primary role of universities is to cultivate knowledgeable and competent individuals. He further stressed that while job creation is not the re-

sponsibility of universities, they should nonetheless contribute to this endeavor through strategic planning, IRNA reported.

The deputy minister also revealed that this year, student admissions were halted for courses that lacked job perspectives. However, he clarified that these courses have not been permanently discontinued. Instead, they are temporarily not accepting new students, but will resume admissions if there is

sufficient demand.

In a significant move, Amu-Abedini disclosed that a thousand majors in different universities have been removed from the entrance exam booklet this year. He also touched upon the topic of industrial exchange, stating that universities have the capacity to offer up to 40 units from a field's curriculum based on the specific needs of an industry.

In addition, the official approved the involvement of

industry-active professors in providing necessary training alongside university faculty, further bridging the gap between academia and industry.

In a related development, the National Network of Higher Education Specialists was launched during the congress. This network, comprising approximately 1,300 higher education experts, aims to centralize the definition of higher education activities and issues through research desks.

These research desks, each managed by a team comprised of a manager, a secretary, and an expert, will identify problems, gather data, and relay their findings to the Ministry of Science. The network's broader objective is to foster synergy among the nation's universities, enabling them to collectively address specialized field issues and utilize their combined resources to overcome the challenges they face.