

# Pezeshkian: Universities should elevate Iran to sci-tech excellence

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the crucial role of universities in driving the country's development and innovation during a ceremony marking the start of the new academic year at the University of Tehran on Saturday. Pezeshkian stressed that universities have a key mission to elevate the country to the pinnacle of science, technology, arts, and innovation, president.ir reported. He encouraged academics and students to strive for excellence, saying that Iran should aim to become the top country in the region. "We must find the best way to solve problems," Pezeshkian said, emphasizing the need for a scientific approach to addressing challenges. "We should not oppose correct ideas, regardless of who

presents them. Standing against correct ideas is injustice." The president also highlighted the importance of universities in driving economic growth and improving people's lives. He encouraged students to take on projects that can help solve the country's problems, such as those related to agriculture, industry, and healthcare. Pezeshkian suggested that universities should focus on practical applications of knowledge, rather than just theoretical learning. "Instead of just sitting in class, go and take on projects, solve problems," he told students. "We need professors who can teach us how to manage systems, how to solve problems." The president also emphasized the need for universities to be financially independent and to generate their own revenue. "Universities should not rely



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses students at the University of Tehran during a ceremony marking the beginning of the new academic year in Tehran, Iran on October 12, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

on government funding," he said. "They should be able to generate their own income." Pezeshkian also expressed his concern about the "brain drain" of talented academics and students leaving the country. "We need to support our professors and talented individuals who are working hard for the country," he said. "If we can support them, they will stay and work for the country." The ceremony was attended by the ministers of science and health, as well as university officials and students.



## Tehran Auction breaks records with \$1.9m in sales

Arts & Culture Desk

The 21st edition of the Tehran Auction, a showcase for contemporary Iranian art, has wrapped up with a total sale of \$1.9 million, more than double the sales of the previous online auction in November/December 2023.

According to reports, the online auction, held on October 11, saw 132 out of 140 artworks sell for a combined total of \$1.9 million. The organizers of the Tehran Auction reported that the sales were a significant increase from the previous online auction, which brought in \$983,000, ISNA reported.

This edition of the auction introduced 36 new artists to the Iranian art market, alongside works by renowned artists such as Monir Farmanfarmaian, Aydin Aghdashloo, Mansour Ghandriz, Masoud Arabshahi, Farideh Lashai, Parviz Kalantari, Parviz Tanavoli, Jazeh Tabatabaie, and Reza Derakhshani.

The auction saw 51 artworks sell for above their estimated price, while 81 sold within the estimated range. A



total of 140 artworks, including 115 paintings, 17 sculptures, and 8 photographs, were on display for three days, with buyers able to purchase online during this period. The top-selling artworks were a piece by Monir Farmanfarmaian, which fetched \$187,032, followed by a work by Aydin Aghdashloo, titled 'Summer, Winter', which sold for \$180,323, and a painting by Reza Derakhshani, titled 'Counting Days and Nights, Every Day and Every Night', which brought in \$162,903.

Other notable sales included works by Parviz Tanavoli and Farideh Lashai, which sold for \$112,258 and \$80,968, respectively. In total, 25 artworks sold for over \$16,129, 18 sold for between \$8,065 and \$16,129, 74 sold for between \$1,613 and \$8,065, and 15 sold for under \$1,613. Eight artworks by artists including Farideh Lashai, Hossein Mohjoubi, Javad Nobahar, Sadeq Tirafkan, Mostafa Dashti, Reza Bakhshi, Ahmad Rafie, and Anahita Ghasemkhani did not find buyers.

## Iranology, Persian language room opens at Kyrgyz Nat'l University

A room dedicated to Iranology and Persian language was inaugurated at the Kyrgyz National University on Friday, coinciding with the commemoration of the Persian poet Hafez.

The room named after the Persian poet Yusuf Balasaguni, was established in collaboration with the Institute of History and Regional Studies at the university and the Saadi Foundation, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Abuzar Toghani, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Kyrgyzstan, expressed his delight at the opening of the room, saying that understanding a nation's culture requires knowledge of its language. "To know a nation, you need to know its culture, and to know its culture, you need to know its language," he said.

Toghani emphasized the importance of strengthening cultural ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, citing the two nations' centuries-long shared history and cultural heritage. "Unfortunately, our knowledge of each other has decreased over time. Our current task is to develop and strengthen cultural relations to bring our nations closer together," he added.

The room's renovation and equipment were made possible through the sup-

port of the Saadi Foundation and the Institute of History and Regional Studies.

Malahat Mamedova, a veteran professor of Persian language and director of the Iranian Studies Center, will teach Persian language classes, while Iranian professor Zoleikha Saghabi, who teaches at the Bishkek State University, will also join the faculty soon.

The room, which was renovated and equipped with the support of the Saadi Foundation, will offer Persian language classes and Iran studies programs.



## BRICS countries endorse Iran's proposal to shift focus to children in fight against NCDs

Social Desk

Iran's Deputy Health Minister, Alireza Raisi, said Friday that member countries of the BRICS bloc have welcomed his country's proposal to shift focus from adults to children in combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Raisi, who attended the 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health in Moscow, said that Iran pro-

posed changing the approach to NCDs, which are currently focused on adults, to include children, IRNA wrote.

He noted that the changing lifestyle worldwide, including obesity, physical inactivity, and air pollution, has put children's health at greater risk.

Raisi said that the proposal was well-received by BRICS member countries, particularly Russia, India, and China, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO). He added that Iran will present

a detailed proposal at the next BRICS meeting in Brazil to discuss the issue further.

During his visit to Russia, Raisi also signed a memorandum of understanding on scientific cooperation in the fields of prevention, treatment, and medicine.

He said that Iran has experience in combating tuberculosis, which is a major concern in Russia, and can share its expertise.

Raisi also visited a Russian health center and was impressed by the successful use of artificial intel-

ligence, which he said could be replicated in Iran given the country's good infrastructure.

He emphasized the importance of BRICS cooperation in countering sanctions, noting that the bloc represents 40% of the world's population.

Raisi also highlighted the potential for Iranian companies to invest in Russia's pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors. The 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health was held in Moscow on October 7 and 11.

