

Minister: Shush epitomizes unity between Iran, world

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, said that Shush in southwestern province of Khuzestan is not only a treasure of Iran but belongs to all humanity. He highlighted the ancient city as a long-standing symbol of unity, stating, "Shush has always been a symbol of unity throughout its rich history." During a meeting of the administrative council in Shush, held on January 22, Salehi Amiri expressed his deep affection for Shush and underscored the need to reintroduce the city to both the Iranian people and the world. "Shush is not just a city; it is an identity and an integral part of Iranian civilization," he remarked, emphasizing its potential to reveal new mysteries with each archaeological exploration, IRNA reported. The minister urged educational institutions to incorporate Shush's historical significance into school curricula, ensuring that students understand their heritage. "If the world recognized Shush, it could become a vital economic and employment hub," he added, advocating for a renewed focus on the region to address existing shortcomings.

Salehi Amiri lamented the failure to adequately present Shush's beauty and heritage to both Iranians and the international community. He called on various cultural organizations—including the Ministry of Education, media outlets, and local religious leaders—to actively promote Shush among the youth. "We must tell our children that they live in a land that many envy, exemplified by Shush," he noted. He also addressed the rich tapestry of cultural heritage in Iran, both pre- and post-Islam, and urged the dismissal of the erroneous notion of conflict between Iranian and Islamic identities. "Iran is sacred, and there is no conflict between Islam and Iranian identity," he stated, reiterating that both aspects complement each other and form the core of the nation's identity. Highlighting the government's commitment to justice and public rights, Salehi Amiri pointed out that President Pezeshkian's upcoming visit to Khuzestan presents an opportunity to address citizens' needs. He emphasized the importance of unity in tackling local challenges, indicating that a focus on substantive issues rather than peripheral matters is essential for prog-



ress. The minister concluded by asserting Shush's potential as a significant tourist destination, calling for improved infrastructure to support this vision.

He announced plans for a collaborative approach involving cultural heritage experts to address local concerns while safeguarding historical sites. "We will ensure that the rights of the people are respected

alongside the responsibilities of the government," he said. "The future of Shush is bright and promising," he declared, encouraging proactive measures to harness the city's capabilities.

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, and his delegation tours the historic site of Shush in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan on January 22, 2025. ● BORNA

Jalal literary awards established to promote nat'l literature: Salehi



Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, speaks at the closing ceremony of the 17th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards held in Tehran on January 22, 2025. ● IRNA

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Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, reaffirmed the purpose of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards, stating they were established to enhance national literature. During the closing ceremony of the 17th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards on Wednesday, he highlighted that while one might agree or disagree with Jalal's works, he remains a quintessential figure in Iranian literature, deeply rooted

in national identity, IRNA reported. Salehi reflected on the award's journey over the past 17 years, noting both its challenges and achievements. He remarked, "This award has reached a point where we can reflect on its past and plan for its future," adding that the awards focus on three key perspectives: The Persian language, national literature, and religious literature. In his address, Salehi elaborated on the concept of national literature, clarify-

ing that it is not intended to oppose global literature or promote xenophobia. Instead, he stated that national literature serves to foster unity and cohesion within society. "Divisive literature cannot be considered national," he asserted, explaining that literature should enhance national identity while preserving its unique attributes amid cultural exchanges. Salehi described national literature as one that incorporates the diverse subcultures within a nation, rather than positioning them in opposition. He emphasized that Iranian national literature acknowledges regional and religious subcultures as integral components of the national identity.

Ancient Iranian artifacts on display in China for nine months

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A collection of 151 ancient Iranian artifacts is on display at an exhibition titled 'Land of Kindness' at the Sichuan University Museum in Chengdu, China. The exhibition, a proof of cultural diplomacy, aims to introduce the ancient and rich civilization of Iran to the Chinese people. The 'Land of Kindness' showcases a diverse array of historical treasures, including metal, ceramic, glass, textile, carpet, and painting artifacts, ILNA reported. This cultural initiative is a collaborative effort between two great Asian civilizations, both of which have significantly influenced human history and culture. The exhibition, a part of a reciprocal agreement, emphasizes Iran's eastward focus and the potential for shared cultural heritage to bring nations closer together.



'Land of Kindness' exhibition is organized by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Directorate of Museums, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Tehran province, and the University of Tehran, in collaboration with the China International Culture Exchange Center. As part of this cultural exchange, China has committed to displaying an exhibition of its historical artifacts in Iran in the future. Participating Iranian museums include the Reza Abbasi Museum, the University of Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Art, the Glassware and Ceramic Museum, the Carpet Museum, the Museum of National Arts, and the Moghadam Museum, each showcasing a unique aspect of Iran's rich heritage. The collaboration was overseen by Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Salehi Amiri, and his deputy, Ali

Darabi. The agreement was signed between the General Directorate of Iran's Museums and the China Cultural Exchange Center, with Laleh Khosravi and Mr. Ping Tang representing Iran and China, respectively. According to Parham Janfeshan, Director General of Tehran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the exhibition covers a vast historical period, from the third millennium BC to the late Islamic periods, featuring metal, ceramic, glass, textile, and carpet artifacts. 'Land of Kindness' exhibition highlights Iran's role as one of the deep-rooted and influential civilizations of the East, seeking to convey messages of empathy and cultural connection to the world. It serves as a reminder of the power of Eastern civilizations in public and cultural diplomacy, inspiring dialogue and cooperation between nations in the modern era.