

# 700 domestic, foreign firms to attend Tehran tourism exhibition

## Arts & Culture Desk

The 18th International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran will commence on Wednesday, with the participation of 12 countries and approximately 700 domestic and foreign companies, in the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Announcing the above, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts added that the international exhibition will take place from February 13 to 15 at the International Exhibition Center in Tehran.

Addressing the press conference, Anoushiravan Mohseni Bandpey said that representatives from countries including the UAE, Turkey, Madagascar, Tajikistan, Qatar, Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, and Russia, with two booths each, will participate in the exhibition, which has allocated 395 square meters for foreign booths, IRNA reported.

He said that eight foreign delegations have also expressed their willingness to attend the exhibition, adding that besides tourism activists 500 domestic and foreign officials have been invited to the opening ceremony, which will be held in the Hall of the International Conference Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Summit Hall) with the attendance of Pezeshkian.

Meanwhile, addressing the same press meeting, the Director General of Domestic Tourism Development



Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Anoushiravan Mohseni Bandpey addresses the press conference of the 18th International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran on February 8, 2025.  
 ● IRNA

at the ministry stated that 700 domestic and foreign companies will participate in the event, with dedicated halls for food, children, and geotourism.

According to Mohseni Bandpey, based on experiences from previous exhibitions, the strengths have been enhanced, and weaknesses have been addressed.

The deputy minister emphasized, "We have aimed to showcase Iran's various attractions, including water resources, ecotourism, and child-friendly culinary ex-

periences, so that both domestic and foreign tourists can benefit from them."

Highlighting the role of tourism in economic, political, cultural, and social aspects, he remarked, "Tourism is the most significant source of income for countries. Moreover, it allows us to showcase historical sites that reflect a nation's identity. When political issues or interactions reach a stalemate, we can leverage tourism. For instance, in addressing the perception of Iran, we can

utilize tourism as a tool to shift perspectives. The 18th tourism exhibition will be held with these approaches."

Mohseni Bandpey emphasized that the exhibition will feature 20 workshops led by 27 distinguished instructors in the tourism field, along with 10 educational panels. Additionally, student associations from various disciplines, representatives of creative students, and foreign students studying in Iran will be invited as ambassadors from their respective

countries to visit the exhibition, aiming to institutionalize tourism as a significant discussion in the country.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism noted, "Many countries have moved beyond investing in vehicles, and the average marketing expenditure per tourist abroad is five dollars, while in Iran it is merely two and a half cents. I hope we can capitalize on the existing resources within the country, such as beautiful beaches, price-less ancient sites, health tourism, and magnificent shrines to boost tourism."

He added that while there are security infrastructures in place to attract tourists, challenges remain

in the area of air transportation; therefore, strengthening tourism infrastructure should be considered a strategic priority. The deputy minister of tourism stated that tourism is a "white industry," and incentives such as customs exemptions for importing tourism facilities and tax exemptions for hotels and ecotourism facilities utilizing renewable energy have been planned.

Mohseni Bandpey further noted that to promote tourism and its benefits for all segments of society, affordable travel options have been put in place. In this regard, agreements have been reached with pension organizations, welfare agencies, and hotel associations to allow individuals to travel at lower costs.

He mentioned that there are 1,470 hotels in the country, with 143 of them rated four to five stars. To prevent owners of one- to three-star hotels from raising accommodation costs, they have been exempted from paying taxes.

## 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival to kick off in Tehran on Feb. 11



## Arts & Culture Desk

The 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, featuring 'My Homeland' segment, will kick off under the artistic direction of Behdad Najafi Asadollahi at Tehran's Rasoul Mehr Gallery on Tuesday.

This provincial artistic event will showcase the works of 15 selected artists from Tehran Province in various disciplines, including painting, calligraphy, sculpture, photography, installation, performance art,

printmaking, collage, and digital art.

It will be open to enthusiasts daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until February 19.

Najafi, the artistic secretary of the event, said, "The diversity of artistic disciplines and the quality of the works presented have been the main criteria for selecting pieces for this exhibition."

He added that, based on these criteria, a number of distinguished artists from Tehran Province have been invited to participate. Najafi further noted, "The

vibrant atmosphere of visual arts and the abundance of prominent teachers and artists in the province have made the selection process quite challenging. We hope that in future editions, with the growth and expansion of the festival's resources and facilities, we can invite a larger number of artistic talents across various fields." Saeedeh Aryan, the national secretary of the 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, said, "The 'My Homeland' section is a special segment for the provinces in this year's festival, which has previously been held under the title of 'Visual Art.' This year, the focus of this section is on subcultures, customs, and indigenous arts of the provinces across the country."

The exhibition of artists' works, curated by regional artistic directors, will open on February 10 in all 31 Iranian provinces.

The 'My Homeland' section of the Fajr Visual Arts Festival will commence in the southern Fars Province, with the opening bell ringing at the Sarv Gallery in Shiraz.

## 'Kolliyat' group nominated for Iran's Book of the Year Awards

## Arts & Culture Desk

Nine books belonging to the 'Kolliyat' group have been nominated for the Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The secretariat for the 42nd edition of the Book of the Year Awards announced these nine titles as nominees within the Kolliyat group's category. In this category, the selected books cover topics such as "Library Science and Research Methodology," "Encyclopedias and Lexicons," "Bibliography," and "Manuscripts and Documents," advancing to the second round of judging for the 42nd edition of the awards, ISNA reported.

In the "Library Science and Research Methodology" category, the following four books have made it to the second round of judging:

- Foundations of Research Methodology in the Interaction of Humanities and Islamic Sciences, by Ahmad Pakatchi, Tehran: Imam Sadiq University, 2023, 350 pages.
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods: Philosophical Foundations, by Alireza Ali-Ahmadi and Vahid Saeed-Nahaei, Tehran: Research Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies, 2023, 629 pages.
- A History of Reading, by Alber-



to Manguel, translated by Rahim Qasemyan, Tehran: Hermes, 2023, 507 pages.

- Chronicle Writing in Qajar Prose: Essay Writing, Translation, Journalism, by Qahreman Shiri, Hamedan: Bu-Ali Sina University, 2023, 878 pages.

In the "Encyclopedias and Lexicons" category, two books have also advanced to the second round of judging:

- Encyclopedias of Blindness and the Blind, by Mohammad Noori and Mansour Shadkam, Qom: Tavannaman, 2023, 3 volumes.
  - Encyclopedia of Toys: Research, Compilation, and Editing, by Gholamali Kiumarsi, Tehran: Donya-ye Mah Pishooni, 2023, 5 volumes.
- In the "Bibliography" category, only one work has made it to the final judging stage:
- Analytical Subject Index of Translated Travelogues by En-

glish Travelers about Iran, by Azadeh Heydari, Tehran: Library, Museum, and Documentation Center of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, 2023, 3 volumes.

In the "Manuscripts and Documents" category, the following two books have qualified for the second round of judging for this edition of the Book of the Year Awards:

- Guide to the Description and Cataloging of Manuscripts, by Tayebeh Haj Baqerian, Tehran: National Archives and Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2023, 354 pages.
- Self-Learning of Contextual Accounting, by Asadollah Abdoli Ashtiani, Tehran: Safir Ardehal, 2023, 306 pages.

The closing ceremony for the 42nd edition of the Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take place in March.