



Farshchian Museum reopens

VP urges civil society partnership to protect heritage



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref speaks at the fourth national tribute to cultural heritage icons at the Sa'dabad Cultural and Historical Complex in Tehran on August 26, 2025.
● fvpresident.ir

climate threats were eroding historical sites. He spoke at a ceremony in Tehran honoring leading figures in heritage preservation, fvpresident.ir reported. Aref used the annual tribute to link heritage protection with national identity, youth education and Iran's global image. He argued that strengthening non-governmental organizations and giving them official support could help meet mounting challenges. "Heritage is not just our past," he said. "It is an investment in Iran's future." The vice president described Iran's cultural assets as both "a foundation

of identity" and "a permanent barrier" to what he called US-backed efforts at Iranophobia. He added that foreign rivals wanted "a dependent and submissive Iran," but insisted that such "dependency does not exist in the nature of Iranians." Aref pressed for broader use of cultural diplomacy to bolster unity and improve ties with other nations. He urged young people to look to prominent figures in culture and heritage as role models, saying their introduction to Iran's history amounted to "an investment for the future." The vice president also underlined the need for scientific and innovative approaches in preservation, stressing documentation, public education and media outreach. Alongside bricks and monuments, he said, heritage had a "software dimension" that required awareness-building and social responsibility. On the same day, Aref inaugurated the

reopened Farshchian Museum in Tehran, which had been closed following previous attacks on the country. The ceremony was attended by Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, Academy of Persian Language and Literature head Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, and other senior officials. Aref toured the museum's galleries, highlighting its role in preserving the legacy of the late miniature master Mahmoud Farshchian. Salehi Amiri said the reopening gave new life to Iran's cultural heritage and reinforced the country's commitment to its historical treasures. The Sa'dabad ceremony also honored other leading figures, including archaeologists, architects and conservators such as Seyfollah Aminian, Akbar Taqizadeh-Asl, Parvin Seghat ol-Eslam, Ebrahim Heidari, and Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, emphasizing society's respect for those who safeguard national heritage.

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref called cooperation between

civil society and government agencies "a necessity" for protecting the country's cultural heritage, warning that illegal excavations, urban sprawl and

Minister vows major upgrade of tourism infrastructure



Reza Salehi Amiri

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri on Wednesday promised to launch what he called a "movement" to build basic infrastructure for the ministry, vowing better pay, upgraded offices and wider provincial representation for staff across the country. The pledge came in a message marking Government Week (August 24-30), where Salehi Amiri tied the ministry's future to "social capital" and framed the task of preserving heritage as a historic mission beyond daily bureaucracy, ILNA reported. His remarks underscored Tehran's intent to shore up a sector officials see as both a

national identity anchor and a driver of sustainable growth. Referring to the country's strained economic backdrop and a short but intense conflict last year, Salehi Amiri praised employees for keeping "the light of service" alive. He called their resilience "a golden page in the organizational memory," noting that many worked in towns without adequate facilities or even basic livelihoods. The minister said he plans to tour all 31 provinces by late September to meet staff directly, hear their concerns, and assess shortages in administrative space and resources. "The bitter reality is that many of you are serving under minimum living standards," he said, pointing to 380 counties that lack proper offices. Salehi Amiri highlighted three fronts of progress — protection of cultural heritage, growth of handicrafts as a "mirror of national culture," and tourism as an engine for development. Each, he said, was made possible by "sacrifice" from staff whose names "shine on the achievements" of the ministry. He described the roadmap ahead as aligned with guidelines from Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian, presenting it as part of a broader strategy to revive Iran's "historic grandeur."

First Persian-Thai digital dictionary launched

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's cultural mission in Thailand on Wednesday unveiled the first two-way Persian-Thai digital dictionary after a year of work, saying the project aims to expand language learning and deepen cultural links between the two countries. The new dictionary is described by Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) as the first comprehensive and standardized reference for daily vocabulary and phrases in both languages, IRNA reported. Officials said the tool is meant to serve as a "fresh platform" for strengthening academic, cultural and tourism ties that have been growing between Iran and Thailand in recent years. Available on web, Telegram, Android and iOS, the service offers audio pronunciation and phonetic transcription in three scripts – English, Thai and Persian – covering both single words and common conversational sentences. "The main strength is its focus on pronunciation," the cultural center said, stressing that users can listen to a word and at the same time see how it should be spoken. Developers say the dictionary goes beyond single entries by providing ready-made phrases for greetings, directions, shopping, transport and administrative tasks. Each comes with a voice recording and phonetic guide, designed to help beginners build confidence in real-life situations. The project was launched amid rising demand for



user-friendly language tools. Academic exchanges, student mobility and tourism flows between Iran and Thailand have all climbed, creating what officials call an urgent need for reliable bilingual resources. The dictionary's first phase covers the "1,000 most frequent words" and "1,000 key phrases" and is already online. A second phase, dependent on new funding, would add advanced features such as voice message translation, photo-to-text conversion and AI-based sentence suggestions, effectively turning the product into an intelligent language assistant. Target users include Thai students interested in Persian, Iranians learning Thai, teachers, researchers and travelers. The tool is also expected to benefit cultural centers, schools and universities, providing what its designers call "a trusted companion" for translation, pronunciation practice and essential communication.

Fajr International Film Festival to run in Tehran late November

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Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance said on Wednesday that the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran from Nov. 25 to Dec. 2, with newly appointed secretary Rouhollah Hosseini overseeing the event. The official call for entries will be released on Aug. 30, IRNA reported.

The festival, billed as one of Iran's most important cultural showcases, is expected to highlight both the country's "committed and creative" cinema and Tehran's push to widen artistic exchanges with filmmakers abroad. Organizers said the gathering aims to provide a platform for cultural dialogue among nations while also drawing on international institutions and domestic expertise to raise the event's global standing.

Hosseini was named secretary last month by the head of the Cinema Organization of Iran. His appointment letter urged him to strengthen ties with global filmmakers and scholars and to ensure the festival promotes Iran's cinema as a medium rooted in both artistry and social responsibility. The directive also called for programming that underscores the "bravery and resilience" of Iranians during a 12-day war, reflecting

the government's aim to tie cultural events to broader narratives of national endurance. The Fajr International Film Festival was relaunched as a separate event in 2015 and was run for five editions under secretaries Alireza Rezadad, Reza Mirkarimi and Mohammad Mehdi Asgarpour. In 2022 and 2023, it was folded back into the national Fajr Film Festival before regaining its independent slot this year.

