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## Curtain Drawn on JCPOA, Snapback Mechanism

### In letter to UN chief:

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This file photo shows Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C), flanked by his counterparts Sergey Lavrov of Russia (L) and Wang Yi of China, during a meeting in New York, US on September 27, 2024.  
• [en.mfa.ir](http://en.mfa.ir)

## 12-Day war and the future of Middle East deterrence, diplomacy

By Alam Saleh  
Professor at Australian National University

### OPINION EXCLUSIVE



The June 2025 conflict between Israel and Iran, widely referred to as the 12-Day war, marked one of the most significant security flash-points in the Middle East in recent years. Though brief, the war profoundly impacted Iran's military doctrine, reshaped regional security thinking, and recalibrated diplomatic trajectories. While it did not produce a decisive strategic shift, it acted as a pressure test for existing deterrence frameworks, alliances, and regional fault lines. The following article synthesises the key takeaways regarding Iran's deterrence posture, regional and global responses, and the evolving role of Gaza in Iran's broader strategic calculus.

### Iran's deterrence doctrine: strengths and limits

The 12-day conflict underscored both the effectiveness and constraints of Iran's deterrence approach. Tehran demonstrated its ability to retaliate against Israel using ballistic missiles and drones. This visible response preserved the credibility of Iran's deterrence: that it can impose meaningful costs on its adversaries if provoked.

However, Iran also avoided full-scale escalation, notably focusing on select targets while enhancing its missile and air defence capabilities. This marks a shift toward a more calibrated deterrence model, less about maximal coercion, and more about survivability, strategic ambiguity, and escalation control. Iran appears to be moving away from high-risk confrontation and instead adopting a more calculated strategy that combines conventional military strength with deniable operations and increased investment in defense systems and infrastructure. Regionally, this measured response slightly elevated Iran's

prestige among sympathetic populations and political actors, who saw Tehran as capable of defending its interests. Still, the exposure of Iran's vulnerabilities, including the ability of Western and Israeli forces to strike Iranian targets, tempered the perception of Iranian invincibility. Iran's deterrence remains intact, but it is clearly evolving.

### Impact on Arab and global security policies

The war did not fundamentally transform Arab or global security alignments vis-à-vis Iran, but it did prompt incremental recalibration. The Persian Gulf states, particularly those ones who had normalised relations with Israel, reassessed the risks of deeper entanglement. Many adopted a hedging strategy: continuing security cooperation with the US while also advocating for diplomatic restraint to prevent wider conflict.

States with closer ties to Iran, such as Iraq and factions in Lebanon, sought to maintain delicate balancing acts, wary of being

drawn into a broader regional confrontation. On a global level, the US and European powers emphasised crisis management and deterrence measures, including maritime security, intelligence sharing, and nuclear safeguards, rather than embracing wholesale containment strategies that could spark open warfare.

The strategic takeaway is clear: while no major realignments occurred, regional and international actors are increasingly focused on conflict containment and damage control, rather than confrontation or appeasement.

### Gaza's role in Iran's diplomatic positioning

Any durable Gaza agreement, involving ceasefires, reconstruction, or prisoner exchanges, carries important, though not decisive, implications for Iranian power and diplomacy. Gaza's fate matters to Iran, but it is one variable among many. A peace process there may moderate some of Iran's tactics but is unlikely to shift its overarching regional posture.

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## Israel launches deadly strikes on Gaza in first major truce violation

Hamas affirms commitment to US-brokered cease-fire deal



Smoke billows following an Israeli strike that targeted a building in the Bureij camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip on October 19, 2025.  
• [AFP](http://AFP)

### International Desk

A fragile Gaza cease-fire edged close to total collapse on Sunday after Israel launched new deadly airstrikes across Gaza on the pretext of Palestinian attacks on its troops, in the first major violation of the cease-fire meant to halt more than two years of war.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and its military wing al-Qassam Brigades in the Gaza Strip on Sunday affirmed their commitments to the US-brokered cease-fire agreement, stressing that the regime continues to breach the agreement and fabricate flimsy pretexts to justify its crimes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu consulted with Israel's security heads and directed the military to take "strong action" against any cease-fire violations, but did not threaten to return to war.

Israel's military claimed that Hamas fighters shot at troops in areas of the southern Gaza city of Rafah that are Israeli-controlled according to agreed-upon cease-fire lines. No injuries were reported.

Hamas, which continued to accuse Israel of multiple cease-fire violations, said that it wasn't connected to any clashes in Rafah.

"We reaffirm our full commitment to implementing all agreed-upon terms, especially the cease-fire across all areas of the Gaza Strip. We have no knowledge of any incidents or clashes taking place in the Rafah area, as it is part of the red zones under the occupation's control", the statement by the al-Qassam Brigades said.

"Communication has been completely cut off with the remaining units of ours there since the resumption of the war in March of this year. We have no information on whether they have been martyred or are still alive since that time". Gaza's civil defense agency said a number of Israeli air raids killed at least 11 Palestinians in the coastal enclave on Sunday. Despite the cease-fire in place since October 10, Israel has launched many attacks in the Gaza Strip, killing more than 50 people throughout the strip.

Hamas resistance movement also rejected a statement from the US State Department, in which it cited "credible reports" claiming the Palestinian group would imminently violate the cease-fire deal.

Hamas said the US allegations were false and "fully align with the misleading Israeli propaganda and provide cover for the continuation of the occupation's crimes and organized aggression" against the Palestinians in Gaza.

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## Iran could restore its nuclear capabilities in medium term:

Expert

### INTERVIEW

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# In letter to UN chief: Iran, China, Russia affirm termination of UNSC Resolution 2231

## International Desk

Iran, China, and Russia in a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday affirmed the termination of Security Council Resolution 2231 concerning Iran's nuclear program on October 18, 2025, which marks the end of the 15-member body's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue.

The three countries said they "affirm that in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 2231, all its provisions are terminated after 18 October 2025."

The date, therefore, "marks the end of the Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue," the countries' envoys added.

The resolution, which endorsed the historic 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, mandated suspension of nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic. Officially known as the Joint Compre-

hensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 deal— signed in Vienna by Iran, China, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — saw the lifting of international sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program.

The United States, though, left the deal and reimposed its sanctions in an illegal and unilateral move in 2018. The US's European allies then succumbed to American pressure, suspending their own trade with Iran, besides betraying a pledge to return Washington to the deal.

The overall Western bid has been focusing on allegations of Iranian nuclear activities' "diversion," claims that have never been verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency, despite its most intrusive inspections to date.

Earlier this year, the European states — namely the UK, France, and Germany — tried their hand at triggering the "snapback" mechanism that led to restoration of the sanctions late last



A staff removes the Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with foreign ministers and representatives of the United States, Iran, China, Russia, Britain, Germany, France, and the European Union during the Iran nuclear talks at the Vienna International Center on July 14, 2015.

● CARLOS BARRIA/AFP

month.

The letter reminded that the trio had no legal right to have the sanctions restored in light of their own non-commitment to the JCPOA.

"The E3, having themselves ceased to perform their commitments under both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 and also failing to exhaust the procedures of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM), lacks the standing to invoke its provisions."

The envoys, meanwhile, noted that the Security Council's adherence to the resolution's expiration date would "contribute to strengthening the authority of the Council and the credibil-



ity of multilateral diplomacy."

The diplomats finally called on all parties to create a favorable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts. Iran's Foreign Ministry in a separate statement on Saturday said that all provisions of the Resolution 2231 are to be considered terminated from now

on as a ten-year period set out in the resolution came to an end on October 18.

The ministry said that Iran is no longer bound by restrictions on its nuclear program as the landmark 10-year deal expired, though Tehran reiterated its "commitment to diplomacy."

## IRGC decries deadly terrorist attacks on Sunni tribal leaders in southeast



### National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement on Sunday strongly condemned recent deadly attacks on the heads of Sunni tribes in the southeastern province of Sistan and Balu-

chestan.

"The unity, brotherhood, and peaceful coexistence of the brave and faithful people of the southeastern region of the country have always been praised by all. The enemies of the country, through their blind and cowardly actions, seek to disrupt this national cohesion," the statement said.

The statement was issued after Mullah Kamal Salahizehi, a well-known Baluch figure in the Sarbaz county of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, was assassinated by terrorist groups on Sunday. "Mercenary groups affiliated with

the Israeli regime, by committing recent crimes and killing a number of Sunni elders and tribal leaders, have once again revealed their anti-Islamic nature," the statement added.

The IRGC underlined that such crimes will never weaken unity of Shias and Sunnis in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

"The perpetrators and commanders of these crimes will soon face the consequences of their shameful actions, and the powerful security and military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will decisively deliver a fitting response to these savage acts."

## Israel launches deadly ...

The US State Department had claimed that Hamas is planning an attack against civilians in Gaza "in grave violation of the cease-fire," and called on the mediating nations to demand that the group uphold its obligations under the peace deal. The cease-fire deal — part of US

President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war — came into force on October 10. The first phase currently under way has seen the release of all living captives in Gaza as well as the return to Israel of 12 out of 28 of those deceased. Israel has freed 250 Palestinian prisoners in its jails and 1,718 de-

tainees from Gaza, as well as returning 15 bodies of Palestinians in return for every Israeli captive's remains.

At least 68,000 people have been killed by Israeli attacks in Gaza since October 7, 2023 when Hamas launched a retaliatory operation against the occupied territories.

improved missile defense and decentralized command systems, can make future conflicts more controllable, though also potentially longer and costlier.

If these factors work together in favor of diplomacy and restraint, the region could see a tense but stable period. But if even one of them breaks down, especially in a moment of miscalculation or surprise, the risk of renewed conflict could rise quickly, unraveling any progress toward peace.

### Strategic inflection point

The 12-Day War did not spark a fundamental reshaping of the Middle East, but it served as a strategic inflection point. It affirmed Iran's capacity to retaliate and project pow-

er, while simultaneously revealing the limitations of that power and prompting shifts in both doctrine and perception. Arab states and global actors responded with cautious hedging and reinforced mechanisms to prevent escalation, rather than abandoning existing alliances or drastically altering policies.

Meanwhile, the future of Gaza, and Iran's role therein, will remain a critical variable. It may not redefine the regional balance, but it will shape the diplomatic playing field. Ultimately, the region stands at a crossroads: continued investment in diplomacy, crisis control, and economic stability could pave the way for a managed détente. But absent these efforts, the structural drivers of conflict remain intact.

## Grossi confident in 'diplomatic solution' to Iran's nuclear issue

### International Desk

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi expressed confidence on Sunday that a diplomatic solution will be found to the dispute surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

In a recent interview with the Swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Grossi said, "Bringing all parties back to the negotiating table can save us from another round of bombings and attacks."

When asked about US President Donald Trump's recent remarks expressing readiness for talks with Iran, Grossi said, "Hearing such statements from President Trump is encouraging. He even mentioned Iran during his speech in the (Israeli parliament) Knesset, saying he believes in a diplomatic path. That was a clear stance — just months after the US and Israeli attacks on Iran."

"We cannot change the violence that has already occurred, but sitting together at the table could prevent another wave of escalation."

Grossi said that the IAEA inspectors have found no evidence suggesting Iran has hidden significant amounts of enriched



Rafael Grossi  
● REUTERS

uranium.

"Most of Iran's enriched material is stored at the known facilities in Isfahan and Fordow, and to some extent in Natanz. A small portion may have been moved elsewhere," He claimed.

His remarks came after the US carried out airstrikes on Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear facilities on June 22. Following the attacks, questions arose over the storage of Iran's enriched uranium. Tehran later confirmed that some of the material remained buried under the debris, and no increase in external radiation was detected by either Iran or the IAEA.

## 12-Day war ...

### Prospects for de-escalation or renewed conflict

The future of stability in the Middle East depends on a few key, closely connected factors. First, clear communication and crisis-management systems, including defined red lines and reliable channels between adversaries, are crucial to avoiding accidental clashes. Second, domestic politics in certain countries can push leaders toward fast, risky decisions, especially when under pressure. Third, the role of major global powers such as the US, Europe, Russia, and China is critical; their willingness to invest in diplomacy and offer security guarantees can help manage tensions. Finally, advances in military technology, like



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

### CARTOON





# CBI boosts gold reserves to fortify financial stability, slash forex reliance



Economy Desk

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has adopted a strategic policy to increase its gold reserves over the past two years, effectively following the path of leading countries and aligning with international standards for strengthening financial stability, a senior CBI official said, as re-

ported by IRNA. Yekta Ashrafi, deputy for management and resources at the CBI, said the strategy has been adopted to strengthen financial stability, reduce reliance on foreign currencies, and enhance the resilience of the national economy. "The increase in gold reserves — the inflow of which we are currently wit-

nessing into our country — not only strengthens the backing of the national currency but also reflects the strategic understanding of the country's economic policymakers regarding the need to reduce dependence on foreign currencies and enhance the resilience of the national economy," she said. Earlier reports indicated that two for-

eign investors recently imported standard gold bullion worth around \$4 million into Iran, marking the first such transaction conducted through the country's Foreign Exchange and Gold Center. The CBI had previously restricted gold imports to manage the foreign currency market and curb smuggling. In November 2022, Iran cut tariffs on gold imports to zero to boost reserves and facilitate the return of funds held abroad due to US sanctions. Ashrafi said the gold reserve policy "practically follows the path of leading countries and aligns with international standards for managing gold and foreign currency reserves." She added that the decision was made "within the framework of financial risk management principles, diversification of reserve assets, and maintaining the purchasing power of the national currency," reflecting a forward-looking and smart approach to monetary policy. Citing both classical and modern monetary theories, she noted, "Gold, as a safe-haven asset, plays a stabilizing role against currency fluctuations and inflation. Increasing gold reserves significantly enhances the Central Bank's capacity to manage liquidity, control exchange rate shocks, and reduce systemic risks." Ashrafi highlighted the diversification of reserve assets as another key objective of the CBI. "International evidence shows that countries with diversified reserve portfolios, including a mix of major currencies and gold, are less vulnerable to financial crises and have more flexible monetary policies," Ashrafi said. He also stressed that increasing gold reserves strengthens the bank's ability to pursue the policy of independence.

## Pakistan issues new guideline for Iran barter trade to aid businesses



Economy Desk

Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, said on Sunday that Islamabad had issued a new executive guideline aimed at promoting barter trade with Iran, amid concerns from the business communities in both countries. Mudassir Tipu said via his official X account that the new guideline, known as Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO), was issued "after a long and comprehensive review process," and incorporates solutions to many concerns raised by Iranian and Pakistani traders. He expressed hope that the measure would significantly boost trade between the two neighbors and diversify its foundations. The ambassador invited industrialists and business communities from both countries to take full advantage of the guideline and contribute to the expansion of bilateral trade. He also urged chambers of commerce and trade organizations in Iran and Pakistan to share the guideline with their members to ensure mutual commercial benefits. The development follows Pakistan's Finance Ministry approval on October 2 of a draft submitted by the Ministry of Commerce to revise the bilateral barter trade agreement with Iran. A few days later, the federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, endorsed the decision of the Economic Coordination Committee. He described the issuance of the SRO as a key step in strengthening economic ties between the two countries and creating a more structured and predictable framework for barter trade. Last year, bilateral trade reached \$3.129 billion, with \$2.423 billion in Iranian exports to Pakistan and \$700 million in Pakistani exports to Iran. During President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to the Pakistani capital earlier in August, a \$10 billion bilateral trade target was agreed between Tehran and Islamabad.

# ICT underscores digital economy as strategic growth driver nationwide

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Sattar Hashemi, said on Saturday night that the country's digital economy offers exceptionally high returns on investment, underlining the sector's strategic importance. Speaking in a televised interview, Hashemi also emphasized the government's commitment to expanding fiber optic infrastructure nationwide, IRNA reported. He said the core of the digital economy has "a very high rate of diversification," noting that, "Compared with investment in other sectors, the return on each dollar invested in the digital economy is roughly between eight and eighty-four times." The minister added that while the figure is not definitive, it reflects the sector's vast potential.

"We must take this economy seriously, pay attention to it, and help bring about positive changes for the country," he said. Hashemi stressed that the country's path toward digital transformation depends on close cooperation with the private sector.

Fiber optic drive

The minister said Iran's communications technology sector "is on the verge of a fundamental transformation after 100 years," as the current government moves to replace copper-based networks with fiber optic infrastructure. "The current infrastructure cannot meet the country's communication needs," he said, adding that the goal is to complete about 70 percent of the project by the end of the current administration. "Tens of thousands of kilometers of



this infrastructure have already been developed across the country," Hashemi said, expressing optimism that the

project will significantly improve the quality of digital communications once completed.

# Iran achieves 130m tons agro output per year despite challenges: Deputy minister



Economy Desk

Iran's deputy minister of agriculture announced on Sunday that the country produces around 130 million tons of agricultural products per year, including 97 million tons from crop farming. Speaking at a meeting with members of the Agriculture Commission of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Majid Anjafi underlined that fertilizer shortages and delayed foreign currency allocations are threatening the country's agricultural performance, IRNA reported.

Anjafi said the sector is facing serious challenges in securing key inputs such as urea and phosphate fertilizers. "Last year, petrochemical companies were supposed to supply one million tons of urea, but they prioritized exports over domestic needs," he said. The official added that the country requires \$1.5 billion in preferential foreign currency to import 1.5 million tons of phosphate fertilizer, while only 300,000 tons were provided last year. The agriculture sector currently needs 30,000 tons of fertilizer, yet just 10,000

tons have been imported so far. "Currency allocations are being made drop by drop," Anjafi said, highlighting growing concern among farmers. Referring to recent droughts, he noted that Iran has experienced two major dry spells in the past fifty years — one in 2021 and another this year. "In 2021, wheat production fell to 4.5 million tons, but this year it has reached about 8 million tons," he said. Anjafi emphasized that ensuring stable foreign currency allocation is vital for meeting agricultural input needs and sustaining crop production growth.



# Iran could restore its nuclear capabilities in medium term: *Expert*



**INTERVIEW** On Monday last week, President Donald Trump of the United States set out for the Occupied Territories and then Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to sign the Gaza peace deal, even as the existing agreement has already run into many hurdles regarding the full execution of all 20 provisions — issues that the US president is turning a blind eye to. Brushing aside the reality and pushing through an imposed peace in the case of Gaza is now playing out on the Iran front as well. During this trip, and at every chance he got, the American president rolled out a mix of threats, repetitive claims, and calls for a deal with Iran: from claims of “neutralizing the threat of terrorism and Iran’s nuclear weapons” to leveling the usual allegations about Tehran’s regional activity, and in the end, extending an olive branch for talks and a deal. These contradictory remarks bring to mind the American president’s stances in the weeks leading up to Israel’s military offensive and his own subsequent strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities in June. Parsing these comments and the motives behind them, the degree to which America means business about a deal, and what Trump actually has in mind when he speaks of an agreement with Iran — these are all key questions that beg answers for a clearer picture of what’s next. No doubt, how things play out will have a bearing on Iran’s ties with other countries, especially Russia and China, its two strategic partners. Alireza Soltani, a university professor and international relations expert, answered these questions and clarified the current state of affairs in an interview. The translation of the exchange is as follows:

In the days President Trump was making his way across the Middle East, he brought up Iran at virtually every forum, with threats, allegations, and claims on one hand, and invitations to talk on the other. How should we make sense of what Mr. Trump has been saying?

**SOLTANI:** The fact of the matter is, Iran is currently one of the top concerns shaping US foreign policy. Today’s global political and geopolitical landscape has driven both the US foreign policy machine and the president himself to the conclusion that the Iran issue must somehow be settled. Following the imposed 12-day war and the snapback of UN sanctions, both Washington and Trump have come to the view that now is the right time to take on the Iran file in earnest.

It would seem the current US administration’s approach is to tackle the Iran issue through negotiation and a deal — but a deal that serves the interests of the US and, by extension, Israel. Trump’s recent insistence on settling the Iran matter underscores this reality. His use of persuasive, even aggressive rhetoric is meant to signal he’s intent on resolving the Iran case during his time in office and wants the credit for it. That blend of threats and incentives points to a Trump administration out to settle this issue while the current circumstances still hold.

Some say the US president had reached out to Tehran with calls for negotiations and goodwill even before he resorted to force against Iran in June, and that this fresh invitation could be a precursor to another round of conflict. How accurate is this assessment, given developments on the ground?

In politics, anything can happen. Nothing is ever set in stone, and you can’t run every issue, fact, and experience through the same analytic filter. Just because Tehran and Washington talked before the imposed 12-day war and conflict broke out at the height of those talks doesn’t guarantee that the US pursuit of talks now will set the stage for war.

The current political and geopolitical climate is a far cry from the period before the imposed 12-day war. Back then,



Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi looks around at the Astana Platform Foreign Ministers Meeting on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly session in New York on September 28, 2024.

● AA



It would seem the current US administration’s approach is to tackle the Iran issue through negotiation and a deal — but a deal that serves the interests of the US and, by extension, Israel. Trump’s use of persuasive, even aggressive rhetoric is meant to signal he’s intent on resolving the Iran case during his time in office and wants the credit for it. That blend of threats and incentives points to a Trump administration out to settle this issue while the current circumstances still hold.



US President Donald J. Trump (R) and Vice President JD Vance are pictured in The Situation Room on June 21, 2025, the day the US illegally launched air strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities.

● THE WHITE HOUSE

Alireza Soltani

Iran had at its disposal key nuclear assets — like enriched uranium and nuclear facilities — and that gave it a strong leverage. Those circumstances just don’t hold up today.

So, while war may have once made sense for US policymakers to resort to war to wipe out Iran’s nuclear capacity, such a pretext doesn’t really stand up now. At present, negotiation and a possible deal seem far more pressing to Washington, and a breakthrough even more likely.

**Both Iran and the US now want a dialogue, but it seems what’s needed to kickstart the process is a new initiative — especially given that Tehran is looking for a balanced proposal. What might that initiative look like?**

The truth is, getting talks off the ground between Iran and the US will take a serious new initiative, naturally one that brings third-party mediators into play. Right now, the two sides aren’t in a position to go it alone directly; Even though countries like Oman and Qatar were critical brokers in previous rounds, their roles have faded substantially.

Still, if some countries, whether inside or outside the region, step up to mediate, it could make a difference. A mediation effort coupled with a peace or negotiation plan pushed by these intermediaries could break the impasse in Iran-US negotiations.

Counting on Europe for a special role doesn’t seem realistic. However, one of the major factors for reopening a pathway to talks and breaking the deadlock is the positions that the International Atomic Energy Agency take. If Iran matches the IAEA’s position with cooperation, this could pave the way for US-Iran negotiations.

**Right now, one of the most debated topics in foreign policy circles is exactly what should be on the table in a potential deal with America — should it be confined to the nuclear issue or sweep in broader questions? Which approach better safeguards Iran’s national interest?**

Even though the nuclear issue still sits at the heart of US-Iran tensions, with Iran seeking international recognition of its enrichment rights and the US demanding a full halt to that program,

the reality is that the recent US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities may have taken some urgency out of the timeline. US officials may be confident that Iran could bounce back and restore its nuclear capabilities in a medium-term window, and concerns have allayed, but the nuts and bolts of the nuclear file remain the main sticking point for both Washington and Tehran. Iran wants to hold on to this right (even at a certain enrichment level), while the US is dead set on complete deactivation.

Even so, it’s clear the US-Iran problem can’t be pigeonholed into the nuclear file alone. If and when the two sides sit down at the table, it would be wise to seize the opportunity and hash out other outstanding disputes. Without resolving their political disagreements completely, both capitals will remain caught up in recurring challenges. Resolving just one issue won’t resolve all issues between the two. Given the current political, geopolitical, and domestic realities, it’s in both parties’ interests to go after comprehensive solutions.

The full interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.





# Despite Trump's 'hand of friendship' Reviving US-Iran diplomacy difficult



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Omani counterpart, Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, as part of the fifth round of indirect negotiations with the US in Rome, Italy, on May 23, 2025.  
● IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

By Brian Osgood  
Reporter  
**PERSPECTIVE**

During a trip to the Middle East marking the end of Israel's war on Gaza, United States President Donald Trump turned to another source of strife in the region: the tensions between Tehran and Washington. In remarks to the Israeli Knesset on Monday, Trump, who took the unprecedented step of bombing Iranian nuclear facilities earlier this year amid a 12-day war between Israel and Iran, offered a "hand of friendship". "We are ready when you are, and it will be the best decision that Iran has ever made, and it's going to happen," Trump said of a possible agreement with Tehran. "The hand of friendship and cooperation is open. I'm telling you: They [Iran] want to make a deal. It would be great if we could make a deal." But despite the dovish rhetoric, the Trump administration has continued to take a hard line against Iran, and analysts say that a path towards better relations between the two countries remains filled with obstacles. Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a US-based think tank, said that the Israeli and US attacks in June, which came as nuclear negotiations between Washington and Tehran were ongoing, undermined advocacy for diplomacy in Iran. "There's a perception that the US is using diplomacy to lull Iran into a false sense of security," Parsi said.

**'Iran open to a deal': Expert**  
Iran itself has not closed the door to diplomacy, but its leaders have not rushed to renew talks with the US, either. "If we receive a reasonable, balanced, and fair proposal from the Americans for negotiations, we will certainly consider it," Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi said during a television interview last week. Iran had rejected an Egyptian invitation to attend a summit on the war in Gaza in Sharm el-Sheikh later that week, citing US attacks and sanctions.

Talks over Iran's nuclear programme have not resumed since the Trump administration's bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities. Israel started the war in June, days before the US and Iranian officials were set for another round of talks. The US, which during Trump's first term in 2018 withdrew from a previous deal limiting Iran's nuclear programme, has also insisted that any new agreement include a total ban on Iranian uranium enrichment. That demand goes beyond the original deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which only curbed Iran's uranium enrichment programme under a strict international inspection system. Iran has depicted that new demand as a denial of its rights as a sovereign country, noting that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) does not prohibit uranium enrichment. The impasse over enrichment has become a sticking point in negotiations. "Iran is open to a deal," Parsi told Al Jazeera. "But regardless of Trump's positive tone and kind words, what he is looking for is for Iran to capitulate. As long as he insists on zero enrichment,

I don't think he will get a deal." Israel's war with Iran, which included Israel's assassination of high-level military figures and civilian scientists, as well as air strikes that killed hundreds of people, has also increased scepticism about the prospects of a lasting deal with the US. In a speech to the Knesset on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lauded the US decision to bomb Iran during the war as a "biblical miracle". Since the beginning of the war in Gaza, Israel has struck a series of blows against Iran and allied groups, such as Hezbollah, across the Middle East, giving the US little incentive to make concessions on uranium enrichment and other issues. Trump often reiterates that Iran's nuclear programme has been "obliterated" by the US strikes on key facilities, but the extent of the damage remains unclear. The Pentagon said earlier this year that the Iranian nuclear programme had been set back by one to two years. But Rafael Grossi, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has said that Iran could

be enriching uranium again within months. Iran insists that it is not seeking a nuclear weapon, while Israel is widely believed to possess an undeclared nuclear arsenal. "Trump can sound optimistic about diplomacy, but he can also afford to wait and let Iran sweat," Gregory Brew, an Iran analyst at the US-based Eurasia Group, told Al Jazeera via email. Iran is also facing renewed sanctions from the UN after France, Germany, and the United Kingdom triggered a so-called snapback of sanctions in August, arguing that Iran had violated the terms of the JCPOA. Tehran countered that the US unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018, and called another deal allowing inspections of its nuclear facilities by the IAEA "no longer relevant" after the US and Israeli strikes. Iran was incensed at the IAEA for failing to condemn strikes against its nuclear facilities, which Tehran argues are protected under international law.

The full article first appeared on Al Jazeera.

There's a perception that the US is using diplomacy to lull Iran into a false sense of security. Regardless of Trump's positive tone and kind words, what he is looking for is for Iran to capitulate. As long as he insists on zero enrichment, I don't think he will get a deal.



Demonstrators gather outside the Embassy of the US in London, the UK, in protest against attacks on Iran by the US and Israel in June 2025.  
● STEVE EASON/IMAGO



# World Taekwondo Championships: Time has come for Iranian girls to hit milestone, head coach Saei says

## Sports Desk

Head coach Mahrouz Saei believes the Iranian women's team is ready to make history by securing its first-ever podium finish at the upcoming World Championships.

The 27th edition of the sport's flagship international event will kick off on Friday in Wuxi, China, where Iran will be represented by seven contestants in the women's division.

Iran's best-ever result in the women's competition – since its inception in 1987 – came at the previous edition in Baku two years ago, when Nahid Kiani claimed a historic gold medal in the -53kg class to help the country finish fifth in the team table.

"Fortunately, the girls are in excellent condition, both physically and mentally, and have reached their peak form. We have no injury concerns, and are fully prepared to succeed at the World Championships," Saei told IRNA.

When Saei replaced former coach Minou Maddah in September, her appointment was met with criticism from many in the country, who believed the decision was driven by nepotism on the part of her older brother and the chairman of the Iranian federation, Hadi Saei – a taekwondo legend with double Olympic golds and a bronze.

That is what makes the event in Wuxi, along with the upcoming



● IRNA

Islamic Solidarity Games, even more special for Saei, who will be eager to showcase her coaching credentials and prove her doubters wrong.

"I've carried a great deal of mental pressure, but my focus never wavered from the team's success. I didn't let myself be distracted then, and I won't now. God willing, with the girls' hard work, we will achieve what we rightfully

deserve," added Saei, who served as a number two to Maddah at last year's Olympic Games and was in Ne'matzadeh's corner through her bronze-winning campaign in Paris.

"Success in Wuxi is certainly of great importance to me. Over the last eight months, we have prepared a very strong team, which features world and Olympic medalists.

When asked about the high expectations of her team, Saei said, "I'm fully aware of that. In Baku, we finished fifth, thanks to Nahid's gold. I don't want to put any extra pressure on the girls; our team's potential is high, and perhaps the time has come for us to finish on the podium.

"The team is in every way ready to compete for glory. I have a positive outlook and am hopeful we

will achieve our target. I believe we can return with at least two medals, though the potential for even more is there.

For all the success that Iranian women have enjoyed across various international events in recent years, Saei remains mindful of the different level of the challenge awaiting in Wuxi, which marks the first step on the road to securing a spot at the 2028

Los Angeles Olympics.

"In some weight categories, each contestant will have to face six or seven opponents in a single day to reach the final, which is quite a challenge. But the girls are used to it.

"Since the domestic Super League switched to a Grand Prix format, they've adapted to competing multiple times in a day. We anticipated this and simulated this exact scenario in training camps with grueling sessions to ensure our girls are ready to handle the intense workload at the world event," Saei said.

While Kiani will aim to capture a second successive world gold on the opening day of the competition, former world junior champion Mobina Ne'matzadeh, 20, will look to build on her Olympic success as she chases a medal on her senior debut at the World Championships.

Mo'menzadeh, meanwhile, is set to compete at the World Championships for a third time, seeking to add to the silver medal she won in Manchester in 2019.

Having won her second Asian silver medal last year, Iranian captain Melika Mirhosseini will fancy her chances of a strong showing in Wuxi, while debutants Kowsar Asaseh and Nastaran Valizadeh, along with 21-year-old Saeideh Nasiri, head to the event fresh off impressive performances at international tournaments.

## Asian Rowing Championships: Mojallal grabs gold as Iran finishes with five medals



● ISNA

## Sports Desk

Iran's Fatemeh Mojallal capped off a decent campaign for the country at the Asian Rowing Championships in Haiphong, Vietnam, capturing the gold medal in the women's single sculls contest on Sunday.

A silver medalist in the category last year, the Iranian girl clocked 8:31.11 minutes in the final to take her individual haul in Haiphong to two medals – following her bronze-winning campaign alongside Mahsa Javer in the double sculls event on the preceding day.

The physical toll of the final, however, forced Mojallal to pull out of the quadruple sculls showdown, prompting the Iranian team – last year's silver medalist – to withdraw from the race.

Elsewhere, Zeinab Norouzi fell short of defending her title in the women's lightweight single sculls category, finishing

the final race in 8:224.75 minutes to settle for a silver medal behind her rival from Hong Kong, with the Kazakhstani contestant taking the bronze medal.

This was also a second medal in the competition for Norouzi, who teamed up with Kimia Zarei to secure the ultimate prize in the lightweight double sculls event on Saturday.

The Iranian pair clocked 7:30.22 minutes to outpace opponents from India, Thailand, Hong Kong, and the host country – a second Asian gold for the female duo following last year's triumph in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Iran's single medal in the men's competition came at Saturday's lightweight double sculls showdown, where Amirhossein Mohammadpour and Amirreza Abdali crossed the finish line in 6:43.24 minutes and settled for the bronze behind gold-winning Indian pair and Uzbekistan.

## 2025 Asian Youth Games: Iran's 'Ambassadors of Hope' aiming for record haul in Manama

## Sports Desk

Iranian young guns will be seeking their most successful campaign yet at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Manama, Bahrain.

The third edition of the multi-sport event will officially kick off with the opening ceremony on Wednesday, though the Iranians were already in action in handball, volleyball, kurash, and pencak silat on Sunday.

Under the motto 'Ambassadors of Hope', the Iranian delegation will feature 400 male and female athletes competing across 24 sporting events – including volleyball, handball, mixed martial arts, kabaddi, weightlifting, taekwondo, 3x3 basketball, athletics, futsal, muaythai, judo, cycling, pencak silat, and kurash. The Iranians will also compete in table tennis, beach volleyball, freestyle and beach wrestling, esports, boxing, aquatics, triathlon, and golf on the men's side, while badminton represents the women's lineup in that discipline.

Iran has participated in the two previous editions of the Games with mixed results.

In the inaugural Games in Singapore in 2009, Iran competed in nine sports with 54 athletes and ranked 11th overall, earning one gold, three silvers, and two bronze medals, accounting for 2.2 percent of the total medals awarded.

The country's medal-winning sports were athletics (one gold, double silvers, one bronze), 3x3 basketball (silver), and football (bronze). China and South Korea dominated the medal table that year, claiming nearly half of all gold medals combined. At the second edition in Nanjing in 2013, Iran increased its participation to 79 athletes across 17 sports but finished

20th in the standings with six silver and two bronze medals, representing 2.04 percent of the overall medal share.

Medals came in athletics (three silvers, one bronze), football (silver), shooting (silver), taekwondo (silver), and judo (bronze). Once again, China and South Korea topped the charts, taking home a combined 58 percent of all gold medals.

Now, as the 2025 Bahrain Asian Youth Games is around the corner, Iran enters the competition determined to build on past experience and improve its conti-

mental standing. With representation in more sports than ever before, the 'Ambassadors of Hope' aim to deliver their best performance yet and, potentially, set new national records in the medal count.



The Iranian volleyball under-19 team is seen in a training session, ahead of leaving for the 2025 Asian Youth Games, in Tehran, Iran, on October 15, 2025.

● MASOUD AKBARI/volleyball.ir





# Noghlehbar Forest inviting travelers to hike, camp, relax

Iranica Desk

Noghlehbar Forest in Rudbar, Gilan Province, with its pristine landscapes, rich history, and diverse tourist attractions, stands out as an extraordinary destination for those seeking tranquility and a deeper connection with nature. As autumn approaches, the forest transforms into a vibrant tapestry of warm fall colors, complemented by a mild and inviting climate, making this season the most ideal time to explore its wonders.

Noghlehbar Forest is one of the lesser-known natural treasures of Gilan Province, nestled in the heart of Rudbar on the southern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. As an integral part of the valuable Hyrcanian ecosystem, the forest — rich with dense vegetation, cool climate, and untouched scenery — offers a paradise for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and anyone longing for peace and relaxation. During autumn, the forest becomes particularly enchanting, with the leaves turning brilliant shades of orange and yellow, providing a unique visual spectacle for visitors. This article delves into the forest's natural features, history, tourist attractions, and practical travel advice for planning a visit, IRNA wrote.

Geographically, Noghlehbar Forest lies approximately 30 kilometers from the center of Rudbar (around a 50-minute drive) and 45 kilometers from Rasht, while it is about 280 kilometers from Tehran, reachable by car in roughly four to five hours. Because of the steep and uneven terrain, it is highly recommended to travel with SUVs or four-wheel-drive vehicles. The forest's elevation, ranging between 1,000 and 1,500 meters above sea level, distinguishes it from the surrounding plains and contributes to its cooler climate.

Noghlehbar Forest forms part of the ancient Hyrcanian forests, which have endured for over 40 million years and are recognized as one of the most valuable ecosystems in the world, earning a



IRNA

place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The forest is adorned with trees such as beech, alder, hornbeam, and maple, which, in autumn, create a magical mosaic of orange, yellow, and red hues. The forest floor, blanketed with mosses and ferns, adds a mysterious and soothing charm to the landscape, enhancing the immersive experience for visitors. In terms of wildlife, this area hosts a variety of birds such as sparrows and owls, and occasionally mammals like foxes, rabbits, and squirrels. However, due to the forest's pristine and largely untouched nature, observing wildlife requires patience and careful attention. In early autumn, temperatures in the forest typically range between 10°C and 20°C, creating perfect conditions for hiking and

photography. Among the forest's most striking natural features is the view of Mount Dorfak, which soars to an elevation of 2,606 meters and lies near the forest. Its snow-covered peak in winter is visible from the higher sections of Noghlehbar, creating an awe-inspiring backdrop. The region's high humidity supports the growth of evergreen plants and mosses, keeping the forest lush and vibrant throughout the year.

The Hyrcanian forests as a whole have survived since the Tertiary geological period, representing remnants of ancient Ice Age forests that have been remarkably preserved in Iran. The nearby villagers, especially those in Pirsara, are warm and traditional people whose lives are deeply connected to nature. Many locals

assist tourists as guides or sell local products such as honey, tea, and pickles, enriching the visitor experience and offering a chance to learn about local culture and traditions.

Because of its tranquility and distance from urban hustle, Noghlehbar is perfect for those looking to escape the stresses of modern life. In autumn, the vivid leaf colors and golden morning light create exceptional conditions for photography. The gentle walking trails are ideal for light hiking and family-friendly nature walks. Camping under the forest's towering trees is an unforgettable experience, especially when accompanied by the soft sound of small streams that flow through various parts of the forest.

For adventure enthusiasts, light

trekking toward nearby highlands and summiting Mount Dorfak adds excitement, though these activities require physical preparedness and proper equipment. Watching the sunset in this region, with sunlight reflecting off colorful leaves, creates a breathtaking and truly memorable view.

**Practical tips**  
**Essential Items:** Hiking shoes, warm clothing (especially for mornings and evenings), drinking water, food, a tent (for camping), a flashlight, and a map or GPS.  
**Timing:** The best periods to visit are autumn or spring. Begin your journey early in the morning to avoid northern road traffic and daytime heat.  
**Safety:** Forest trails can be slippery or uneven, so proceed with

caution. Traveling with someone familiar with the area or hiring a local guide is recommended.

**Environment:** Always carry your trash back to preserve the forest's pristine condition. Lighting fires in the forest is strictly prohibited, particularly during the dry autumn months.

Noghlehbar Forest, with its pristine nature, rich history, and captivating attractions, is not only a remarkable destination for reconnecting with nature but also a living heritage of Earth's history. With careful planning, respect for safety guidelines, and an appreciation for its natural beauty, visitors can enjoy an unforgettable journey. Preserving this forest is a responsibility we all share, ensuring that future generations can continue to experience its serenity and wonder.

## Experience echoes of history at Naseri Castle in Iranshahr

Naser ol-Dowleh Farmanfarma, one of the rulers of Kerman and Baluchestan during the Qajar dynasty, ordered the construction of a military castle in the city of Iranshahr, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, named it after himself. Following the approval of Naser al-Din Shah, Ostad

Hossein Memarbashi was summoned from Kerman to Iranshahr in 1885 to begin the construction of the castle. It took seven years to complete Naseri Castle, after which it was converted into the governmental headquarters of Baluchestan. During the later years of the

Qajar period, Naseri Castle became known as the Dost Mohammad Khan Castle and was once again used as a government office, visitation. Under the Pahlavi dynasty, the castle continued to serve as a military base before later being repurposed as a school. In the

years that followed, the castle remained abandoned and gradually fell into ruin. Unfortunately, by 1982, much of the structure had been destroyed, leaving only the gateway and the adjacent fence intact. Although little of the interior remains today, the decorative brickwork

of the entrance portal and the twin towers on either side are still standing. Ostad Hossein Memarbashi used cob bricks, clay, and fired bricks in the construction of the castle. The site covered an area of approximately 7,500 square meters and included more than 150 rooms, such as

stables, a Howz Khaneh (pool house), storage rooms, a bathhouse, barracks, and administrative offices. The upper parts of the structure were adorned with geometric and diamond-shaped designs, and the portal of the main tower featured exquisite brickwork. Altogether, Naseri Castle evoked the

grandeur of Arg-e Bam — the largest adobe structure in the world. After Bampur Castle, Naseri Castle is considered the most significant citadel in the region. Today, it stands as a historical site welcoming visitors who travel to Iranshahr in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.



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# Brushstrokes shaping a sustainable future



By Behdad Najafi Asadollahi  
Painter, multimedia artist

## PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

Art and sustainable development are two domains that, when carefully examined alongside and in connection with each other, reveal their deep interweaving. In fact, art and artistic activities can play an effective role in advancing the objectives of sustainable development programs for human societies by creating motivation and awareness, stirring up emotions in audiences, and conveying direct and indirect messages through the form and content of works. When art is actively engaged in purposeful efforts to interact with sustainable development, it can also be referred to as "sustainable art."

Eco-friendly art encompasses those activities, works, and artistic actions that responsibly take into account all the policies and requirements of sustainable development, from the most elementary stages including ideation, creativity, design, execution, and so forth, to public exhibition, information dissemination, sales, installation, and maintenance of works, and remain committed to observing its principles. These policies primarily include social responsibilities and environmental protection programs that ensure green art, in the course of its growth and development, consistently seeks to bring about positive social changes while leaving the minimal negative impact on the environment.

From an environmental perspective, environmental art pays special attention to the level of pollution left behind from artistic activities (from creation to exhibition and beyond), the amount of energy, water, and other necessary consumable resources used, the volume of carbon dioxide produced as a result of artistic activities (carbon footprint), and from a social responsibility perspective, to social, cultural, behavioral, psychological impacts and other occurrences and effects that art might trigger, and strives to manage them.

In what follows, we will examine and study the various ways in which art plays a role in the sustainable development of human societies.

### 1. Message transmission and appropriate content delivery by sustainable art

Art transmits appropriate messages through the content of works and visual forms, influences emotions, creates motivation and movement in audiences, and increases their awareness regarding the subject matter of the works.

In fact, art in this context can convey specific messages within the framework of sustainable development policies, either by highlighting its positive aspects or calling attention to the negative consequences of neglecting it, by establishing connections with audiences through emotion and through the pathway of aesthetics.

Message conveyance in each artistic discipline occurs according to the nature



and specific methods of that artistic field. For example, in painting and photography, message transmission takes place through presenting visual content such as showcasing the beauties of nature or depicting the destructive impacts of humans and their activities on the environment, climate change, and so forth. Other examples include music and the creation of pieces for specific cultural and social occasions or purposes, theater with direct and indirect approaches to conveying various messages, cinema with its vast audiences as one of the most efficient artistic disciplines for influencing the general public, or disciplines like installation and performance with their special capability in display and execution, conveying specific discourse in line with each aspect of sustainable development policies.

### 2. Media, materials, and tools in green art

Artists, when creating artistic works according to their artistic discipline and intended works, use various materials, media, and tools such as different types of paint, canvas, paper and cardboard, metals, wood, glass, fabric and fibers, solvents and various chemical materials, and so forth. Given contemporary modern approaches in defining art and artistic works, today there are virtually no limitations on the types of media, materials, and tools used by artists in creating artistic works. In this regard, earth-conscious art operates based on three approaches.

First, using materials that cause the least harm to the environment and in whose production and distribution, sustainable development principles and policies have been observed as much as possible.

Second, using recycled materials that have returned to the cycle of production and use. It should be noted that it is preferable that what is used in creating and crafting artistic works, if it does not require long-term or permanent durability, should itself be recyclable and reusable in various cycles of human activities.

And third, consumption management, or in other words, responsible consumption of raw materials and energy. In this same context, we can mention artists who directly work with waste and refuse (scrap) to create artistic works. These works, in addition to consuming and converting waste into artistic works and creating artistic, cultural, and economic value, draw the audience's attention to waste as one of the major issues of sustainable development in human society.



### 3. Green art approaches in creation, exhibition, and performance

Eco-friendly art practically pays special attention to all the impacts of these processes on human societies and the environment and their management throughout all stages of study, ideation, creation, execution, exhibition, sales, and collection of artistic works and performances. These impacts can include environmental pollution, sending messages contrary to the cultural and ethical values of society, destructive effects on audiences' psyche, creating social disorders during exhibitions and performances such as road blockages and programs outside conventional hours, and so forth. In these executive and practical stages, considering the efficiency and effectiveness of artistic executive programs is of particular importance.

### 4. Social impacts

Green art helps achieve sustainable development goals from two perspectives: Social interaction and social empowerment.

Among the matters that are always under special attention of sustainable art



is the expansion of social interactions at various levels and dimensions, from within a society to interaction between different societies. Green art always strives to connect with individuals from various societies and involve and activate them in artistic and cultural activities. In this way, sustainable art and its target human societies have mutual influence on each other, which leads to the growth and development of both sides and creates a sense of belonging and unity between the audience and art and artist.

Furthermore, responsible art can be one of the effective tools for social empowerment and positive changes in it. In fact, art in this role is capable of becoming the voice of the unseen or marginalized segments of society and, as a medium for expressing the demands of societies and groups, serving the expansion and extension of social justice.

### 5. Green art, problem-solving, and creative thinking

Problem-solving and creative thinking are important and fundamental processes in sustainable development policymaking for human societies, especially when managing challenges and needing novel management solutions for upcoming issues. Sustainable art can have a significant positive impact on the growth and development of these two processes at the societal level by extending and generalizing creativity techniques and creative innovation to other ongoing human activities in human societies.

### 6. Thinking out of the box

Generally, art in all disciplines emphasizes gaining practical experience, discovery, thinking, contemplation, and the endless and unlimited journey of human thought around various issues and content. This approach, which can also be referred to as thinking out of the box, holds considerable importance in sustainable development and its strategies and policies, and thus by growing, developing, and strengthening it, practically helps achieve sustainable development goals.

### 7. Low-impact art and economics

One of the prominent characteristics of sustainable development is the necessity for growth and development of human societies from various aspects in an integrated and proportionate manner. Economics is among the most important of these aspects. Responsible art can create new economic opportunities by emphasizing programs formu-

lated based on art economics principles, relying on cultural and artistic activities and businesses related to them. These programs include selling various artistic works and products in domestic and international markets, organizing various domestic and international artistic events such as biennials, developing the tourism industry, helping grow ancillary industries and services dependent on art and artistic activities, and so forth.

In this section, it is necessary to mention the role of art in creating and developing art tourism and its prominent role in helping economic development in direct and indirect ways.

### 8. Cultural heritage preservation

Responsible art can play a prominent role in protecting cultural heritage, which is one of the fundamental principles of sustainable development. This duty is generally carried out by selecting appropriate content, conveying targeted messages, and introducing national heritage through artistic works and performances.

In addition, organizing managed artistic events in historical and cultural locations or for related occasions is also among the useful and appropriate ways to help preserve and protect cultural heritage and create awareness and motivation in this regard.

### 9. Creating suitable living environment and reducing social harms

One of the goals of sustainable development is creating a suitable environment for human life in human societies and minimizing social harms. Green art, by fulfilling its purposeful mission, contributes to the growth and elevation of general cultural level and social awareness, stress reduction in individuals, creating psychological and spiritual tranquility and beauty in the living environment, and furthermore, it takes up part of the surplus and leisure time of audiences, especially the younger generation, and focuses them on related activities, thereby reducing the chance of them turning to activities that contradict the moral or cultural values of society or have a criminal nature. The mentioned functions of waste-conscious art constitute an effective step in creating a suitable environment for the life of society members and reducing social harms.

### 10. Art therapy

Sustainable art, with special attention to all useful approaches and functions of art for human societies, also pays special attention to art therapy. Art therapy is a psychotherapeutic method that employs the artistic creativity process to improve and enhance individuals' physical, emotional, and spiritual health levels.

Art therapy strengthens individuals' capabilities in society, expands social communications, helps manage individual and social crises, elevates cultural levels and relationships, and by playing these roles, helps achieve the goals of sustainable development policies for human societies.

