



Veep calls on academies to lead scientific governance, solve challenges



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (c) speaks at the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran, on October 31, 2025.
● fvpresident.ir

the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Aref said the government views the academies as "the country's scientific think tanks" and central to developing the National Innovation Document and long-term research strategies, fvpresident.ir reported.

"The government counts on the academies to guide the country's scientific governance and future," he said. He recalled the early post-revolution years when the number of students and faculty members was too small to meet national needs but stressed that systematic investment in education led to the creation of a 20-year national vision document for science and technology.

"That roadmap put Iran's scientific

leadership at the center of national development," he said. "We aimed to become the region's top country in science and technology, but while we moved ahead at a steady pace, the world raced forward. We must now catch up."

Aref said the administration's approach rests on extending the earlier long-term vision into a practical national innovation agenda, emphasizing high technology and advanced research.

"Artificial intelligence is no longer a choice, it's an obligation," he said. "Just as we achieved a single-digit global ranking in nanotechnology, we must now aim to be among the world's top ten in AI."

The vice president called for tighter co-operation among universities, research centers, and industries, warning that the current disconnect was limiting national growth.

Addressing environmental and economic imbalances, Aref said the Academy of Sciences should lead efforts to resolve crises such as water shortages, climate change, and structural imbal-

ances in national resources.

Aref urged the government and the academic community to restore Iran's international scientific engagement, which he said had suffered from "a narrow-minded fear" of foreign infiltration. "It's unrealistic to think we can cut scientific ties with the world," he warned. "The country loses when we isolate our scholars."

Calling the academies "the conscience of scientific governance," Aref said they must act as "the nation's strategic compass," shaping the eighth development plan and charting Iran's scientific future. "The academies must not only observe but guide," he said. "They should be the torchbearers of innovation, ethics, and responsibility in national decision-making."

Aref concluded by saying the Pezeshkian government believes that "the country's real power lies in its scientists and thinkers." He added, "We see the solutions to Iran's problems in scientific assemblies, and above all, in the academies that gather the country's most distinguished scholars."

Social Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref on Friday urged the nation's academies and research institutions to take the lead in solving the country's

pressing economic, environmental, and social challenges through scientific solutions, calling them the "highest authority" in the nation's pursuit of progress and innovation. Speaking at the General Assembly of

After years away, Iran makes literary return to Algiers book fair

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's publishing industry returned to the Algiers International Book Fair after years of absence, marking its re-entry into one of Africa's largest cultural gatherings.

The 28th edition of the fair opened on Wednesday at the Pins Maritimes Exhibition Palace under the theme "The Book: A Meeting Place of Cultures," IRNA reported.

The event runs from October 29

to November 8, 2025, bringing together 1,254 publishing houses from 49 countries and showcasing more than 240,000 book titles. Mauritania is this year's guest of honor.

Iran's participation, coordinated by the Iran Book and Literature House in cooperation with the country's cultural center in Algiers, features a diverse range of works spanning literature, history, art, and children's books. The return follows what officials described as years of "per-

sistent effort" to reestablish Iran's cultural presence in the North African market.

Algerian Prime Minister Sifi Ghrieb inaugurated the fair alongside Algeria's Culture Minister and her Mauritanian counterpart, who led the guest delegation. Senior government officials, diplomats, and representatives of national institutions also attended the ceremony.

Crowds poured into the exhibition halls on opening day, with

many visitors stopping by the Iranian booth to browse Persian titles and pose for photos beside the Iranian flag, a gesture organizers described as a sign of "warm public reception."

This year's fair, held on the eve of the 71st anniversary of Algeria's revolution, features more than 50 cultural events, including lectures, panel discussions, and poetry evenings focusing on history, creativity in the digital age, and the Palestinian cause.



November 30 designated as nat'l day for Persian Gulf trio islands



Social Desk

The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR) of Iran on Friday officially declared November 30 as the national day commemorating the trio of islands, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, in the Persian Gulf.

SCCR official Gholamreza Basirnia said the decision was taken because November 30 marks the anniversary of Iranian Navy forces re-taking the three islands from British forces in 1971, IRNA reported. He described the date as a "symbol of

regained sovereignty" for Iran in the Persian Gulf, Tasnim News Agency reported.

In the same meeting, the council named November 12 as "National Aerospace Day" in tribute to the late Hassan Tehrani Moghadam and Amir Ali Hajizadeh, two senior figures in Iran's missile and aerospace sector.

The islands, located near the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, have been under Iranian control since Iranian naval forces moved in on November 30, 1971, just prior to the formal founding of the United Arab Emirates.

Basirnia said the move to register November 30 in the national calendar follows "persistent efforts" by the Iranian Navy's legal office to compile historical evidence of Iran's sovereignty and to restore tombstones of the islands' defenders.

The islands have been an integral part of Iran for many centuries, supported by numerous legal, historical, and geographical records both within Iran and internationally. However, the UAE has challenged Iran's sovereignty over the islands in recent decades, while Iran emphasizes they are an inseparable part of its territory and has urged the Arab country to avoid actions that could harm bilateral relations.

The origins of the issue trace back to the early 20th century, during the decline of Iran under the Qajar dynasty and the growing influence of British imperialism in the Persian Gulf. Britain took control of Abu Musa in 1904 and the two Tunbs in 1921, delegating local governance to British-appointed sheikhs of Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah for the next fifty years. Iran and the UK repeatedly debated the islands' status, but without tangible outcomes.

Iran's sovereignty over the islands was lawfully reinstated on November 30, 1971, shortly after the British withdrawal and just two days prior to the official formation of the UAE federation.

Iran forms task force to protect historic sites from land subsidence

Social Desk

Iran has launched a national task force to combat land subsidence threatening the country's cultural heritage, officials said Thursday. The initiative, ordered by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, follows an analytical report from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts highlighting the escalating risk to historic sites.

Farhad Azizi, director-general of the Office of National and World Heritage Sites, said the subsidence "is the result of unchecked groundwater extraction, illegal well-drilling and unsustainable cropping patterns."

He noted that while his ministry does not directly oversee land management, the threat to historical artefacts requires urgent intervention.

The task force will focus on four main areas: safeguarding historical and cultural assets, integrated management of groundwater resources, reforming water consumption with smart restrictions, and preserving the natural environment.

Specialized provincial working groups have also been established in Isfahan and Fars. These teams bring together provincial departments of cultural heritage, agriculture, water and energy, and envi-



ronmental protection, implementing a participatory model prioritizing heritage conservation.

In addition, the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism has formed a scientific study group to monitor data, develop preventive models, and provide actionable, research-based solutions to both national and provincial task forces.

"This is a multi-layered, specialized and participatory structure," Azizi said. "We will strive to halt subsidence alongside our heritage sites." He emphasized that the approach combines inter-agency coordination, modern technologies, and local community involvement, offering a model for integrated natural resource and heritage management in Iran.