



Iran stays course on climate goals despite sanctions, cuts 10b m³ emissions

Social Desk

Iran's Vice-President and head of the Department of Environment (DoE) Shina Ansari, told the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, on November 8, that Tehran has cut over 10 billion m³ of greenhouse-gas emissions despite what she called "crippling unilateral sanctions" that have restricted the country's access to finance, investment and technology.

Ansari said Iran's commitment to its climate obligations remains intact even under sanctions pressure, IRNA reported. "We remain faithful to our climate pledges," she declared, urging collective and equitable action to tackle what she described as the "existential challenge" of global warming.

She added that the international community must "act fairly and realistically" to ensure that developing nations can pursue sustainable development without being held back by restrictions.

Iran's environment chief detailed a series of domestic clean-energy gains, saying the country's solar-energy capacity expanded by 75% last year, while wind-power generation grew and its peaceful nuclear-energy program was strengthened.

Through stricter management of gas flaring at oil and gas fields, she said, Iran has already achieved a reduction of over 10 billion m³ of greenhouse gases and is on track to cut a further 12 billion m³ within four years.

Pointing to the climate strains facing Iran, Ansari cited decades of chronic drought, a 1.8 °C rise in average temperature, and a 50 mm fall in annual rainfall over the past fifty years. "Despite these harsh realities, we continue on a path of sustainability," she said.

Ansari also condemned what she described as the environmental fallout of recent US and Israeli military actions, saying the attacks not only violated international law but also inflicted



Head of Iran's Department of Environment (DoE) Shina Ansari speaks during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, on November 8, 2025.
● IRNA

ed severe ecological damage, including the emission of over 50,000 tons of greenhouse gases in Tehran.

She warned that assaults on peaceful nuclear facilities "could have caused one of the world's greatest environmental catastrophes."

Highlighting the devastation in Gaza, she accused Israel of committing "environmental and humanitarian crimes" by destroying civilian infrastructure and vital resources, saying the consequences will "haunt the region for decades."

The Iranian delegation, she said, views COP30 as a strategic platform for cooperation on technology transfer, capacity-building and fair access to global climate-finance mechanisms. "We



are heirs to one Earth and one destiny," Ansari told delegates,

adding that Iran stands ready to share its local expertise and ex-

perience with other nations to meet shared climate goals.

Iran inspires peace, solidarity, Pezeshkian says on UNESCO recognition of Cyrus Cylinder



Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that the approval of the Cyrus Cylinder by UNESCO was "a symbol of our civilization" and re-

affirmed Iran's enduring presence in humanity's moral conscience.

In his message, Pezeshkian said that the inscription of the 6th-century BC clay archive as a foundational human-rights document by UNESCO through its 43rd General Conference "underscores that today's Islamic Iran can still be a source of peace and solidarity for the region and the world."

Meanwhile, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri described the recognition as "a reaffirmation of the place of Iranian civilization in the founding of universal concepts of justice, human dignity and cultural dialogue".

He said the document goes beyond time and place, acting as "a bridge between past and future, between peoples and the global conscience."

Deputy Minister and senior cultural-official Ali Darabi added that the cylinder is "not merely a relic but a timeless covenant among humans" in which the Persian legacy of freedom, religious diversity and community welfare "was written on clay far ahead of its era."

The UNESCO decision, adopted by consensus in Samarkand on November 6, recognized the Cyrus Cylinder as "a foundational document in the history of human civilization" and tasked UNESCO with integrating its teachings into education and

rights program. The initiative was led by Iran, supported by Tajikistan and Iraq, and backed by more than a dozen member states including Egypt, India and Nigeria.

Iranian officials emphasize that the move demonstrates that the birthplace of ancient Persia still holds moral authority in contemporary global culture and presents the country's heritage as a vibrant asset, not merely an archaeological curiosity.

The culture ministry also thanked scientific, diplomatic and academic institutions for their roles in the effort and highlighted the trilateral cultural synergy with Tajikistan and Iraq as a tangible sign of civilizational partnership.

'Kneel Before the Iranians' statue unveiled in Tehran after war with Israel

Arts & Culture Desk

Thousands of Tehran residents packed Enqelab Square on Friday evening to watch the unveiling of a seven-meter-high statue called 'Kneel Before the Iranians,' a striking fiberglass sculpture depicting the Roman emperor Valerian bowing before the Sasanian king Shapur I, a symbol of defiance and national pride after Iran's recent 12-day war with Israel.

The statue, unveiled by Tehran mayoral officials, city artists and families, portrays Shapur I mounted on horseback towering above Valerian in submission, a re-creation of the ancient rock relief at Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran, IRNA reported.

The third-century carving marks one of Persia's greatest victories, when Shapur captured the Roman emperor and thousands of his troops after the Battle of Edessa in 260 CE. Tehran's deputy mayor for urban services, Davoud Goodarzi, said the idea for the monument took shape soon after the Israeli military campaign in June. "Today, we're adding a new symbol to the city's landmarks," he told reporters at the scene. "Anyone who has ever sought to violate Iran or its people has ultimately been forced to kneel before Iran."

The head of Tehran Beautification Organization, Mehdi Mazhabi, described the work as an "artistic expression" of the Iranian nation's endurance and unity.



Unveiling ceremony of the 'Kneel Before Iran' statue in Tehran's Enqelab Square on November 7, 2025.
● AVASH NEWS

Families waved flags as martial music played and banners showed both ancient Persian warriors and modern Iranian soldiers sharing a single spear. Five pop singers performed at the open-air ceremony, turning the square into what local media called a "festival of solidarity."

Goodarzi said the statue would remain in Enqelab Square for about 20 days before being transferred to Tehran's iconic Azadi Square, one of the main gateways to the capital visible to foreign visitors and diplomats.

Cultural historian Ali Akbar Mesgar of Mazandaran University said the artwork's meaning stretched beyond a historical episode. "This relief isn't only about victory," he said. "It's a reminder that internal unity has always been Iran's strongest defense against foreign pressure."

'Oliver Twist' musical draws nearly 80,000 spectators in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

The musical production 'Oliver Twist', directed by Hossein Parsaei and staged in Tehran, has drawn nearly 80,000 spectators since opening, the producers said.

The show, based on the 1838 novel by Charles Dickens and adapted into musical form in 1960, currently entertains approximately 6,000 patrons daily, the organizers added. It has been extended to three additional nights on November 12, 13 and 14, following strong demand.

In the spotlight, actor Hootan Shakiba plays the role of Fagin and receives standing ovations for his spontaneous interactions with the audience while reminding them that photography is prohibited. Clips of his improvisations have sparked a viral wave on social media.

The cast comprises more than



150 performers and technical crew members, including Shakiba alongside Behnoush Tabatabaei and Banipal Shamoon. With musical direction by the original composer Lionel Bart and dramaturgy by Mohammad Reza Koohestani, the updated production remains faithful to the earlier 2017 staging while incorporating new songs and stage design to reflect modern social-inequality

themes.

The producers emphasize that the staging at the large-scale venue is among the biggest musical theater events in Iran this autumn.

Audience enthusiasm has been further amplified by the backstage appearance of acclaimed singer Alireza Ghorbani, whose visit has been widely shared and commented on in online forums.