

# Martyred Leader's legacy casts cultural heritage as pillar of Iran's identity

## Arts & Culture Desk

A renewed review of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's remarks during the days leading to his funeral shows his longstanding view that Iran's cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts are strategic national assets that strengthen Iranian-Islamic identity, foster economic development and project the country's civilization to the world. Across speeches delivered over more than two decades, Ayatollah Khamenei consistently described Iran's historical legacy as a source of national confidence and a foundation for future progress, CHTN reported. "Iran deserves a far higher standing than that of a second-rate country," he said in

an August 17, 2011 address. "Our history, our cultural heritage, our people's capabilities and our natural potential all dictate that Iran should rank among the world's leading nations." He repeatedly linked the preservation of historical sites to strengthening national identity, describing cultural heritage as a well-spring of self-confidence for future generations. Speaking to provincial officials in Fars Province in 2008, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted tourism as a powerful engine for economic growth, saying that proper planning and promotion could generate enough revenue to make provinces "independent of many other sources of income." He urged officials to capitalize on the country's reli-



● khamenei.ir

gious shrines, literary icons such as Hafez and Sa'adi, and its rich historical land-

scape, calling tourism "a very important issue" with untapped potential.

Ayatollah Khamenei also advocated presenting Iran's historical achievements

more effectively to international audiences. Referring to the rock relief near Kazerun depicting the Roman Emperor Valerian kneeling before the Sassanian king Shapur I, he said the monument should be showcased as evidence of Iran's historical grandeur. "They show visitors an empty field and say the Persian army was defeated there," he remarked, referring to a visit to Greece recounted by an acquaintance. "Here we have the statue of Valerian, the Roman emperor, kneeling before the King of Iran. Show them this. That answers it." Discussing ancient sites such as Persepolis, Ayatollah Khamenei said their value extended beyond political history, describing them as masterpieces created by "the Iranian mind" and "the

hands of Iranian artists." "The true creators of these monuments are the Iranian people," he said. "They reflect Iranian ingenuity, creativity and artistic excellence, and that is a source of pride for the nation." Handicrafts also occupied a prominent place in his vision for national development. During visits to several provinces, he called for greater investment in traditional industries, particularly carpet weaving and other crafts, saying they could improve livelihoods while expanding Iran's presence in global markets. Ayatollah Khamenei further warned against attempts to diminish nations' historical identity, arguing that cultural and civilizational achievements should be protected and promoted rather than overlooked.

## Persian carries 5,000 years of human civilization: *Envoy*



Iran's Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi speaks during a seminar marking the 105th anniversary of the Persian Language and Literature Department at the University of Dhaka on July 3, 2026. ● IBNA

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi hailed Persian as a language that carries millennia of human civilization, ethics and cultural heritage during a seminar marking the 105th anniversary of the Persian Language and Literature Department at the University of Dhaka on Thursday, while announcing a new package of academic and cultural cooperation with the department. Addressing the seminar, The Persian Language and Literature Department at 105: Achievements and Prospects, Rahimi Jahanabadi described Persian as "far more than a means of communication," saying it offers access to "5,000 years of human experience in governance, ethics, civilization, literature, joy and sorrow." IBNA reported. "By entering through the gateway of the Persian language, you step into the boundless world of human history, morality, mysticism and theology," he said. "Language is not merely a tool for communication. It is the medium through which a nation's

identity, culture, thought and collective consciousness are expressed." The ambassador said Persian remains a bridge to nearly 200 million speakers across Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan while also reflecting the historical and cultural legacy of the Indian subcontinent. He praised the 11th-century epic poet Ferdowsi for safeguarding the Persian language and urged students to preserve their cultural identity. "By learning Persian, revive your past, help build human civilization and nurture the profound ideas this language has preserved," he said. On the sidelines of the event, Rahimi Jahanabadi unveiled four joint initiatives with the University of Dhaka's Persian department. The plans include expanding the department's digital library and research resources with support from Iran, organizing academic study tours to Iran for students and faculty, providing professional training programs for Persian-language instructors at universities in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong, and launching weekly cultural programs centered on Iranian cinema, literature and culture.

## Iranian academic diaspora builds new research links in Europe

### Arts & Culture Desk

Europe's annual conference of Persian-speaking students brought together Iranian scholars, researchers and academics in Barcelona, Spain, to strengthen academic cooperation, showcase Iran's research achievements and deepen university diplomacy, Iran's Student Affairs Organization said on Thursday. The event, attended by Iran's scientific counselor in Europe, Mohammad Mohammadi Aghdam, drew about 40 Iranian

students and researchers from across Europe to exchange scientific expertise and expand professional networks. With a history spanning four decades, the conference has become one of the largest annual gatherings of Iranian academics on the continent. Addressing the conference, Mohammadi Aghdam outlined support programs available to Iranian students abroad and urged the country's academic elite to play a more active role in presenting what he called a "truthful and accurate narrative" of

Iran's scientific progress to the international community. "Scientists and researchers can serve as effective ambassadors of Iran's scientific achievements," he said, emphasizing the importance of academic diplomacy in fostering international engagement. Specialized panels examined challenges and opportunities facing Iran, including urban management, groundwater resources and constitutional law. One of the conference's featured sessions explored the legal dimensions of Iran's position in the Strait

of Hormuz, presented by an Iranian legal scholar based in France, followed by an extensive question-and-answer session. The conference also served as a platform to broaden international academic partnerships. On the sidelines, the Iranian delegation met Prof. Francesc Pérez-Murano at the Institute of Microelectronics of Barcelona (IMB-CNM), part of Spain's National Research Council (CSIC), where the two sides discussed student exchanges, research funding and joint scientific projects. The Spanish side praised the scientific capabilities of Iranian students and welcomed greater research engagement.

## Iran calls peace key to protecting environment at UN Asia-Pacific summit

### Social Desk

Iran used the Ninth High-level Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Development of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok to press for stronger regional environmental cooperation while stressing that lasting peace is essential to tackling cross-border environmental challenges, Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment (DoE) Shina Ansari said. Addressing the July 1-3 gathering, Ansari outlined Iran's environmental priorities, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, waste management and regional dust storms. She also highlighted the environmental consequences of recent military attacks on Iran, saying damage to oil facili-

ties, infrastructure and fuel storage sites had increased greenhouse gas emissions and carried wider regional environmental implications, IRNA reported. "The environment is the silent victim of wars," Ansari said, adding that "global environmental goals cannot be achieved without peace and stability." She reiterated Iran's call for accountability and compensation for environmental damage caused by war while reaffirming the country's commitment to international environmental conventions despite unilateral sanctions. On the sidelines of the summit, Ansari held a series of bilateral meetings aimed at expanding regional environmental partnerships. In talks with Pakistan's minister for climate change and environmental coordination,



Shina Ansari

the two sides discussed closer cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking and protecting biodiversity, while Ansari thanked Islamabad for its support for the Islamic Republic of Iran. During a meeting requested by Armenia, officials reviewed plans to update the two countries' environmental cooperation memorandum, coordinate ahead of the COP17 Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan later this year, establish a joint Peace

and Friendship Park, and strengthen joint monitoring of the Aras River. Ansari also met Ali Shareef, Maldives' minister of climate change, environment and energy and president of the ESCAP meeting, where discussions focused on climate adaptation, coastal ecosystem management, plastic pollution and waste reduction. The Maldivian side welcomed Iran's proposals and expressed readiness to broaden bilateral cooperation.