



Pezeshkian calls for greater support for nation's scientists, innovators

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday called for greater reliance on science, knowledge and skilled professionals to address social challenges and advance Iran's development, as he attended the inauguration of thousands of communications and information technology projects in Tehran.

Pezeshkian praised specialists working in information technology, saying the human capital behind Iran's communications infrastructure and advanced technologies was more valuable than thousands of physical projects, president.ir reported.

"A country can be built through science, awareness, belief and faith," the president said, stressing that Iran's scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and other skilled professionals should be given the support and conditions needed to flourish.

He argued that better use of data could help improve decision-making and address problems ranging from administrative misconduct to healthcare, agriculture, industry and trade.

"Data" should guide decisions rather than personal assumptions, Pezeshkian said, describing evidence-based decision-making as a principle applicable across society.

"If we have the data and can manage it properly, theft, misconduct and bribery

will not occur," he said, linking effective data management to greater transparency and more informed public administration.

Pezeshkian also urged officials to avoid a narrow reliance on personal judgment, saying expertise and collective knowledge should guide decisions.

"I am here to find the right path," he said, adding that knowledge does not belong to any one individual and that teams of specialists can find solutions to complex problems.

The president also called for a balanced approach to technology, saying potential misuse should not prevent society from benefiting from technological advances.

Technology, he said, can be used to save lives, improve living standards, expand education and facilitate people's daily lives.

He pointed to healthcare as one area where information technology could improve diagnosis, treatment, access to services and behavioral outcomes, while noting its broad potential in other fields.

Pezeshkian urged talented young people to reject the notion that progress is impossible and called for greater confidence in Iran's ability to overcome obstacles through science and collective effort.

"We must work with people who believe that it is possible," he said.

The president also stressed the importance of choosing qualified experts for specialized positions, drawing a distinc-

tion between theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

He concluded by pledging comprehensive support for scientists, academics, innovators and entrepreneurs, saying Iran had a large pool of capable people whose potential could be unlocked by creating the right conditions.

More than 7,947 projects were inaugurated during the ceremony, covering areas including space development, smart government, the digital economy and the National Information Network.

VP: Future wars will be fought through science, technology

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, who also attended the ceremony, stressed the importance of nurturing scientific talent from the earliest years of education, describing future conflicts as increasingly centered on science and technology.

He called for a stronger national effort to identify and develop talented students across the country, saying the process should begin in primary school.

"The best teachers should teach first grade," Aref said, emphasizing the importance of selecting highly qualified educators and raising the status of the teaching profession.

Aref also stressed the need to retain Iranian scientists and specialists, saying the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during the inauguration of communications and information technology projects in Tehran, Iran, on September 7, 2026.

country should create conditions that encourage talented academics and researchers to remain engaged with Iran's scientific development.

He called for reforms in teacher selection and education policy, arguing that scientific and cultural development could not be achieved through administrative directives alone.

"Science and culture do not need a stick

or a policeman," he said, urging a focus on nurturing young people who view serving society as a responsibility.

Aref also called for efforts to place Iran among the world's leading countries in artificial intelligence and strengthen its position in science and technology, while urging the National Elites Foundation and the Education Ministry to expand talent identification nationwide.

Iran launches cultural initiative in memory of Minab schoolchildren



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri said Monday that his ministry was converting institutional challenges into clearly defined projects to accelerate development, as officials in Tehran unveiled a nationwide cultural package honoring children killed in Minab.

Speaking at the ministry's 41st Strategic Council meeting, Salehi-Amiri said each project must have a designated manager, funding and timetable to produce measurable results, while greater

authority was being delegated to provincial governors, CHTN reported.

The project-based approach has become a central plank of the ministry's drive to bring cultural heritage closer to public life, expand tourism infrastructure and tap private-sector investment and corporate social responsibility programs.

"An issue must be turned into a project," Salehi-Amiri said. "Its manager, resources and implementation timetable must be clear so that we can assess what has been achieved."

He said Iran's provinces held

80 percent of the ministry's potential, compared with 20 percent in Tehran, underscoring the need to give provincial authorities a stronger role in policymaking and implementation.

The ministry has also stepped up efforts to make cultural heritage a living part of daily life rather than simply an object of preservation.

Salehi Amiri pointed to the long-awaited liberation of the historic Falak-ol-Aflak Castle in Khorramabad, saying the monument should become a recreational and cultural space for the public.

On tourism, he said 3,080 projects worth 1,300 trillion rials were under construction, including more than 550 hotels, accommodation facilities and eco-lodges. Iran, which previously had 60 five-star hotels, now has 65 more under construction, he said.

The meeting also featured the unveiling of the "Together for Iran" cultural package, produced in memory of the children killed at Minab's

Shajareh Tayebbeh School.

The initiative, backed through Bank Melli Iran's corporate social responsibility program, includes notebooks containing 168 pages dedicated to the memory of the Minab victims and will be distributed nationwide.

Salehi-Amiri called for broader participation by banks and economic institutions, saying the initiative should help preserve the memory of the Minab children while supporting the development of the southern county's infrastructure.

He said Minab's tourism potential could not be fully realized without stronger transport, accommodation and other facilities, urging economic institutions to help fund projects ranging from tourism infrastructure to schools, health centers, roads and employment.

This is the beginning of a path," Salehi-Amiri said, calling for the participation of the country's wider economic sector.

Persian historical artifacts in China safe, secure

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian historical artifacts currently in China are being kept in complete safety and will return to the country under binding exhibition agreements, National Museum of Iran Director Jebrael Nokandeh said Monday, addressing concerns over more than 150 objects whose return was delayed by the suspension of flights during the war.

Nokandeh said the artifacts belong to an exhibition titled 'From the Land of Mehr', organized with several Iranian museums and Chinese cultural institutions. The exhibition featured more than 150 objects and was scheduled to return the collection to Iran after completing one stage of its tour.

The planned return was disrupted in March, when flights were suspended shortly before the outbreak of the war. Necessary government coordination and permits were subsequently secured for the artifacts to be transferred to a secure storage facility until conditions allowed their return.

"The artifacts have not yet returned, but I assure you that they are facing no threat," Nokandeh said in an interview with ISNA. "They are being kept in complete security and will 100 percent return to our country."

He said the exhibition contracts contain specific provisions governing the handling of loaned artifacts during crises. The agreements oblige the host side to protect the objects and return them to Iran when conditions permit.

Iran's embassy in China is also monitoring the situation, Nokandeh said.

He dismissed concerns that the artifacts could be copied, damaged or otherwise mishandled while abroad, describing such concerns



as inconsistent with international museum practice. The objects leave Iran under seals and the supervision of the lending institution's custodians and remain sealed during storage, transport and installation. Security cameras and controlled access are also used throughout the process, he said, while representatives of the lending museum oversee the opening and resealing of cases.

Nokandeh said the objects are also covered by judicial-immunity arrangements that protect them from seizure in the host country. Such safeguards are part of international museum-loan protocols, he added.

A separate exhibition, The Glory of Ancient Iran, featuring more than 216 artifacts spanning roughly 3,000 years of Iranian history through the Qajar era, has already returned to Iran after touring Beijing, Shanghai and Urumqi.

Nokandeh said Chinese museum professionals involved in the exhibitions had demonstrated a high level of expertise and commitment. "Chinese colleagues are truly professional in exhibitions, museum presentation and exhibition management," he said, describing the cooperation as highly organized and responsible.

Iran is also prepared to host an exhibition of Chinese art and culture in Tehran once security conditions permit, with the National Museum of Iran ready to provide a venue, Nokandeh said.

Iranian illustrator named finalist in Shanghai children's book competition

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian illustrator Maryam Mahmoudi-Moqaddam was selected among the 50 finalists of the 11th Golden Pinwheel Young Illustrators Competition, with the shortlist announced by the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair (CCBF).

The competition drew 2,100 entries, with works by 50 illustrators from 19 countries and regions advancing to the final

round. Mahmoudi-Moqaddam is the only Iranian illustrator on the shortlist, IRNA reported.

An international five-member jury reviewed the submissions online throughout the summer before making its final selection during a virtual meeting. The panel comprised Emily Gravett of Britain, Lee Ji-eun of South Korea, Charlotte Mondlic of France, and China's Ruan Yunting and Sun Zhaozhi.

Chinese illustrators account for

19 of the finalists, or 38 percent of the shortlist. Russia has five finalists, South Korea four, and Italy and Spain three each. Mexico and France have two representatives apiece, while Iran is among 12 countries and regions represented by a single illustrator.

The Golden Pinwheel competition seeks to identify and promote emerging talent in children's book illustration. Selected works are showcased through exhibitions, the competition's annual publica-

tion and promotional programs, giving them visibility among publishers and creative-industry professionals.

The finalists' works will go on display at the Golden Pinwheel Exhibition from November 13 to 15, alongside the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair. They will also appear in the 2026 Golden Pinwheel Annual, scheduled for publication in November and distribution to fair exhibitors and partners.