



Iran takes cultural program to Kazan as part of Russian tour



Iran's National Orchestra performs at the Opera House of Kazan, Russia, on October 1, 2026.
● IRNA

ister of Tatarstan, said the events could strengthen ties between Iran and Russia and bring the two peoples closer together, pointing to their historical links, particularly between Iran and Tatarstan.

In a video message, Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Communication Organization, said cultural weeks were more than a collection of artistic and theatrical programs and offered an opportunity for peoples to gain a deeper understanding of one another and build lasting human and cultural ties.

"Iran and Russia has rich historical and civilizational backgrounds and broad potential to deepen cultural interaction and turn mutual understanding into a foundation for wider relations," he said. Imanipour also highlighted Kazan's status as the Islamic world's cultural cap-

ital in 2026, saying the city had historically been a meeting point for different cultures, religions and traditions and an important bridge between Russia and the Muslim world.

He added that the status created an opportunity to expand cultural and civilizational dialogue between Iran, Russia and the wider Muslim world.

Some events in Kazan are being held to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (BPUH) and will focus on his life, character and human and civilizational message.

The program also includes an Iranian film week, which opened with Majid Majidi's Muhammad: The Messenger of God, a seminar on "Artificial Intelligence and Islamic Heritage: Methodology, Ethics and Tools", a performance called Little Heros of Iran, a visual arts exhibition and an interactive art workshop.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said the two countries had a responsibility to deepen mutual understanding and help create a world based on peace, justice and ethics.

"It is necessary for our two peoples to know each other better," Jalali said, adding that the cultural caravan had begun in St. Petersburg, continued in Moscow and would next travel to Astrakhan.

Iran's cultural week in Russia runs from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6, with 168 Iranian artists taking part across 30 fields in programs in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan and Astrakhan.

The program formally opened in Moscow on Sept. 28 at the Bolshoi Theatre with the participation of Iran's Culture Minister Abbas Salehi and his Russian counterpart Olga Lyubimova. Iran's National Orchestra performed at the opening ceremony.

Kazan is the third stop on the tour. Astrakhan will host the fourth, with an Iranian music concert and screenings of Iranian films planned there.

The events are being held alongside Salehi's participation in the 12th International Forum of United Cultures and meetings with Russian officials, adding a broader official dimension to the cultural program.

How Iran can ...

The result was that industrial growth remained solid even during the COVID-19 years. Industrial employment also increased.

Interestingly, Russia adopted precisely the same strategy following the sanctions imposed after the 2014 Crimea crisis and again after the 2022 Ukraine conflict. It pursued import substitution very seriously and has now moved from import substitution toward technology-related policies, upgrading the approach in qualitative terms to what can be described as technological sovereignty.

The basic idea is to invest in producing goods that were previously imported or to deepen domestic production of goods that had previously been assembled locally. Iran's experience in this regard was positive, while Russia, alongside other policies, has also achieved results. Its unemployment rate, for example, has fallen to 2.2%, while economic growth has remained relatively satisfactory.

Moving toward Global South

The second strategy that needs to be taken seriously is a pivot toward the Global South. This means prioritizing the expansion of relations with neighboring countries, China and Russia, as well as Africa and South America.

The priority should be the neighboring countries, followed by China and Russia as major economic powers, and then Africa and South America.

Unfortunately, this policy has never been formally established. Iran's aspirations still, for example, remain focused on companies such as Germany's Siemens or on attracting Britain's BP to invest in the country's oil industry.

A genuine pivot to the East requires political determination, and that determination appears to be lacking to some extent.

Russia, particularly after the sanctions imposed in 2022, moved firmly in this direction. At an economic conference held in Russia just a few months ago, President Vladimir Putin explicitly announced that the country's official policy was a pivot toward the Global South.

Work on the ground

The third strategy is to enter into mutually beneficial engagement with the industrial capitalist class.

Iran has a relatively capable private sector, particularly since 2018. These businesses have grown significantly, and industrialists

genuinely understand production. Projects can be developed with them as well as with public, non-governmental and quasi-governmental economic groups.

The first two strategies — import substitution and a pivot to the East — require policy-making by the government, but the work on the ground needs to be carried out by industrial capitalists, entrepreneurs and investors, whether in the private, public or quasi-public sectors.

The three strategies, therefore, are import substitution, a pivot toward the Global South, and engagement with the industrial capitalist class.

War of resilience

These three strategies can address many of the country's economic challenges, including reducing dependence on oil revenues through the import substitution of non-oil goods, diversifying the economy, controlling inflation, and addressing both the trade and budget deficits.

The Iran-US war has effectively turned into a war of resilience. The more import substitution can be pursued to meet domestic needs, create jobs and stabilize the exchange rate, the greater the country's resilience will become.

Import substitution generates foreign-exchange savings, which improves the trade balance and makes it easier to manage the exchange rate. This, in turn, strengthens the country's resilience.

In particular, a pivot to the East and deeper engagement with neighboring countries can facilitate the supply of essential goods and further strengthen resilience.

In this sense, these three strategies constitute a resilience strategy: goods are ultimately produced domestically, employment is created and foreign exchange is saved, while the resulting revenues can also be used to support the budget.

This strategy can therefore work specifically as a means of increasing resilience, and it has already been tested in both Iran, from 2018 to 2021-22, and Russia.

Russia began launching import-substitution projects in earnest in 2014 under Putin. The following year, an import-substitution commission chaired by the prime minister was established — an indication of the level of importance attached to the policy. The approach has continued to this day, nearly 12 years later, and has produced relatively significant achievements.

Iran children's film festival opens under shadow of war

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's 38th International Film Festival for Children and Young Adults opens in Isfahan today under the shadow of recent wars, with Culture Minister Abbas Salehi calling for cinema to give children space for hope while also reflecting their experience of conflict. Salehi said the festival was "the first cinematic event amid hard days of fear of war" and should help revive "a spirit of joy and hope" among Iranian children, IRNA reported on Friday. He said Iran had gone through two recent wars imposed on its people by the US and Israel, with children and adolescents bearing much of the impact.

According to Salehi, more than 400 children were killed and hundreds injured, while many spent the past year and part of the current year facing fear, loss and insecurity. He referred to children in Tehran, Tabriz and pupils at Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, southern Iran as symbols of unfinished dreams and lost futures. On February 28, 168 people, most of them children, lost their

lives when the US pounded an elementary school in the city of Minab with Tomahawk missiles. "The festival cannot distance itself from the real world of children," Salehi said, urging it to be both a refuge for imagination and joy and a voice for children's rights to security, education, play and life. The festival runs from Oct. 3 to Oct. 8, with 771 works initially submitted to its national section: 46 feature films, 286 short fiction films, 176 short animations, 50 short documentaries and 107 artificial-intelligence works. Of those, 117 deal with Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, the 12-day war in June 2025 and the February 2026 war.

The international program reviewed 173 foreign films and selected 17 from 14 countries, including eight feature or animation films and nine shorts. Eleven feature films in competition are Bamse and the Secret of the Sea by Christian Ryltenius; The Spring Bride by Fereydoun Najafi; Dante by Linda Hamback; Amazing by Marina Andreevskop and Wanda Raymanova; Guardians of the Sun by Emad Rahmani and Mehrdad Mehrabi;



Happy Birthday by Sarah Goher; Shutinga by Arash Moayriani; Migration by Mohammad Esfandiari; Mumbo Jumbo by Karsten Kielerich and Stine Marie Buhl; My Wild Friend: Back Home by Anna Korbatova; and Not a Hero by Rima Das.

The films come from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Croatia, Slovakia, Singapore, Slovenia, Latvia, Serbia, Egypt, Russia, India and Iran. The festival is organized by the Farabi Cinema Foundation and Isfahan Municipality and is headed by secretary Hamed Jafari. Salehi said the event should also give adolescents a greater role in its management and organization, while continuing efforts to honor children killed in Minab, Lamerd, Tehran and Tabriz.

TENDER NO.: 01-31-0480005

Second Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Process for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
25	PART FOR "AIR PACK" RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE: HA-550-LT SERIAL NOS.T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3 AIR PACK REFERENCE: 7356-COM REF. AIR PACK NEDERLAND B.V 2 STAGE CYLINDER SET	327 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **9,929/61 EURO** or **16,965,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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