



Minister proposes five-year roadmap to cement Iran-Pakistan cultural, tourism ties



Iranian Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri (c) and Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Imran Ahmed Siddiqui (2nd l) pose for a photo at Tehran's Saadabad Cultural-Historical Complex on October 3, 2026.
● ANA

greater than its current level and that their historic and cultural links should not be allowed to break.

"Our specific proposal is to draw up a five-year roadmap in the fields of culture and tourism and move forward with its implementation step by step," Salehi-Amiri said. He said the plan should help people in both countries learn more about each other's civilizations, cultures and tourism potential. Iran, the minister added, could use media, social networks and influential public figures to showcase its attractions in Pakistan, including by inviting people with millions of followers to visit and share their experiences.

He also called for stronger links between tourism agencies to develop joint tours and increase tourist exchanges.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran should examine why Pakistan has a smaller share of its tourism market even though many Iranian tourists travel to Turkey and other neighboring countries. He proposed creating a joint cultural tourism route featuring the historical, cultural and natural attractions of both countries, including Pakistani cities such as Lahore and Peshawar. He also proposed reciprocal exhibitions, saying Iran could hold an exhibition in Tehran highlighting Pakistan's cultural and historical heritage, while Pakistan could promote Iran's attractions to its own public.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran holds numerous works and documents related to Pakistan in its cultural and museum collections, including gifts presented by former Pakistani presidents.

Siddiqui said Iran and Pakistan already had extensive contacts and travel between their peoples but had yet to make full use of those links.

"Removing barriers and making people more familiar with tourism destinations in both countries was important," he said. The ambassador said Pakistan was planning an exhibition in Iran titled "Pakistan Through Time", displaying different periods of the country's history and culture. He also proposed a discussion on Pakistan's history, culture, cultural heritage and shared links with Iran alongside the exhibition.

Siddiqui said existing memorandums and agreements should move from documents to implementation and that cooperation should not be limited to exchanges of official delegations.

He called for lasting links between institutions, provinces, Pakistani states, and cultural and tourism organizations.

The envoy said he planned to meet Iran's deputy culture and tourism minister this week or next week to follow up on the proposals, while continuing consultations with Pakistani tourism officials.

"Our goal is to move relations between Iran and Pakistan from agreements and talks to practical action," Siddiqui said.

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri proposed on Saturday a five-year roadmap to deepen cultural and tourism cooperation with Pakistan, seeking to move ties beyond periodic exchanges and towards more structured and practical cooperation. Salehi-Amiri made the proposal during a

meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Imran Ahmed Siddiqui at Tehran's Saadabad Cultural-Historical Complex, IRNA reported.

He said political and economic relations would gain greater depth when built on the two countries' longstanding cultural ties.

The minister said cultural affinity meant the scope for cooperation was much

Iran turns to AI, satellite data in push for homegrown space economy

FEATURE REPORT

Iran is seeking to turn its growing satellite capabilities into practical services and a domestic space economy, using artificial intelligence to process imagery, predict technical failures and build platforms that can make satellite data more accessible to researchers, businesses and government agencies.

At the center of the effort is "RAZ", a national platform for monitoring and processing Earth-observation data being developed by the Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC), bringing together years of work by Iranian researchers in remote sensing.

The ISRC is also developing "Iran-Zamin", a domestic platform described by its acting head Nader Makari as an Iranian version of Google Earth, as Tehran seeks to make greater use of its own satellite resources.

"The projects are part of a broader shift in the center's approach," Makari said at a news conference attended by Iran Daily in Tehran on Saturday, from developing space technology for its own sake towards technologies designed around practical needs and the creation of a sustainable space economy.

"Artificial intelligence is being used across that chain, rather than simply to analyze satellite imagery," Makari said. Researchers are applying locally developed AI algorithms to improve image resolution, predict potential failures and correct them, while also using the technology in satellite constellation design, communications systems, navigation and algorithm development.

One application is "super-resolution", which can enhance the detail available in satellite images. The ISRC is also developing algorithms that can anticipate technical problems and help correct them, potentially reducing the risks associated with expensive

space missions.

RAZ, whose name refers to "monitoring information about the Earth", is designed to support both optical and synthetic aperture radar, or SAR, satellite data. It will provide advanced processing and analysis tools and could also serve as a platform for universities and researchers to develop and test their own AI algorithms using space data.

The ISRC is also developing a geoportal that would allow users to search for, view, order and receive satellite images and remote-sensing products online. Makari said the archive of imagery from Iran's Khayyam Earth-observation satellite was also available to the center and would serve as a strategic source of data for both RAZ and Iran-Zamin.

"The demonstration version of Iran-Zamin has been completed and is due to be unveiled at a later stage," Makari said. He added that the system was being developed in response to repeated interruptions to Google Earth's service for users in Iran.

The push is not limited to mapping and imagery. The center has developed two three-dimensional simulation software systems designed to recreate conditions a satellite could face in space before launch.

"The systems can also be used after launch as support tools at mission-control centers," Makari said, helping researchers test scenarios on the ground and reduce the financial and operational risks of failed missions.

The ISRC is also seeking to expand the use of satellite data beyond the space sector itself. A newly established applications research center is expected to work on monitoring, supervision and forecasting for industries and government agencies, with potential uses ranging from monitoring mines and agricultural land to managing water resources, tracking drought

and land subsidence and monitoring urban development.

The strategy also includes a push towards a domestic navigation constellation. Makari said the center had drawn up a national navigation strategy that envisaged combining a homegrown constellation with newer navigation techniques, including augmentation, complementary systems and signals of opportunity.

"Researchers are already working on the infrastructure required for the plan, with part of the strategy expected to be put into operation next year," he said. The program has continued despite damage sustained by the ISRC during recent attacks. "Buildings were damaged and some equipment was destroyed," Makari said, but the center resumed operations within a short period.

Some projects have also been redesigned to reflect new requirements, including liquid-fuel systems under the Saman program and constellation-related technologies under the Nahid program. Makari said resilience and passive defense had become integral parts of the design of new projects and infrastructure.

Among the center's strategic projects are the Pars-3 remote-sensing satellite, the Nahid-3 telecommunications satellite, the Saman orbital transfer block and technologies for building satellite constellations.

The broader objective, however, is to ensure that such technologies generate services and economic value on Earth.

Makari said the ISRC wanted to identify the real needs of government agencies and other users first and then develop satellites and technologies accordingly. It is therefore increasing cooperation with government bodies and users of space-based services and working on dedicated satellites for organizations



Nader Makari, acting head of the Iranian Space Research Center, holds a press conference in Tehran, Iran, on October 3, 2026.
● IRAN DAILY

that require them.

The center also wants private companies and knowledge-based firms to gain greater access to raw and processed space data so they can develop value-added systems and services for customers.

"Part of the funding for future technology development could eventually come from orders and budgets provided by users of those services, as well as private investment," Makari said.

That would mark a change in the role envisaged for the ISRC: from building satellites and developing technology to creating a wider ecosystem in which satellite data can be processed, delivered and turned into services for agriculture, water management, mining, urban planning and other parts of the economy.

For the center, the challenge will be to convert its growing stock of satellite technology and data into applications that users can access reliably and that can support a sustainable space economy.

Pulsing arteries amid ...

By ingeniously combining an Ultrasonic Reactor and a Steam

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Catalytic Oxidation Reactor, this technology offered a technological and economic response to one of the most complex refining and environmental problems of the current century. The AQP process succeeded in reducing the sulfur content of heavy fuel oil to international standards without the need for the extremely heavy operational conditions, exhausting hydrogen pressures, and exorbitant costs typical of conventional hydrotreating. This event delivered a clear message to the

international scientific and industrial community: military siege and threats not only failed to stop the wheels of Iran's oil industry but elevated the country from a buyer of technical knowledge to a license holder and a pioneer in novel refining technologies.

Exposing Psychological Warfare and the Solidity of Financial Transparency
Alongside the field confrontation, a heavy media war was organized to target the structures of Iran's energy trade. The designers of this campaign attempted to distort the legitimacy of the country's energy commerce by spin-

ning narratives around concepts like "trustees," "traders," and "sanction-evasion mechanisms," implying that foreign exchange revenues were not returning to the country.

The truth, however, is that the mechanism for selling oil and derivatives during these sensitive times was a vital lifeline for the country's economic survival against maritime piracy and international economic terrorism. The energy command structure, in coordination with regulatory bodies and the judiciary, placed every potential violation, error, or abuse under the microscope with

decisiveness and zero tolerance, ensuring not even one dollar of the Iranian people's interests was lost. The stable flow of currency from energy exports confirms that the poisonous arrows of this media war also hit the rocks.

Looking Ahead: The Necessity of Strengthening Bonds within the Persian Gulf Holding

The triumphant experience of passing through these sensitive junctures showed that the primary key to survival and progress is "internal cohesion." Wherever executive, research, and admin-

istrative branches moved under a single, empathetic command, the impossible became possible.

Today, the greatest economic driver and symbol of convergence in the country's petrochemical industry is the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Holding. This massive holding is the beating heart of wealth production, value creation, and channeling export revenues into the nation's arteries. Therefore, preserving and elevating the achievements of the "Defense Era" in the energy sector dictates that President Masoud Pezeshkian, has taken a direct and special view toward consol-

idating unity and synergy within the management and shareholder pillars of this major holding.

Iran's oil industry has emerged from the storms of fire, terror, sanctions, and threats more robust and technologically advanced than ever before. An army of specialists, researchers, and unsung heroes, under the banner of compassionate and field-ready energy command, proved that oil in Iran is not merely an extracted hydrocarbon; it is a symbol of resilience, technical intelligence, and the unwavering determination of a nation to live with dignity.