



Iran approves five new national health strategies

Social Desk

Iran has approved five national health policy documents at a meeting of the Supreme Council for Health and Food Security, chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran on October 25. The documents cover disease prevention, drinking water quality, climate change, early childhood development and disaster risk management, IRNA reported on Sunday. They include a national plan to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases; a five-year strategy to improve drinking water quality from 2026 to 2031; a national strategy on health and climate change; a document on early childhood development; and a comprehensive framework for disaster risk management in the health system.

“Protecting public health should be a priority for all government ministries, agencies and officials,” Pezeshkian said during the meeting. He called for closer coordination among state institutions and provincial governors, greater public participation and efforts to reduce inequality in access to health and education services. “The government aimed to protect people from health risks through collective action rather than relying solely on orders and directives,” he added. Pezeshkian also stressed the importance of physical and mental health, public awareness and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, in implementing government programs. The president said social problems threatens public health and linked tensions in January



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a meeting of the Supreme Council for Health and Food Security in Tehran on October 25, 2026.
● IRNA

to what he described as social problems, without providing further details. He urged officials to address young people's needs and concerns, saying public trust is essential to securing support for government initiatives. Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarghandi said the ministry is seeking to shift its approach from treatment to prevention. He said effective implementation requires coordination among ministries, government agencies and provincial authorities. Pezeshkian added that the government is working almost



daily to expand and equip schools and improve education.

He described raising capable, committed, honest and creative

children as essential to the country's future.

Museum visit highlights cultural links between Iran, Tajikistan



Iranian Deputy Culture Minister Mohsen Javadi (c) visits Tajikistan's National Museum alongside Tajik officials in Dushanbe on October 24, 2026.
● IRNA

civilization of the region. The visit took place as publishers, writers and cultural figures from various countries gathered in Dushanbe for the international book fair. Iran was also taking part in the event. Iran and Tajikistan share the Persian language as well as longstanding historical, literary and cultural ties. These common links have provided a basis for cultural exchanges and cooperation between institutions in the two countries. In recent years, joint cultural and literary events, along with visits by artists and cultural figures from both countries, have helped maintain contact between their cultural communities.

director, and other officials, IRNA reported. He viewed archaeological artifacts, a selection of visual and decorative arts, handicrafts and other historical objects from Tajikistan. Museum officials briefed the Iranian delegation on the background of the collections, their scientific and cultural value, and their place in the history and

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Iranian Deputy Culture Minister Mohsen Javadi visited the National Museum of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on the sidelines of the 14th Dushanbe International Book Fair on Saturday. Javadi toured the museum's galleries with Alisher Zarifi, the museum's first deputy

Donors support protection of historic castle in northern Iran

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian cultural heritage donors have provided 30 billion rials (over \$11,000) to define the boundaries and protected zone of Morvarid Castle in Gorgan city in northern Iran. “The project was carried out in cooperation with the Golestan Province's Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and funded by the Association of Cultural Heritage Benefactors,” Deputy Heritage Minister Ali Darabi told IRNA on Sunday. The allocation for the project in the Iranian Persian calendar year 1404 (which ran from March 21, 2025, to March 20, 2026) amounted to 30 billion rials, he announced. The project involved aerial imaging of Morvarid Castle using a fixed-wing drone to produce digital maps and establish the site's



boundaries and protected zone, Darabi said. Defining a historic site's boundaries helps identify the area occupied by the monument and the surrounding zone needed for its protection. Darabi said the Association of Cultural Heritage Benefactors had supported projects in other provinces of the country, namely Ilam (western Iran), Sistan and Baluchestan (southeastern Iran), Qazvin (central Iran) and Golestan (northern Iran).



A file photo shows the Sassanid Great Wall of Gorgan in northern Iran dating back to the 5th century AD.
● IRNA

He said the association's involvement in preservation projects helps create opportunities for private donors to contribute to protecting Iran's historical sites. The initiative highlights the role of non-governmental funding in documenting and protecting cultural heritage.

China, Australia and Japan to join Tehran media expo

Social Desk

Companies from China, Australia and Japan are set to take part in Iran's second international Media Expo, held in Tehran from October 28 to 31. The organizers seek to expand cross-border cooperation in the media industry and showcase artificial intelligence (AI) technology, IRNA reported on

Sunday. About 100 domestic and foreign brands are expected to attend the event at Milad Tower, said Iman Masdari, head of the organizing committee. The expo will focus on artificial intelligence and the future of media. Masdari announced that organizers plan to unveil a locally developed AI model trained on

Iranian data and content. The program will include expert panels, practical workshops and idea-generation competitions exploring the use of AI in content production, in cooperation with Iran's Artificial Intelligence Association and the country's specialized AI council. Exhibition space has grown to 5,000 square meters from about 1,000 square meters

at the first edition in 2025. Organizers expect visitor numbers to rise to 50,000 from nearly 20,000 last year. Participants will include media professionals, content producers, studios, advertising agencies, suppliers of photography and filmmaking equipment, brand managers and AI startups, Elham Sadat Hosseini, the expo's executive director, said.

