



Iran seeks more UNESCO listings to elevate global heritage profile

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran aims to strengthen its global cultural standing by securing UNESCO recognition for more historic sites, the cultural heritage minister said on Tuesday.

Reza Salehi Amiri, minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, said about 1 million historical sites nationwide and 58 applications awaiting registration, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks at an event titled 'Iran' at the Bank Melli Iran Museum in downtown Tehran, where the book 'Thousands of Years of Iran', written by Herbert Karim Masihi, was unveiled. "43,000 sites were registered on Iran's national heritage list and 30 were on

UNESCO's World Heritage List," he added.

Salehi Amiri said UNESCO experts were in Masouleh, a historic village in northern Iran, as efforts continued to secure international recognition for the country's heritage.

He compared Iran to a cypress tree whose branches bend in storms but whose roots remain firm, saying the country had withstood threats over thousands of years.

He described shared culture and civilization as a force that unites Iranians, especially when the country faces threats.

The minister called for Iranian history and culture to be taught in schools and universities.



Iranian Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi Amiri addresses an event in Tehran on October 27, 2026.

● IRNA

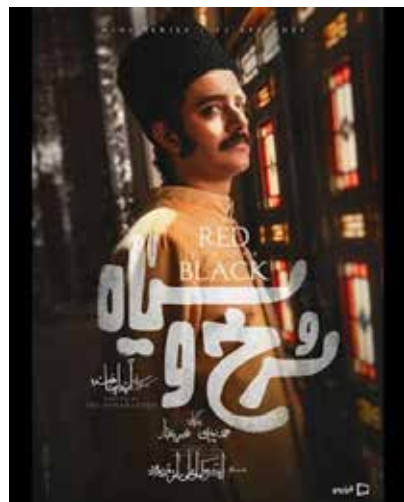
He said tourism routes connecting the tombs of prominent figures with destinations across the country could help bring Iran's cultural heritage into greater focus.

He also highlighted the role of corporate social responsibility in cultural preservation, praising what he called Bank Melli's valuable contribution.

Salehi Amiri expressed confidence that Iran would get through what he called a historic turning point and eventually celebrate victory.



Iranian series 'The Red and the Black' to hit screen at Geneva festival



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Iranian historical drama 'The Red and the Black', directed by Ida Panahandeh, will be screened in the Highlights section of the 2026 Geneva International Film Festival.

The film will go on screen on November 1, following its world premiere in the competition section of Canneseries, the international television festival held in Cannes, southern France.

The Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF), held in Geneva, Switzerland, has featured television since its launch in 1995. It is now a major platform in

Switzerland for presenting new series and audiovisual works.

This year's Highlights lineup includes 'Look Back', directed by Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda, a Palme d'Or winner, and 'California Avenue', a new BBC series directed by Hugh Blake. 'The Red and the Black' will screen alongside other works featured at major international festivals.

The series tell the story of a gifted painter Nowruz, in mid-19th century Iran, who becomes consumed by his obsession with a Gypsy fortune teller. When her fearless defiance draws the wrath of the city's tyrant, their desperate flight through poverty and peril sets a tragic saga in motion that will echo across generations.

Its selection for the Highlights program offers another opportunity for the Iranian production to reach audiences outside its home market.

GIFF brings together film, television and other forms of audiovisual storytelling. Its Highlights section presents selected works from the international festival circuit, placing the Iranian series alongside productions by established filmmakers and broadcasters.

The screening date was announced by the series' streaming platform in a statement issued through its public relations office.

Iran seeks flexible terms in global plastics treaty

Social Desk

Iran says it is ready to help draft a global treaty to curb plastic pollution, provided the agreement respects countries' development rights, national circumstances and capacity to act.

Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of Iran's Department of Environment for Natural Environment and Biodiversity, outlined Tehran's position at a meeting on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in Yerevan, Armenia, IRNA reported.

The meeting included the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, the chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution and the executive secretary of its secretariat



at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

According to the Department of Environment's public relations office, Iran's delegation emphasized the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and called for safeguards for countries' right to development.

It urged the treaty's negotiators to ensure adequate and predictable funding, technology transfer and capacity-building

support for developing countries. It also warned against imposing uniform or unrealistic obligations on countries with different economic conditions and infrastructure.

The delegation said the agreement should be practical and implementable, allowing each country to choose measures suited to its priorities and circumstances. Iran's position underscores a central challenge in international environmental negotiations:

balancing collective action against plastic pollution with differences in countries' resources, infrastructure and development needs.

COP17 is taking place in Yerevan from October 19 to 30. Countries are reviewing progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and discussing ways to accelerate conservation, mobilize financial resources and strengthen international cooperation.

Iran's 'A Fox under a Pink Moon' makes IDA shortlist



Arts & Culture Desk

The documentary 'A Fox Under a Pink Moon', co-directed by Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskouei and Afghan artist Soraya Akhlaghi, has made the shortlist for best feature documentary at the 42nd IDA Documentary Awards.

The film follows Akhlaghi, a young Afghan artist who lived in Iran and sought to leave the country to reunite with her mother in Austria.

She filmed her daily life and attempts to reach her mother on a cellphone. She

and Oskouei developed the documentary through more than seven years of collaboration.

The film previously screened at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), where it won best film in the international competition.

It has also screened at festivals in Norway, Sweden, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland and the United States. The filmmakers say it has won more than 40 awards.

Other feature documentary selections include 'Birds of War', 'Nuestra Tierra' and 'Nuisance Bear'.

The International Documentary Association said the shortlists were selected from 650 submissions from 95 countries. Finalists for best feature and short documentary will be announced on November 17.

IDA members will choose the winners in those two categories. Other awards will be decided by juries comprising more than 200 documentary professionals from over 60 countries.

The 42nd IDA Documentary Awards ceremony will take place on December 4 in Los Angeles, the United States.