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Pezeshkian seeks public support through mosque-based initiatives

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for greater public participation in addressing local social problems through Iran's 80,000 mosques.

He urged religious institutions to help mobilize communities, promote energy conservation and support efforts to protect domestic production.

Speaking on Saturday, November 7, at Imam Zain al-Abidin Mosque in Tehran, Pezeshkian said mosques could mobilize public participation in addressing community needs, with support from the Basij volunteer force.

"The government could not tackle all the country's problems alone and called on cultural, religious and social institutions to coordinate efforts to identify local needs and find solutions," he said.

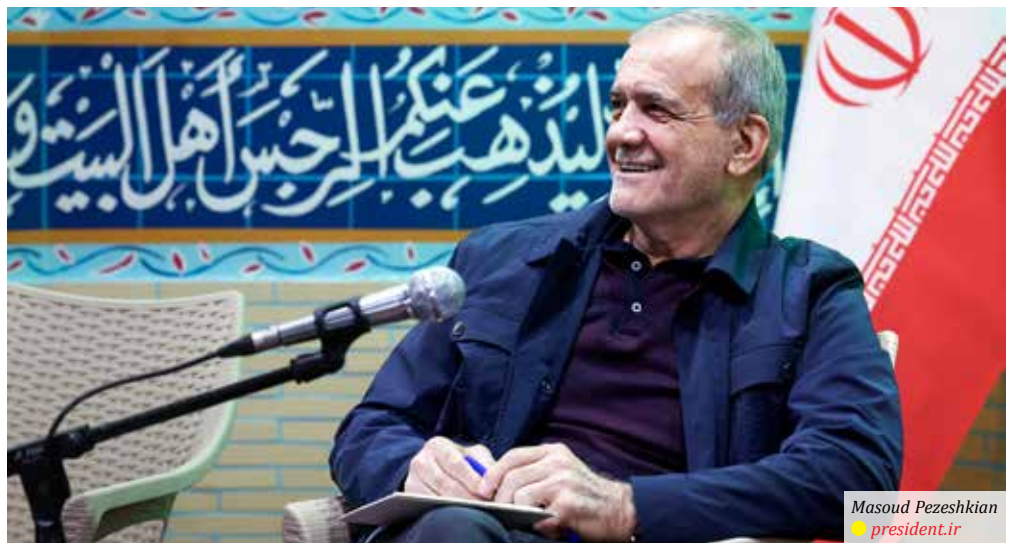
Activities at the mosque could serve as a model for similar initiatives across the country, he added.

"US-Israeli attacks had disrupted Iran's gas production, making fuel and energy savings particularly important during the colder months," he said.

He referred to the recent wars in Iran. The first was the 12-day war in June 2025, and the second 40-days war happened in late February 2026.

He called mosques to set an example in promoting efficient electricity and gas consumption, warning that energy shortages could disrupt supplies to manufacturing industries and hurt domestic production.

The mosque-based program aims to connect the resources of capable individuals and groups with the needs of residents in local communities.



Masoud Pezeshkian
president.ir

University of Tehran ranks fifth global in polymer science



Social Desk

The University of Tehran ranked fifth globally in polymer science in the 2026-2027 U.S. News Best Global Universities rankings.

The ranking placed two Iranian institutions among the world's top 12 in the field.

The university scored 83.2 points among 250 institutions assessed.

Four Chinese universities took the top spots, while Iran's Islamic Azad University ranked 12th.

The results come as 80 Iranian universities featured in the overall rankings, which covered more than 2,250 institutions in more than 100 countries.

The University of Tehran, based in the Iranian capital, ranked 314th worldwide, the highest position among Iranian universities.

Islamic Azad University came 460th, followed by Sharif University of Technology at 578th and Tehran University of Medical Sciences at 585th.

Other Iranian institutions among the country's top 10 were the University of Tabriz at 662nd, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences and Tarbiat Modares University, tied at 783rd, Amir Kabir University of Technology at 791st, and Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, tied at 801st.

In subject rankings, Iran placed 17th globally in green and sustainable science and technology, 35th in water resources, 68th in engineering and 104th in artificial intelligence.

The U.S. News rankings assess universities based on research performance, including publications, citation impact and international collaboration. Subject rankings use indicators tailored to individual fields.

The results highlight Iranian universities' research strengths in selected disciplines.

Iran's Red Crescent adds smart robots to rescue fleet

Social Desk

Between 70 and 80 smart robots for search-and-rescue operations will be acquired by Iran's Red Crescent Society, Mehr reported.

"The equipment intended to protect emergency workers and improve responses in high-risk areas," the head of society Pir Hossein Kolivand said.

The society was expanding its use of advanced technology after finding that modern equipment had improved its operational performance, he added.

He said that the society sought to use drones and smart robots in rescue missions to protect emergency workers facing dangerous conditions during the 40-days US-Israeli war in late February.

"The robots can enter damaged buildings and areas hit by strikes, detect gas leaks and provide initial assessments of conditions at disaster sites," Kolivand explained.

Some can also deliver equipment and supplies to affected areas, he added.

He said the technology could help rescue people trapped under rubble.

Rescue teams pulled more than 7,250 people alive from collapsed buildings during the previous war, he added.

Faster operations, improved rescue services and lower costs are among the other benefits, he added.

The society currently has between 70 and 80 of the devices, Kolivand said, expressing hope that expanded domestic production would further strengthen the country's emergency response fleet.



IRNA

Vietnam envoy proposes student exchange with Iranian university

Social Desk

Vietnam's ambassador to Iran has proposed an academic partnership between Imam Khomeini International University and Hanoi University to expand student exchanges and strengthen educational and cultural ties between the two countries.

Nguyen Luong Ngoc made the proposal during a visit to Imam Khomeini International University in Qazvin, northwest of Tehran, on Sunday, expressing hope that more Vietnamese students would be able to study at the Iranian institution.

The ambassador praised the university's academic and educational capacity, saying its programs offered valuable opportunities for Vietnamese students.

He also welcomed the presence of international students at the university, describing it as a source of pride.

Ngoc highlighted Vietnam's own capacity for higher education and Persian-language studies, pointing to Hanoi University's School of Oriental Studies, where Persian is taught.

He said Hanoi University had already signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Tehran and expressed hope that similar academic ties could be established with Imam Khomeini International University.

The proposed partnership could provide a new channel for educational and cultural exchanges between Iran and Vietnam, building on existing academic links between universities in the two countries.

The ambassador's proposal comes as both sides seek to broaden cooperation through higher education, with student mobility and Persian-language studies offering potential areas for closer engagement.



Vietnam's ambassador to Iran Nguyen Luong Ngoc (C) visits Imam Khomeini International University in Qazvin on November 8, 2026.
IRNA