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Pezeshkian pledges greater role for young scientists in Iran

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed on Tuesday to bring young scientists into government and national development, saying Iran's scientific achievements must translate into practical solutions to the country's problems.

Speaking at a ceremony honoring Iranian medalists at the 2026 International Science Olympiads at the Young Scholars Club in Tehran, Pezeshkian said scientific knowledge, combined with practical skills, could help overcome national challenges.

"If you are determined to solve the country's problems, we in the government will provide the groundwork for your participation," he told the students, urging them to look beyond winning medals and put their expertise to work at home.

He said no obstacle could halt Iran's scientific progress, despite mounting difficulties and what he described as aggression by foreign adversaries.

"Scientists, specialists and entrepreneurs could help the country overcome its problems," he added.

Pezeshkian also accused Iran's adversaries of targeting scientists and scientific infrastructure during the war, questioning why they attacked research facilities, researchers and children rather than confronting Iran on the battlefield.

The pledge comes as Iran's academic and research infrastructure has sustained damage during the 40-day waged by the United States and Israel.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 32 universities were hit. Among the affected institutions were Sharif University of Technology in Tehran and the Pasteur Institute of Iran, where attacks damaged research facilities, laboratories and scientific equipment.

"Education remained a government priority despite wartime conditions," he announced.

Pezeshkian vowed to draw on the experience of developed countries to improve teaching and school management, and called for public and charitable contributions to build and equip schools.

He said the government had built more schools and provided more classrooms, promising to equip them and improve teaching methods. He also stressed the need for continuous improvements in education.

Education Minister Alireza Kazemi and Young Scholars Club head Reza Hosseini presented reports on Iranian students' international achievements.

They described the club's mission as preparing future generations and shifting its focus beyond medal-winning toward producing knowledge and skills to address national challenges.

The ceremony honored medalists in economics, geography, chemistry, mathematics, biology, physics, computer science, earth sciences, astronomy and artificial intelligence.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian presents a certificate of recognition to a young olympiad medalist during a ceremony in Tehran on November 17, 2026.
president.ir

Tehran, Moscow to use AI in anti-corruption drive



Social Desk

Iran and Russia have agreed to expand judicial cooperation, including the use of artificial intelligence to detect violations and flag corruption risks, under a two-year plan signed in Moscow on Monday.

Asghar Jahangir, head of Iran's General Inspection Organization, and Russian Prosecutor General Aleksandr Gutsan signed the agreement in Moscow. It sets out joint priorities for 2027 and 2028.

Gutsan said the plan would define key areas of cooperation over the next two years.

He singled out expert consultations on digitizing oversight activities, particularly the use of artificial intelligence to uncover violations and flag areas vulnerable to corruption.

The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between the two countries' oversight institutions, which play a role in protecting citizens' rights and promoting administrative integrity, Jahangir said.

Jahangir said Russia's position could help deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation against what he described as unilateralism in the international system.

He was visiting Moscow to attend the 11th meeting of the Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance and the 10th International Scientific Conference on Best Ombudsman Practices.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali and Mansour Aghamohammadi, the General Inspection Organization's deputy for international cooperation, also attended the meeting.

The Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance gathering brought together judicial officials, human rights institutions and law enforcement oversight bodies from member and observer countries.

Iran's Asghar Jahangir (R), head of the General Inspection Organization, and Russian Prosecutor General Aleksandr Gutsan pose for a photo in Moscow on November 17, 2026.
IRNA

Five-year cinema deal deepens Iran-Turkey ties

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Turkey have signed a five-year deal to expand joint film production, festival exchanges and professional cooperation, strengthening cultural ties between the two countries.

The memorandum was signed in Istanbul by the Fasl-e Honar Cultural and Artistic Institute and the International Cinema Association. The signatories were Mehdi Heydari, Nazif Tunç and İhsan Kabil.

The agreement covers co-productions, film exchanges, reciprocal participation in festivals, workshops and other professional programs, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

It is also intended to give filmmakers from both countries more opportunities to work together and promote cultural ties through cinema.

The signing took place during the sixth Korkut Ata Turkic World Film Festival, held in Istanbul from November 3 to 7, and the 14th Bosphorus Film Festival, which ran from November 8 to 15.

On the sidelines of the festivals, Iranian representatives met filmmakers and cultural figures from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to discuss potential cooperation.

The Bosphorus festival featured 88 films from 41 countries, according to the organizers.

The Iranian delegation also met Istanbul tourism officials to discuss developing cultural tourism and enabling artists from both countries to take part in each other's cultural events.

The five-year agreement is intended to provide a framework for continued cooperation between the Iranian and Turkish film industries through joint productions, festival participation and professional exchanges.



A scene from 'Intoxicated by Love' (2024) by Hasan Fat'hi, a film co-produced by Iran and Turkey
imdb.com

Academic cooperation on agenda for talks with Indonesia

Social Desk

Iran and Indonesia will hold a virtual meeting in December to identify joint academic projects and expand faculty and student exchanges, following bilateral talks in Moscow.

The meeting was agreed during discussions on the sidelines of a BRICS university ranking workshop at RUDN University in Moscow from November 11 to 14.

The talks brought together Mukhamad Najib, director of institutional affairs at Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology; Abdolhamid Alizadeh, deputy for international relations and specialized organizations at Iran's Center for International Scientific Cooperation; and Mansour Haghighat, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

The two sides discussed ways to strengthen ties between their universities and research institutions, including faculty and student exchanges, closer academic engagement and joint research.

They also stressed the need to maintain regular contact and identify areas for shared initiatives.

Under the agreement, Iranian and Indonesian representatives will take part in a webinar next month to examine potential areas of cooperation and identify the resources and capabilities needed to design and carry out joint programs.

The meeting is intended to turn the discussions into practical initiatives and provide a basis for more structured academic ties between the two countries.



From right: Abdolhamid Alizadeh, Iran's deputy for international scientific cooperation; Mansour Haghighat, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC); and Mukhamad Najib, Indonesia's director of institutional affairs, attend a meeting in Moscow, Russia, on November 16, 2026.
IRNA