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Iran proposes SCO network to preserve historical manuscripts

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has proposed a regional network to preserve and digitize historical manuscripts across the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), putting forward three initiatives to expand cultural cooperation among member states at a forum in the Indian capital.

Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, presented the proposals at the first SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi, in northern India.

They include a network to protect written heritage, a center to translate and publish scientific and cultural works, and a platform for dialogue among young people from member states.

Iran also offered to host a regional center for preserving, restoring and digitizing manuscripts with the participation of interested countries.

"Dialogue among civilizations should go beyond exchanging views and lead to joint cultural, scientific and educational programs," Imanipour said.

Separately, Iran's cultural counselor in India, Farideddin Faridasr, proposed an SCO network for written heritage and civilizational memory.

It would focus on identifying, cataloging, preserving and digitizing historical documents, sharing restoration expertise, organizing joint training courses and promoting shared linguistic and literary heritage, particularly Persian.

Faridasr cited the Noor International Microfilm Center, affiliated with Iran's embassy in New Delhi, as an example of Iran-India cooperation.

Since 1990, the center has worked with 72 Indian academic and cultural institutions, digitizing more than 150,000 Persian and Arabic manuscripts, restoring and preserving over 3 million pages of manuscripts and historical documents, and compiling nearly 300 detailed catalogs.

He also highlighted joint projects in Telangana state and Hyderabad, in southern India, to digitize, restore and preserve Persian manuscripts and historical records.

"Iran is ready to share its technical expertise and experience with other SCO members," he said.



The screen shows Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour (L), head of Iran's cultural organization, as he addresses SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi, India, on November 21, 2026.
IRNA

Imanipour said Iran had proposed dialogue among civilizations to the United Nations General Assembly in 1998, an initiative that led to the designation of 2001 as the UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations.

He said future civilization should be based not only on economic growth and scientific and technological progress, but also on social justice, spirituality, ethics and human dignity.

On the sidelines of the forum, Imanipour met Indian Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to discuss cultural and artistic ties.

Shekhawat highlighted Persian's historical place in India, saying: "Persian is not considered a foreign language for us."

He said the language was included alongside other classical languages under India's National Education Policy 2020.

The minister praised cultural activities organized by Iran's embassy, including film festivals, and called for cooperation with Iranian cultural institutions on manuscripts.

Imanipour said his organization operates 65 cultural offices worldwide and was ready to expand cooperation with India.

He proposed a joint cultural week in Iran and invited Indian artists to participate.

Shekhawat welcomed the proposal and said India was ready to cooperate. The two sides also discussed expanding collaboration in film and cinema.

Imanipour said Iran was prepared to play an active role in advancing cultural and civilizational ties among SCO members.

The proposals would require the participation and agreement of other member states to be implemented.

Mexican students get taste of Iranian cuisine

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian chefs have introduced Mexican university students to the country's culinary traditions through a hands-on cooking workshop in Morelia, as Iran's embassy seeks to expand cultural ties beyond official diplomatic channels.

The workshop, titled "From Saffron to Chili: A Bridge Between Iran and Mexico", was held at Morelia Technological University in Michoacán state, in west-central Mexico. It was the first such event organized by Iran's embassy at the university.

Two Iranian chefs taught food science students to prepare kabab koobideh, an Iranian kabāb made from ground lamb, chicken tahchin, saffron rice cake with a crispy bottom and a flavorful chicken in the center, fesenjan, a walnut and pomegranate stew, and loobiya polo, rice cooked with green beans.

Saffron syrup and Sholeh Zard, a traditional saffron rice pudding, were also served. Spanish-language recipes were provided, while the university supplied the ingredients.

Officials said the workshop allowed students to experience another country's culture without traveling abroad.

They added that the institution had not previously hosted a similar event organized by a foreign embassy.

Iranian Ambassador to Mexico Abolfazl Pasandideh addressed university officials, government representatives, local and state officials, faculty members and students, describing food as an intimate way to understand other cultures. "Sometimes the aroma of a dish can bring two peoples closer than hours of speeches," he said.

Pasandideh highlighted shared Iranian and Mexican values, including family ties, hospitality, communal meals and the preservation of traditions.

He praised Michoacán's culinary heritage and the role of traditional women cooks in passing it on to younger generations. He also outlined Iran's regional food traditions, from dishes in the north near the Caspian Sea to southern seafood recipes featuring tamarind and saffron from northeastern Khorasan province.



Mexican students prepare traditional Iranian dishes during a cooking workshop at Morelia University in Michoacán, western Mexico.
IRNA

The ambassador referred to UNESCO's 2010 recognition of traditional Mexican cuisine under the Michoacán paradigm as intangible cultural heritage.

He stressed the importance of passing traditional knowledge from older generations to young people.

He also proposed a bilingual Persian-Spanish cookbook featuring traditional dishes from Iran and Michoacán, alongside the names and heritage of cooks from both cultures.

The initiative is part of the Iranian embassy's efforts to build direct links between the two countries through universities and engagement with younger generations.

Students took part in preparing the dishes, gaining practical experience of Iranian food traditions and hospitality.

Pasandideh said he hoped the exchanges would continue and that Mexican students would one day visit Iran and hear their hosts say: "This is your home".

Ali Ghamsari charts musical Silk Road

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian composer and tar player Ali Ghamsari is taking traditional music beyond concert halls with a nationwide project that brings live performances to historic sites and cities across Iran, blending music with calligraphy and the country's cultural heritage.

Titled "Silk Road of Music", the journey will open on November 24 with a free performance at the historic Ersiyeh mansion, a historical house dated back to early 1900s, in Qazvin, northwest Iran. Ghamsari will improvise on the tar, a traditional Iranian string instrument, while calligrapher Kasra Karkazi creates a work live, bringing the sounds of Persian music into dialogue with the art of calligraphy.

Together, they will create an opening manifesto for the journey. The work will be completed and signed by attendees before remaining at the mansion as the project's first keepsake.

Qazvin, a capital of the Safavid Empire for over forty years (1555–1598), was chosen for its rich history and its standing as Iran's calligraphy capital.

The journey will continue with the Hamnavazan-e Hesaar ensemble, taking performances to cities across the country. The first two ticketed concerts are scheduled for November 24 at Qazvin City Theater and November 25 at the Red Crescent Hall in Zanjan, also in northwestern Iran.

The planned route includes Hamedan and Kermanshah in western Iran, Arak in the central region, Isfahan in central Iran, and Shiraz, Estahban and Darab in the south. Further stops include Bandar Abbas and Lar in southern Iran, and Jam, Kangan and Bushehr along the Persian Gulf coast.

The itinerary also features Kazerun, Gachsaran, Behbahan, Ramhormoz, Firuzabad and Marvdasht in the south and southwest.



Ali Ghamsari performs on the tar, a traditional Iranian string instrument, in this file photo.
HASAN SHIRVANI/IRNA

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0540014

First Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN
N.I.S.O.C

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at **www.setadiran.ir** Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
1	● SLICKLINE SPOOLED ON IRON REEL ● H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM ● TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANNICRO-26 ● STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926 (ALLOY 25-6) ● REF. "SANDVIK (ZAPP-GROUP)", "BRIDON" ● SIZE 0.108 INCH X 20000 FEET	40	RL
2	SIZE 0.125 INCH X 20000 FEET	10	RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: **www.setadiran.ir**, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **46,375 EURO** or **95,585,539,360 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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