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Center for Public Diplomacy

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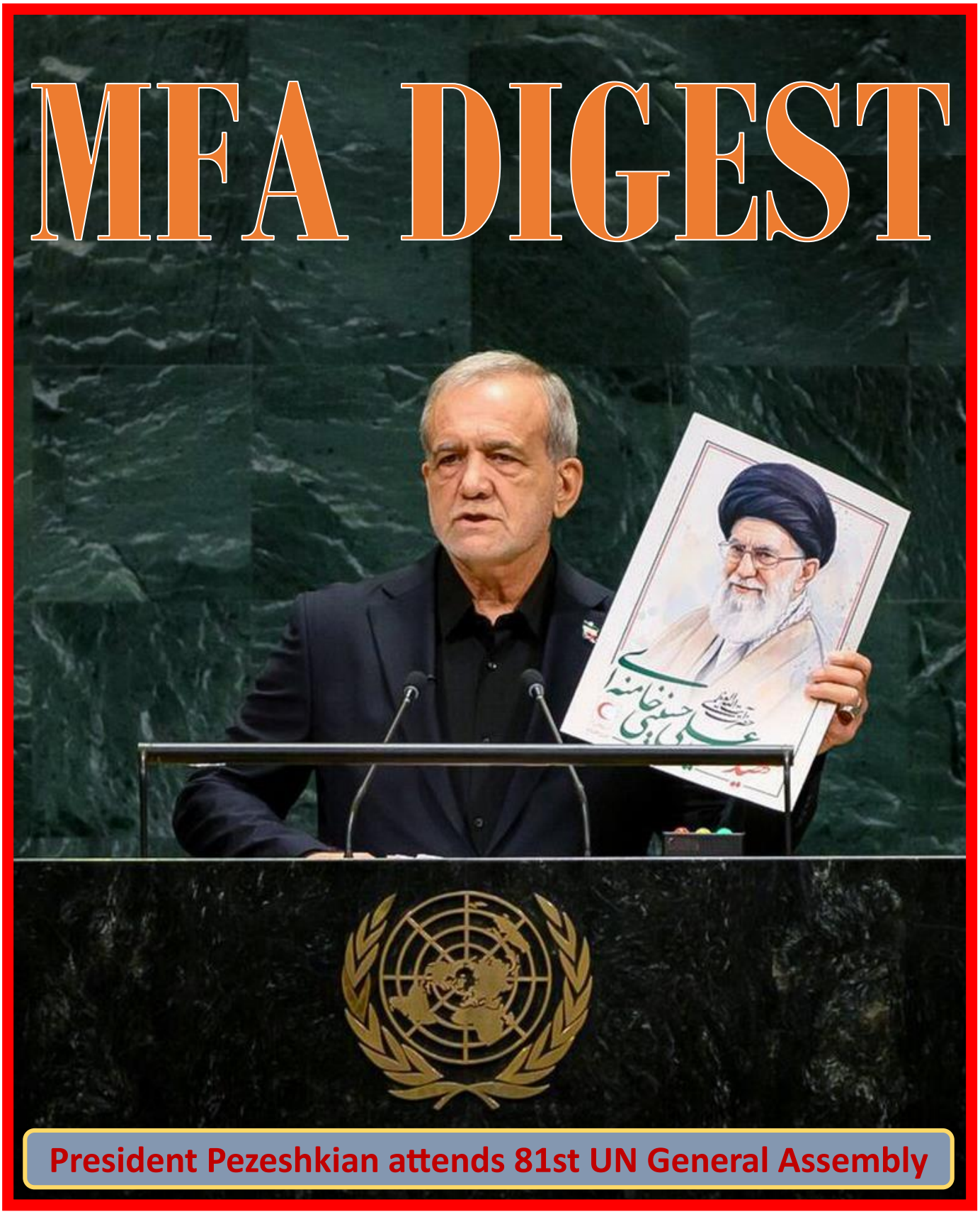
MFA DIGEST

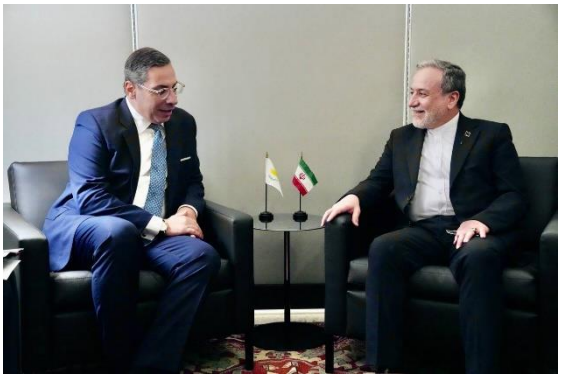


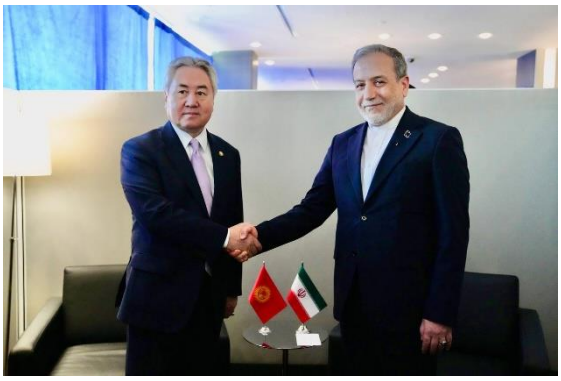
President Pezeshkian attends 81st UN General Assembly

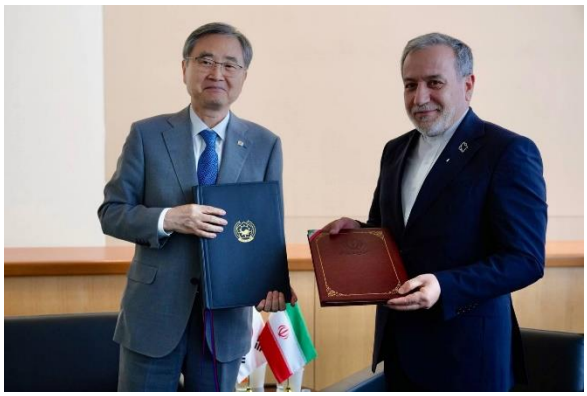
MFA News

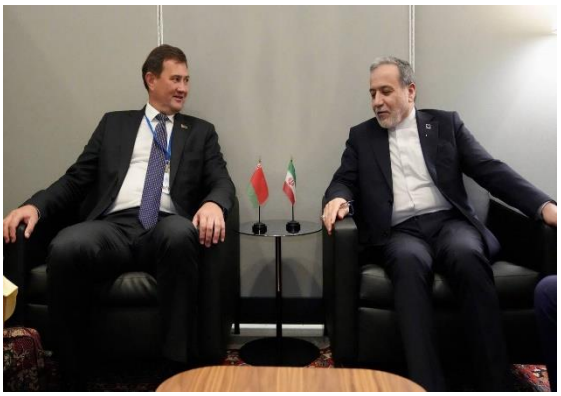
Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

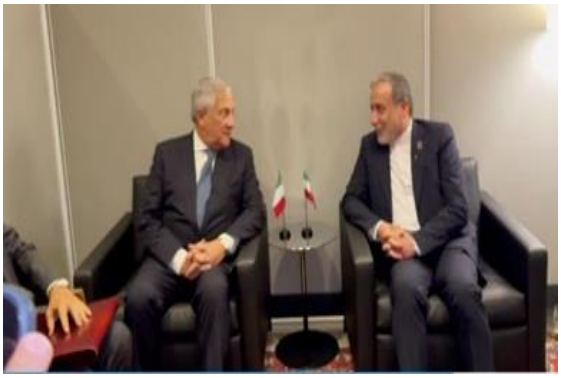
FM Araghchi held telephone conversations with the Turkish Foreign Minister, Pakistan's Army Commander and the UN Secretary General. Mr. Araghchi also held meeting with his counterparts from the following countries on the sidelines of UNGA in New York: Belarus, Austria, Azerbaijan, European Union, Switzerland, Iraq, France, Norway, Jordan, Netherlands, Greece, Qatar, Italy, India, Russia, Spain, Poland, Pakistan, Egypt, Portugal, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, UK, India, Turkiye, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Pakistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Germany, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, South Korea, Niger, Mali, Cambodia, Algeria, Philippine, Nicaragua and Burkina Faso.











Science & Tech

Royan Institute achieves global milestone in regenerative medicine with WhartoCell

Iran has taken a major step forward in regenerative medicine with the approval of WhartoCell, an allogeneic stem cell therapy developed by researchers at Royan Institute to treat osteoarthritis.

The achievement was also highlighted by MedPath, an international platform specializing in medical information, clinical trials, and healthcare technologies, putting the spotlight on Royan Institute's contribution to this scientific and technological breakthrough.

Iranian physician wins 2025 Kuwait Prize for control of cancer

Amir-Ali Hamidieh, an Iranian professor at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has won the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee at its 72nd session in October 2025, the Regional Committee decided to award the Prize to Hamidieh for his significant contribution in the field of cancer.

Iran unveils homegrown catalysts for oil, gas industries

Iran has unveiled two locally-manufactured strategic catalysts for oil, gas and petrochemical industries, "chromium-free high-temperature shift catalyst" and "medium-temperature shift catalyst" aimed at reducing reliance on foreign technology and overcoming restrictions imposed by sanctions against the country.

Iran warns against growing use of AI in wars

Iran's minister of science, research and technology warns that artificial intelligence could turn control over data into control over people and create an "invisible dictatorship," raising concerns over its use in warfare.

Addressing UNESCO's 2026 Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (GFEAI 2026) in Riyadh on Wednesday, Hossein Simaee Sarraf stressed that technology is not neutral and warned that AI could be used as a means of oppression.

Iranian engineers develop indigenous engine control units

Iranian engineers at a knowledge-based company in Tehran have developed the start of widespread use of a new generation of advanced engine control units.The engine control units are the electronic "brains" that manage a vehicle's engine and the product has already entered service on multiple domestically manufactured car models.

Iran plans to launch three satellites by year-end

Iran plans to place three satellites from the Shahid Soleimani satellite constellation into orbit simultaneously by the end of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2027). That the development of the space industry was one of the government's key priorities, highlighting the simultaneous launch of three Iranian satellites in cooperation with Russia as a major achievement.

ACECR's National Cancer Research Institute Ranks Second Among Iran's Clinical Research Centers

The National Cancer Research Institute of the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR) has been ranked second among nearly 300 clinical medical research centers with over a decade of activity, according to the 2025 evaluation by Iran's Ministry of Health.

Trade & Economy

Iran, Tajikistan emphasize trade expansion, removal of obstacles to economic exchanges

Iran' Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs, in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, in Tajikistan, reviewed the latest status of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Iran's September oil sales hit two-year high

While foreign media have reported uncertainty over Iran's oil sales due to sanctions, local Iranian media have reported Iran's oil sales in September reached their highest monthly level in two years.

According to the latest figures, Iran's oil sales exceeded $3 billion in September, marking the highest monthly level in the past two years, a report by Iran's Plan and Budget Organization said.

Iran, Uzbekistan eye AI-driven agricultural co-op as trade delegation aims for $2b

In a joint meeting and subsequent conference on agricultural cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan, the two countries' agriculture ministers emphasized joint investment in AI-based modern farming, livestock breeding, and pasture development.

Iran, Turkmenistan targeting $3bn annual trade turnover

Trade exchanges between Iran and Turkmenistan in the current Iranian

calendar year (Mar. 21) has witnessed considerable growth in the fields of energy and transit, so that the two countries are targeting $3 billion annual trade.

Central Bank takes 6 key measures to facilitate foreign trade

The assistant to the Governor of the Central Bank in forex affairs announced an improvement in the process of returning export earnings and said: With the reforms carried out, more than $1.5 billion in export foreign currency has returned to the country.

South Pars ready for sustainable gas production in winter

An official said: The South Pars Gas Complex, with the successful completion of overhaul operations at its refineries, has become ready for maximum and sustainable gas processing to meet the country's needs during the cold months of the year.

Iran restores half of damaged South Pars production capacity

Deputy Oil Minister: Iran has restored around half of the natural gas production capacity damaged at the South Pars field following US-Israeli attacks, with officials saying reconstruction efforts are progressing ahead of the winter season.

Iran says international flights continue despite US sanctions pressure

Majid Akhavan, spokesperson for Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, said that Iranian airlines have not canceled their international flights and are operating according to schedule.

IranAir
The Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran

"So far, none of the international flights of Iranian airlines have been canceled, and they are being operated according to schedule. Any change to flight schedules will be communicated to passengers in advance," Akhavan said.

Iran Sports

Iran basketball wins bronze at 2026 Asian Games

Iran's men's basketball team defeated China 79-70 on Sunday to secure the bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. It's Iran delegation's first medal in the Games.

Iran's women's 3x3 basketball earn two wins at Nagoya

Iran's women's 3x3 basketball team earned two wins at the 2026 Asian Games on Monday. The national Iranian team first eased past Uzbekistan 19-5 at the Kinjo Futo Station Square Venue, then beat hosts Japan 18-16 in their second match.

Iran's women's kata team makes history at 2026 Asian Games

Iran's women's kata team made history by becoming the vice champions in the 2026 Asian Games. Iran's silver at the 2026 Asian Games marks the first-ever Asian Games medal for the country in women's kata.

Iranian duo win silvers in gymnastic: 2026 Asian Games

Iranian gymnasts Mahdi Olfati and Arman Khodaei won two silver medals in gymnastics at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. The two silver medals mark a notable achievement for Iran's gymnastics team at the 2026 Asian Games.

Iran 3x3 basketball win bronze in Nagoya

Iran's men's 3x3 basketball team won the bronze medal at the Asian Games in Nagoya after defeating the Philippines 21–10 in the third-place match. The bronze medal marked a successful campaign for Iran.

Iran female athlete Zarei bags silver in 2026 Asian Games

Iranian female athlete Zahra Zarei claimed a silver medal at the women's 400 meters of the 2026 Asian Games on Saturday. This was Iran's first-ever women's medal in athletics at the Asian Games. She crossed the line with a time of 52.38 seconds.

Shot putter Tayebi collects Iran's seventh gold in Nagoya

Iranian shot putter Mohammadreza Tayebi claimed a gold medal on Saturday at the 2026 Asian Games. Tayebi's medal was Iran's seventh gold in the Games.

Iran's Karimi snatches historic bronze at 2026 Asian Games

Iranian weightlifter Reyhaneh Karimi won the bronze medal in the women's 77kg category at the Nagoya Asian Games, recording 107kg in the snatch, 136kg in the clean and jerk, and a total of 243kg. Karimi's podium finish made history as she became the first Iranian woman weightlifter to win a medal at the Asian Games. Karimi dedicated her bronze medal to Imam Reza (AS).

Society & Culture

Minab children's unfinished dreams live on in paintings

The group painting exhibition dedicated to the martyred children of Minab belongs to the latter. The paintings do not simply tell the story of a tragedy. They create an atmosphere of absence. The exhibition officially presents paintings. But after walking through the gallery, it becomes difficult to see them only as paintings.

Filmmakers, human rights NGOs back "NAZA" directors amid threats, accusations by Israeli authorities

More than 1,500 film industry figures, including prominent Israeli filmmakers, and over 40 local human rights organizations have expressed solidarity with filmmakers Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, the creators of the documentary "NAZA" that features testimony from Israeli military and intelligence personnel about the army's operations in Gaza.

"Sacrifice for Iran" (Janfada-e-Iran) parade in Tehran

The "Sacrifice for Iran" (Janfada-e-Iran) parade with the participation of 313,000 people, commenced early on Friday morning. The parade is a show of support by the people who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the Islamic Establishment in Iran in the face of US and Zionist regime's aggression.

15th International 100-Second Film Festival concludes in Tehran

This year's edition of the festival was held from September 15 to 18 in Tehran. This edition hosted works focusing on three main themes: "National: Battle for the Future," "International: Battle for the Children of the World," and "Special: Battle for the Homeland." The selected 170 works for this edition included fiction,

animated, artificial intelligence, and documentary films.

IRCS training courses to empower female rapid response teams

The presence of women in relief and rescue operations has significantly increased over the past few years, and now they constitute a part of the high-capacity and effective operational network of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The IRCS will conduct an empowerment and skill-building course for some 450 women who are members of rapid response teams.

Mehr Media Group receives two awards at OANA Awards 2026 in Moscow

Mehr Media Group received two awards at the OANA Awards 2026 during the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) 65th anniversary conference in Moscow.

Over 200,000 foreign nationals enrolled in Iranian schools

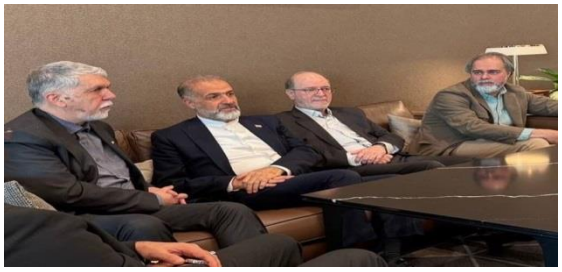
More than 200,000 foreign national students, including boys and girls, have been enrolled in schools in Iran and will benefit from educational services in the current academic year, which starts on September 23.

313,000-strong 'Jan-Fada' drill signifies Iran's popular mobilization and social readiness amid war

On the morning of Friday, September 18, 2026, Tehran awoke to stunning scenes as hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to reaffirm their solidarity with the

country's leadership and armed forces amid the US military and economic terrorism. That was not a fleeting parade, but the declaration of a nation's existence- a nation that, after 200 nights of standing firm, did not bend under maximum pressure.

Culture Minister goes to Russia to advance joint cultural programs and meet Russian culture



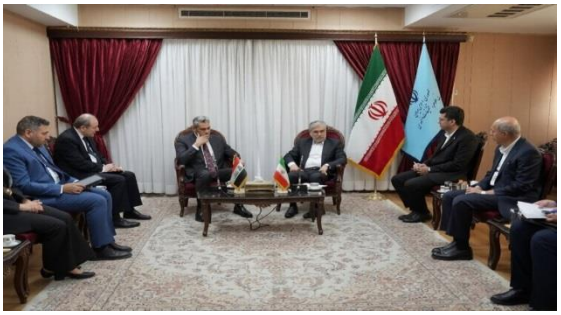
The Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance traveled to Russia to attend the 12th International Forum of United Cultures and advance joint cultural programs.

In a sideline of the event, the Iranian Minister meets with his Russian counterpart in Saint Petersburg and discussed the expansion of cultural ties.

IRCS holds advanced life support course for Ghanaian health staff

The Iranian Red Crescent Society's health center in Ghana has held the first advanced life support course for nurses in the African country, aimed at strengthening their capacity to respond effectively to medical emergencies.

Iran expects Iraqi students to return as flight disruptions ease



Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology, in a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador to Iran, have said the disruptions to flights between Iran and Iraq would be resolved soon, paving the way for Iraqi students to return to Iranian universities. He said more than 50,000 Iraqi students are currently studying at universities across Iran.

Iran has attracted students from 101 countries despite existing challenges, Saeed Habiba, head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said in October 2025.

He said the scientific capabilities of Iranian universities and their positive record in international cooperation constitute a valuable opportunity for intercultural and academic exchange.

Tourism & Nature

Isfahan Music Museum: A journey into Iran's musical heritage

Isfahan, one of Iran's most celebrated historic cities, is renowned for its grand mosques, palaces, bridges and traditional arts. Beyond its better-known monuments, however, Isfahan also offers visitors a more intimate way to explore Iranian culture: through music. Established in 2015, the museum brings together more than 300 Iranian national and regional musical instruments.

8 most attractive deserts in Iran for travelers

Iran's deserts offer far more than endless stretches of sand. Much of central, eastern and southeastern Iran is covered by arid landscapes,

Here is a selection of eight destinations worth considering: Shahdad Desert, Maranjab Desert, Mesr Desert, Kavir National Park, Darak Desert, Zardgah, Zamanabad Desert and Matinabad desert camp

Iran presents climate-resilient tourism experiences at COMCEC meeting

Iran has presented two community-based tourism initiatives as examples of climate-resilient and sustainable tourism at the 27th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group in Ankara. The meeting, held on September 16 and 17.

The villages of Soheili on Qeshm Island and Shafiabad in Kerman as notable Iranian examples. Both villages were included in the UN Tourism Best Tourism Villages list in 2025.

Understanding Iran's tourism momentum amid war and sanctions

Shalbafian, head of the investment center at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said that Iran's tourism economy is taking an unusual shape, with thousands of projects advancing through construction, planning and provincial investment committees despite inflation, sanctions, currency instability and regional war.

Iran to promote tourism potential at Dushanbe Intl. Tourism Exhibition

Iran plans to showcase its tourism potential at the Dushanbe International Tourism Exhibition 2026, seeking to expand cooperation between Iranian and Tajik tourism businesses and open new channels for attracting visitors from Tajikistan and the wider region.

Zoroastrian funerary inscription from late Sasanian era discovered in southern Iran

A newly discovered funerary inscription dating to the late Sasanian period and associated with a Zoroastrian burial has been found in a carved frame north of the ancient city of Estakhr in Marvdasht plain of Fars province, southern Iran.

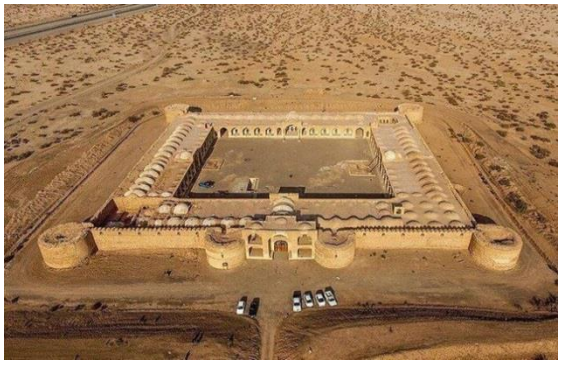
Shams Tabrizi mausoleum project seen as boost for cultural tourism

The completion and opening of the mausoleum of Shams Tabrizi in Khoy city, will mark a major milestone for cultural diplomacy and tourism in West Azarbaijan. Shams Tabrizi (1185–1248) was a 13th-century Persian mystic whose teachings profoundly influenced Jalal al-Din Rumi.

Malay diplomat highlights interest in Iran, Isfahan among Malaysians

Malaysia's chargé d'affaires and head of mission in Tehran Wan Azninizam Yusri Wan Abdul Rashid has highlighted the interest of many Malaysians in visiting Iran, particularly the historic city of Isfahan, and called for broader tourism, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Where the road became a destination: Iran's historical caravanserais



The importance of these buildings was formally recognized in 2023, when UNESCO inscribed The Persian Caravanserai on the World Heritage List. The serial property comprises 54 caravanserais selected from the country's much larger network of centuries-old examples. They form a testimony of the roads, trade, pilgrimage, architecture and human encounters that connected different parts of the Iranian soil and the wider region.

Historic covered bazaar showcases Ardabil's Seljuk, Safavid heritage

Traditional bazaars are among the economic and tourism attractions of Iranian cities, with their historical significance adding to their appeal. The historic Ardabil Bazaar, also known as Qeysariyeh or the Main Bazaar, was inscribed on Iran's national heritage list in 1985 under registration No. 1690.

Two million tourists visited Iran over past five months: Official

Two million foreign tourists have visited Iran between March and August 2026, says Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, noting that pilgrimage remained one of the main reasons foreign visitors traveled to the country.

He added that Iran received 7.39 million foreign tourists in 2024, more than half of whom visited the country for pilgrimage.

Rashti embroidery showcases Iranian heritage at BRICS summit

Rashti embroidery, a centuries-old traditional craft from Iran's northern Gilan province, displayed the country's rich artistic heritage to international visitors at a handicrafts exhibition held on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi.

Persian Cuisine

Khoresh Fesenjan, Persian pomegranate chicken

Khoresh Fesenjan (also known as khoresh fesenjoon) is a sultry, rich, comforting, sweet, and sour Persian stew that is easily my all-time favorite Iranian dish. Persian pomegranate walnut chicken stew is made with sweet pomegranate molasses and savory, nutty toasted walnuts creating a thick sauce that coats pieces of chicken in the most delicious and decadent way.

In this recipe, I pare down a traditionally labor-intensive meal to a simplified Instant pot recipe, keeping the expected flavors and main ingredients.

Khoresh Fesenjan originated in the northern region of Iran in the Gilan province.

One of the things that's interesting about khoresh is that it can be made in a variety of ways, affecting both the taste and the aesthetic of the dish.

Meat options for Fesenjoon include any of the following:

- poultry – chicken or duck (traditionally bone-in)
- Persian meatballs (ground meat shaped into mini balls)

- lamb

My grandma made it with chicken while Bob's grandma used to make it with the mini Persian meatballs. I find both to be very delicious although my preference leans towards preparing it with chicken.

Some regions in Iran add eggplant to this dish. If I were to make it without meat I would double up on walnuts for extra nut protein. Walnuts are naturally oily and add to the richness of this dish. Toasting nuts really brings out the extra flavor and provides some texture. It is recommended toasting the walnuts before adding them into the pot.

Depending on who is making it, the spices for this dish will vary. Most will use turmeric and cinnamon. Some will add saffron, cardamom, and rosebud.

Spices for our recipe:

- turmeric
- cinnamon
- cardamom
- saffron

My suggestion is to follow this recipe if it's your first time making it, then adjust and tweak the spices to your liking to make it your own. In fact, that is exactly what Iranian families do. They use secret spices to make each dish unique so that depending on whose hands have touched it, it will taste special.

The best way to enjoy Persian pomegranate walnut chicken stew is on top of a steaming mound of Persian rice! In our quick Instant pot version here, you can get your rice made from start to finish while the stew is cooking down using a rice cooker.

In a pinch, I sometimes serve this delicious sweet stew Sloppy Jo style and have come to call this modern version, FesenJoe! If you are looking to cut down on white carbs, try Fesenjoe between two whole-wheat hamburger buns for a scrumptious new dinner idea.

Making khoresh fesenjan is a great excuse to break open a beautiful, ripe pomegranate. Pomegranate arils add sophistication to a platter as well as a pop of color, flavor, and texture.

Ingredients

- 2 cups shelled walnuts
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped (about 1 cup chopped onion)
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon finely ground saffron
- 1 teaspoon salt
- pepper to preference
- 2 pounds of skinless, boneless chicken breast, rinsed and cut into small pieces
- 1 cup of stock (vegetable or chicken broth)
- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups of pomegranate molasses (depending on how thick, tart, and sour you prefer your stew - more molasses will make for a more tart and thick, reddish stew)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (optional)
- 2 tablespoons cranberry juice (optional)
-

Instructions

1. Toast the shelled walnuts in a 350 degree F oven for 6 to 8 minutes, turning and watching closely to avoid burning the nuts. It should give off a nutty

smell, that is when you will know it is golden and toasted.

2. Allow the nuts to cool slightly then add them to a food processor. Give the Cuisinart about 10 quick pulses or grind for about 10 seconds. The nuts should be finely chopped but stop before nut paste forms.

3. Add olive oil to the Instant pot and heat it on the saute mode for about 1 minute

4. Add chopped onions and all of the spices, cook and stir for 5-7 minutes until the onions are translucent (stir constantly so to avoid sticking to the bottom of the pot)

5. Add broth, chicken, pomegranate molasses, and juices

6. Layer on the walnuts

7. Clear out the Instant pot by pressing 'Keep warm/cancel'

8. Be sure that the pressure valve is toggled to 'Sealing' (not 'Venting') and click on 'Meat/Stew' then reduce the time down to 15 minutes by clicking on the minus symbol. Lastly, click on 'meat/stew' again to get the pressure cooker started.

9. The Instant pot will beep when it's done cooking. At this point, you can either sit and wait for a natural release of pressure (about 15 to 20 minutes), or do a 'quick release'. To 'quick release' turn the pressure valve to 'Vent' and wait for all of the steam to come out (about 2 minutes). In either method, wait until the red steam indicator drops down. Then it is ok to open the lid.

10. Clear out the Instant Pot and select 'Saute'. Bring the stew back up to a boil and allow the extra liquid to cook off (10 to 15 minutes). Clear out the Instant pot and allow the stew to cool a bit.

11. Serve on top of a bed of cooked Basmati white rice and garnish with fresh pomegranate arils.

NOTES

Adding stock or broth to this stew makes a runnier khoresh. When using an Instant Pot it is necessary to add liquid. Without enough liquid, the appliance will not operate properly, will give an alert, and stop cooking. Here is the go-around for having to add extra liquid - after releasing the steam, turn the instant pot back on to Saute and bring to a boil. Cook off the extra liquid until the desired thickness and consistency is achieved. In my large Instant Pot and with the ratios of this recipe, I normally boil off the excess liquid for about 10 minutes.

Events & Occasions

“Sacrifice for Iran” Nationwide Parades; Janfada-e-Iran

MEHR NEWS AGENCY
Amir Abshenasan

MEHR NEWS AGENCY
Hamidreza Mehraban

Asian Games Gold for Iranian Rowers in Nagoya Asian Games

Kimia Zarei and Zeinab Norouzi won gold in the women's lightweight double sculls and silver in the double sculls at the Nagoya Asian Games.