



# Call for Submissions

3rd National Congress of Poetry & Short Story

Let the tale of sugar be told...

**5th Annual  
“Shekarestan”  
3rd National Congress  
of Poetry & Short Story**



سازمان اسناد و کتابخانه ملی  
میرزا کوچک خان



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Khuzestan, a province in southwestern Iran, is a land of contrasts and diversity. Its climate ranges from hot and arid in the south to mild and humid in the north, with the mighty Karun River flowing through its heart. The region's distinctive culture has been shaped by its history and geography, bearing the imprint of Persian, Arab, and Mesopotamian civilizations that have flourished here. Rich natural resources, including extensive oil reserves and fertile agricultural lands, have long attracted settlers and conquerors alike.

Among Khuzestan's defining features are its sugarcane fields and palm groves, which stretch across large areas of the province. Sugarcane, in particular, has played an essential role in regional economic and social development, sustaining livelihoods and prosperity over generations. Beyond its material importance, the sugarcane landscape has inspired artists and writers, frequently appearing in literary and visual traditions. The confluence of climate and culture, together with oil and industrialization,

rivers and sea, sugarcane fields and palm groves, has produced a fertile ground for expression that continues to foster literary creation and scholarly attention.

The Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company has been central to this ongoing story, drawing attention to Khuzestan's sweetness, prosperity, and resilience. We invite submissions that portray the achievements of the sugarcane industry and explores its cultural, social, and economic impact on surrounding regions. We also welcome works that engage with the theme of production growth. These contributions will be featured in the 2nd National Congress of Poetry & Short Story, hosted by the Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance (Khuzestan Province), Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Payame Noor University of Khuzestan, the Islamic Azad University (Khuzestan), and regional literary associations.



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### Sections:

Poetry (Farsi/Arabic/English)  
Short Story (Farsi/Arabic/English)  
Children & Young Adults (Poetry and Short Story)

### Themes of This Year's Congress

Khuzestan, the Land of Sugarcane  
Khuzestan, Iran's Sweet Province

The Role of the Sugarcane Industry in Boosting the National and Local Economy

The Role of the Sugarcane Industry in the Cultural Development of Surrounding Regions

Achievements of the Sugarcane Industry in the Production of Diverse Sugarcane-Based Products

Commitment to the Year's National Motto: Growth in Production

### General Conditions & Submission Guidelines

Accepted formats: Poetry, Short Stories, and Articles related to the above themes.  
Short stories must not exceed 3,500 words.

Articles should maintain a clear, journalistic or analytical tone, relevant to one or more of the congress themes.

Poetry submissions may be in classical, free verse, or colloquial styles.

Each participant may submit up to three (3) works.

Submissions must be original and not previously published in book form.

Each work must be submitted in a separate file.

At the end of each work, please include a separate page with the author's full name, contact information, and brief bio.

Submissions can be sent via:

The official Congress website

Email to the Congress Secretariat

Or through the Secretariat's official WhatsApp/Telegram number

Confirmation of receipt is required.

Selected works will be published in an official congress collection.

Winners in each category will receive valuable prizes, as determined by the jury.





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### Evaluation and Awards.

Works will be evaluated by the Festival Jury. Valuable prizes will be awarded to selected works in each section; honorees will be announced at the festival's closing ceremony.

### Key Dates.

Submission Deadline: 1 Aban 1404 (23 October 2025).

Final Results: announced at the Shekarestan closing ceremony.

Submission & Contact.

Email: [sugarcaneliterature@gmail.com](mailto:sugarcaneliterature@gmail.com)

Phone: +98 (061) 3333 0346; +98 (061) 3313 0345

Social messaging (Secretariat): 093887582209

### Notes.

By submitting, authors acknowledge the Festival's general conditions, including possible publication of selected works with author attribution by the Congress Secretariat.

For updates on ceremony dates, venue details, or the online portal, please contact the Secretariat.



شرکت کشت و صنعت  
میرزا کوچک خان



شرکت توسعه نیشکر  
و صنایع جانبی