



# First National Literary Congress of "SHEKARESTAN"

(Farsi, Arabic, English)

**Poetry  
Short Stories**

oct. - nov. 2023

Call for Submission

# First National Literary Congress of "SHEKARESTAN"



## Poetry Short Stories

### In the name of the Creator,

#### Let the tale of sugar be told...

Introducing "Sugarcane Tales", a short story competition as part of the first National Congress on Poetry and Short Stories "Shekarestan", we invite writers in Farsi, Arabic, and English to submit their stories of 300 to 3,500 words that showcase the rich culture and history of Khuzestan, the land of date and sugarcane.

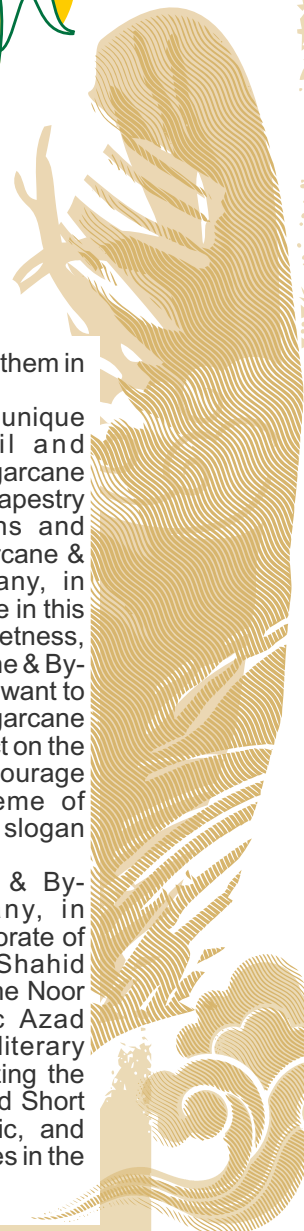
Khuzestan, a province in southwestern Iran, is a land of contrasts and diversity. Its climate ranges from hot and arid in the south to mild and humid in the north, with the mighty Karun River flowing through its heart. The region's unique culture has been shaped by its history and geography, with influences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

One of the most distinctive features of Khuzestan is its sugarcane fields and palm groves, which cover vast areas of the province. The sugarcane, in particular, has played a significant role in the region's economic and social development, providing a source of green plantation and prosperity for generations of people. The sugarcane fields are not only a source of income for farmers, but also a source of inspiration for

artists and writers, who have depicted them in literature.

Khuzestan's diverse climate and unique culture, combined with its oil and industrialization, rivers and sea, sugarcane fields and palm groves, create a rich tapestry that has inspired literary creations and attracted visitors for centuries. Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company, in particular, has played a significant role in this story, highlighting the region's sweetness, prosperity, and resilience. In Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company, we want to read your stories that portray the sugarcane industry's achievements and its impact on the surrounding regions. We also encourage submissions that explore the theme of production growth, as this year's slogan focuses on realizing this goal.

To achieve this goal, Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Payame Noor University of Khuzestan, Islamic Azad University of the province, and literary associations nationwide, are organizing the first National Congress on Poetry and Short Story "Shekarestan" in Farsi, Arabic, and English to depict these sweet narratives in the form of poetry and short stories.



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## **The competition has four sections:**

Poetry (Farsi, Arabic, English), Short Story (Farsi, Arabic, English), Children and Young Adults (Poetry and Short Story), and Essay. Each artist can submit up to three works, and priority will be given to unpublished works. The selected works will be published as a book by the Congress Secretariat, and valuable prizes will be awarded to the top works in each section by the jury.

To participate, please send your work to the Congress email address or through the mobile number of the Congress Secretariat and receive a confirmation of receipt. Do not forget to provide the author's information at the end of each work on a separate page. There is no age restriction for participating in the National Literary Congress of Shekarestan.

The deadline for submission is the 31

Shahrivar 1402 (22 September 2023), and the final results and announcement of accepted works will be made during the National Shekarestan Congress in the last week of Aban (Iranian calendar).

We look forward to reading your Sugarcane Tales and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Khuzestan through your stories. For inquiries and further information regarding participation in the first National Congress on Poetry and Short Story "Shekarestan", please contact the provided number or email address.

## **Congress Sections:**

1. Poetry (Farsi, Arabic, English)
2. Short Stories (Farsi, Arabic, English)
3. Children and Young Adults (Poetry and Short Story)
4. Essay



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## Themes:

- Khuzestan, the land of date and sugarcane
- Khuzestan, the sugar capital of Iran
- The role of the sugarcane industry in local and national economic development
- The role of the sugarcane industry in the cultural development of surrounding regions
- Achievements of the sugarcane industry in producing diverse sugarcane products
- Focus on realizing the slogan of the year: production growth

## General Conditions and Submission Method:

Submitted stories should be within the specified word limit of 300-3,500.

Poetry can be in traditional, blank verse and free verse.

There is no age restriction for participating in the National Literary Congress of Shekarestan.

Each artist can submit a maximum of 3 works.

Priority will be given to unpublished poems and stories.

Selected works will be published as a book by the Congress Secretariat.

Each work should be submitted in a separate file.

Author's information should be provided at the end of each work on a separate page. Participants must send their works to the Congress email address or through the mobile number of the Congress Secretariat and receive a confirmation of receipt. Valuable prizes will be awarded to the selected works in each section by the jury.

## Schedule:

Deadline for submission: 15 mehr 1402 (7 October 2023)

Final results and announcement of top works will be made during the National Shekarestan Congress in the last week of Aban (Iranian calendar)

Festival Email Address:

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

Social Media Contact:

instagram/

[sugarcane.ir](https://www.sugarcane.ir)

## Shekarestan:

For inquiries and further information regarding participation in the first National Congress on Poetry and Short Story, please contact the following number:

+98 061-33130345-6

**Secretariat of the First National  
Literary Congress of Shekarestan**