

# Obstacles to global registration of Hegmataneh must be removed

## Iranica Desk

Hegmataneh, also known as Ecbatana, is a symbol of the rich history, culture and civilization of ancient Iran. A glance at historical developments of Iran brings the grandeur and immense value of this archeological site to light.

Hegmataneh Complex is located on a vast hill in the western city of Hamedan, which has also been called Hegmataneh Hill. Hamedan is the provincial capital of Hamedan Province.

Hegmataneh dates back to the reign of the first Iranian kings, the Medes. Archaeologists have discovered palaces, mansions, and other historical monuments there which are related to the Median and Achaemenid periods. A Greek historian has said the Medes used Hegmataneh as a royal complex of mansions and palaces in approximately 800 B.C.

## Global registration

The incumbent Iranian government has placed plans on the agenda to include Hegmataneh, which was once one of the greatest ancient cities in the world, on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Hegmataneh has been registered on the country's National Heritage List.

The head of Management and Planning Organization of Hamedan Province said that during last year's trip



● safarzon.com



● apochi.com

of President Ebrahim Raeisi to Hamedan, the government approved a proposal to organize Hegmataneh Hill, according to IRNA.

Tooraj Alvanian said the government approved nearly \$3 million for a project in this regard, around \$900,000 of which has

been allocated.

The dossier to have the ancient site registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List was submitted earlier this year.

Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ali Darabi has said the file that was submitted to UNESCO includes the ancient site of Hegmataneh, Hamedan's historical bazaar, the mausoleum of Bu-Ali Sina (Avicenna), and some historical streets. Alireza Qassemi, the provincial governor of Hamedan has also said the ancient site could be registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List this summer.

The head of Hegmataneh



● wikimedia.org

National Heritage Site said preparations should be made before UNESCO officials travel to Hamedan for the inclusion of the ancient

site.

Mohammad Mansoorian said cars should be banned from plying the streets in Hegmataneh. He said the

fruit and vegetable market and bakeries should also be relocated.

The official called for attracting foreign tourists to help develop Hamedan's economy. He said foreign tourists can directly affect people's livelihood.

Qassemi said efforts made to have Hegmataneh registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List are aimed at luring foreign tourists and bringing economic prosperity to the city.

## Overcoming hurdles

The director general of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Hamedan Province has also called for banning cars from passing through the ancient Hegmataneh site.

Mohsen Massoumzadeh said that coordination and synergy between responsible bodies of the province and cooperation of people from all walks of life are essential to help remove obstacles to the registration of Hegmataneh on the UNESCO list.

The global recognition of Hegmataneh will definitely have a positive impact on Hamedan's economic, cultural and tourism sectors, he said. The mayor of Hamedan said the global registration of Hegmataneh is among the priorities of the municipality.

Massoud Hosseini said the municipality has plans to allocate over \$1 million in this regard.

# Dohezar Anthropology Museum in need of more attention



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Museums, which are among the favorite destinations of many tourists, contribute greatly to public knowledge of people about the history, culture and art of a land.

Museums are usually established in places which are not only easy to reach but also equipped with various facilities. However, the Dohezar Anthropology Museum in Tonekabon, in the northern province of Mazandaran, seems to have been forgotten by the authorities, ISNA wrote.

Located in Shaneh Tarash village, it has been established to introduce and promote the old traditions and customs of the region.

Various old objects and instruments related to the occupations of the land's ancient residents, such as livestock breeding, farming, textile weaving, kilim weaving, manufacturing wooden tools, along with everyday life items are exhibited in the museum.

Head of the Dohezar Anthropology Museum, Yasser Dohezari, said that the museum, inaugurated in 2011, hosts a large number of visitors from across the country throughout the year.

He added that about 100 people visited the museum per day during the NOWRUZ (Iranian New Year) holidays (March 21-April-2), pointing out that

the museum is open to the public in all four seasons of the year.

With an elevation of 1,600 meters above sea level, Shaneh Tarash village is located 40km from Tonekabon, on a road leading to Dohezar village.

Due to the winding mountain road leading to this museum, it takes one about 50 minutes to reach it by car from the center of Tonekabon. Although the road is paved, it is as if you are moving on a dirt road full of potholes and bumps. And there is no sign along the road indicating the museum.

The shortage of proper sanitary facilities and the inadequate number of parking lots are among the other problems faced by the only museum of Tonekabon, which can be referred to as the most forgotten anthropology museum of the country.

The lack of a suitable mechanism for the preservation of valuable objects of the museum, the dust that covers them, and the absence of introduction labels are among the main shortcomings noticed by every viewer.

The locals and tourists expect the relevant authorities to pay more attention to the museum and provide visitors with appropriate facilities. This would help increase the number of people traveling to the region and improve the tourism sector of the province.