

Iran tops global, regional rankings for access to drinking water

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In a recent report released by the World Bank, Iran has emerged as the leader in global and West Asian access to drinking water, both in urban and rural areas. According to the report, an astonishing 99.83 percent of Iranians living in urban areas and 82 percent in rural areas have easy access to clean drinking water. These figures exceed the global averages of 85.7 percent in urban regions and 59.6 percent in rural areas, as well as the West Asian averages of 83.2 percent and 69.5 percent respectively, Press TV reported.

Iran's achievement can be attributed to its exceptional localization and production capabilities in the water industry. The report highlights Iran's domestic production of 80 percent of the necessary equipment for water treatment plants, 65 percent for sewage treatment plants, and an impressive 90 percent for water and sewage net-

works. Moreover, the country ensures water supply for almost 100 percent of its urban population, surpassing the global average.

The report sheds light on various indicators of Iran's thriving water industry. Iran's commitment to localizing production and optimizing efficiency has yielded exceptional results. Not only does Iran excel in equipment production, but it has also implemented efficient management practices, including the establishment of collaborative mechanisms for watershed management, water productivity enhancement, proper allocation of water resources, bulk delivery of agricultural water, installation of gauging tools, and the prevention of unauthorized water extraction.

Iran has also made significant strides in infrastructure development, such as the construction of dams, irrigation and drainage networks, and the creation of sewage facilities. These initiatives, coupled with



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comprehensive water stress management strategies, reinforce Iran's commitment to securing reliable and accessible drinking water for its population.

The success and recognition Iran has garnered exemplify the transformative impact of adopting innovative approaches to water management and infrastructure

development. Through substantial changes in the water industry, Iran has positioned itself as a role model for other nations aiming to ensure water security and accessibility.

The country's achievements underscore the importance of sustainable strategies and collaborative efforts in addressing global and regional water challenges.

Fire extinguishing system helped avert disaster in downtown Tehran

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A fire broke out in a commercial building warehouse in central Tehran, but a quick response from firefighters and an effective fire extinguishing system prevented a major disaster, according to the Tehran Fire and Safety Services Organization.

The fire was reported at 12:38 p.m. in a building located on Amirkabir St., South Nazem ol-Ateba St., said Seyyed Jalal Maleki, the organization's spokes-

person, according to ISNA. Firefighters from three stations were immediately dispatched to the scene. The first group of firefighters arrived approximately four minutes after the incident was reported. They found a warehouse, about 50 meters on the fifth floor of a five-story commercial building, ablaze. The warehouse, filled with spare parts and cardboard, was completely on fire. "Firefighters immediately began their efforts to extinguish the fire and managed

to put out the flames within minutes," Maleki said. Despite the heavy smoke that filled the air after the fire, a major catastrophe was averted thanks to the warehouse's fire extinguishing system. "There have been many incidents where such a fire has spread to several shops or a large part of the building," Maleki said. "In this case, the presence of an intelligent fire extinguishing system prevented the fire from spreading." A local resident also played

a part in controlling the fire due to his familiarity with fire extinguishers. After securing and cleaning the site, the firefighters returned to their stations. The organization's fire expert has begun an investigation into the cause of the fire. Mohammad Esmail Tavakoli, head of Tehran's medical emergency department, said that two emergency ambulances were dispatched to the scene. One person received emergency services on the spot.



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The recent fire incident highlights the paramount importance of robust fire safety regulations. Thanks to the swift response of firefighters and the effectiveness of the fire extin-

guishing system, a major disaster was averted. This incident serves as a powerful reminder of the potential devastating consequences of neglecting fire safety measures. Mov-

ing forward, it is crucial that organizations and individuals prioritize the implementation and maintenance of rigorous fire safety protocols to safeguard lives and properties.

Gov't aims to popularize environmental protection

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Vice president and head of the Department of the Environment (DoE), Ali Salajegheh, emphasized the government's commitment to popularizing, localizing, and encouraging public participation in environmental and national resource protection during a recent event.

Salajegheh noted that the government's successes in these areas have often been due to the capacity and support of the public, according to IRNA.

The comments were made on the sidelines of the unveiling ceremony for the National Environment Award's statue and poster, an event Salajegheh highlighted as a crucial pillar for cultural development and the expansion of environmental literacy.

Head of the DoE underscored the importance of the National Environment Award, stating that



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it reviews and evaluates both individual and group actions in the form of real and legal personalities. He added that a serious demand for environmental protection has emerged at all levels of governance, often with the public leading the way. "This issue is evident in categories such as protection of water resources, waste management, expansion of green space and in general in playing the role of social responsibilities in the field of

environment and is commendable," Salajegheh said. Despite progress in promoting environmental protection culture, the official stressed the need for increased sensitivity and further measures. He expressed hope that the ethics and culture of environmental protection will become institutionalized in the country, and that initiatives like the National Environment Award will serve as a model for enhancing public participation.

Iran's rainiest province faces severe rainfall shortage, latest data reveals

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National Climate and Drought Crisis Management Center of Iran's National Meteorological Organization has reported a concerning rainfall deficit in Gilan, the country's rainiest province.

According to recent data, the deficit has reached a staggering 199 mm, ISNA reported.

The Meteorological Organization's announcement highlights that Gilan typically receives approximately 794 mm of rainfall during the water year period up until this point. The water year, which spans from one September to the next, is considered a crucial period for assessing precipitation levels.

The shortage of rain is not limited to Gilan alone. Two other northern provinces in the country, Mazandaran and Golestan, are also grappling with

significant deficits in rainfall. Mazandaran has experienced a shortfall of about 144 mm, while Golestan has recorded 133 mm of rainfall deficiency. Consequently, these provinces rank second and third, respectively, after Gilan in terms of the largest rainfall deficits in the country. Additionally, Tehran province stands as the sixth province with a rainfall shortage of 107 mm.

Since the start of the current water year on September 23 of last year, the country has received a total of 181 mm of rain. This figure indicates a 20.5 percent decline compared to normal conditions, highlighting the severity of the overall rainfall shortage. The ramifications of this drought sit-

uation on agriculture, water resources, and the environment have yet to be fully assessed. Measures and strategies to mitigate the impact of the rainfall deficit will likely be crucial for the affected provinces to minimize potential consequences.

The National Climate and Drought Crisis Management Center continues to monitor the situation closely, as officials and experts work to address the challenges posed by this concerning weather pattern.



● ISNA