

Tehran book fair closes with over 3m titles sold

35th TIBF sees 25% sales increase



The 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) concluded, achieving significant success with over three million books sold. This year's fair, held from May 8 to 19 at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla, saw a 25% increase in sales compared to the previous year, IRNA wrote. The event, themed "Let's Read and Create," featured 2,700 domestic and international publishers and booksellers. Among the participants were 60 for-

ign publishers showcasing 50,000 titles. Yemen was honored as the special guest of the fair. For the first time, the entire Mosalla was dedicated to the book fair, enhancing the cultural significance of the event. Special emphasis was placed on literary tourism, drawing attention from cultural attachés from about 10 countries. Notable attendees included Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Pres-

ident Ebrahim Raisi, and other high-ranking Iranian officials, who toured the fair during its 11-day run. The public rated this year's fair 70 out of 100 points on average, reflecting widespread satisfaction with the event. In addition, the city of Semnan, recognized as Iran's book capital, participated in the exhibition, further highlighting the nation's commitment to promoting literacy and culture.



Deputy minister: Over 1,600 tourism projects launched in Iran since 2021

Social Desk

Iran has inaugurated 1,610 tourism projects since August 2021, according to the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced the milestone at the reopening ceremony of the historic Risbaf Factory in Isfahan, which is being restored and redesigned to serve as a regional museum, IRNA wrote. Shalbafian highlighted that 2,400 tourism projects are currently under-

way across the country. He noted that tourism ranks among the top three sectors for project implementation in Iran. He also mentioned that 81 projects are more than 80% complete and are expected to be operational soon. The deputy minister pointed out that 47 major projects, including the Risbaf Factory, have recently been unblocked and progressed. These projects hold significant national and international importance. "The reopening of Risbaf not only brings joy to the

people but also serves as a model for the restoration of historical structures in other cities," Shalbafian said. He urged local officials to facilitate public access to the factory during its restoration, emphasizing its symbolic representation of Isfahan's resilience. Shalbafian confirmed the ministry's commitment to establishing a regional office for handicrafts and tourism at the Risbaf site to enhance global connections for local artisans. Amir Karamzadeh, Director General of Isfahan's Cultural Heritage,

Handicrafts, and Tourism Department, praised the resolution of the complex Risbaf project after 20 years, calling it a significant achievement of the government. He remarked that the restoration of this historic building would not only elevate its global reputation but also boost the local economy. The Risbaf Factory restoration ceremony was held on International Museum Day (May 18), underscoring the global significance of cultural heritage and preservation efforts.

PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

Iran with a population of more than 88 million people has been beset by a population crisis over the past decades, particularly since the 1980s, when the Islamic Republic's population control policies promoted the slogan of "the fewer the children, the merrier the life" in order to more adequately regulate the provision of livelihood needs for the then-extended families during Iran-Iraq's post-war era.

The successive Iranian administrations have been striving to revoke the policy and increase the population growth rate since the 2000s through various family policies that incentivize childbearing and fertility. The compensatory measures have managed to decelerate the tempo of decline in the birth rate across the country but are still short of heralding a cataclysmic change in family approaches

Iran's birth rate facing menace by illegal abortion trends



toward giving birth to more children. According to statistics, more than a million individuals are annually added to the Iranian population but, if current trends persist, the growth rate is projected to reach zero within the next seven years, thereafter turning negative. Concerns over the steep downturn in birth rate in Iran has been exacerbated by the growing trend in the

number of abortions which are carried out either by private clinics or through the use of illegal pills available in the black market. Iran's Parliament has passed legislation to outlaw tubectomy, vasectomy, and the free dispensation of contraceptives other than where pregnancy would threaten a woman's health. The bill obliges the government to offer incentives, including a 7.5-fold increase in

child-benefit payments to government employees, interest-free loans, and other perks. Despite stringent measures adopted by Iran's Ministry of Health to keep a rein on the prescription, distribution and accessibility of contraceptive devices in medical facilities and drug stores, the younger generation is partly inclined to undergo abortion surgeries in underground and often

unsanitary places to terminate their pregnancies. "Illegal abortions should be prevented except they are diagnosed by qualified doctors. The abortion rate is high and alarming. Everyone involved should work hard to stop it," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said in an official ceremony on population growth and childbearing on Saturday. "Young boys and girls should be aware that unauthorized abortion is regarded manslaughter form the Islamic Sharia law." Unconfirmed reports suggest that between 300,000 and 500,000 abortions are carried out in Iran every year. Intentional abortion contravenes Islamic Sharia and the culture of valuing human life. As per Article 56 of Iran's Family Protection and Youth Population Law, an abortion without a license is punishable by fine, imprisonment, and revocation of the medical license, and the coroner's office is responsible for filing the case for the applicants.

Iranian film 'Parisan' awarded at Indian Festival

Iranian film 'Parisan', directed by Kambiz Babaei, won the best director, best actor, best actress and special jury award at the Kollywood International Film Festival held in India. Kambiz Babaei won the award for best director, Farhad Qaemian won the award for best actor, and Linda

Kiani won the award for best actress. The special jury award was also given to this film, ILNA reported. The Indian festival featured 923 films from forty different countries, including prominent works from America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The festival is based on South India Tamil cinema.

