

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran made significant strides towards developing sustainable tourism, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly practices.

According to Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri, the country has allocated funds for the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, and has implemented measures to reduce water consumption in tourism facilities, ILNA reported.

Speaking at the first-ever ministerial meeting on climate action in tourism, held on the sidelines of the "COP29" conference in Baku, Salehi Amiri emphasized the importance of sustainable tourism development in the face of growing concerns over climate change.

He noted that tourism is one of the largest consumers of energy in the transportation and accommodation sectors, and that developing sustainable tourism practices is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Salehi Amiri highlighted several initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, including the establishment of 6,000 eco-resorts across the country, which are designed to meet new environmental standards. These resorts use local materials, serve local food, and showcase cultural symbols. The minister also mentioned the introduction of "fast-track" projects that prioritize sustainability in tourism policy-making, as well as the selection of Mashhad and Shiraz as model cities for sustainable tourism. These cities have implemented measures to reduce energy consumption and promote environmental protection, and will serve as models for other cities in Iran.

In addition, Iran has implemented measures to manage wastewater and reduce water consumption in tourism facilities, including the launch of a pilot project in five hotels. The country has also introduced a new program to promote eco-tourism,

## Minister: Iran committed to sustainable tourism development



which includes the development of small-scale solar power plants in tourist sites and the promotion of environmentally-friendly accommodations.

Salehi Amiri also emphasized the importance of raising awareness about environmental issues among young people and the general public.

He announced that Iran has held three workshops on sustainable tourism this year, and has introduced a new award, the "Iranian Green Tourism Award", to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to sustainable tourism.

Furthermore, Iran has nominated 90 villages for the United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) Best Tourism Villages project, with a focus on creating employment opportunities for young people and women. The country has also introduced new regulations to promote the use of environmental standards in tourism development, and has provided financial support to non-governmental organizations to strengthen the sustainable tourism chain. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts to develop sustainable tourism practices and reduce the industry's impact on the environment.

## Iran's IIDCYA activities goes global

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The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has made a mark on the world stage with its activities during World Space Week, which were registered on the official website of the event.

According to ISNA, the Director-General of Education and Research at IIDCYA, Saiedeh Azizian, announced that this year was the first time the institute participated in World Space Week, alongside the Iranian Space Agency, with a focus on the theme "Space and Climate Change".

Azizian stated that one of the main activities was the national festival of space-themed music videos, which was held in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency. The festival aimed to educate partici-

pants on space-related topics and encourage them to produce scientific content. The event included workshops, judging, and selection of winners.

Another program was a specialized seminar on "Climate Change and Dust" held in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency and the Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center (ASMERC). Over 500 participants, including teachers and young members of IIDCYA, attended the seminar via online platforms.

Azizian also mentioned that an international citizen science project, "Observing Messier Objects", was held in 20 provinces across Iran, in collaboration with NASA's NASE program and the Saqeb Astronomy Association in Gilan. Over 1,000 participants took part in nighttime observations, resulting in over 400

submissions of artwork, photography, and writings.

Furthermore, scientific programs were held in 21 provinces, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, with over 10,000 members of IIDCYA and students attending 193 centers during World Space Week.

Azizian also mentioned that special programs were held at IIDCYA centers, combining the theme of World Space Week with the institute's 60th anniversary activities. These programs included stargazing nights, astronomy workshops in rural areas, book readings, book introductions, crafts, and creative performances related to space.

During World Space Week, IIDCYA centers hosted over 10,000 children and young adults interested in space-related activities across the country.

## Persian book makes IBBY's 2025 cut

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A tactile book by Souda Azadi titled 'Auntie Knits, I Wear', was selected for the biennial list of IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities for 2025.

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization which represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together.

The book's unique feature is its storytelling through the perspective of a blind child. The book's construction incorporates diverse textures, making it appealing to children with visual impairments. The execution's delicacy and variety of textures are particularly engaging for children with visual disabilities, ISNA reported.

Last year, the Children's Book Council nominated eight Iranian books for the IBBY 2025 list. The committee consisted of judges Marzieh Shahkarami, Soudeh Karimi, Mar-

jan Reyhanian, Mandana Razavizadeh, Mitra Mo'adab, Fariba Keyhani, and Tahereh Bashir. Masoud Taherian, a member of the council served as an advisor.

IBBY publishes a biennial list of books suitable for children with special needs to promote reading pleasure, encourage publishers, and develop such products. The final selection will be made in Toronto, Canada, and the chosen books will be published in the biennial list of books for children with special needs and showcased at the 2025 Bologna Children's Book Fair.



## Iranian music maestro Behrouzinia to hold masterclass in US

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Iranian composer and tar player Hamid Behrouzinia is set to hold a masterclass in the United States.

According to Behrouzinia, he is currently preparing for the upcoming workshop, which is scheduled to take place in Los Angeles and Orange County, California, in November, IRNA reported.

The masterclass, aimed at tar and setar players, as well as music enthusiasts, will cater to all age groups and skill levels, from beginners to ad-

vanced. Behrouzinia explained that the workshop will focus on identifying and addressing the technical weaknesses of each participant, including technique, rhythm, and improvisation in various Iranian musical modes.

Behrouzinia, who has toured extensively in the US, Canada, and Europe, noted that he has met numerous music enthusiasts and students during his concerts, many of whom have requested a workshop. However, due to the demanding nature of his tour schedule, he had to postpone the plan.