

Sassanid era inscription suggests active ancient trade, industry



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Thanks to the efforts of Isfahan archaeologists, a Sassanid ceramic inscription fragment has been discovered in Lenjan, Isfahan Province. Its content indicates the existence of an ancient commercial and industrial settlement along the Zayandeh Rud River. In early May 2025, this ceramic inscription piece was recognized as one of the year's most significant archaeological findings and has the potential to open a new chapter in regional historical research. Aqil Aqili, head of the Archaeology Committee of the Lenjan Heritage Preservers Association, told ISNA that

this accidental discovery resulted from the ongoing, dedicated efforts of the association's members, ISNA wrote. Following an initial site survey by Hamid Salimian, the association's CEO, and subsequent focused follow-up efforts, a brainstorming session was held to prepare for the official registration and protection of the site in coordination with the Isfahan Province Cultural Heritage Organization. The site requires further research and studies; future investigations could undoubtedly revolutionize the understanding of the region's history. He added, "During a scientific visit to the site, ar-

chaeological evidence was observed, including architectural remains, scattered pottery shards, metal slugs, a stone tool, and most notably, a piece of ceramic inscription (ostrakon) in Pahlavi Sassanid script." He also mentioned that, in the initial examination and reading of this ceramic inscription, he realized that the inscription indicates the number "six" in Middle Persian (Pahlavi). Aqili emphasized that this ceramic inscription holds great value from both linguistic and archaeological perspectives. He explained: "It is written in 'Broken Pahlavi' script, a form that was common at the end of the Sassanid period and is

now very difficult to decipher." He further states that, like other known examples from Varamin, Chaleh Tarkhan in Rey, Abu Naser Palace in Shiraz, and Hegmataneh in Hamadan, this piece was not part of an intact vessel but served as a medium for recording information such as receipts, transfers, and exchanges of goods. Based on the research of Rasoul Bashash, a faculty member at the Institute for Linguistic Studies, conclusions can be drawn from Parthian-era Ostraca in Nisa (1st century BCE) to inscribed pottery from the late Sassanid and early Islamic periods (7th and 8th centuries CE). These include

examples such as shards from around Varamin, Chaleh Tarkhan in Rey, Abu Naser Palace in Shiraz, and Hegmataneh. He added, "In Nisa, every inscribed ceramic was part of an intact vessel, with details such as the names of gardens, their locations, the dates of fruit extract deliveries (like vinegar), the quantities, and the names of the deliverers recorded on it. In contrast, inscribed shards around Varamin, Chaleh Tarkhan, and similar sites were broken pieces used as receipts or notes, with inscriptions unrelated to the main vessel." He continued, "The main content of ceramics from Nisa involved the transfer of

extracts like vinegar, while inscribed shards around Varamin, Chaleh Tarkhan, and Hegmataneh recorded various agricultural products such as wheat, barley, and other goods. These inscriptions functions as receipts or transfer notes issued to individuals. The discarded lines seen on many shards around Varamin are likely signs of corrections or settlements of the recorded items." He concluded that from the content of this ceramic inscription — likely related to counting or exchanges — it can be inferred that the site was an important industrial and commercial settlement at the end of the Sassanid period, possibly extending

into the early Islamic centuries. The presence of metal tools and slag remnants further supports the activity of metal smelting and processing at this location. He also pointed out that this recent discovery has once again drawn attention to Lenjan, noting: "Lenjan's strategic position, access to the Zayandeh Rud River, and proximity to ancient routes have historically given it an important role." He expressed hope that with the formal registration of this site, scholarly studies and excavations would commence, shedding new light on the economic, cultural, and environmental history of this part of Isfahan Province.

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The Kaman and Zereshk Chairlift is situated approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Qazvin on the road to Razmian. It is located within the prestigious Kaman and Zereshk Exemplary Tourist Region. This modern telecabin boasts a capacity to transport 1,250 passengers per hour and is equipped with advanced PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) technology, which adheres to interna-

tional standards, ensuring safety and efficiency. Positioned at an elevation of 430 meters, the Kaman and Zereshk Chairlift is supported by fourteen pylons and operates at a lofty altitude of 2,700 meters above sea level. It spans a distance of approximately 1,450 meters, providing breathtaking views and an exhilarating experience for visitors. The construction of this impressive structure commenced in February 2014, with fund-

ing contributed by Qazvin Municipality and Moham-madiyeh Municipality. This innovative facility holds the distinction of being the first in Iran designed to simultaneously serve skiers and tourists by integrating cabins and chairlifts. The telecabin features fourteen intermediate pylons, supporting cabins capable of carrying six passengers each. These cabins are outfitted with hydraulic locks for added safety and are man-

ufactured by the renowned French company Poma, incorporating cutting-edge global technology. The Kaman and Zereshk Exemplary Tourist Area stands out as one of the most prominent attractions in Qazvin Province. If you are passionate about mountains and natural scenery, Zereshk village and its surroundings are among the top destinations to explore. Often called the "Roof of Qazvin," this region is renowned for

its moderate climate and pleasant weather, making it one of the most comfortable and scenic spots in the province. Many locals and visitors alike come here to relax and enjoy the peaceful environment. Kaman village, part of Roudbar district, is situated along the road connecting Qazvin to Alamut. It lies at the foot of a mountain, offering a serene mountain retreat. After passing Zereshk village, travelers will en-

counter a fork in the road. At this point, take the turn away from the main route, and after roughly two kilometers, you will arrive at Kaman village. The journey is quite convenient — marked by smooth roads and close proximity to Qazvin — making it easily accessible for visitors. Most people prefer to visit this scenic region during the summer months. As a popular summer getaway, the village is lush

with cherry orchards and blooming trees. The houses in Kaman are built in traditional style, featuring charming wooden balconies decorated with pots of geraniums, enhancing the village's rustic charm. Overall, Kaman and Zereshk offer a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural history, and modern amenities, making them a must-see for visitors interested in discovering the scenic wonders of Qazvin Province.



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