

Ancient fire temple inspires heritage preservation

Iranica Desk

In the heart of the Reyvand Mountains, an ancient fire temple known as Adur Burzen-Mihr (also called Azar Barzin) stands as one of the most significant ritual structures of Iran during the Sassanid era. Located near the city of Davarzan in Khorasan Razavi Province, it is recognized as one of the three sacred fires of the Zoroastrian period. The temple exemplifies the grandeur and sophistication of Sassanid architecture, holding a prominent place in Iran's history and cultural heritage. In an interview with ISNA, a researcher and historical heritage expert discussed the fire temple and its geographical significance, noting that Adur Burzen-Mihr was specifically associated with Zoroastrian farmers. Alongside the other two Sassanid fire temples, Adur Farnbagh and Adur Gushnasp, it served as a symbolic representation of the sacred fires of Zoroastrians. Ja'far Baesi highlighted that the design of Adur Burzen-Mihr reflects the exceptional artistry and skill of Sassanid architects. Its Chahartaqi form — a four-arched architectural style unique to the Sassanid period — demonstrates the central role of fire in Zoroastrian rituals and its importance in the daily lives of people at that time. He further explained that

the temple functioned not only as a place of worship but also as a site for maintaining the Zoroastrian fire, playing a crucial role in the social and religious life of the community. He emphasized that the temple's remote and hard-to-access location gives it a distinctive identity while simultaneously protecting it from human and natural threats. Baesi continued that although this geographical isolation makes the site difficult for visitors to access, the natural beauty of the region and its rich historical context continue to make it an attractive destination. The researcher stressed that Adur Burzen-Mihr Fire Temple can serve as a model for other historical sites in Iran. With its architectural beauty and cultural significance, the temple requires ongoing support and attention to be fully recognized as a landmark of Iranian history. In this context, cooperation among government bodies, private sectors, and local communities is essential for the preservation and promotion of heritage sites. He further emphasized that Adur Burzen-Mihr, with its rich history and architectural splendor, still awaits greater recognition, so that it can be preserved and passed on to future generations as one of Iran's most important cultural heritages.

"By giving such sites the attention and support they deserve, we can protect our cultural treasures as part of our national identity and use them as resources for learning and reflection on Iran's history and culture," he said. Baesi also noted that Adur Burzen-Mihr is not just a historical monument but a treasure of nation-



tishineh.com



wikipedia.org

al identity and heritage. Considering the cultural diversity and richness of Iran, the promotion and

preservation of such sites can contribute to sustainable tourism development and enhance the quality of life for local communities. He continued that given the importance of this temple and other historical sites, there is a need for collective effort and collaboration to preserve and promote them. "These sites not only strengthen our sense of identity but can also serve as resources for learning and reflection on the country's history and culture." He stressed that in order to attract tourists and raise public awareness about the significance of historical sites, it is essential to develop tourism infrastructure and improve access to these monuments. Providing adequate facilities for vis-

itors can further enhance public understanding and interest in Iran's history and culture. Baesi then referred to other historical and cultural sites in Iran, noting, "Our country is home to countless historical and cultural attractions, each with its own story to tell. From ancient sites such as Persepolis and Pasargadae to Islamic monuments like the Jaame (Grand) Mosque of Isfahan and the Golestan Palace, each can serve as a resource for attracting tourists and increasing public awareness." He added, "In this regard, there is a strong need to educate and raise awareness among the public about the importance of these historical and cultural sites. By establishing educational and cultural

programs, we can familiarize the younger generation with the country's history and culture and strengthen their sense of responsibility toward preserving cultural heritage." Baesi concluded by stating that especially in the current era, where climate change and human-related crises pose serious threats to historical sites, the need for their protection and maintenance is greater than ever. He emphasized, "By utilizing modern technologies, we can draw greater attention to Adur Burzen-Mihr Fire Temple and other historical monuments. The use of social media and online platforms can serve as an effective tool for introducing and promoting a culture of historical preservation."

tishineh.com

Excavations at Beyg Baghlu Hill unearth prehistoric life in Ardebil

Iranica Desk

According to the results of the excavation, Beyg Baghlu Hill dates back to the Neolithic period, and studying this historic site can help complete the archaeological chronology and clarify the prehistoric cultural sequence in Ardebil Province, said the Director General of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization. Jalil Jabari noted that the northwestern region of Iran holds particular significance for archaeological research due to the sequence of prehistoric periods, which, unfortunately, has not yet been explored in sufficient depth, ISNA wrote. He added that one of the reasons for the region's importance is its strategic location at the intersection of the Caucasus and the central Iranian plateau, which has historically facilitated cultural exchanges, trade, and the movement of human populations. Due to the lack of comprehensive studies, the Ardebil Province's Cultural Heritage Organization has made archaeological excavations and research in this area a top priority, aiming to uncover new insights into the region's ancient past. He further explained that the excavation at Beyg Baghlu Hill in Bileh Savar began on September 17 and will continue until October 22, after which the analysis of the artifacts uncovered at



chtn.ir

the site will commence. These studies are expected to shed light on the daily lives, social structures, and technological advancements of early human communities in the region. Such excavations not only enhance our understanding of prehistoric life in northwestern Iran but also provide valuable insights into the cultural interactions between the Caucasus and the Iranian Plateau, offering a broader

perspective on the development of early human societies in this strategically significant region. Moreover, the findings from Beyg Baghlu Hill could serve as a foundation for comparative studies with other Neolithic sites across Iran and the Caucasus, helping researchers reconstruct migration patterns, trade networks, and the spread of agricultural and technological innovations. By docu-

menting and preserving these artifacts, the excavation contributes not only to academic research but also to the promotion of cultural heritage tourism, allowing the public to engage with Iran's rich pre-

historic past. Ultimately, ongoing research at this site underscores the critical importance of protecting and studying archaeological sites, ensuring that the knowledge of early human civilizations is preserved for future generations while fostering a deeper appreciation of the historical and cultural legacy of the region. Bileh Savar is located 165 kilometers north of Ardebil, near the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Ardebil Province boasts remarkable cultural heritage potential and ranks among the top destinations for both domestic and international tourists due to its rich historical and cultural attractions. Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardebili Complex and Sa'in Caravanserai — are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition, 905 immovable properties, including 113 historical monuments and 792 archaeological sites, along with 78 movable cultural artifacts, 72 intangible cultural heritage elements, and 28 natural sites from the province, have been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

IRNA