

Iran looks to rural tourism to unlock jobs, revive village culture

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri on Sunday called on the banking sector to step up financing for rural tourism, framing the segment as a high-yield engine for jobs, foreign exchange earnings and local revival. Addressing senior bank executives in Tehran, Salehi-Amiri set out a strategy to channel travel flows towards villages, arguing that demand has tilted decisively towards authentic, community-based experiences that Iran's rural areas can supply at scale, IRNA reported. He said targeted redirection of visitors would catalyze a structural shift in village economies,

underpin income diversification, and help stabilize populations through reverse migration. The minister pointed to a discernible increase in young travelers opting for eco-lodges, describing it as a deeper attitudinal shift towards nature, cultural roots and "real-life" living. That trend, he said, opens a window to reposition villages as competitive tourism hubs, while reviving local identities and ecosystems. He characterized tourism as a capital-efficient industry with strong multiplier effects, noting it generates hard-currency inflows without merchandise exports as inbound visitors spend across a broad services chain. The sector, he added, can ac-

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri (1st L) attends a meeting with senior bank executives in Tehran on April 19, 2026, to discuss stepping up financing for rural tourism. [dolat.ir](#)

tivate dozens of linked occupations, from handicrafts and transport to agriculture, reinforcing a durable value chain. Salehi-Amiri urged lenders to deploy innovative instruments and set up specialized working groups to de-risk projects and crowd in private capital. Stronger inter-agency coordination is required, he said, to remove bottlenecks and accelerate project pipelines, with banks playing a



pivotal role in credit allocation and investment facilitation. Salehi-Amiri said disciplined

planning and national synergy could elevate tourism into a pillar of Iran's non-oil economy,

arguing the sector is not optional but essential to balanced, sustainable growth.

Minab schoolgirls remembered at theatrical performances

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian cultural institutions and theater groups staged a nationwide program of street performances on Sunday April 19, coinciding with National Girls' Day, in a coordinated tribute to schoolgirls from Minab.



The event, titled 'To Which Sin' and presented under the banner 'In Memory of the Angels' Festival, was organized by the Soureh Omid institute in cooperation with the Soreh Performing Arts Centre and related cultural offices, bringing together more than 200 female performers across the country, IRNA reported. In Iran, the birth anniversary of Lady Fatima Masoumah, the sister of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Shia Imam, marks the National Girls' Day (April 19).

The productions were simultaneously performed in public urban spaces, with student participants appearing in traditional prayer attire as part of a symbolic artistic staging. Works including "Minab Angels", "Minab Girls" and the central piece "To Which Sin"

were presented in different provinces, showing a unified national program of youth theater and remembrance. The performances formed part of the wider 'Empathetic Iran' campaign, launched on April 3 across 21 provinces to commemorate schoolgirls killed in Minab. Over a ten-day period, more than 25 theater productions were staged by selected groups in cities nationwide, aligning cultural activity with public mourning and solidarity initiatives. Separately, Japanese-Danish poet Erika Hesketh drew international attention after

publishing a poem following the bombing of the Shajareh Tayebbeh school in Minab. The work, circulated online, depicts scenes of collective grief through the lens of ordinary professions confronted with loss, and has been widely shared across social media platforms. Iran's Embassy in Germany also marked the day in Iran, posting a commemorative message and image on social media in remembrance of the Minab schoolgirls, marking the diplomatic outreach surrounding the cultural observance.

War damage spreads across Iran heritage sites with 149 affected

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's cultural heritage authorities said on Saturday that recent strikes by the United States and Israel have damaged 149 historical sites across 18 provinces, with emergency restoration already under way. Alireza Izadi, head of the historical registration office at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the figure remains provisional and could rise as detailed field assessments continue, IRNA reported. He noted that the full extent of damage often emerges only af-

ter conservation teams remove compromised layers, particularly in intricate elements such as mirrorwork, plaster ornamentation and concealed structural components. Officials said 59 museums and seven nationally registered historic districts were among those affected, with several prominent complexes sustaining structural damage. The Golestan Palace, a UNESCO-listed landmark in the capital, was among the sites drawing heightened public attention due to its symbolic status. Izadi said the ministry was pursuing a uniform preservation policy, placing all registered sites

on an equal footing despite the visibility of flagship monuments. He added that the minister had instructed teams to press ahead with emergency stabilization and restoration without waiting for full budget allocations, deploying in-house specialists and technical capacity to expedite works. He stressed the complexity of restoring heritage assets, saying each site requires tailored expertise spanning traditional artisanship and structural engineering. Authorities are seeking additional funding from the national planning body to accelerate the recovery process as the scale of damage becomes clearer.

Iran proposes Geneva Conventions update to regulate AI in warfare

Social Desk

Iran's Red Crescent chief -Hossein Kolivand said in Tehran that the organization has formally proposed an annex to the Geneva Conventions to regulate the use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in modern and hybrid warfare, during talks with a senior International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies official. Kolivand made the remarks in a meeting with IFRC Deputy Secretary General Xavier Castellanos and his delegation, hosted in Tehran, where he outlined Iran's initiative to update international humanitarian law to address au-

tonomous targeting systems, cyber warfare and algorithm-driven military decision-making, IRNA reported. He said the proposed addendum seeks to establish binding legal and ethical safeguards as existing frameworks are no longer sufficient to manage rapidly evolving battlefield technologies. Unregulated use of AI, he warned, could intensify civilian harm and produce unprecedented humanitarian consequences. Kolivand said Castellanos welcomed the proposal as timely and forward-looking, adding that it would be formally reviewed within the federation's institutional channels and considered for future

agenda setting. The Iranian official also highlighted what he described as the growing policy-making role of the national society beyond operational relief, positioning it as an actor in shaping global humanitarian norms. He stressed that the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement must reinforce its core principles of neutrality, independence and humanity, while taking a clearer stance on violations of international humanitarian law. Kolivand said Iran stands ready to contribute to both field operations and the redesign of global humanitarian frameworks amid increasingly complex conflict environments.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/02
Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 28. Apr.2026 to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 28. Apr.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe	65.50	Min
%FeO	1.0	Ave
%P	0.04	Max
%S	0.01	Max
%SiO2	3.5	Max
%Al2O3	0.7	Max
%CaO	0.9	Max
%MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.I%	Max 3.5	
T.I%	Min 95	
Prosity%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/01
Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 28. Apr.2026 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 28. Apr.2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
%Fe Ave	66.5	
%FeO	Min 24	Max 28
%P Max	0.04	
%S Ave	1.0	
%SiO2 Max	3.0	
%Al2O3 Max	0.7	
%CaO Max	0.9	
%MgO Max	2.5	
%Moisture Max	5.0	
Size ave	80% < 0.48 mm	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.