

Doidoukh carpet secures GI recognition through WIPO

Iranica Desk

The handwoven carpet of Doidoukh village in Iran's North Khorasan Province has been granted geographical indication (GI) recognition through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), marking a significant step in protecting this traditional craft and strengthening its position in international markets, a provincial official said.

Mehdi Keramati, director general of Industry, Mine and Trade in North Khorasan, said the achievement came after sustained follow-up efforts and coordination between the National Carpet Center of Iran, the Industrial Property Office, and the provincial Department of Industry, Mine and Trade, according to chn.ir.

He noted that the Doidoukh handwoven carpet, which had previously been listed on Iran's national heritage register, will now be recognized among member states of the Lisbon Agreement as an artistic product with a clearly defined regional identity.

Keramati described the international GI recognition of the Doidoukh carpet as a turning point in the history of the province's carpet industry, saying it could pave the way for broader international support for the region's distinctive patterns and designs.

He added that this achieve-



● tabnak.ir



● IRNA

ment will play an important role in enhancing the status of the province's carpets at both national and international levels while creating greater motivation for those active in the sector.

Keramati emphasized that the international registration of geographical indications is one of the most important legal tools for protecting cultural heritage and indigenous brands worldwide. He expressed hope that the move would contribute to economic growth and the expansion of export markets for Doidoukh handwoven carpets.

Doidoukh village is regarded as

the birthplace of one of Iran's finest carpet-weaving traditions, with its rugs renowned across Asia and Europe. The craftsmanship of local women weavers has long carried the fame of the region beyond Iran's borders, producing carpets woven on traditional wooden looms and exported to homes abroad.

The double-faced, pure silk handwoven carpet of Doidoukh is considered one of the world's unique carpets, mainly produced in Raz and Jargalan Town of North Khorasan Province, with the largest share of production concentrated in Doidoukh village.

North Khorasan is home to around 26,500 active carpet weavers, of whom about 800 are based in Raz and Jargalan Town, while nearly 500 artisans are specifically engaged in weaving the double-faced silk Doidoukh carpet.

The province's monthly carpet production is estimated at around 5,000 square meters, generating significant economic value.

As its name suggests, the Doidoukh double-faced silk carpet is a high-quality handmade product distinguished by its rare feature of being woven on both sides, unlike conventional carpets. It is made entirely from

natural silk fibers, and due to these two main characteristics, it holds exceptionally high value and has even been registered internationally as a geographical indication.

When speaking of the finest double-faced silk carpets, the first place that comes to mind is Doidoukh village in the town of Raz and Jargalan. The village lies at the zero-border point between North Khorasan Province and Turkmenistan, where residents have been engaged in this craft for generations and have passed down their weaving skills and techniques from one generation to the next.

Although other areas in Raz

and Jargalan also produce double-faced silk carpets, Doidoukh village remains the main center of this craft, a fact clearly reflected in production statistics.

In Doidoukh village, where the population is predominantly Turkmen, many residents earn their livelihood through weaving these silk carpets. Due to their high quality and popularity, much of the annual production is pre-sold in advance. Foreign tourists visiting North Khorasan also frequently travel to Doidoukh village to observe the weaving process and purchase carpets directly from local artisans.

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The Bagh-e Gilas (Cherry Garden) Ecolodge in Negarman village, near Shahroud in Semnan Province, has been officially recognized as Iran's first purpose-built ecolodge, according to the head of Shahroud's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

Citing an announcement by the secretary of the National Committee for Ecotourism and Green Tourism, Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq Razavian said the lodge was constructed in the early 2000s in Negarman village, IRNA wrote.

Based on official inquiries and system reviews, the complex has been identified as the country's first ecolodge that was designed and built from the ground up, rather than being created



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through the conversion of an older building or the repurposing of an existing structure. He added that the Bagh-e Gi-

las Ecology Lodge operates on the slopes of Mount Shahvar, one of the prominent natural landmarks of the region.

Negarman village home to Iran's first purpose-built ecolodge

Razavian noted that the presence of the country's first purpose-built ecolodge in Negarman provides an important opportunity to further promote the tourism potential of Shahroud and Semnan Province. The village is located in the Bastam district, around 20 kilometers north of Shahroud, and is regarded as one of the leading ecotourism destinations in the eastern part of the province.

He said Negarman is known for its exceptional natural attractions, where springs and water-

falls in a predominantly desert climate create a distinctive landscape that brings together mountain and desert scenery. Multiple waterfalls and springs, the Negarman River, and attractions such as the Zereshk Train and the Haft-Rang Farahzad Spring have helped turn the area into a popular destination for nature enthusiasts and travelers seeking unique landscapes, he added.

Razavian emphasized that expanding ecolodges across Semnan Province — particularly in promising areas such

as Shahroud and Bastam — not only creates sustainable employment opportunities, but also helps preserve local identity, revive traditional architecture, and strengthen the local economy.

He described the ecolodge as a successful example of private-sector participation in sustainable tourism, adding that it has effectively utilized the natural and cultural capacities of Negarman through a responsible tourism model while showcasing the village's environmental and cultural heritage.

Ilam in bloom after rains

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Spring has long been one of the most beautiful seasons in Iran's western province of Ilam, where mountains and plains are traditionally covered with dense pasture vegetation and trees turn green with the arrival of warmer weather. Forests of wild almond, oak and ash trees spread across the highlands, providing shade and sustaining local communities.

This year, however, the province's natural beauty has been amplified by abundant rainfall. Seasonal rivers that had run dry are flowing again, while previously dried-up springs have returned, transforming many parts

of the province into scenic destinations, ISNA wrote.

The renewed flow of seasonal springs, the revival of temporary rivers, the increased volume of permanent waterways, and the lush forests of Abdanan are among the natural attractions drawing attention across Ilam this season.

Visitors do not need to travel far to experience the province's landscapes, as scenic areas can be found throughout Ilam. Those staying in the provincial capital can travel to villages such as Mile Siah and Chogha Kabud in Chavar, or head to villages in the Sivan district. In the village of Meydan, travelers can pass through orchards and

relax along the Mishkhas River while enjoying the surrounding scenery.

Every year, many residents spend the Nowruz holidays camping in nature and remaining outdoors throughout the vacation period. This year, due to the favorable weather and abundant rainfall, some visitors have reportedly extended their stays beyond the holidays to continue enjoying the landscapes.

Farzad Sharifi, director-general of Ilam Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, said the month of Ordibehesht (late April to late May) marks the peak of the tourism season in the province. "During this period in Ilam is a



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paradise for tourism," Sharifi said. "Visitors who come to the province's natural areas can fully enjoy its beauty." He added that this year's rainfall had brought a form of revival to

the province's landscapes. "Previously dry springs are flowing again, seasonal rivers have water, and nature's beauty is visible everywhere," he said. He also said that in the current



● safarmarket.com

season, nearly all areas of Ilam are suitable for tourism, adding that visitors can travel to different villages and stay in eco-lodges and local accommodations while exploring the province.