

Biabank puts on display resilience of Iranian civilization

Iranica Desk

The senior adviser to the head of the Iranology Foundation has highlighted the cultural and historical potential of Biabank village, describing it as an example of the resilience of Iranian civilization and a repository of the country's intangible cultural heritage.

Speaking at a cultural night dedicated to Biabank, Iman Nezamzadeh said understanding Iran cannot be achieved by focusing solely on its best-known cities, adding that villages and lesser-known areas such as Biabank are also home to important aspects of Iran's identity, cultural diversity and civilizational resilience. He said the event demonstrated the considerable cultural potential of Iran's villages and showed that properly introducing these capacities could contribute to a better understanding of different parts of the country, according to ISNA. Nezamzadeh explained that the Iranology Foundation was established in 1997 with the efforts of the late Hassan Habibi. The state institution, which operates under the Of-



fice of the President, has two principal missions: studying Iran and introducing Iran to the world. It pursues these objectives through research, information and international activities. He stressed that understanding Iran should not be limited to a handful of well-known cities and destinations. While cities such as Shiraz, Isfahan and Tabriz are widely recognized, Iran is characterized by extensive cultural, ethnic, linguistic and dialect diversity, much of which is preserved in villages and less-

er-known regions.

According to Nezamzadeh, initiatives such as the Biabank Cultural Night can draw public attention to cultural capacities that have received less recognition and offer a more comprehensive and accurate picture of Iran. He called for similar programs to be expanded to other villages and counties across the country.

He also said the Iranology Foundation currently has branches in 23 provinces. Semnan Province is among the provinces with a branch of the founda-



● IRNA

tion, while the expansion of its branches to other provinces is also on the agenda in line with national policy documents. Nezamzadeh also identified the resilience of Iranian civilization as an important subject for research and public presentation. He said Semnan Province and its historic villages, particularly Biabank, contain valuable examples of how Iranians have adapted to challenging climatic and environmental conditions.

The senior adviser pointed to traditional infrastructure and

resource-management systems as examples of this resilience, including the construction of water reservoirs, the excavation of qanats and the development of various mechanisms for managing scarce resources and overcoming environmental challenges.

He said this historical experience remains relevant today, noting that Iranians have faced environmental, climatic and international challenges at different points in history but have repeatedly sought to overcome difficulties through knowledge,

ingenuity, planning and their own capabilities. He described this historical and cultural legacy as an important subject for introducing Iran to younger generations and the wider world.

Nezamzadeh also stressed the need to protect Iran's intangible cultural heritage. He said that just as previous generations passed down their culture, customs and traditions from one generation to another, the present generation has a responsibility to preserve and transmit this heritage to the future.

He warned that insufficient attention to the customs, traditions, cultures and dialects of different parts of Iran could result in some of this heritage being forgotten within the next one or two decades as generations change, potentially leading to the loss of part of the country's valuable cultural and linguistic diversity.

Nezamzadeh thanked the organizers of the Biabank Cultural Night and expressed hope that the initiative would continue and that similar cultural programs would be developed in other villages, counties and provinces across Iran.

Shams Tabrizi Mausoleum added to Iran's National Heritage List

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The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has registered the Shams Tabrizi Mausoleum in Khoy on Iran's National Heritage List, ahead of its official opening. The cultural site was registered as a national heritage site, receiving registration number 34,594 on October 2, 2026. The registration marks a step toward protecting, promoting and developing the cultural and tourism potential of the site, IRNA wrote.

The site was identified based on historical documents and scholarly research. Archaeological excavations were subsequently

carried out to examine and establish the evidence associated with the site.

The site also highlights the broader cultural and historical significance of Khoy, a city with a long-standing connection to Persian literature, spirituality and regional heritage. Its preservation and development provide an opportunity to strengthen cultural tourism in the area while offering visitors a deeper understanding of the historical traditions, intellectual exchanges and spiritual heritage that have shaped Khoy and the surrounding region over the centuries.

The Shams complex covers an area of approximately 7,000 square meters and includes a



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domed chamber, a library and research facilities. Its library houses around 8,000 books, providing a potential center for research into Shams Tabrizi,

Rumi, Sufism and the cultural history of the region.

Officials and cultural experts hope the complex will evolve into a center for academic

studies, literary events and cultural exchanges focused on Persian mystical traditions. The research facilities are expected to host scholars and students interested in the intellectual heritage of Shams Tabrizi and his enduring influence on Persian literature and spirituality. With its historical and cultural heritage, the mausoleum could help establish Khoy as a destination for spiritual and cultural tourism in Iran. The development of tourism infrastructure and greater promotion of the region's historical and cultural attractions could further contribute to the growth of tourism in the county. Khoy, located in West Azarbaijan Province in northwestern

Iran, has long been known as an important historical crossroads linking different regions and cultures. Authorities believe that greater attention to the city's historical assets could enhance its role in domestic and international tourism.

Shams Tabrizi is regarded as one of the most influential figures in the life and thought of the celebrated Persian poet and mystic Rumi. Their spiritual companionship inspired many of Rumi's most famous works and left a lasting impact on Persian literature and Sufi thought. Shams' connection to Khoy has made the city a point of interest for those interested in Persian literature, Sufi thought and Iranian culture.

Gavadeh keeps alive legend of Kaveh the Blacksmith

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Gavadeh, known also as Kaveh Deh, is a village in Poshtkuh Rural District, Tehran Province. Located approximately 40 to 45 kilometers southeast of Firuzkuh, the village lies in a mountainous landscape surrounded by natural scenery, where elements of traditional rural life and local culture remain part of everyday life.

For visitors, Gavadeh is more than simply a rural destination. The village brings together a range of natural and cultural attractions, including mountains, pastures, scenic landscapes and a relatively cool climate. Combined with its traditional rural way of life, these features offer visitors an opportunity to experience the area beyond simply observing its natural beauty — by engaging with elements of its local culture and oral traditions as well.

What makes Gavadeh particularly appealing to those interested in Iranian culture and mythology is the village's association with Kaveh the Blacksmith, a legendary figure in Iran's national epic, the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi. According to oral traditions and local beliefs, a connection exists between the village and the mythical Kaveh the Black-

smith. Over time, this story has become part of Gavadeh's cultural identity. The connection, however, is better understood as a local tradition and part of the area's oral history rather than as a firmly established historical fact. Passed down from generation to generation, the story nevertheless continues to hold cultural signifi-

cance for local residents. The relationship between geography and legend could also provide an opportunity for greater attention to the village's oral history, including the documentation of local memories, stories and beliefs.

Among Gavadeh's natural features, its ancient cypress tree holds a special place. According to local residents, the tree is believed to be around 2,000 years old and has long been regarded as one of the village's most historic landmarks. The ancient cypress can be considered part of Gavadeh's natural and visual identity — a tree that, in its silence, has witnessed generations of village life. If its age is confirmed through expert assessment and scientific studies, the tree could qualify as an important element of the region's natural heritage and become one of the symbols used to introduce Gavadeh to visitors.

The significance of Gavadeh extends beyond attractions within the village itself. The surrounding natural area is also important for biodiversity. The Gavadeh Wildlife Refuge is considered one of the important wildlife habitats in Firuzkuh, and reports in recent years have documented sightings of species including the Iranian leopard in the area. Such reports further highlight the ecological and conservation importance of the landscape. The village's location within such an environment creates opportunities for developing nature-based and rural tourism. Any expansion of tourism, however, should take into account environmental protection requirements, wildlife conservation and the traditional way of life of the local community. Gavadeh could also become a destination for visitors interested in cultural tourism, nature-based travel and experiencing rural

life. Alongside its mountainous scenery, travelers can discover elements of local traditions, indigenous culture and valuable natural features.

Today, Gavadeh can be seen as a village whose identity has been shaped by several overlapping narratives: the valuable natural environment and wildlife of Firuzkuh, the traditions and lifestyle of its rural community, and the stories that connect the village's name with one of the best-known mythical figures of Iran.

Gavadeh is, in essence, a living story of the relationship between people, nature and memory. Its ancient cypress, surrounding mountains and oral traditions each preserve a part of the story of this land — a story that, if properly documented, promoted and protected, could bring greater recognition to Gavadeh as a destination for cultural and nature tourism in Firuzkuh.



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