License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency
Publisher: Iran Cultural & Press Institute
Chair of ICPI Board of Directors: Sadegh Hossein Jaberi Ansari
ICPI CEO: Ali Motaghian
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Iran Daily

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 8255 ● Tuesday, November 03, 2026 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Iran seeks to tap regional tourism potential, minister says

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's tourism minister has called for smarter use of regional assets to drive tourism and create jobs, describing a major nature-based project in the country's northwest as a national opportunity for sustainable development.
Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks during a visit to the Aladaghlar tourism complex in Miyaneh, East Azerbaijan province, where he reviewed construction progress and the project's development plans.
"Aladaghlar" meaning "Colorful Mountains" in Azari, refers to a natural attraction near the city of Miyaneh in East Azarbaijan province, northwestern Iran. The area is known for its colorful hills and mountains and is considered one of the region's notable destinations for nature-based tourism.
"The area's historical, natural and cultural attractions could help make it a leading tourism destination," he said.
The first phase covers 30 hectares, with more than 11,010 square meters of built-up space. The project is designed to accommodate 800 to 2,000 visitors a day.
It is expected to create 83 direct and 200 indirect jobs. A second phase covering 150 hectares is also planned.
Facilities are set to include accommodation, cafes, restaurants, parking, portable suites, a garage, eco-tourism sites, a second camp, an observatory, astronomy education facilities, an open-air amphitheater and viewing areas.
The minister's itinerary also included visits to the historic city of Khonaj, Jamalabad Caravanserai and Miyaneh's 23-span railway bridge, a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pardisan complex, and visits to Tark Stone Mosque, the Gozdareh tourism complex in Nesheq village and a historic fortification in Turkmanchai.
Amiri Salehi also in a letter to the Fars Province Governor Hossein-Ali, praised the province in southern Iran for its efforts to attract investment and expand tourism.
He cited Shiraz Expo, an investment conference held in October, as examples of efforts to draw on the province's historical, cultural and economic resources.
He described event tourism as a key strategy for the sector and said he hoped Fars would become a major hub for international tourism, with local communities benefiting from its growth.



Iran's tourism minister Reza Salehi-Amiri
IRNA

Royan marks World Fertility Day with free consultations



Social Desk

Iran's Royan Institute provided free reproductive health advice in Tehran on Monday, offering consultations on embryology, pregnancy and infertility to mark World Fertility Day.
The public service desk aimed to raise awareness, provide scientific information and correct misconceptions about reproductive health, the institute's public relations office said.
Individuals and couples can put questions to specialists and learn about recent advances in infertility treatment. The initiative also seeks to improve access to reliable information, organizers said.
Royan Institute, affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), is one of Iran's established centers for infertility treatment and assisted reproductive technologies.
It has stressed the importance of making scientific information widely available and responding to public needs in reproductive health.
The free service is part of the institute's social responsibility efforts and aims to strengthen direct contact with the public.
It will give people a chance to raise questions that may otherwise go unanswered because of limited access to specialist advice or widespread misconceptions about fertility and infertility.
World Fertility Day is observed annually on November 2 to raise awareness of fertility issues and challenge misconceptions about infertility.

Iran official says arts can bolster social cohesion and hope

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran needs to make greater use of the arts to strengthen social cohesion, improve public morale and restore hope for the future, a senior Interior Ministry official said, urging provincial authorities to support cultural events.
Mohammad Bathaei, deputy interior minister and head of the Social Affairs Organization, said art was not simply entertainment or a way to fill leisure time, but a social necessity and even a form of therapy.
Speaking at a meeting of organizers of artistic events in Tehran, he said arts and cultural programs could help reduce social problems, build solidarity and strengthen social capital.
He also cited what he described as efforts by Iran's adversaries to undermine national unity.
"Sociologists assess societies through three main indicators: social problems, public welfare and social health, including people's confidence in the future," Bathaei said.
Iranian surveys, he said, showed that social health and optimism needed more attention and timely intervention than the other two areas.
He said indicators of social problems in 2025 had either declined or stopped rising. A separate survey conducted about a month ago measured four social emotions: anger, fear, hope and concern.
Its findings, he said, pointed to the need for more efforts to promote public morale and optimism.
Bathaei urged artists and cultural officials to show patience, persistence and mutual understanding in addressing the country's social challenges.
He called on provincial governors and local officials to support national and international arts events, including the Fajr festivals, and make regional resources available to organizers.
Businesses, nonprofit organizations and arts associations could also support the events through social responsibility programs, he said.



Mohammad Bathaei, deputy interior minister addresses at a meeting of organizers of artistic events in Tehran on October 1,2016.
IRNA

Iranian conductor Rahbari to lead two more Mariinsky concerts

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian conductor Ali Rahbari will lead two more concerts at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre this month, bringing his total performances at the historic Russian venue to 34.
Rahbari, a permanent guest conductor of the Mariinsky Opera, will lead the orchestra on November 6 and 13.
The concerts follow a recent tour of Russian cities with conductor Valery Gergiev, with performances ranging from St. Petersburg in the northwest to Sochi in the southwest.
Rahbari has conducted 32 programs at the Mariinsky so far. The upcoming concerts will feature works by Mozart, Khachaturian, Dvorak and Gershwin, with Russian violinist Maxim Fedotov and pianist Zarina Shimanskaya appearing as soloists.
The November 6 program includes Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Divertimento No. 136, Aram Khachaturian's Violin Concerto, featuring Fedotov, and Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 8.
The November 13 concert will feature Mozart's Divertimento No. 138, George Gershwin's Piano Concerto, with Shimanskaya as soloist, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, known as "From the New World".
The performances extend Rahbari's ongoing collaboration with the Mariinsky, one of Russia's leading opera and classical music institutions.
The programs span works from the classical period to the 20th century, combining orchestral pieces and concertos.

