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'The Wastetown' set for public release in France

'The Wastetown,' a film directed by Ahmad Bahrami and produced by Reza Moqaddas, is set to be released in French cinemas starting from August 2. Bahrami was previously honored with the Best Director Award at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival for his exceptional work on 'The Wastetown,' a film that is yet to be released in Iran.

Development of religious tourism in Zanjan Province is essential



Hosseinih Azam Mosque
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People mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) in a square located opposite to Hosseinih Azam Mosque
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Iranica Desk

Tourism is presently known as an important industry across the world, and religious tourism is considered one of the oldest and most income-producing type, especially in Iran.

Religious tourism is traveling for religious or spiritual purposes, for example, visiting the holy shrines of Imams and Imamzadehs, religious monuments and mosques, as well as attending religious ceremonies and rituals, IRNA reported. Zanjan Province, hosting the holy shrines of several Imamzadehs, has significant potential for development of religious tourism.

Experts believe that creating infrastructures, attracting investors, and providing funds required for implementation of related projects would help develop religious tourism in the province.

Deputy Head of the prov-



An overview of Zanjan
IRNA

ince's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization said that this type of tourism not only brings economic benefits but also has great spiritual value. He said that when Muharram (the first month of the lunar calendar) arrives, local people hold various traditional religious ceremonies relating to the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions. He noted that a large number of the true lovers of Imam Hussein travel to Zanjan Province

from across Iran and the world in the month of Muharram to participate in mourning ceremonies held in the region. Abyan said that there are about 2,200 beds for tourists to stay in the province, adding that considering the unofficial accommodation centers the figure could reach 12,000. The official said that projects to establish a number of hotels and traditional accommodations are underway in the province. "Permissions have been issued for the establish-

ment of a number of eco lodges in the villages." "A tourist, of any type, brings economic prosperity to the region. We aim to introduce the tourism attractions of the province and prepare the conditions for all residents of the province to benefit from it," he noted. Director General of Zanjan Province's Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization Mokhtar Karami referred to the holy shrines of Imamzadehs and Hosseinih Azam Mosque, which is very popular in the

country, as the important religious sites of the province.

He said that many people make pilgrimages to the religious sites every year. Hosseinih Azam Mosque is prepared to host religious tourists traveling to the province during Muharram to participate in the mourning ceremonies held for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein. Hosseinih Azam is one of the most important religious tourist attractions in Iran in the month of Muharram. It is located in the south of the provincial capital city of Zanjan, on Ferdowsi Street. The mourning ceremony held in the Hosseinih on the eighth day of Muharram is very famous in the country.

The great Hosseinih is one of the most influential cultural and religious centers of Zanjan Province. Extending in an area of 12,000 square meters, this complex has various cultural, religious and medical facilities.

Eight attractive Iranian villages to vie on global stage

Social Desk

Eight villages have been announced as Iran's final candidates in the project of the best global tourism villages, positioning them to compete on the global stage. The initiative, proposed by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2021, aims to promote the role of the tourism in safeguarding villages.

process. Following the evaluation based on the UNWTO's indicators, this number was narrowed down to 30 villages. Finally, taking into account the designated capacity for each country, eight villages emerged as the final candidates representing Iran.

The selected villages that will participate in the global competition are Kandovan in East Azarbai-



Kandovan Village
UNWTO

To evaluate the candidate villages, the UNWTO has established key indicators encompassing various aspects. These indicators include the availability of resources and attractions, restoration and protection of resources, social and environmental sustainability, tourism value chain, infrastructure and communications, as well as safety and security, according to Mehr News Agency. These indicators are further divided into 40 sub-indices, providing a comprehensive framework for assessing the villages. Initially, 130 villages from across Iran entered the selection

jan, Meymand in Kerman, Soheili in Hormozgan, Qasemabad in Gilan, Kandulus in Mazandaran, Abyaneh in Isfahan, Palangan in Kordestan, and Bisheh in Lorestan.

In preparation for the competition, Iran has completed the documentation for its candidate villages. This includes the submission of supporting materials such as video clips showcasing the tourism attractions and potentials of each village, as well as relevant images. These materials have been prepared and uploaded to the World Tourism Organization's system.

Social Desk

The National Headquarters of Population convened for its fifth meeting on Monday, with President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi in attendance. The meeting, held before noon, focused on the critical issue of population regulation and the importance of adherence to approved laws and upper-level documents concerning the nation's population rejuvenation. Raeisi underscored the need for a thorough review of the performance of responsible institutions in implementing the National Headquarters of the Population's approvals. He stressed the urgency of addressing delays and bolstering culture-building measures with an encouraging approach, given the

President emphasizes encouraging approaches in terms of population rejuvenation

existing concern about this significant issue, according to president.ir. The president highlighted the importance of enhancing encouraging approaches and culture-building for different societal sections as a priority in addressing the population rejuvenation. He stated, "The actions of the institutions in charge should be such that society perceives families with more children as having a higher quality of life." Raeisi also emphasized the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in promoting the

issue of population youth, describing it as a crucial culture-building measure. He added, "All cultural productions should focus on encouraging childbearing, so that, over time, the issue of population becomes a dominant discourse." Raeisi stressed the need for a suitable roadmap for institutions responsible for population regulation, emphasizing the continuity of updated policies and decisions to achieve appropriate results in this area. In a bid to strengthen preventive approaches to abortion, Raeisi or-

dered the secretary of the National Headquarters of Population to form a working group. The group, comprising officials from the Ministry of Health, the vice president for Women and Family Affairs, and the judiciary, is tasked with examining the various aspects of the issue and taking action to resolve them. The fifth meeting of the National Headquarters of Population concluded with the approval of eight resolutions aimed at facilitating and removing obstacles to having children.



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