

In Case You Missed

Khan Evy; a Monument

In Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari

The historical monument of Khan Evy is located in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province and has been visited by a large number of Norouz tourists.

The ancient edifice has been built by using tailor-made stones and without cement, ISNA reported.

An ancient monument which dates back to Ilkhanid era, it has been used as a caravanserai because it was located en route an ancient road where many caravans passed by.

Stone arcs of Jounaqan were built like a crescent-shaped cradle which is very important.

Its arc-shaped ceiling has a depth of seven meters, height of 2.5 meters and width of three meters which has shown



resistance against many earthquakes which have happened there.

Khan Evy in local dialect means 'House of Khan'. It is located eight kilometers from southern Jounaqan in Farsan en route Shar-e Kord-Aradal road.

Navayegan: A Unique

Rural Attraction

Navayegan village is located in a valley surrounded by high mountains and its houses are on a steep slope so that the roof of a house is the yard of the house located underneath it.



Navayegan is more beautiful than Masouleh and should be regarded as an exemplary tourism village of Fars province, reported Persian daily Iran.

The mountainous village of Navayegan is located to the east of Darab city and it dates back several centuries ago.

Renovation of the village's Navayegan Mosque also dates back to the era of Khajeh Abdullah Ansari according to an inscription installed on the old wall of the mosque.

Several ancient tombs have been discovered in Navayegan's old cemetery heading toward Beit-ul-Moqaddas.

Houses are located at one side of the village and beautiful orchards are on the other that add to the village's attractiveness.

Clean weather conditions have also added to the attraction of the village.

Navayegan has many tourism attractions that have been neglected due to lack of publicity. Fortunately, a budget has been allocated by the Cultural Heritage Organization for renovation of the village.

The height of the village from the sea level is 1,618 meters. It has cold winters and moderate summer. Navayegan has unique weather conditions with trees such as palm tree and lime tree which are particular to warm regions. Moreover, the village has other orchards, including grape, fig, almond, walnut and rose.

Silk Road

Renovation of the Silk Road has turned into a regional and global demand in recent years and now a national will strongly supports this constructive desire. Since 1988 UNESCO has reinforced all the relevant international decisions for restoration of this immense ancient road through conferences in famous cities such as New Delhi, Paris, Tashkent and more recently the picturesque city of Isfahan in 1995.

According to Iranyellowpages website, once again this enormous project will revive the historic role of Iran as the bastion of multinational communication, indispensable for the development of regional commerce and cultural relations. After collapse of former Soviet Union in 1985, the policy of friendship and cooperation with the newly independent and autonomous states (situated in the north of Iran) received priority in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In compliance with the stated policy, numerous multilateral contracts on road transportation, economic cooperation and establishment of the sales agencies for Iranian goods were signed. Moreover, formation of regional economic organization (ECO) consisting of ten countries also expedited the implementation of the most strategic railway project of the region, stretching from eastern China to Europe via Iran's national railway system.

>>Clout

The unique position of this giant commercial highway has encouraged other countries of the world to develop commercial and economic ties with the Central Asian republics. They see no option other than taking full advantage of this vital passage -- situated in Iran, China, Russia, Turkey and Afghanistan. Apart from Georgia most of the newly independent states are landlocked countries whose connecting routes with rest of the world, directly or indirectly, could pass through Iran and thus enhance the Islamic Republic's geo-political status.

Iran's strategic significance, both in the region and in international arena, generally revolves around material and spiritual aspects. Moreover, its material dimension is mainly composed of economic, technical, military and geo-political components while the spiritual aspect derives from the great Islamic ideology, a rich common history as well as cultural interaction with other nations in the region.

Since disintegration of the former Soviet Union this emphasis has undoubtedly increased and the political focal point of the relevant policies of the "The Middle East" has also been redirected towards the East and North, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Asia.

As a bridge connecting two important energy hubs, the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, the eastern and western neighbors of Iran up to eleven countries, including the oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf, has underscored the regional prestige of Iran.

>>Restoration

Accordingly, restoration of the Silk Road is currently regarded as one of essential precursors of more fruitful regional and intercontinental cooperation among the "ECO" member-states. Also due to inauguration of Mashhad-Tajan railway and the impending completion of Bafq-Mashhad railway the above-mentioned states would both gain easier access to open sea and have an ever increasing chance of an active incorporation in the global economy.

The Central Asian countries, with excessive reliance on the former Soviet Union, still rely on imports. Yet the necessary efforts are being taken to overcome this economic barrier by exploring various new markets. Despite several socio-economic advantages such as abundance of manpower and cheap labor, rich natural energy resources as well as the exportation of raw materials, oil, gas and agricultural products, vast majority of these countries crucially lack the existence of modern and well-organized banking, insurance, transportation as well as other essential commercial services.

Fortunately, productive technical assistance and multilateral economic cooperation with the republics not only would ensure the important role of Iran as a catalyst of commercial development in the region, but would also push the concerned parties to more constructive participation in the world economy.

As a rapidly growing economic organization possessing distinct religious, strategic, historical and socio-economic features, the Tehran-based Economic Cooperation Organi-



zation accords Iran with an immense security and economic significance.

Furthermore, the linkage of Mashhad-Tajan railways would provide ECO and the likes with an ideal possibility of attaining long-term goals.

