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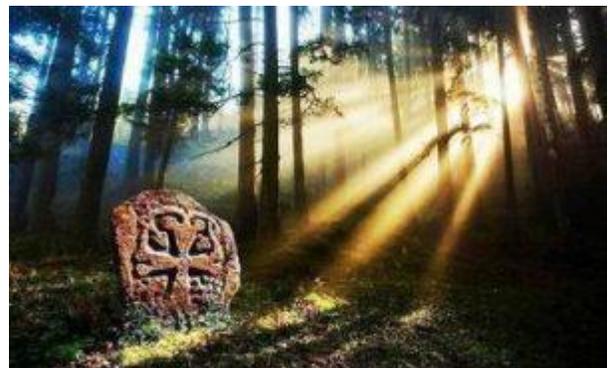
GOVERNMENT DECREES

THE SEVENTEENTH PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO NEUTRALIZE THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF CORONAVIRUS

With the spread of the coronavirus, the Armenian government is aiding the IT sector to alleviate the difficulties faced by some high-tech businesses. The stakeholders are those high-tech companies who have no overdue tax and credit liabilities for the last 12 months and have not received a grant from the High-Tech Industry Ministry as of the last 12 months as of the date of submission of the application.

Assistance is provided in the form of a grant to the winner business entities based on the competition results.

Find more [here](#).



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THE EIGHTEENTH PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO NEUTRALIZE THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF CORONAVIRUS

The Armenian Government has adopted the 18th package of measures to neutralize the economic consequences of coronavirus. The purpose of the package is to contribute individual business entities of the Republic of Armenia to maintain effective employment. Beneficiaries can be those economic entities that had 2-100 employees in the period from February 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020, provided that the income Fund calculated by economic entities did not decrease or the decrease did not exceed 5% during the specified period. Assistance will be provided through a one-time grant.

See more [here](#).

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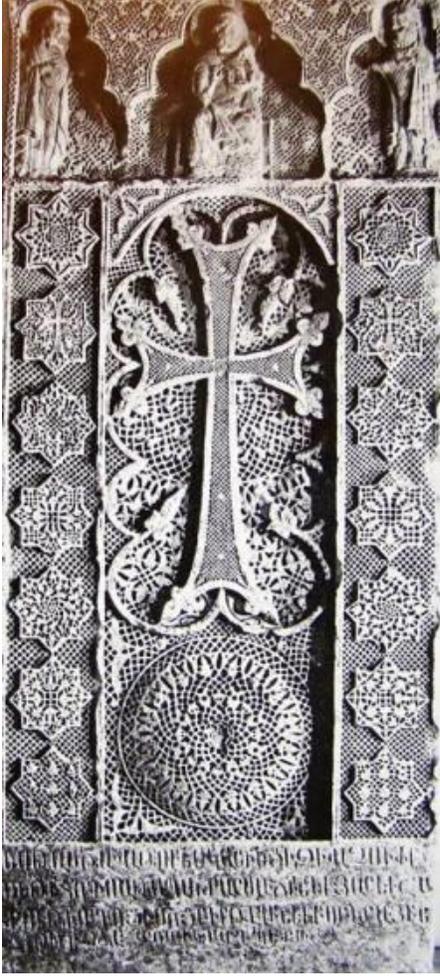


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AMENDMENTS IN THE FORM OF ALCOHOL ADVERTISEMENT

It is proposed to prohibit advertising of locally produced cognac by electronic media from 06:00 to 22:30, as it is in case of advertising of any other strong alcoholic beverages.

The legislative draft was adopted by the Government and submitted for discussion to the National Assembly.

Find more [here](#).



Armenian Cross Stone Khachkar

Almost all Armenian religious buildings are decorated with an Armenian cross stone. On the walls of many churches you can see carved images of the cross, which have their special meaning. You can find cross stones in almost every corner of the Armenian. And they never repeat. The main goal of the cross-stone is to establish a connection with God.



The Origin of Cross Stones: The cross, as a symbol, has arisen within Armenians since the 4th century. In the 4-7 centuries, their images were still primitive. Starting from the 7th century, tetrahedral cross-stones appeared, very few of which have survived to this day. After the 8th century, rectangular standing types of cross-stones begin to be created. And from the 11th century, the concept of Armenian cross-stone, known today, has been formed, which includes all geometric and plant elements. Later, cross stones also depict graphic elements, such as images of saints.

Another hypothesis associated with the emergence of cross stones was the desire of people to have more silent evidence of Christianity. And the installation of crosses was an influential way of spreading Christianity.

The Illustrations on Cross Stones: Armenian cross stone is rectangular monuments that are installed in the yard of the church, in memory of the adoption of Christianity, national holidays or martyrs.

The main raw material of cross stone was yellow-reddish tuff. First, a cross was engraved, then it was decorated with images of national symbols – grapes and pomegranate.

At the bottom of the cross stone, an infinity sign is often engraved, which is also one of the spiritual symbols. Together with the cross, it symbolizes the continuation of life and national beliefs. The most unique element of the cross-stone is its symbol of infinity.

There are 5 important and sacramental points on cross-stones. Four of them correspond to the edges of the wings of the cross, and one is the point of their intersection. The intersection point was the most important point on the cross and in ancient times it was called “ak”, which can be translated as a source. The upper part is called the crown, it symbolizes the kingdom of heaven. The bottom point symbolizes the fall of hell. The right side was associated with the distribution of graces, and the left – with the forgiveness of sins.

Over time, the Armenians created and built about 50,000 cross-stones, although many of them are not so stable and integral today. Due to enemy attacks, disasters and atrocities, part of them was destroyed, and the rest continues to be in jeopardy.

In 2010 “Armenian cross stone art, symbolism and craftsmanship of khachkars” was inscribed on the UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Source