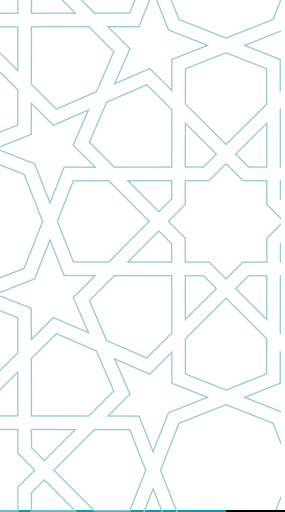


IRAN At a Glance A Glorious Civilization

Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran - Beijing

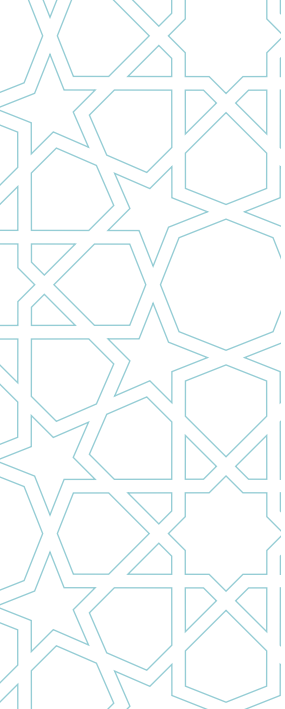
2024

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (right)
the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its first Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (left)
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran





Ebrahim Raisi
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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IRAN At a Glance
A Glorious Civilization



2024



In the Name of God,

I am so honored and privileged as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the National Day of Iran in the beautiful, friendly and civilized country of the People's Republic of China.

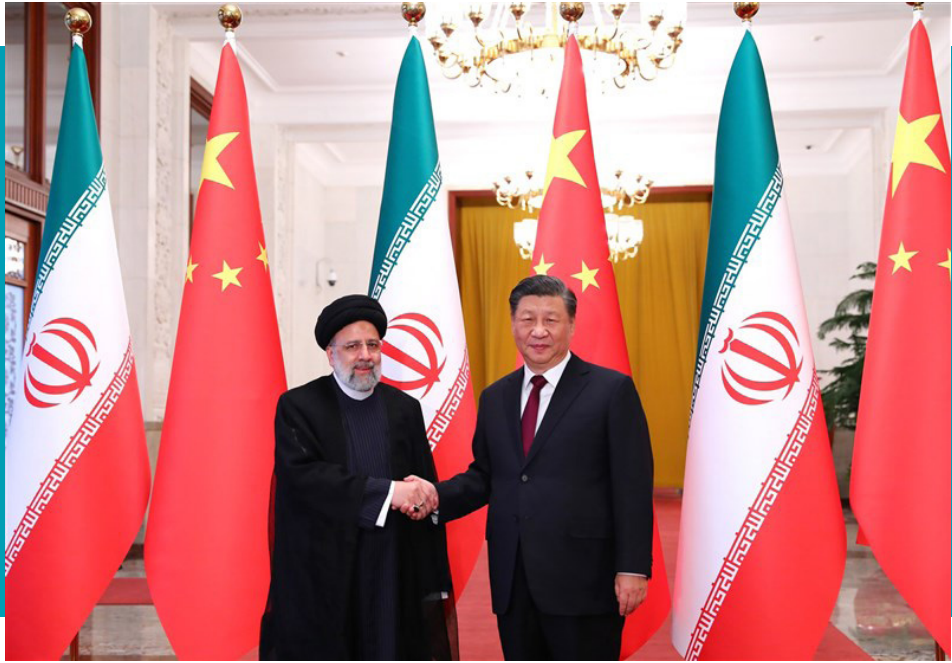
Establishing friendly and stable relations with all countries based on some fundamental principles such as rejection of all forms of external domination, preservation of Iran's independence and territorial integrity, and the maintenance of peaceful relations with all non-belligerent states, has led to considerable achievements in Iran's Foreign Policy after the Revolution in 1979. During all these years Iran has tried its best to play a constructive role in maintenance of peace and stability in the West Asia and the Persian Gulf region and to prevent the spread of terrorism and radicalism to other parts of the world especially to the East of Asia. The growing trend of bilateral relation between Iran and China is a clear example of Iran's relentless efforts for boosting ties with other countries based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation.



The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the science and technology hubs of the West Asia and it is considered as a Regional Innovation Leader. In the field of science production, Iran has the First rank among the West Asian countries, ranking 15th in the world. In bio-technology, Iran ranked First in West Asia and 12th in the world. The 800 knowledge-based companies which are active in this field placed Iran among the 5 top biotechnology producers in Asia, ranking 12th in the world.

Nano-technology (the production of articles), Iran has been promoted to the 4th rank in the world. Now, Iran, with 40,000 specialized human resources in the Nano field, is producing 1267 Nano products in 18 industrial sectors.

In Space-technology, Iran, after two decades of endeavors to develop space capabilities, has joined “The Power of the Space club” which refers to countries capable of building and launching satellites into orbit. In the field of Medicine, 20 research networks of medical sciences are active in various fields including medical-biotechnology, medicinal plants, stem cells, pharmaceutical sciences, traditional medicine, cancer, mental health, neuroscience, Ophthalmology, and infectious diseases. Moreover, Iran is considered as a medical tourism



destination among the neighboring countries.

Iran now ranks first in scientific and technology growth rate worldwide, fourth in nontechnology, sixteenth in scientific output, eighth in bio-engineering, third in world's largest universities enrolments, second and third in book titles published in technology and philosophy, respectively.

Relations between Iran and China, as two old civilizations in the West and East of Asia, enjoy a history of cultural, political and economic exchanges along the Silk Road since at least 200 BC and possibly earlier. Diplomatic links between China and Iran have been maintained through the 20th and 21st centuries with the formation of both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, in 1949 and 1979 respectively. Since Iran's official recognition of the People's Republic of China in 1967 and establishment of diplomatic relations in 1971, cordial ties between Iran and China have been on the right and positive direction. Mutual willingness for the further expansion of bilateral relations led to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Iran and China during the visit of His Excellency, President Xi Jinping to Iran in January 2016 and

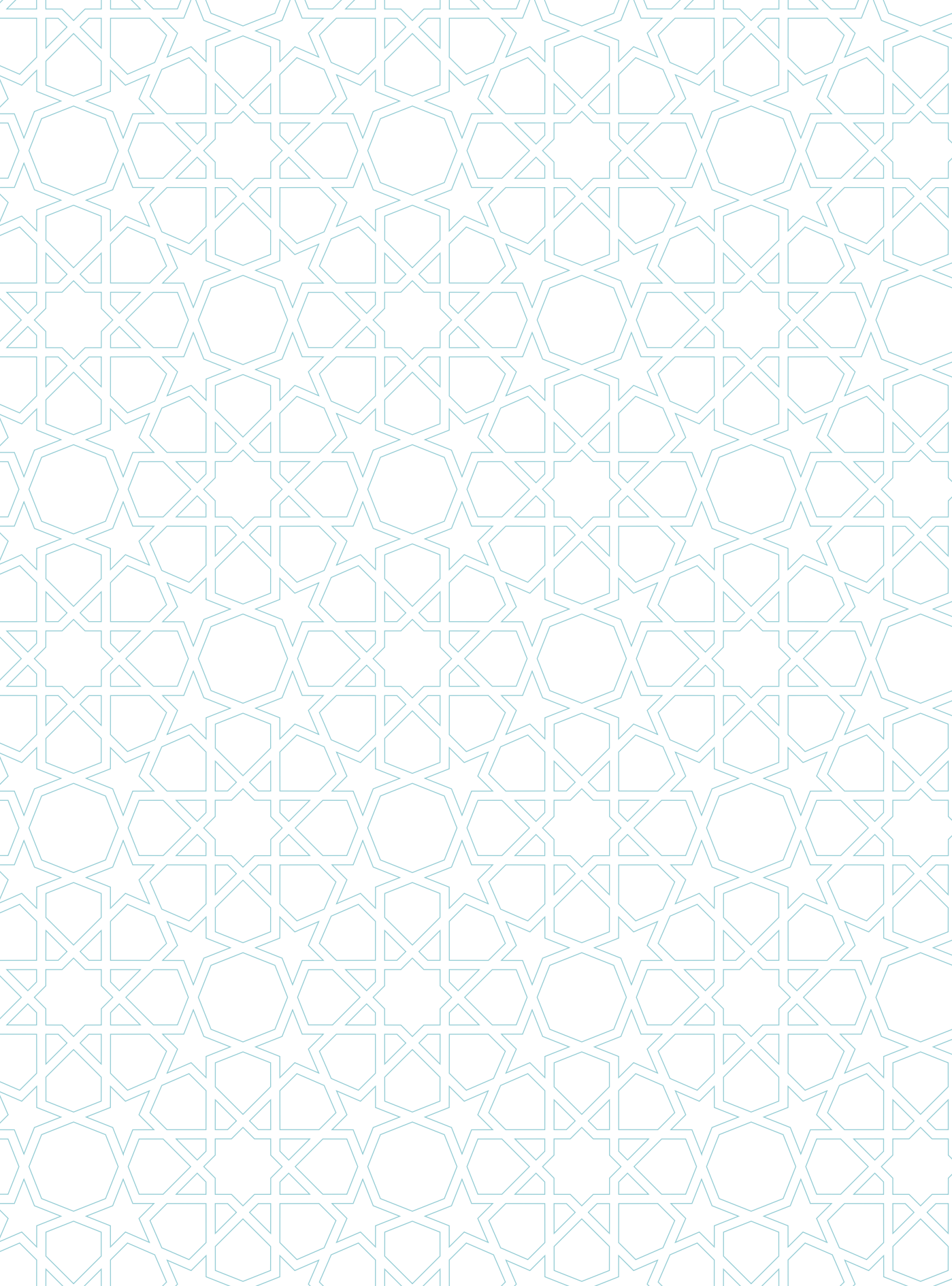
consequently, the comprehensive cooperation plan was signed between these two Asian countries. The implementation of the Plan was officially announced in January 2022 by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

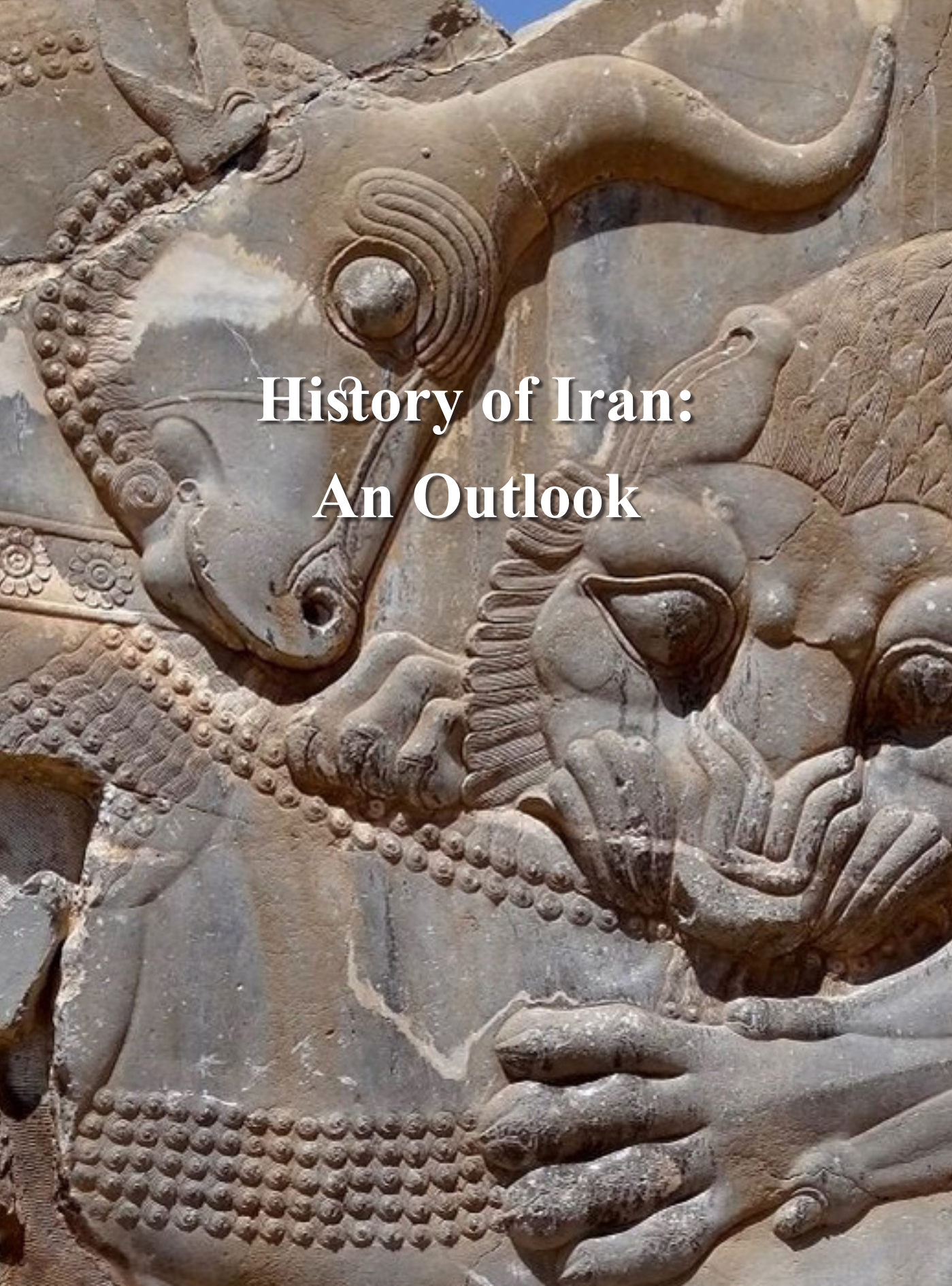
The year of 2023 witnessed a milestone in the history of relations between Iran and China by very important developments such as the State Visit of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to China in February, the finalization of Iran's membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's membership in BRICS and exchange of high-level delegations between the two countries.

China and Iran are determined to do their utmost to achieve goals in terms of bilateral relations, sustainable development, the protection of the environment, the eradication of poverty and suppression of extremism and terrorism that threaten the world every day. With Iran's membership in SCO and BRICS, and the strong support that Iran has granted to Chinese Initiatives such as, BRI, GSI, GDI, and GCI, the two countries will have many more chances to follow these valuable goals through multilateral diplomacy and this will definitely yield precious results for the Asian Continent and the International Community as a whole.

Mohsen Bakhtiar

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of I.R. Iran to China



A close-up photograph of an ancient stone relief carving. The central focus is a bull's head, depicted with large, curved horns and a prominent eye. The bull's face is adorned with intricate patterns, including a series of concentric circles around the eye and a row of small, circular motifs along its snout. To the right of the bull's head, a bird, possibly a phoenix or a similar mythical creature, is carved in profile, facing left. The bird has a long, pointed beak and a crest of feathers on its head. The entire relief is set against a background of weathered stone, with some areas showing signs of damage or repair. The text "History of Iran: An Outlook" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

History of Iran: An Outlook

Pre-Islamic Era

Elam was an ancient civilization centered in the far west and southwest of modern-day Iran, stretching from the lowlands of what is now Khuzestan and Ilam Province as well as a small part of southern Iraq. The modern name Elam stems from the Sumerian transliteration *elam(a)*, along with the later Akkadian *elamtu*, and the Elamite *haltamti*. Elamite states were among the leading political forces of the Ancient Near East. In classical literature, Elam was also known as Susiana a name derived from its capital Susa.

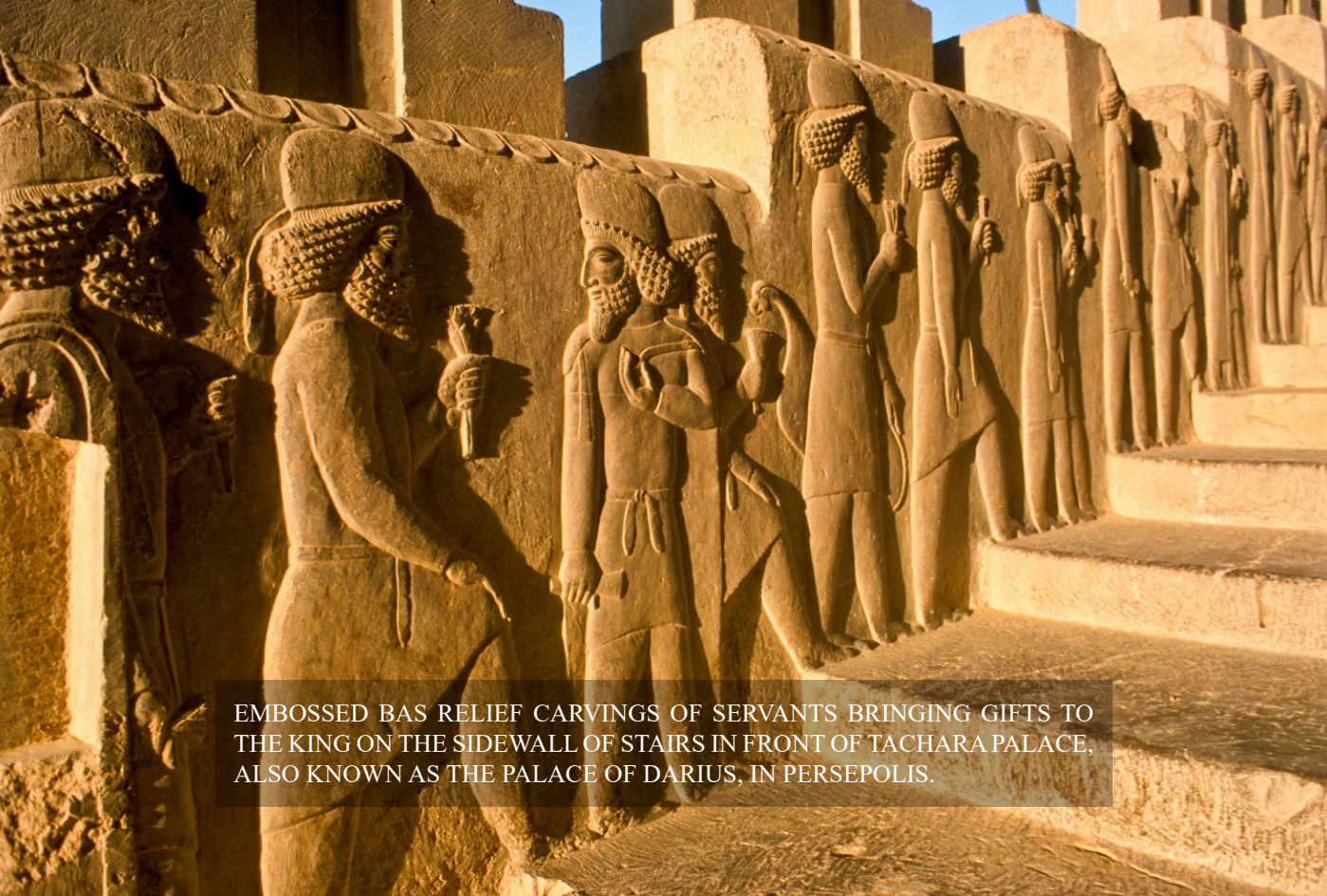


Ziggurat Consecrated to God Inshushinak at Choqa Zanbil

The Medes were an ancient Iranian people who spoke the Median language and who inhabited an area known as Media between western and northern Iran. Around the 11th century BC, they occupied the mountainous region of northwestern Iran and the northeastern and eastern region of Mesopotamia in the vicinity of Ecbatana (present-day Hamadan). Their consolidation in Iran is believed to have occurred during the 8th century BC. In the 7th century BC, all of western Iran and some other territories were under Median rule, but their precise geographic extent remains unknown.



The Apadana Palace, 5th century BC Achaemenid bas-relief shows a Mede soldier behind a Persian soldier, in Persepolis, Iran



EMBOSSSED BAS RELIEF CARVINGS OF SERVANTS BRINGING GIFTS TO THE KING ON THE SIDEWALL OF STAIRS IN FRONT OF TACHARA PALACE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE PALACE OF DARIUS, IN PERSEPOLIS.

The Achaemenid Empire or Achaemenian Empire, also known as the First Persian Empire was the ancient Iranian empire founded by Cyrus the Great of the Achaemenid dynasty in 550 BC. Based in modern-day Iran, it was the largest empire the world had ever seen at its time, spanning a total of 5.5 million square kilometres (2.1 million square miles). The empire spanned from the Balkans and Egypt in the west, West Asia as the base, the majority of Central Asia to the northeast, and parts of South Asia (the Indus Valley in northern India) to the southeast. Around the 7th century BC, the region of Persis in the southwestern portion of the Iranian plateau was settled by the Persians. From Persis, Cyrus rose and defeated the Median Empire as well as Lydia and the Neo-Babylonian Empire, marking the formal establishment of a new imperial polity under the Achaemenid dynasty.

By 330 BC, the Achaemenid Empire was conquered by Alexander the Great, an ardent admirer of Cyrus; the conquest marked a key achievement in the then-ongoing campaign of his Macedonian Empire. Alexander's death marks the beginning of the Hellenistic period, when most of the

fallen Achaemenid Empire's territory came under the rule of the Ptolemaic Kingdom and the Seleucid Empire, both of which had emerged as successors to the Macedonian Empire following the Partition of Triparadisus in 321 BC. Hellenistic rule remained in place for almost a century before the Iranian elites of the central plateau reclaimed power under the Parthian Empire.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran from 247 BC to 224 AD. Its latter name comes from its founder, Arsaces I, who led the Parni tribe in conquering the region of Parthia in Iran's northeast, then a satrapy (province) under Andragoras, who was rebelling against the Seleucid Empire. Mithridates I (r. c. 171 – 132 BC) greatly expanded the empire by seizing Media and Mesopotamia from the Seleucids. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to present-day Afghanistan and western Pakistan. The empire, located on the Silk Road trade route between the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean Basin and the Han dynasty of China, became a center of trade and commerce.



Hatra ruins city, Parthian Empire in Iraq

The Sasanian Empire or Sassanid Empire, officially known as Eranshahr (“Land/Empire of the Iranians”) also known as Second Persian Empire, or Neo-Persian Empire was the last Iranian empire before the early Muslim conquests of the 7th–8th centuries AD. Named after the House of Sasan, it endured for over four centuries, from 224 to 651 AD, making it the second longest-lived Persian imperial dynasty, after the Arsacids (Parthian Empire). The Sasanian Empire succeeded the Parthian Empire, and re-established the Persians as a major power in late antiquity alongside its neighbouring arch-rival, the Roman Empire (after 395 the Byzantine Empire). The empire ended with the Arab conquest of Iran.

People visit a Sassanid-era bas-relief carving in Naqsh-e Rostam, an ancient necropolis near Persepolis in Fars province, southern Iran.





Imam Mosque, Isfahan

Islamic Era

The Islamization of Iran was the spread of Islam in formerly Sassanid Iran as a result of the Muslim conquest of the empire in 633–654. It was a long process by which Islam, though initially rejected, eventually spread among the population on the Iranian Plateau. Iranian peoples have maintained certain pre-Islamic traditions, including their language and culture, and adapted them with Islamic codes. These two customs and traditions merged as the “Iranian Islamic” identity. The Islamization of Iran was to yield deep transformations within the cultural, scientific, and political structure of Iran’s society: The blossoming of Persian literature, philosophy, medicine and art became major elements of the newly forming Muslim civilization. Integrating a heritage of thousands of years of civilization, and being at the “crossroads of the major cultural highways”, contributed to Persia emerging at the forefront of what culminated as the “Islamic Golden Age”.



Naqsh-e Jahan Square, or Meidan-e Emam, ISFAHAN, IRAN

Safavid Iran, also referred to as the Safavid Empire, was one of the largest and long-standing Iranian empires after the 7th-century Muslim conquest of Persia, which was ruled from 1501 to 1736 by the Safavid dynasty. It is often considered the beginning of modern Iranian history, as well as one of the gunpowder empires. The Safavid Shāh Ismāʿīl I established the Twelver denomination of Shīʿa Islam as the official religion of the empire, marking one of the most important turning points in the history of Islam. An Iranian dynasty rooted in the Sufi Safavid order founded by Kurdish sheikhs, it heavily intermarried with Turkoman, Georgian, Circassian, and Pontic Greek dignitaries and was Turkic-speaking and Turkified. From their base in Ardabil, the Safavids established control over parts of Greater Iran and reasserted the Iranian identity of the region, thus becoming the first native dynasty since the Buyids to establish a national state officially known as Iran. The Safavids ruled from 1501 to 1722 (experiencing a brief restoration from 1729 to 1736 and 1750 to 1773) and, at their height, they controlled all of what is now Iran, Republic of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Armenia, eastern Georgia, parts of the North Caucasus including Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, as well as parts of Turkey, Syria, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.



Shams-ol-Emareh, remnant of Qajar Persia, Tehran, Iran

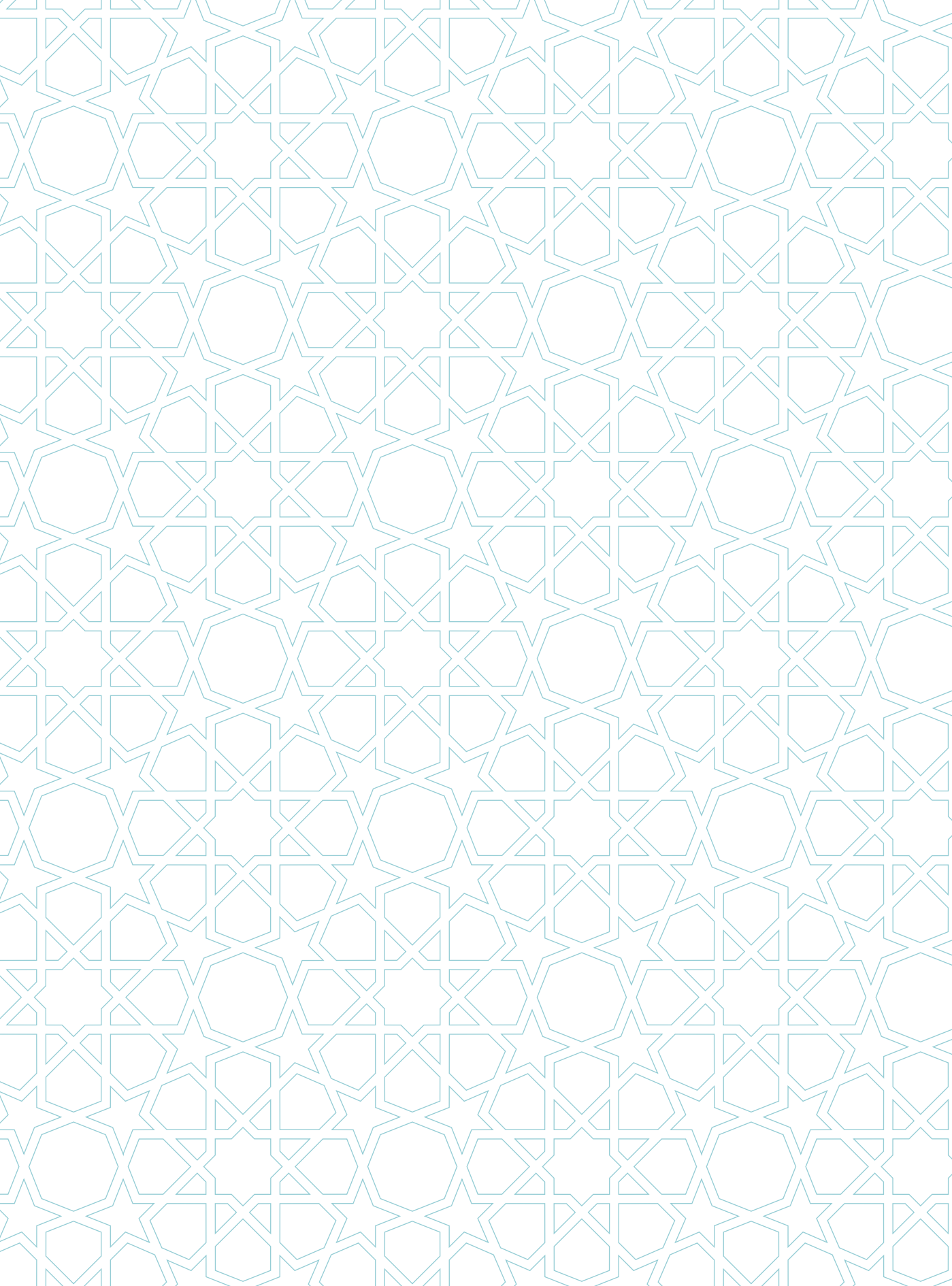
The Qajar dynasty (1789–1925) was an Iranian dynasty founded by Mohammad Khan (r. 1789–1797) of the Qoyunlu clan of the Turkoman Qajar tribe. The dynasty's effective rule in Iran ended in 1925 when Iran's Majlis, convening as a constituent assembly on 12 December 1925.

The Pahlavi dynasty was the last Iranian royal dynasty, ruling for almost 54 years between 1925 and 1979. The dynasty was founded by Reza Shah Pahlavi, a non-aristocratic Mazanderani soldier in modern times, who took on the name of the Pahlavi language spoken in the pre-Islamic Sasanian Empire in order to strengthen his nationalist credentials. The dynasty replaced the Qajar dynasty in 1925 after the 1921 coup d'état.





The Islamic Revolution was a series of events that culminated in the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1979. The Islamic revolution also led to the replacement of the Imperial State of Iran by the present-day Islamic Republic of Iran, as the monarchical government of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was superseded by the Islamic government at the time of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini renowned as Imam Khomeini. Now it is 44th celebration of establishing of Islamic Republic of Iran that changed fundamentally the bases of Iranian society and culture.



The image shows the Azadegan Tower in Tehran, Iran, at night. The tower is a massive concrete structure with a large, pointed archway. The archway is illuminated from within, casting a warm orange glow. A full moon is visible in the dark sky through the arch. In the background, the city lights of Tehran are visible, including a tall tower and various streetlights. In the foreground, there are several vertical water fountains illuminated with blue and purple lights.

Discover the Wonders of Iran: A Journey Beyond Borders

Nestled at the crossroads of the Middle East, Iran invites you to embark on a captivating journey through a land rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. As the ancient Persia, Iran boasts a tapestry of experiences that mesmerize every traveler seeking the extraordinary.



Historical Marvels:

Iran stands as a testament to centuries of civilization. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the majestic Persepolis, a ceremonial capital that echoes the grandeur of a bygone era. Wander through the ancient city of **Isfahan**, adorned with intricate tilework and stunning Islamic architecture, and discover the cultural heart of Iran in the bazaars and mosques of **Shiraz**.

The Nasir al-Mulk Mosque (also known as the Pink Mosque)



Cultural Diversity:

Iran, a captivating kaleidoscope of cultural diversity, is a testament to its rich and enduring heritage shaped by Persian, Arab, Turkish, and Central Asian civilizations. The vibrant bazaars offer a sensory feast where the aroma of spices harmonizes with the vivid hues of handmade textiles. Delighting in traditional Persian performances, one experiences soul-stirring melodies of classical music and witnesses the mesmerizing artistry of Persian carpets, each narrating a story of craftsmanship passed down through generations. With a cultural legacy dating back to the time of the Achaemenids, about 2,500 years ago, Iranians maintain a profound connection to their past despite political and religious changes. Modern Iran, closely interwoven with Shi'i Islam in daily life, exhibits an ever-present reminder of its deep national tradition through art, literature, and architecture. This fusion reflects the essential tension between Shi'i piety and the enduring Persian cultural legacy. While Persian culture predominates, Iran's multiethnic state incorporates diverse groups, each with unique literary and historical traditions dating back centuries, maintaining close connections with their larger cultural counterparts beyond Iran.



Rich Museums:

Boasting one of the world's most ancient civilizations, Iran has numerous museums that offer a rich insight into thousands of years of national art and culture. The National Museum of Iran With more than 70 years of activity, The National Museum of Iran contains 300,000 museum objects in an area of more than 20,000 square meters. In addition to being the country's largest museum of History and Archaeology, it ranks as one of the world's most prestigious museums in terms of grandeur, scale, diversity and quality of its huge monuments. Here are some of the best, most-visited museums in Iran: the Reza Abassi Museum, the Iran Cinema Museum, the Glassware and Ceramic Museum, the National Jewelry Museum, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA), the National Museum of Iran, the Shiraz Pars Museum and the Iran Carpet Museum.



The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, or TMOCA, stands as one of the largest art museums in Tehran and Iran, boasting a collection of over 3,000 items. This includes world-class European and American paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries. Notably, TMOCA houses an exceptional compilation of Iranian modern and contemporary art, making it a cultural treasure. Recognized for possessing one of the most valuable collections of modern Western masterpieces outside Europe and North America, the museum holds an estimated £2.5 billion worth of modern art. TMOCA regularly hosts rotating exhibitions and, on occasion, showcases works by local artists.



Natural Splendors:

Beyond its historical treasures, Iran unveils a landscape of diverse natural wonders. Traverse the otherworldly deserts of Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut, where sand dunes stretch as far as the eye can see, and witness the stark beauty of the Alamut Valley. For those seeking respite, the lush Caspian Sea coastline and the picturesque landscapes of the Alborz Mountains offer a tranquil escape.

All of these attractions have made Iran a favorite destination for sightseers. Swimming and water skiing are certainly exciting experiences not to be easily forgotten. Iran's fauna includes some rare species, such as the Siberian Kingfisher, falcons, eagles, pelicans, etc. It also features such Mammals as the Persian Fallow Deer, Wild Cheetahs, the Asiatic Black Bear, the Persian Gazelle, and Zebras. The blue whale is a marine mammal inhabiting the Persian Gulf, the country's largest marine habitat.





Warm Hospitality and Affectionate People:

Iranian hospitality, renowned worldwide, welcomes visitors with open arms. Engage in the time-honored tradition of Persian tea, served with sweet delicacies, and savor the flavors of Iranian cuisine, a delectable fusion of aromatic herbs, spices, and succulent meats. Connect with locals, who eagerly share stories of their heritage and traditions, creating an enriching and immersive travel experience.

American chef, author, and television personality, Anthony Bourdain said: “It wasn’t supposed to be like this—of all the places, of all the countries, all the years of traveling, it’s here, in Iran, that I am greeted most warmly by total strangers. If anything, all that Iranians can be accused of is excessive hospitality. So, when traveling to Iran, beware of innocent looking situations, which could turn into one of your life experiences. Kind of walking into The Twilight Zone. The Iranians are of such an affable nature as to warm your heart and make your travel more off beat.



Health Tourism

Iran offers a wide range of treatment facilities through an extensive network of highly equipped hospitals (around 850 hospitals), and rehabilitation centers with reasonable costs. A costs analysis procedure shows that treatment costs in Iran are much lower in comparison to developed countries. Iran is also very cost-competitive in comparison to its regional competitors such as Jordan, Turkey, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, as well as Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and India. In 2012, 30,000 people traveled to Iran to receive medical treatment. Between 150,000 and 200,000 health tourists are estimated to have traveled to Iran in 2015, and this figure is expected to rise to 500,000 in subsequent years.



Spas

Iran has some of the most important hot spring spa centers of the world, attracting millions of visitors each year. The spas are famous for their therapeutic value. The most important Iranian spas include:

Mt. Damavand Thermal Springs and Public SPA

Damavand has some thermal springs with therapeutic qualities. These mineral hot springs are mainly located on the volcano's flanks and at the base, giving evidence of volcanic heat comparatively near the surface of the earth. The main Damavand Hot Spring is Larijan Thermal Springs or Abe Garm-e Larijan.

Sar Ein Spas

Sar Ein or Sar Ghein village, a district of Irdimoosi village, is located west of the city of Ardabil nearby the town itself (6 kilometers from the Ardabil-Tabriz Road). They include Gavmish Goli (buffalo pool), Ghara Sue (black water), Sari Sue hot spa (yellow water), Gazal hot water spring, and Ab Cheshmeh. There are other spas in other Iranian cities as well.



Iranian Handicrafts & Handmade Art

Iranian Art has one of the richest art heritages in world history. It encompasses many subfields, such as the following:

Calico (Ghalamkar), a type of Textile Printing; Gerehchini, like what is seen in the Nasir al-Mulk Mosque diorama, where frames of wood and panels of glass are set next to each other in mostly geometrical designs; Local musical instruments (Tar & Setar); Silverwork, for making many objects out of silver (these include trays, candle holders, fruit dishes, cups and other decorative objects); Woodcarving (like wood working on tables and furniture); Engraving (Ghalamzani), which is a science, art, hobby, industry and trade; Inlaid work or Khatamkari, as one of the Iranian forms of marquetry wherein the surface of wooden or metallic articles is decorated with pieces of wood, bone and metal cut in a variety of shapes and designs; Miniature, a small painting, whether a book illustration or a separate work of art intended to be kept in an album of such works, tiling, stone carving, brickwork, stuccos and tile panels.





Iranian Food

There are over 400 different kinds of food and sweets in Iran. The ingredients are generally cereals, grains, vegetables and proteins. The existence of various ethnic groups in Iran, alongside its rich culture, has made Iranian Cuisine highly diversified. Some of the most popular Iranian foods include, AabGousht (Dizi), Fesenjan (Pomegranate Walnut Stew), Bademjan (Eggplant and Tomato Stew), Baghali Polo (Rice with Dill and Fava Beans), Zereshk Polo (Rice with Barberry), Ghorme Sabzi (vegetable stew), Ash-e Reshteh (noodle and bean soup), Tahdig (Crunchy Fried Rice), Morassa Polo (Rice decorated with nuts and dried fruit), and Kebab (Barbecue, Lamb, Chicken, Lamb Liver, Ground Meat). Both hot and cold drinks are also common in Iran. Cold drinks include Sekanjebin and various types of fragrant liquids such as rose water. Warm drinks include coffee, black tea, green tea and herbal tea (tisane). Black tea is more popular in Iran, even during summer times. Local desserts include, Ranginak, Faloodeh Shirazi, Ghotab, Pashmak, Loze nârgil, Sohan, and Gaz.



Social and religious customs

The narrative of martyrdom has been an essential component of Shi'i culture, which can be traced to the massacre in 680 of the third imam, al-Ḥusayn ibn 'Alī, along with his close family and followers at the Battle of Karbala by the troops of the Umayyad caliph, Yazīd, during al-Ḥusayn's failed attempt to restore his family line to political power. As a minority in the Islamic community, the Shi'ah faced much persecution and, according to Shi'i doctrine, offered up many martyrs over the centuries because of their belief in the right of the line of 'Alī to political rule and religious leadership. Each year on the anniversary of the massacre, the Shi'ah commemorate the Karbala tragedy during the holiday of 'Āshūrā' through the ta'ziyyah (passion play) and through rituals of self-flagellation with bare hands and, sometimes, with chains and blades.

These acts of mourning continue throughout the year in the practice of the rawzah khānī, a ritual of mourning in which a storyteller, the rawzah khān, incites the assembled—who are frequently gathered at a special place of mourning called a ḥosayniyyeh—to tears by tales of the death of al-Ḥusayn. The commemoration of Karbala has permeated all of Persian culture and finds expression in poetry, music, and the solemn Shi'i view of the world. No religious ceremony is complete without a reference to Karbala, and no month passes without at least one day of mourning. None of the efforts of the monarchy, such as the annual festivals of art and the



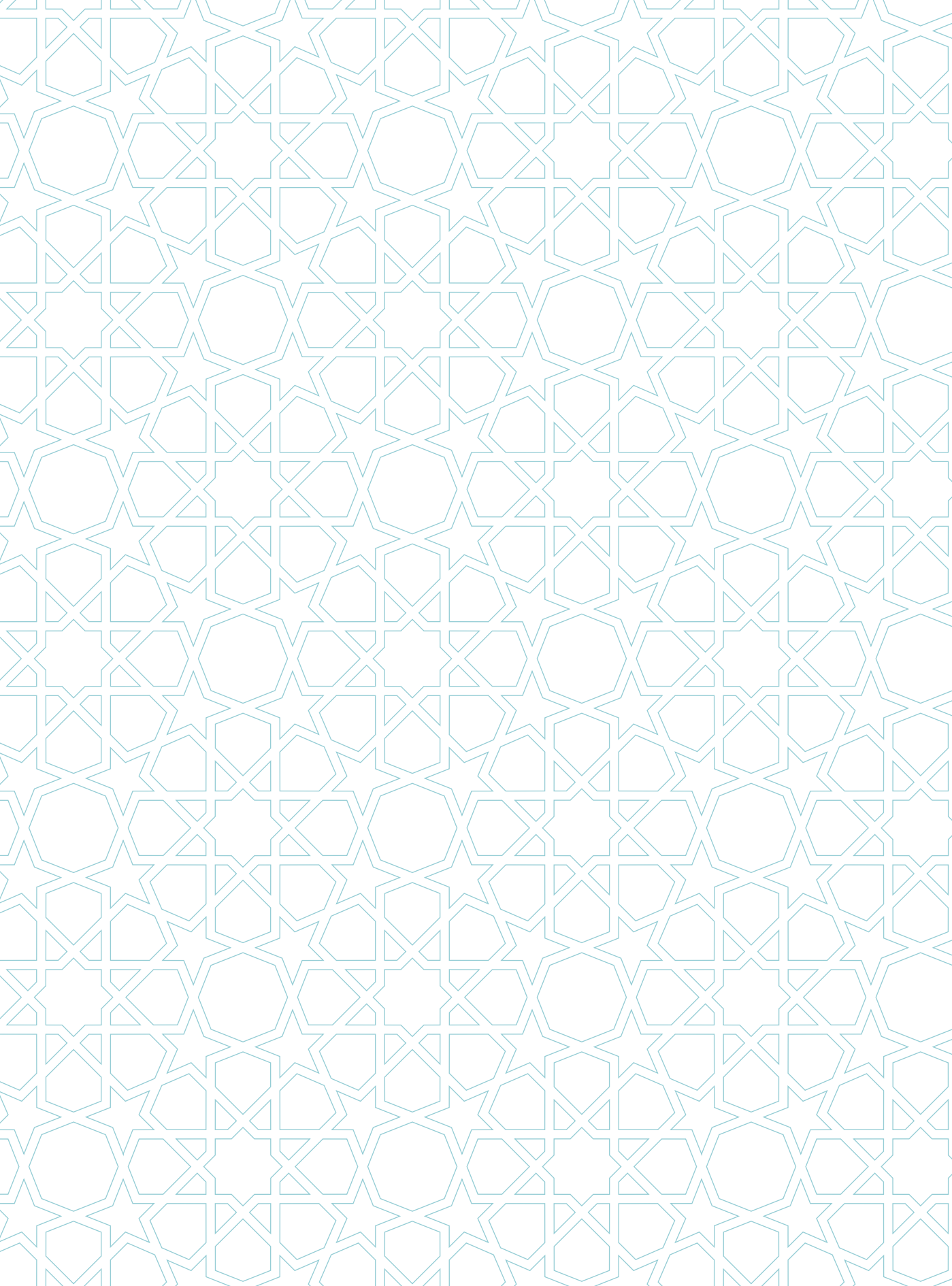
encouragement of musicians and native crafts, succeeded in changing this basic attitude; public displays of laughter and joy remain undesirable, even sinful, in some circles. Iranians do celebrate several festive occasions. In addition to the two Eids (from Arabic *‘īd*: “holiday”), Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr—practiced by Sunnis and Shi‘is alike—the most important holidays are Nōrūz, the Persian New Year, and the birthday of the 12th imam, whose second coming the Shi‘ah expect in the end of days. The Nōrūz celebration begins on the last Wednesday of the old year, is followed by a weeklong holiday, and continues until the 13th day of the new year, which is a day for picnicking in the countryside. On the 12th imam’s birthday, cities sparkle with lights, and the bazaars are decorated and teem with shoppers.



Safe and Accessible:

Iran is the safest country in the Middle East region undoubtedly. Iran welcomes travelers with open arms, providing a safe and secure environment for exploration. The country's well-developed transportation infrastructure ensures easy access to its diverse regions, making every corner of this enchanting land within reach.





Science, Technology and Innovation

Iran's history in Science and Technology (S&T) spans millennia, reflecting a rich and enduring legacy of innovation. Rooted in ancient Persia, the Achaemenid Empire (550–330 BCE) laid the foundation for advancements in various fields. The scholars of the Persian Empire contributed significantly to mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. The subsequent Sassanian Empire (224–651 CE) continued this intellectual tradition, fostering the translation of Greek texts and advancing knowledge in medicine and astronomy. The Islamic Golden Age (8th to 14th centuries) marked a zenith in Iranian S&T, with scholars like Ibn Sina (Avicenna) making groundbreaking contributions to medicine, mathematics, and philosophy. During this period, the House of Wisdom in Baghdad became a center for scientific advancement, and Persian scholars played a pivotal role. In more recent history, Iran's commitment to S&T intensified in the 20th century with a focus on education and technological progress.





Startups at Azadi innovation Factory, Tehran

In 2010, Iran witnessed a pivotal shift in its science, technology, and innovation (STI) policies, marking the beginning of a new era. The first generation, spanning 1990-2000, concentrated on enhancing higher education and academic publications, resulting in increased productivity in emerging technologies and the establishment of science and technology parks. The Nanotechnology Initiative Council's founding in 2002 and the implementation of the Law on Facilitation of Competition and Prohibition of Monopoly (2007) were landmarks during this period. The second generation, commencing in 2010, prioritized the knowledge economy, leading to the enactment of the Law on Support for Knowledge-based Institutions/Firms and Commercialization of Innovation and Inventions (2011). The Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF) emerged from this law, initially supporting university spin-offs and later expanding to include tech-based startups and eligible enterprises. The third generation, from 2015, bolstered entrepreneurship and innovation through laws promoting competitive production, local content requirements, and nanotech utilization until 2025. This period also saw initiatives to modernize public procurement and establish dispute settlement councils to address knowledge-based firms' disputes, reflecting a shift towards developing an innovation ecosystem supporting knowledge-based firms and tech-based startups in alignment with national and industrial needs.



Key Achievements in some S&T Fields

Significant advancements in nanotechnology, biotechnology, stem cell technology, cognitive sciences, medicinal plants, traditional medicine, information and communication technology, as well as aerospace in Iran are briefly outlined below.



1. Nanotechnology:

Iran strategically embraced nanotechnology, focusing on endogenous development models since 2001, achieving significant global market presence. The Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC), established in 2003, coordinates nanotech initiatives. The “Future Strategy Plan” (2005-15) propelled Iran to the fourth position globally in nano-science production by 2018, boasting over 29,000 researchers, 460,000 trained students, and 181 companies producing 447 nanotech products. Following this success, a second ten-year nanotechnology development plan (2015-25) was initiated in 2015, reinforcing Iran’s commitment to sustained advancements in this transformative field.

Some nanotechnology achievements in priority areas including health, water and environment, energy, and construction are as follows:

- Karun river water treatment to produce drinking water;
- Removing heavy metals from water;
- Sugarcane industry wastewater treatment plants;
- Producing industrial power plant filters to improve productivity in power industry;
- Producing nano-medicine, especially anti-retroviral ones;
- Producing materials and equipment used in construction industry such as concretes, paints, pipes, and resistant plastics.



2. Biotechnology

Biotechnology stands as a pivotal 21st-century technology, identified among the seven key industries shaping future socioeconomic destinies. In Iran, the roots of biotechnology trace back a century to the Pasteur Institute and Razi Institute, founded in 1921 and 1924, respectively, focusing on medicinal advancements. The Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, established in 1976, and the Biotechnology Institute at the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), founded in 1980, have played crucial roles in traditional and modern biotechnology research. The initiation of modern biotechnology in the 1980s culminated in the establishment of the National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in 1989. Recognizing its strategic importance, the Biotechnology Development Council was formed in 2008 to oversee policymaking, planning, and coordination of biotechnological research. Iran's vast biodiversity and unique genetic patterns have fueled substantial investments and remarkable progress in biotechnological research, particularly over the last decade.

Some Achievements:

✓ Medicine

- Hercease™(Trastuzumab) is a biogeneric form of Trastuzumab which is used to treat breast cancer.
- Altbrel™ is a biosimilar product called Etanercept- a generic name. It is used to treat several autoimmune diseases like Rheumatoid Arthritis, Plaque Psoriasis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Spondyloarthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis and Juvenile Idiopathic.

- PDlařta® (Pegfilgrařtim) is used to reduce the duration of neutropenia (low white blood cell count) and the occurrence of febrile neutropenia (low white blood cell count with a fever) which can be caused by cytotoxic chemotherapy (medicines that destroy rapidly growing cells). It is used to decrease the incidence of infection (as manifested by febrile neutropenia) in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive cancer chemotherapy associated with a clinically significant incidence of febrile neutropenia
- ReciGen® (interferon beta-1a) is used to control the progression of Multiple Sclerosis. It is a purified 166 amino acid glycoprotein, with a molecular weight of approximately 22,500 daltons, manufactured through a biotechnological processing of the naturally-occurring interferons by using recombinant DNA technology. It is made up of exactly the same amino acids as the interferon beta found in the human body.

✓ **Medical Equipment**

- Bio Atomic Force Microscope (Nanoscope) (Pajuhesh Ara Atomic Force Microscope)
- Bio AFM (Ara Research Bio AFM)
- Iranian Gene Gun Completed by Somatic Embryo Induction Devices (Kian Gene Gun)
- Monoclonal Antibodies against Human CD Markers (Cyto Matin Gene (CMG))
- RoboSPECT
- SERGEOGUIDE II (Gamma Probe)
- Sina robotic telesurgery system
- KBC Aneuquick QF PCR Kit
- DNA Microarray
- Printing Robot
- Chip Scanner
- Milibioreactor

✓ **Agricultural products**

- Date palm
- Food Fraud Detection
- Nitro Kara Bio-fertilizer
- PhosphoBARVAR-2 (Phosphate Biofertilizer)
- Myco-Root

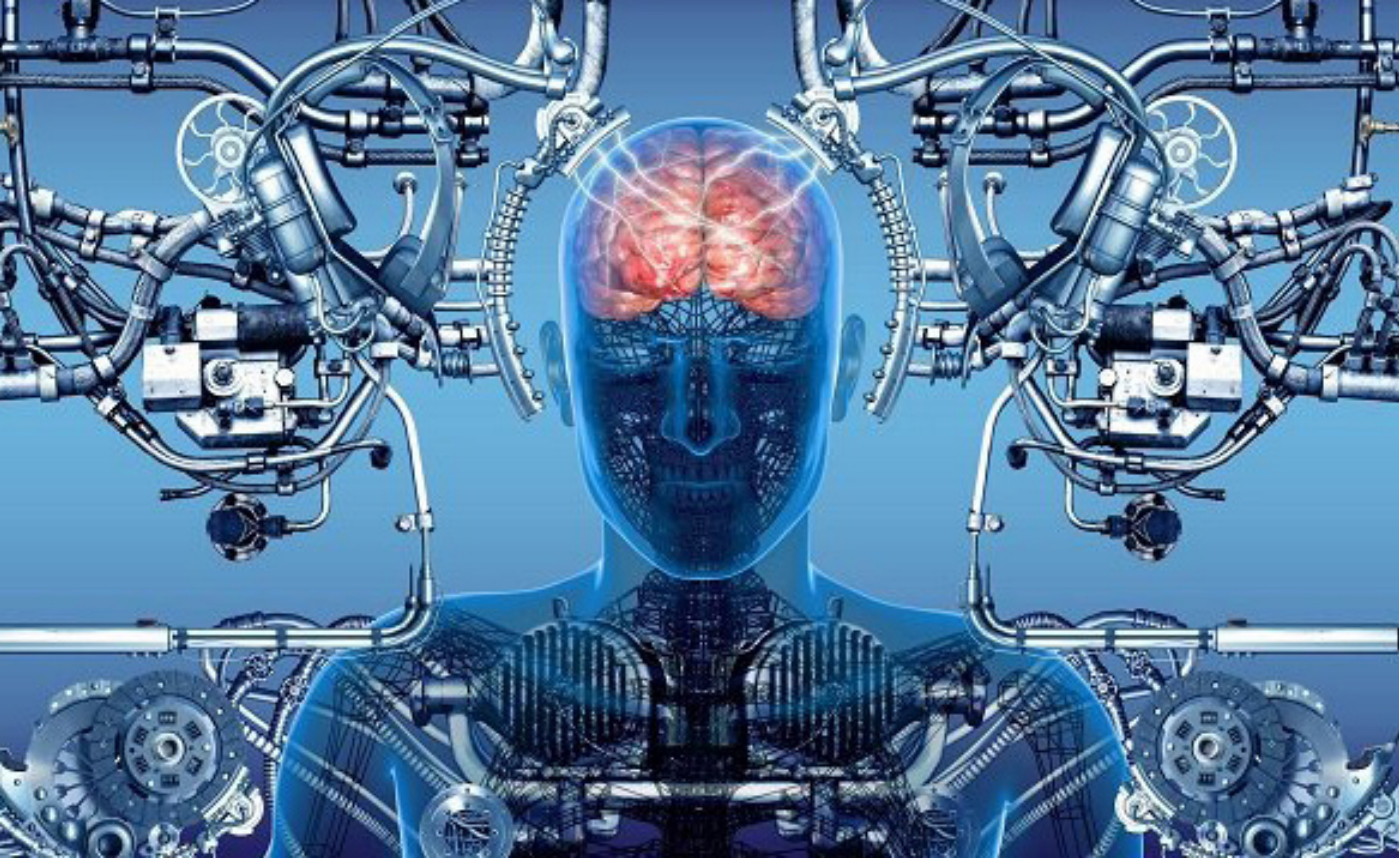


3. Stem Cell Technology

Stem cell research, originating in the 1950s to combat incurable disorders, has evolved to encompass tissue repair, genetic disease treatment, and cancer therapy. Iran's involvement began with the first hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in the 1990s, leading to diverse stem cell studies and embryonic stem cell research by 2004. Iranian researchers have consistently contributed to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine since 2005, reflected in publications in international journals. The Council for Stem Cell Sciences and Technologies, established in 2009, and the national document in September 2013 underscore Iran's commitment to advancing in this strategic field. Despite limited investments, Iran leads in stem cell publications in the Middle East, aiming to be among the world's top 10 nations in stem cell research and wealth creation by 2025 with increased investment.

Some Achievements:

- MAGSIEVE Separator
- Stem Cell Bone Allografts
- IVF Culture Media
- Antibodies and Immunoassays
- Polymer Scaffolds



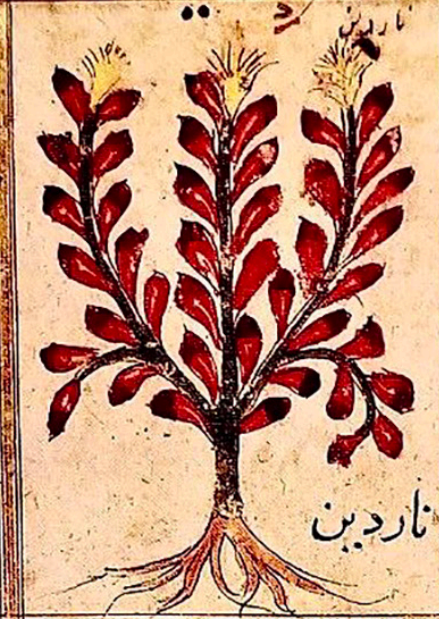
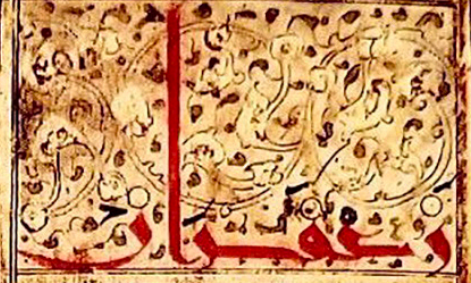
4. Cognitive Sciences

Over the past four decades, cognitive sciences and technologies have yielded significant advancements, marked by the 1990s being dubbed “The Decade of the Brain.” Nations globally invest in understanding brain mysteries, viewing the human brain as a complex information network. In the late 50s and 60s, cognitive sciences emerged, focusing on mental representations. Dr. Caro Lucas pioneered the introduction of cognitive sciences in Iran in 1996, leading to the founding of the “Institute for Intelligent Systems” and later, in 1998, the establishment of the non-profit Institute for Cognitive Studies (ICS). Accredited in 2003, it offers doctoral and master’s degree programs, spanning cognitive neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, modeling, and philosophy. The Cognitive Sciences and Technologies Council (CSTC) was founded in 2012 to promote cognitive sciences in Iran. It supports policy formulation, research, technology development, and the integration of cognitive systems into various sectors. CSTC also aids human resource development, funds research projects, and facilitates infrastructure for studies like human brain mapping, cognitive assessment, and the intersection of stem cell research with cognitive sciences and technologies.

Capacities and Capabilities:

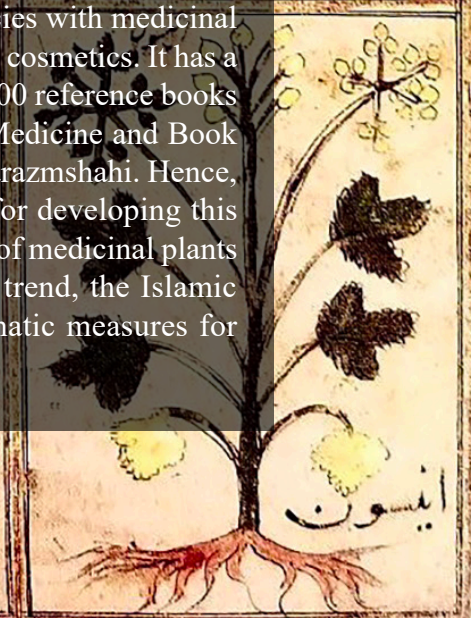
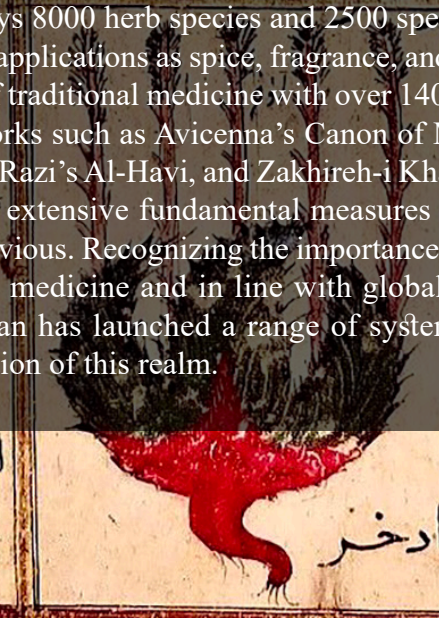
- Brain Activity Mapping and Recording: Functional MRI, fNIRS, EEG, ECoG
- Brain Implants
- Optogenetics
- Brain-machine Interface and Neurofeedback
- Cognitive Education
- Cognitive Rehabilitation
- Cognitive Linguistics
- Cognitive Games
- Application of Stem Cells in Cognitive Sciences and Technologies
- Cognitive Assessment Tools
- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Transcranial Stimulation
- Cognitive Approach in Addiction Studies
- Electrophysiology in Small Animals and Primates





5. Medicinal Plants and Traditional Medicine

Given the growing interest in the use of natural products of medicinal and food industries in the global healthcare debates, Iranian people, officials, and industries have increasingly considered the benefits of medicinal herbs and significance of integrating traditional medicine into modern healthcare system and supporting the field. Iran enjoys 8000 herb species and 2500 species with medicinal properties and applications as spice, fragrance, and cosmetics. It has a rich heritage of traditional medicine with over 14000 reference books and elegant works such as Avicenna's Canon of Medicine and Book of Healing, Al-Razi's Al-Havi, and Zakhireh-i Kharazmshahi. Hence, the urgency of extensive fundamental measures for developing this area is quite obvious. Recognizing the importance of medicinal plants and traditional medicine and in line with global trend, the Islamic Republic of Iran has launched a range of systematic measures for better exploitation of this realm.



Some Achievements:

- Development of over 100 knowledge enterprises involving in herbal medicines, natural products and traditional medicine;
- Development of more than 400 companies involving in herbal medicines, natural products and traditional medicine;
- Increasing export of herbal medicines, and natural, herbal and traditional products; annually amounting to \$750 million;
- Creation of more than 500 jobs in the knowledge enterprises located at the S&T parks and incubators;
- Production and commercialization of more than 500 natural, animal-based and medicinal products;
- Production and commercialization of more than 2369 herbal medicines and natural products, all registered in Iran;
- Production and commercialization of 990 traditional medicines, all registered in Iran;
- Production of 55 veterinary supplements and medicines to control diseases in livestock, poultry and aquaculture in the country;
- Production of 357 registered extracts and essences in the country;
- Identification of 2300 plant species with medicinal properties and recording their phytochemistry and distribution pattern in Iran;
- Development of a gene bank and revival of various species of endemic or extinct medicinal herbs and conservation of 1550 medicinal species;
- Completion of researches on domestication of 170 species of indigenous and endemic plants in Iran;
- Standardization of 120 species of medicinal plants, natural products and related industries;
- Development of industrial- scale cultivation of medicinal plants with economic value including barberry, damask roses, saffron and jujube in 150,000 hectares of land;
- Expansion of the comprehensive atlas and dispersion map for medicinal plants to include 27 provinces in order to protect and record the benefits of the plant species;
- Admission of over 5,600 students in the fields related to medicinal plants at all levels;
- Increase in the number of Iranian PhD students in the field of Iranian traditional medicine up to 170 in 2017;

- Development and promotion of scientific status of 8 faculties, 17 medical departments, 8 departments of pharmacy and 8 medical history courses in the medical universities of the country;
- Restoration of the written heritage of Iranian medicine including over 2000 titles of books and treatises, of which 200 books have been restored and edited.
- Construction of 20 Iranian traditional medical clinics with Iranian Islamic architecture in 20 medical universities of the country;
- Pilot integration of the traditional medical services into mainstream health care system in 9 medical universities of the country.





6. Information and Communication Technology

The impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Iran's economic and social sectors prompted the establishment of several supreme councils to guide policymaking and coordination. The High Council of Informatics, formed in 1980, was the initial council under the Plan and Budget Organization. As ICT evolved, the Digital Economy and Smart Technology Development Council, affiliated with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, emerged in 2000. This council aims to advance related technologies, support knowledge-based businesses, and enhance knowledge promotion. Focused on commercializing domestic science and technologies, it plays a pivotal role in developing ICT infrastructure and applications, contributing to the dynamic growth of this sector as a key industry in Iran, ultimately enhancing productivity across economic and manufacturing domains.

Some Achievements

- Next Generation Security Systems Technology-SANA
- The Package for Promoting National Computer Games Industry
- Supporting Big-Data Plans
- Manufacturing and Calibration of DNA Microarray Systems
- Securing Electronic Transactions Using Modern Cryptographic Protocols
- Implementing Internet of Things
- Techno-Medicine
- Comprehensive Package of Persian Script and Language in Computer Environment
- Design and Construction of 3D Millimeter Wave Imaging System
- National Grid Initiative.



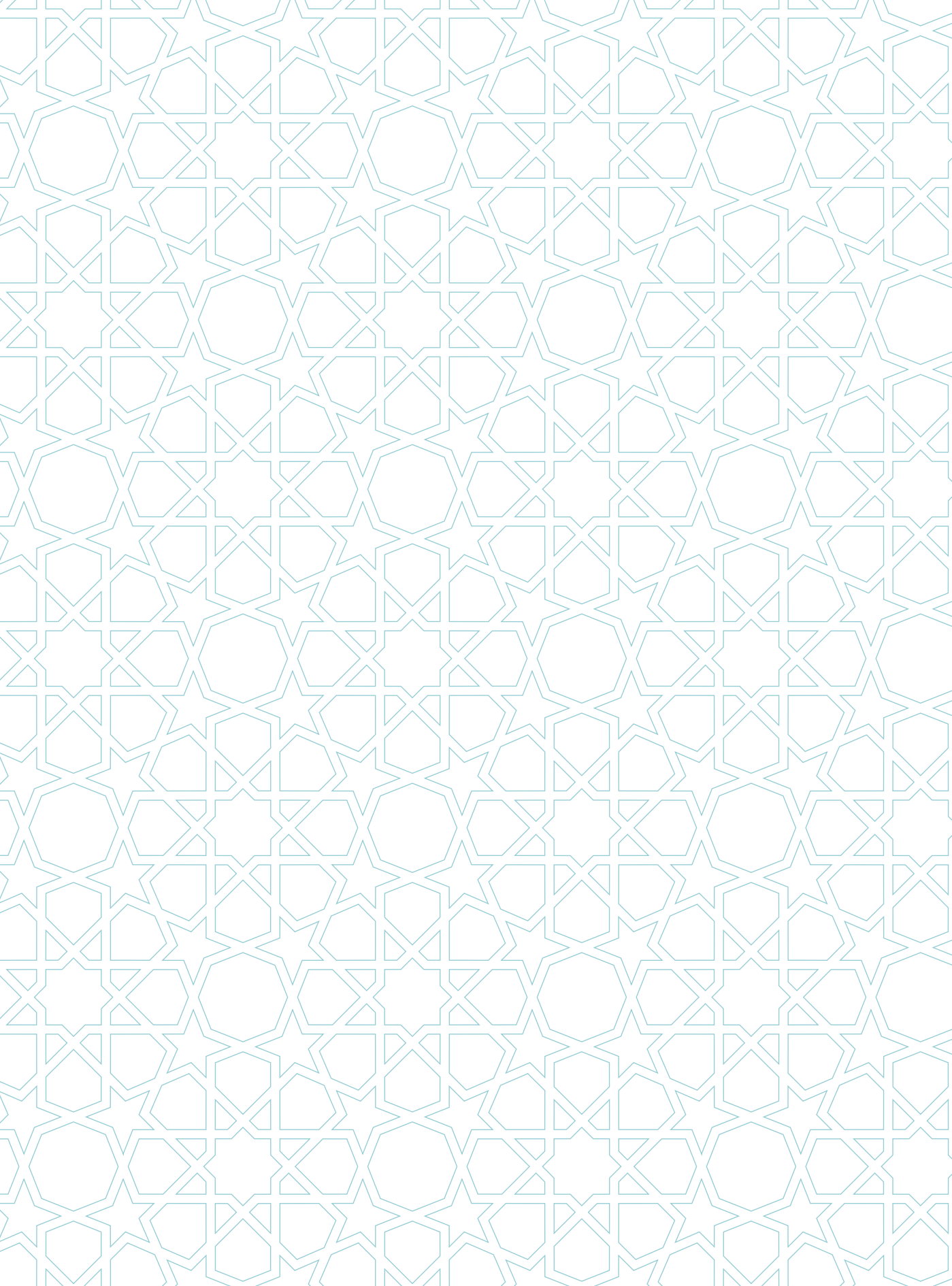
7. Aerospace

Aerospace technology holds a longstanding and progressive presence in Iran, with roots tracing back to the eighth century when Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi initiated aerospace research. Advancements continued in the 16th and 17th centuries, marked by Baha al-Din Muhammad ibn Husayn al-Amili's contributions to astronomy. In the modern era, Iran joined the International Telecommunication Union in 1869, founded the National Geographic Organization in 1951, and established the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) in 2003. The 2005 ten-year space program plan led to significant achievements, including the launch of the Sina-1 satellite in cooperation with Russia. Subsequent endeavors included the development of Safir Satellite launch vehicle, sub-orbital sounding rockets, and the successful launch of domestically made satellites like "Omid." Notably, 2013 marked achievements in space exploration, with the launch of Kavoshgar-6 and the introduction of monkeys, "Pishgam" and "Fargam," into space. In 2015, Iran launched the imaging satellite "Fajr" and unveiled a mock-up of a new manned spacecraft developed by the Aerospace Research Institute.

Some Achievements

Launch Vehicles, Satellites and Other Products such as Safir SLV, Simorgh SLV, Sounding Rockets, SharifSat Communication Satellite, Mesbah Telecommunication Satellite, Sina Remote Sensing Satellite, Omid Telecommunication Satellite, Rasad Remote Sensing Satellite, Navid Remote Sensing Satellite, Fajr Remote Sensing Satellite, AUTSAT Earth Observation Satellite, Toloo Earth Observation Satellite, the Heaviest Iranian Satellite, Nasir-1 Star Tracker







Investment in Iran; Incentives and Benefits



Investment in Iran; Incentives and Benefits

Explore lucrative opportunities in Iran's investment landscape, where a myriad of incentives and benefits await prospective investors. From flexible monetary services to customs duty exemptions, easy registration processes, and favorable energy rates, the Iranian business environment is poised to enhance your investment endeavors.

More incentives and benefits awaiting investors in Iran are mentioned below:

- Positioned at the crossroads of the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, Iran boasts a unique geographical advantage.
- Tap into a vast domestic market of over 80 million people and enjoy quick access to neighboring markets totaling over 600 million consumers.
- Leverage a massive pool of skilled and cost-effective workforce.
- Benefit from an advanced infrastructure nationwide, covering telecommunication, energy, and rail/road transportation.
- Capitalize on abundant energy resources, ensuring a low cost of production and public services.
- Embrace favorable climate conditions supporting agricultural activities throughout the country and across all seasons.

Features and Advantages of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act (FIPPA)

- There is no restriction on the percentage of foreign shareholding.
- The possibility of registering an Iranian company with %100 foreign capital.
- Transfer of principal capital, dividend and the profits gained through the utilization of capital in the form of foreign currency or goods.
- Enjoyment of same and equal treatment as accorded to domestic investors by foreign investors.
- The possibility of investment by foreign natural and juridical persons and Iranians living abroad.
- Allowing investment in all areas which are permitted to the private sector.
- Granting protection coverage to different foreign investment schemes.
- Quick approval of the Foreign Investment Application
- Issuing three-years multiple entry visa and residence Permit for Foreign Investors, directors, experts as well as their immediate family members.

Risks covered under FIPPA:

- Expropriation and Nationalization
- Unlimited transfer of capital and dividend
- Guarantee of the Purchase of the goods and services resulting from investment projects in BOT investment schemes where the government acts as the sole purchaser





Tax Exemption

1. Agriculture

The income derived from all agriculture and horticulture activities, animal rearing, fish farming, bee-keeping, poultry, husbandry, fishing, sericulture, revival of pastures and forests, is exempt from payment of tax. All the natural and juridical persons (Iranian and Foreign) can enjoy the above-mentioned exemption.

2. Salary Income Exemption

Equal to %50 of the salary tax of the employees working in less developed regions, as per the list prepared by the Plan and Budget Organization shall be exempted. All natural persons (Iranian and foreign) working in the less developed regions can enjoy tax exemption until their workplace is included in the above-mentioned list.

3. Sport, Service and Education Activities Exemption

The income derived from education and training activities by non-profit schools, whether elementary, junior or senior secondary, technical or vocational, or by non-profit universities and higher education institutions, well as the income derived from taking care of mental and physical disabled individuals by the institution engaged in such activities, shall be exempt from tax, provided the aforesaid institution having permission from the respective authorities. The income of sporting institutions and clubs having permission from the physical training organizations shall also be exempt from tax, if it is derived purely from sport activities.

4. Cultural Activities Exemption

All cultural, artistic, and journalistic activities licensed by Iran's Islamic

Culture and Guidance Ministry are tax-free. All the natural and juridical persons (Iranian and Foreign) can enjoy the said exemption by observing its regulations

5. Cooperative Exemption

Equal to %100 of the income derived from cooperative companies formed by villagers, tribesmen, farmers, hunters, workers, clerks and students are tax-free.

6. Export Exemption

- Equal to 100 % of income derived from Export of Services, Non-oil goods, Agricultural Products and %20 of income derived from Export of Non-Processed goods
- Equal to %100 of the income derived from exportation of different goods which have been, or will be, imported to Iran on transit, and are exported without making any changes in the substance there of, or doing any works on them, shall be Exempt from Tax.

7. Handicraft Exemption

- The revenues of handicraft and carpet weaving workshops and the relevant cooperative firms and production unions are tax-free.
- All real and juridical persons can enjoy above mentioned exemption by observing the regulations.

8. Production Activities Tax Exemption

Income Tax with Rate of %0.0	Duration of Exemption
(Industry, Mining & Services (Hospital & Hotels	years 5
Industry, Mining & Services (Hospital & Hotels) in Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones	years 7
Industry, Mining & Services (Hospital & Hotels) in Less Developed Areas	years 10
Industry, Mining & Services (Hospital & Hotels) in Less Developed Areas located at Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones	years 13
of Income derived from Agricultural Activities %100	Perpetual
of Income derived from Export of Services Non-oil goods, 100% Agricultural Products and %20 of Income derived from Export of Non - Processed goods	Perpetual

In companies with more than 50 employees, in case of increasing the employment volume up to %50 in comparison to last year, one-year exemption will be added to the duration of exemptions period (mentioned in above schedule).

In the case that foreign companies with reliable Brand produce goods using production capacity of Iranian companies and export at least %20 of total production, can enjoy %50 on Tax Rate for the income derived from sales of products (it means total tax rate will be 12.5 % instead of %25) after the end of above duration.

Customs Exemption

- Exemption of production line machineries and equipment from payment of customs tariffs (first-hand machineries)
- The return of customs tariffs paid for the import of raw materials used for the production of export commodities

Investment Facilities and Incentives in Free and Industrial Zones

- 20-year tax exemption for all economic activities
- No visa requirement for the entrance of foreigners
- No limitation on the transferring foreign currency

For further inquiries and assistance, prospective investors are warmly welcomed by the management and staff of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI). Feel free to reach out using the following contact details:

Tel: (9821+) 39902485, 39902486, 39902488, 39902115, 39902001, 33967755, 33967075, 33967749, 33967762

Fax: (9821+) 33967864, 33967774

Website: www.investiniran.ir

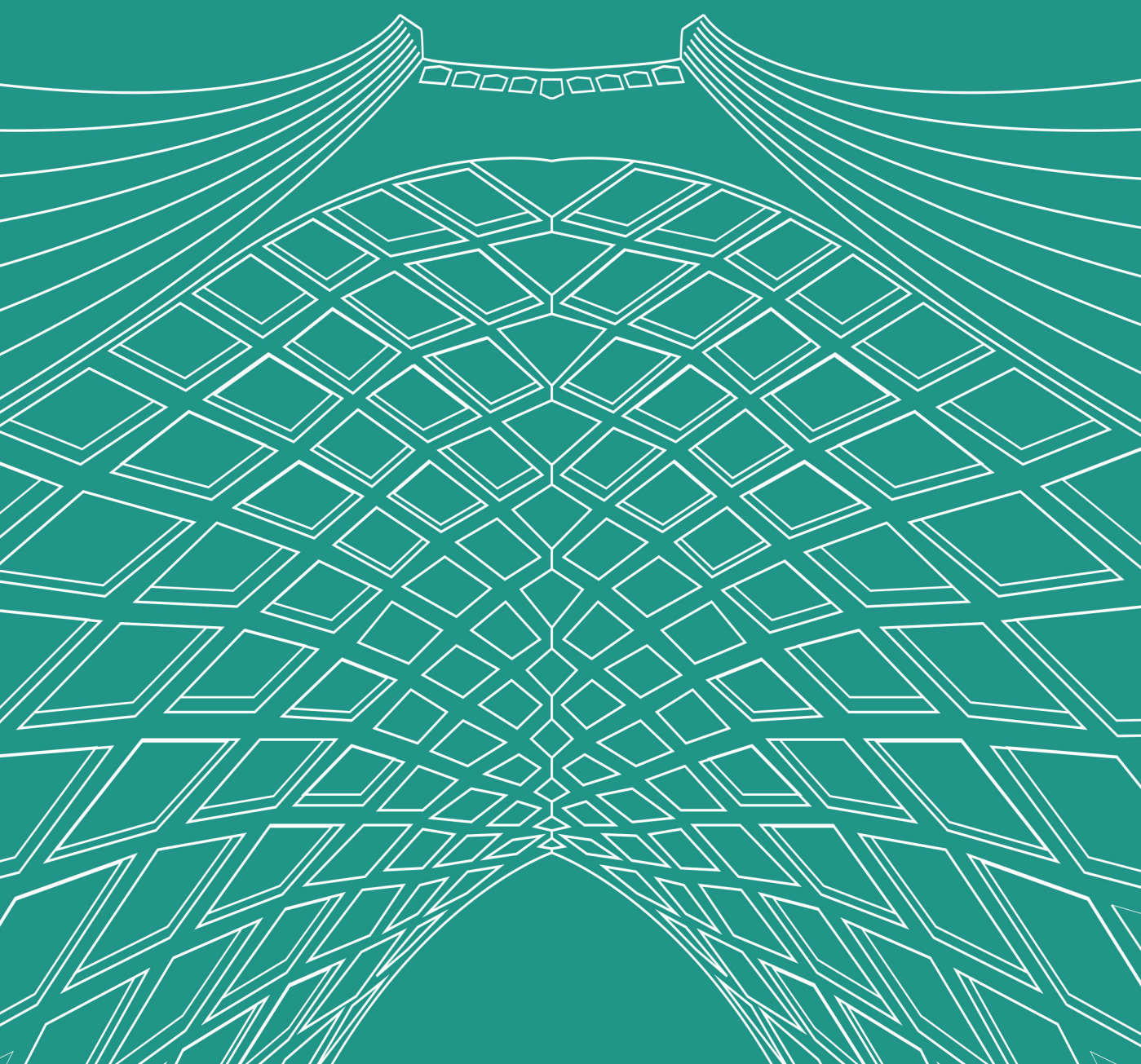
Address: OIETAI, Building No 4, Davar Street, 15 Khordad Square, Tehran, Iran.



Following the national development policy with an emphasis on realization of knowledge-based economy, compared with other oil-rich countries in the economy with the lowest dependence on oil and gas incomes and in line with the national innovation system, Iran is moving steadily towards a knowledge-based and innovation-based economy and seeks to reinforce its productive capacity, encourage international collaboration to exchange technology and engage more actively in innovative activities to foster economic growth and sustainable development.



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