

*In the name of God  
the Compassionate, the Merciful!*



**Iran**  
**&**  
**Iran Culture House**  
New Delhi

**At a Glance**

**Office of the Cultural Counsellor  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
New Delhi**

.....  
Iran & Iran Culture House, New Delhi at a Glance  
.....

*Edited by : Maryam Namdari*

**Executive Manager : Ghasim Muradi  
Designing of the cover page: Aisha Fozia**

**Published by:**  
**Iran Culture House**  
18, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001  
Tel.: 23383232-4, Fax: 23387547  
newdelhi@icro.ir  
<http://newdelhi.icro.ir>  
**First Edition:** New Delhi, 2009

**All Rights Reserved**



**Alhoda**  
**International Publishers & Distributors**

Printed at: Alpha Art, Noida (U.P.)

## Contents

Preface .....	9
Iran Culture House, New Delhi .....	11
Activities of Iran Culture House, New Delhi.....	11
- Library .....	11
- Film and Art Division .....	12
- Persian Research Centre.....	13
- Public Relations Department.....	14
- Information Centre.....	14
- Distribution Unit.....	14
- Persian Language Teaching Centre .....	15
- Cultural Counsellors and Directors.....	17
- Address .....	18
Iran at a Glance .....	19
- General Information.....	20
- Nature of the Population .....	20
- Big Cities .....	21
- Important Seaports.....	21
- The Language and Script .....	21
- Other Languages.....	21
- Religions and Their Followers .....	21
- Official Time .....	22
- National holiday .....	22
- The Currency.....	23
- Main Gifts .....	24
- Places to Visit.....	24
- Healthcare Suggestions for Entering and Staying .....	25
- Important Hotels.....	25
- Emergency Phone Number.....	26

- Prohibited Items.....	26
- Customs Rules.....	27
- Regulations of Getting Visa.....	27
- Few Useful Points about Traveling.....	28
- Important and Famous Shopping Places and Centers.....	28
- Transportation.....	29
- The Ways (Roads... etc):.....	29
- Important Airports.....	29
- Natural Resources.....	30
Geographical Situation.....	31
- Geographical Position.....	31
- Neighborhood Countries.....	31
- Area.....	31
- Length of Boundaries.....	31
- The Weather.....	32
Economical Condition.....	33
- Overall Information.....	33
- Economical System.....	36
- Banking System.....	38
- Duties of The Banking Systems.....	39
- Important Economical Centers.....	41
- Political Infrastructure.....	42
Social Condition.....	44
- Customs and Ceremonies.....	44
- Status of Women.....	55
Condition of Culture and Education.....	59
- Iranian Culture and Civilization.....	59
- General Education System.....	61
- Literary Men and Poets.....	63
Sightseeing and Pilgrimage Places.....	65
- Buried Prophets in Iran.....	65
- Imam Reza Tomb.....	66
- Tomb of Holy Masoumeh.....	68
- Shahcheragh.....	69

- Abdul Azim Hussain.....	70
- The Home and Shrine of Imam Khomeini and Behesht e Zahra.....	72
- Jmakaran Mosque.....	73
- Sightseeing Places .....	74
- Historical Places .....	74
- Percentage of Followers of Religions .....	92
- Christians .....	93
- Jewish .....	94
- Zoroastrians.....	94
- Percentage of the Four Faiths of Islam .....	94
- The Unity of Shia and Sunni .....	95



## **Preface**

Iran is the cradle of civilization and culture that has had and continues to have its impact on the world for more than 3000 years of written history, a thrilling combination of antiquity and modernization guaranteed to fascinate every one.

Iran is an Islamic Republic and the present system of Government was established in 1979 by a popular vote of 98.2%. Based on 2,500 years of the Iranian civilization and 1400 years of Islamic Culture, moral and social values are the most important elements in shaping today's Iran.

Two neighboring civilizations i.e. Iran and India enjoys vast cultural and social relations during the last 2500 years, which is continuing till date.

Persian was the court language of India for more than 800 years and millions of manuscripts have been written in Persian. It is important for every historian to have a knowledge of Persian specially to know about the Medieval History and culture of India

Iran Culture House, New Delhi has already organized various Refresher Courses in the Persian department of different universities, colleges, religious schools and seminaries.

The Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi is performing various activities in order to promote cordiality, proximity, mutual

understanding and cultural cooperation among the peoples in India and Iran in line with the principles of our cultural heritage.

The Indo-Iran Society after a gap of 30 years has been rejuvenated and reactivated, which we think will surely play a vital role in strengthening the closer bonds and ties between India and Iran. This society is also publishing Indo-Iran journal for the scholars and well wishers.

In order to enrich the Islamic knowledge and to know the views of scholars, the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi is regularly publishing a quarterly research Urdu journal 'Rah-e-Islam'. Till now 209 volumes have already been published.

We would like to collaborate with the different important cultural organizations for organizing various cultural activities as we have done by doing a MoU with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, etc.

On the occasion of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the victory of Islamic Revolution of Iran, we take the privilege of presenting before you with our humble effort and we are sure that you will enjoy the reading of this booklet.

**Dr. Abdolhamid Ziaei**  
Director  
Iran Culture House  
New Delhi

## **Iran Culture House, New Delhi**

Iran Culture House, New Delhi since 1975 is working for the promotion of mutual understanding and cultural co-operation among different peoples in India and Iran in line with the principles of common cultural heritage.

Our aim is to create enduring friendship between Iran and other cultures, and we do this by creating opportunities to connect with the latest skills, ideas and experience from Iran.

Our activities in the field of culture are to promote mutual understanding among peoples of different cultures, to preserve and promote cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and to enhance the cultural activities and creativity.

### **Activities of Iran Culture House, New Delhi**

#### **Library**

The Culture House has a very rich library consisting of more than 40,000 books in the field of Persian language and literature. Besides books on human sciences, history of Iran, Islamic studies, world history, religions,

Sufism and philosophy, a large number of books on social sciences, political science, culture and art are also available for readers and scholars. Besides a good number of bilingual and multilingual Persian dictionaries have also been obtained for the benefit of scholars. The membership of the library is open to all. The working days of library are from Monday to Friday i.e. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Film and Art Division**

The film and art division of the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi consists of video and audio tapes of classical music, art books, calligraphy models, attractive sceneries, handicrafts and various prominent Iranian films. In addition, film festivals and cultural exhibitions in various parts of India are also organised by this unit of the Iran Culture House, New Delhi. This division in collaboration with Federation of Film Society, Cine Maya and other prominent centre used to organize film festivals.

If any important film center request for Iranian Films to be screened in the film festival, as it was recently done in Goa Film festival, we provide them films through proper channel. Children Film Festival was hold in Chandigarh, with the cooperation of Iran Culture House.

### **Persian Research Centre**

Persian Research Centre, which has five thousands of reference and research books concerning various fields of Persian language and literature in Persian, Urdu and English, is always open to teachers of Persian language scholars and lovers of Persian language in India, who are keenly interested in their research programmes. More than 300 Persian Manuscripts are present in the Centre with 300 Microfilms. There are 4000 CDs of Manuscripts for the beneficial of scholars and researchers.

This center is regularly organizing monthly lecturers on Bidel. All are cordially invited to attend it.

While publishing catalogues of Persian books available in some of the prominent libraries in India, the Centre has established co-ordination with various Indian libraries in the context of research activities. The Centre is busy in editing a fourlingual dictionary (Persian, English, Hindi and Urdu) and it also publishes a quarterly magazine known as "Qand-e Parsi", 42 volumes have already been published. This quarterly magazine can be provided to Persian teachers, scholars and head of Persian Centers. Not only this centre also feels happy in extending co-operation to the research scholars writing doctoral and post

doctoral thesis and dissertation on any aspect of Persian language and literature.

### **Public Relations Department**

The department of Public Relation of Iran Culture House arranges meetings with prominent personalities, intellectuals, cultural experts from the domain of Indian art and culture. Organising seminars, round table discussions and cultural programmes for Iranians residing in India is also an essential component of the activities of this department. This department also organizes Symposium, Book release function and special award ceremony to the Persian Scholars for their outstanding contributions in the field of Persian language and literature.

### **Information Centre**

The centre provides necessary information about Iranian art, culture and all other facts of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also provides information pertaining to different cultural programmes, Membership for the library, subscriptions of journals & etc.

### **Distribution Unit**

This unit is responsible for providing Persian books, periodicals, magazines and journals to the Persian loving people figuring on the mailing list of the Culture House. If some body wants to become subscriber of

"Rah-e-Islam", he should fill the form collected from Iran Culture House & submit it with Rs. 300/- and then distribution unit will send the respective magazine.

### **Persian Language Teaching Centre**

This unit is responsible for organizing primary, secondary and advance level Persian courses for interested students. In addition, it also organizes Persian Research Course in collaboration with All India Persian Teacher's Association, Persian departments of the universities exchanges of scholars and students between India and Iran, also used to take place

The Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to organize a fortnightly or monthly lecture on Indo-Iran Historical & Cultural Relations with the cooperation of Indian Council for Historical Research and department of History of Central universities.

On the persistent insistence of the scholars and poem loving people, the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has organized a scholarly discussion on the Hafiz Shirazi poems some month's back.

On every first Wednesday of the month instead of Masnavi Khani, there was a scholarly discussion on the poems of Hafiz Shirazi, the shining star of the Persian literature, at the Conference Hall of the Iran Culture House, New Delhi, in which eminent intellectual personalities and scholars have

expressed their views on the poetic services of this great scholar who had contributed to the Persian and Iranian culture during the 77 years of his prolific life.

Hafiz was one of the rare poets capable of expressing the lover's grief, the feeling of burning butterflies, a candle's sigh and a nightingale's love with great eloquence. He has preserved his words in an ocean of accessible and unique definitions and images. From his large collection of poems, nearly 400 well-known verses has so far been re-written, printed and translated into tens of other languages.

One is welcome to visit Iran Culture House, New Delhi to see the books and if desire can select it. Holy Quran in English, books for learning Persian language and literature, arts books are also available.

To enrich the vista of our aims and objectives the Culture House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi has done MoU with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and MoU between Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

## **Cultural Counsellors and Directors**

of Iran Culture House,  
New Delhi  
from 1976 onwards

1. Dr. Fathullah Mujtabaie,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1976
2. Reza Alavi Shushtari,  
Director – 1978
3. Ali Reza Aghazamani,  
Director – 1980
4. Askari Rad,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1983
5. Syed Mohsen Shahangian,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1987
6. Noor Mohammedian,  
Director - 1990
7. Mohammad Baqir Karimian,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1992
8. Farhad Palizdar,  
Director – 1994
9. Seyed Mohsin Miri,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1996
10. Dr. Mohammad Reza Baqeri,  
Director – 1997
11. Issa Reza Zadeh,  
Cultural Counsellor – 1999
12. Mohammad Hasan Mozaffari,  
Director – 2001

13. Jalal Tamleh,  
Director – 2002
14. Murteza Shafi Shakeeb,  
Cultural Counsellor – 2005
15. Mohammad Hussain Mozaffari,  
Director – 2006
16. Dr. Karim Najafi,  
Cultural Counsellor – 2008 on wards
17. Dr. Abdol Hamid Ziaei,  
Director – 2007 on wards

Address :

**Iran Culture House**

18, Tilak Marg

New Delhi-110001

Telephone : 0091-11-23383232, 33, 34

Fax : 0091-11-23387547

Email : [newdelhi@icro.ir](mailto:newdelhi@icro.ir)

Website : <http://newdelhi.icro.ir>

**IRAN**  
**AT A GLANCE**

## **General Information**

**Name of the Country:** Islamic Republic of Iran<sup>1</sup>

**National Day:** 12<sup>th</sup>/Farvardin/ (1358) dated by Iranian calendar and named as the Republic Day of Islamic of Iran.

**Population:** 70/3 million up to the year 2004

**Capital:** Tehran

**The Flag:** It contains three horizontal lines; green colored one is above, red one is below and the white one is in the middle. The national symbol which is the word ALLAH, is written in the middle of the white line with red color. The statement of ALLAH-O-AKBAR means God is great has been repeated in two lines in the above of red line and below of green line.

### **Nature of the Population**

45% of the population is below the age of 14 years. 52% are between the age of 15 to 64, which is of 17,300,000 male and 16,731,000 female, 3% are above the age of 65 which contains 1,300,000 male and 1,250,000 female.

---

<sup>1</sup> More the 98% of people in Iran voted the “Islamic Republic of Iran” in a public referendum.

### **Big Cities**

Iran contains 30 states which among them, Mashhad, Tabriz, Esfahan, Shiraz, Hamedan, Yazd, Qom, Ahvaz, Kerman, Ardebil, Orumiye, and Abadan are the important cities.

### **Important Seaports**

Abbas seaport, Bushehr seaport, Chabahar seaport, Khorramshahr Seaport, in south and the bank of Omman Sea and Torkaman seaport, Noshahr seaport, Anzali seaport, and Astara seaport in north are the most important seaports of Iran.

### **The Language and Script**

The official language of Iran is Farsi (Persian), which people speak it in several different accents.

### **Other Languages**

Except Farsi we have other languages like 26% Turkish with different accents, 9% Kurdish, 2% Lorish, and 1% Arabic. Many educated people also can speak English.

### **Religions and Their Followers**

A huge part of Iranian people are Jafari Muslims with million followers. The percentage wise is 95% Jafari Muslims, 4%

Sunni Muslims, and 1% is other religions like Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians.

### **Official Time**

The official time of Iran is half hour ahead of Greenwich Time.

### **National holiday**

- 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Farvardin, the First 5 days of Iranian year (solar), which is known as Noroz (New Day) – 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 12<sup>th</sup> of Farvardin, The Day of Republic of the Islamic of Iran (National Day)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Farvardin, (the nature s day)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Khordad, (4<sup>th</sup> June, death anniversary of Imam Khomeini (R.A) )
- 15<sup>th</sup> Khordad (5<sup>th</sup> June, the 15<sup>th</sup> khordad protest day)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bahman (11<sup>th</sup> February, the Victory of the Islamic Revolution)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Esfand (19<sup>th</sup> March, Nationalization of Oil Industry)
- Eid ul-Fitr (Islamic festival)
- Eid e Qorban (Islamic festival)
- Birth days of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), Holy Imam Ali (A.S) and Holy Imam Reza (A.S).
- 27<sup>th</sup> Rajab (Day of Mabas of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) )
- 21st Ramadan (Day of Imam Ali's Martyrdom)

- 15<sup>th</sup> Shaban (Birth day of Holy Imam Mahdi (A.S.))
- 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Moharam (Tasua & Ashura)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Safar (Arbaeen e Hussein)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Safar (Death Anniversary of Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Imam Hassan (A.S))
- 29<sup>th</sup> Safar (Death of Imam Reza (A.S))
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jamadi Al-sani (Death of holy Fatemeh Zahra (S.A.))

Other religions in Iran are Christians, Jewish and Zoroastrians. They have their own holidays.

The working days of the week are from Saturday to Wednesday. Thursday and Friday are weekly holidays. The official year of Iran is, Hejira [or the Muslim era] computed according to a solar calendar and we use Islamic calendar in order to synchronize the religious affairs.

### **The Currency**

The currency of Iran is Rial which is shown by RI or RIS, but for shopping, buying... etc, Toman is used which is 10 rials.

Components of the currency:

One toman is equal to 10 rials. We have notes of, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000,

10000, 20000 & 50000 rials which are printed in different sizes. The coins are as follows: 10, 20, 50, 100, 250 and 500 rials. One American dollar is near about 9000 rials.

The phone (ISD) code is + 98

### **Main Gifts**

Main gifts of Iran are: Farsh (carpet), handicraft like Khatamkari (Inlaid work) and sweets of Iran like the Isfahan Gaz, the Qom Sohan, and also pistachio, saffron and Golab (Rose-water, aque rosae).

### **Places to visit**

- 1- Cities: Shiraz, Isfahan, Tehran, Mashahd, Ardebil, Tabriz, Kermanshah, Yazd, Gilan, Mazandaran, Kerman and Islands of Kish and Qeshm.
- 2- Historical places: National Museum, wild life Museum, Carpet Museum, Jewelry Museum, Saad Abaad, Niavaran and Golestan Palaces Museum in Tehran- Birds Garden and Wank Church in Esfahan- The Hill of Hegmataneh (tappeye hegmataneh), Alisadr Cave, Tomb of Abu Ali Sina in Hamedan- Takht e Jamshid (perspolis), Tomb of Hafiz (Hafizeyeh), Tomb of Saadi, Shah Cheragh in Shiraz and so

many other historical places in other cities.

- 3- Natural place: because of unique geographical situation, there are many natural places to visit, especially in north (the bank of Caspian Sea), northwest and west (mountain feet of Zagros Mountains), that has been given a great attention by government because of being a tourism place.

### **Healthcare Suggestions for Entering and Staying**

No vaccination is needed while entering Iran. For those who want to travel to desert areas it is suggested to use sunscreen creams and for those traveling to cold areas and states like eastern Azarbayejan (Azarbayejan Sharghi) or western Azarbayejan (Azarbayejan Gharbi) and Ardebil it is necessary to wear warm clothes.

### **Important Hotels**

- Azadi, Esteghlal Homa, Simorgh and Laleh hotels in Tehran,
- Abbasi, Homa and Esteghlal Hotels in Esfahan,
- Homa, Azadi and Esteghlal hotel Shiraz,
- Qasr, Atrak, Azadi, Atlas, Homa and Jahan hotels in Mashahd,

- Melli, Marmar and Toseh in Tabriz

### **Emergency Phone Numbers**

- Fire Fighting Center, 125
- International and Domestic Flight Information, 199
- Tehran Help Center (Chopper service), 115
- Police, 110
- Interpol (international police) 22253030
- Automatic clock machine, 119 (by calling it you get to know about the time)
- Foreign and passport affairs, 6693555
- Weather Information, 134
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 61151
- Tourism affair, 892212-5

### **Prohibited Items**

- Selling, buying, carrying and using any kind of addictive materials (drugs) and weapons is against the law in Iran and it has serious punishment and penalty.
- Exporting any antiques, old and historical items without permission letter.
- Buying, selling and carrying alcoholic drinks.

### **Customs Rules**

- While entering and exiting, the person has to check your hand-carries and bags. Items like video cam, still camera, cassette, watch, perfume, cosmetic, laptop do not have to pay entrance tax.
- Carrying alcohol, drugs, weapons, radiate equipments, magazines containing porn or +18 materials and any other items considered illegal according to Islam are prohibited.
- While exiting the country, taking handicrafts, rugs and carpets smaller than 3 square-meters is allowed. Exporting antiques and old historical items is prohibited. For exporting musical instruments, you must carry the permit letter of culture ministry.

### **Regulations of Getting Visa**

Iran's government has made a very easy regulation of visa, in order to have more tourists. For example there is a rule that any foreigner entering any airport of Iran will be issued a tourist visa of 7 days. Citizens of countries like, Busoni, korowais, Saudi Arabia and Turkey can stay up to 3 months by just having a valid passports of their governments.

Citizens of other countries can apply for tourist, business, diplomatic, and reporting

visas, but their passports must be valid and if its validity is less than 6 months, they will not get visa.

### **Few Useful Points about Travelling**

- While travelling to Iran in summer specially in the month of July and August, it is essential to use hat and sunscreen creams and carrying warm and winter clothes is necessary while traveling to northwest and west of Iran in winter because the temperature goes down to minus twenty degrees.
- The electricity is 220 voltages so those using 110 voltage items must use voltage converter.
- Though the tap water of the big cities like Tehran is drinking water, but a still bottle is better.
- Working time of governmental offices and banks are between 8:30 a.m to 16:30 p.m.
- The ladies have to wear Islamic cover (hijab).

### **Important and Famous Shopping Places and Centers**

Shopping centers like Shahrwand, Refah, Etkā, Bazaars and shopping malls like Sadaf, Quaem and Shahrak E Gharb in Tehran are appropriate places for shopping.

## **Transportation**

Buses are the most common vehicle for transportation route, traveling by flight and train is also good. In Tehran city apart from bus and taxi, you can use metro also.

## **The Ways (Roads...etc)**

Ways of Iran can be categorized into water, Air and Roads. These ways connect different parts of Iran to each other and even abroad. Roads are paved roads, sandy roads and railways. The Roads of Iran are around 90 thousand KM. The railways of Iran are from north to south and west to east, the length of this railway network is more than 6 thousand KM.

Waterways are including shipping in Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, Urumey Lake and some parts of Karoon River. Nowadays sea plots of Kish and Qeshm islands and Chabahar city are commercial Freezones.

## **Important airports**

There are 53 airports in Iran out of which 10 are international airports such as: Imam Khomeini, Mehrabad in Tehran, Shiraz, Saari, Kish and Isfahan airports.

### **Natural Resources**

The situation of Iran Plateau and its weather diversity is a reason of having various agricultural outputs. Iran also has a reach mine resources such as Marble mines, Metal mines, Manganese mines, Brimstones mines, Chromate mines, Copper mines, Coal mines.

## **Geographical Position**

### **Geographical Location**

Iran is located in the southwest of Asia, in middle east, at 32 degree of northern width and 53 degree of eastern length of meridian, in the northern hemisphere.

### **Neighbouring Countries**

In northeast, Turkmenistan, Northwest Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nakhjavan Republic, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Turkey in the west.

### **Area**

Iran's area is 1,648,000 square kilometers out which 6,000 square kilometers is covered by internal water and the rest 1,636,000 is earth.<sup>2</sup>

### **Length of Boundaries**

- 992 KM with Turkmenistan in northeast
- 35,432 and 179 KM in northwest with Azerbaijan and Armenia and Nakhjavan respectively.
- 909 and 936 KM with Pakistan and Afghanistan in west respectively.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.daftar.org/far/aboutiran\\_far.asp?lang=far](http://www.daftar.org/far/aboutiran_far.asp?lang=far)

- 740 KM, in north with Caspian Sea, and 2440 KM in south with Persian golf and Oman Sea.

### **The Weather**

Iran has various types of weather due to its unique geographical location. The weather in central parts of Iran is dry and desert. In the west and northern parts of the country you can find humid and semi-moderated weather. Snow fall and rain can be seen in the hilly areas of northwest, Alborz Mountains and northeast of the country more than any other part. In north weather is moderated Mediterranean but in south the weather is hot and humid.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Iran's climate is that you can find four different seasons in a same time in different parts of the country, for instance when there is heavy snow fall in north and central parts, the temperature in south, like Bushehr and Hormozgan cities is between 15 to 28 degree.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://amb-iran.fi/index.php?lang=fa&page=08-0>

## **Economical Condition**

### **Overall Information**

Iran while having 71,000,000 populations, is preparing necessary technical and scientific infrastructure to develop professional human resources in order to increase the development of the country and get more into the global economic. The economic of Iran is passing through semi-traditional into modern, and it is because of the weak economic of the times before Islamic revolution, especially in period of Pahlawi kingdom. Although a lot of income came from selling oil especially in 1960 decade, still no enough investments happened, especially in building Roads, Airports, and most of the oil selling income was spent in purchasing weapon from east, especially United State of America and it led weakness in economic of some other parts, it led people to start living around big cities like Tehran (slums) and industries like agriculture were weakened.

After revolution, the economy faced changes in two stage of time. Right after the revolution the government was the pivotal standpoint of the economic and economic was dependent on sale of oil and due to the war between Iran and Iraq, it was all spent on the

war. After the war, the government of Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani reformed the methods of delayed economic and made the plans of developing private companies, increasing the variety of products, exportation of non-oil products and separating services and industry parts from the government in the framework of five year economical development program. It was while in a same time the government was investing on infrastructure of mega-structures of the country like, building roads especially in unattended parts like small cities and villages...etc, dams or dikes, electricity, so that now only 10 % of the areas are unattended parts which are suffering from unavailability of water, electricity and roads.

At present time and in the starting year of the 4<sup>th</sup> development program, the Islamic Republic of Iran by use of new methods and patterns, is aiming toward the goal of a sound economic base and also making suitable conditions in order to get external properties by encouraging and supporting laws of external properties, aiming to reach the goal of foundation of investments and its support and sponsorship.

Increment of internal impure products and growth of governmental income, that by help of changes in oil markets and correction of taxation rule in previous years, gradual release of economic and infrastructural reformation of rules related to export and investment, has

overallly made a suitable circumstance for economic movement, so that most of the international economic centers like International Bank, International Monetary Center, has tagged Iran's economic a well developing and well growing economic.

Liability of a country which is one of the main factors for judging the situation countries, in Iran is less than 10% of impure internal products and that's why Iran has taken the attention of the finance and credit companies. The International Monetary Center in its last report stated that the financial resources of Iran in the year 2004 have had the growth of 300,000,000 dollar compared to previous years. The International Monetary Center has the prediction of 6.6 % growth for Iran's economic in last year, value of oil and non-oil exportation of Iran in the year 2004 is 44.2 billion dollars and value of importation of Iran has had a little increase and has reached around 45.6 billion dollars. This report has evaluate the income of government 27 % of the value of unpure products which is 15.5 % is of oil exportation and remaining 11.5 % is of no-oil exports, indeed the quota of oil in the budget of the government has had the decrement of 8%.

There has been an outstanding movement in the field of export, it has been in such a way that the value of export in Iran in the past year has experienced a noticeable growth, this

increment contains 77% of industry and 67% of petrochemistry.

There has been a wide investment on oil, gas and barrels of oil per day, and according to the plans and program, up to 2025 Iran will be the first producer of petrochemistry products, second producer of oil for OPEC and second producer of CNG (GAS).

### **The Budget (income and expenditure) of the Country**

The income of Iran in the year 2004 reached the amount of 44.34 billion dollar, while the expenditure was 45.71 billion dollar.<sup>4</sup>

The main income resources of Iran are income of oil trade and its derivations like CNG gas, taxation of car Production Industry, incomes of exportation of fruit and dry fruit (Pistachio, raisins and date), carpet and caviar.

### **Economical System**

According to 44<sup>th</sup> provision of the Constitutional law system, the economical system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on 3 segments of governmental, cooperative foundation and private, with a correct and disciplined patterns and plans.

**Governmental Sector** : It includes all the big industries, external trade, mines, banking,

---

<sup>4</sup> Iran Informative data year Book, Autumn 2004,

insurance, power provision, dikes and water supply, networks, TV and Radio, Post, Airlines, navigations Ways and Roads,, Railways...etc that are in hand of the government as a public property.

**Private Sector:** contains, parts of agriculture, stockbreeding, industry, trade and serviced that are complementary of governmental and cooperation economical activities.

**Cooperative Sector:** the cooperation ministry is on top of this sector, which was founded after revolution and its activities are mostly in services, agriculture, trade and industry.

If the possession in these three sectors is correspondence with other principles of this field and does not exceed and cross the regulations of Islam and leads the development of economic and be harmless to society, will be supported by the Constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the beginning of April 2005, his Excellency the supreme leader of Islamic Republic of Iran by the statement on 44<sup>th</sup> of Constitutional law let the chief chairman of three sectors to make private parts in governmental sectors, that can help Iran's economy to be more corresponding to the world-wide economic.

## **Banking System**

Banking activities are all done according to the central bank. The central bank is in fact the main bank of the country which adjusts the monetary politics, retains the value of currency and retains the payment balances.

## **The Aim of Central Bank**

- Establishment of the monetary and credit system, on the basis of truth and Islamic justice in order to adjust the right circulation of the money and credit to improve the economic of the country.
- Activities in order to reach the economical aims, politics and programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the help of money and credit,
- Creation of required facilities in order to expand the public cooperation and Qarzol Hassaneh (money loaned without interest) by taking liberal founds, amassed, saving and unit them to provide the circumstance for investments in order to perform the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> principles of the 43rd section of the preliminary rules.
- Retaining the currency value and balance establishment in equilibrium of payments and facilities of trade interchanges.

- Facilitating the affairs of payments, receiving, interchanges, transaction and other facilities that are responsibilities of Bank.

### **Duties of the Banking Systems**

- Doing all the foreign exchange banking operations and commitments or grantee of foreign exchange payment, according to rules and regulation.
- Observation on gold transaction and foreign exchange and emanation of the currency and foreign exchange and adjust the regulation related to them, according to the law.
- Doing the operation related to the ownership document, according to the law.
- Establishment of payment agreements in monetary and trade agreements between the countries and governments.
- Emanation and acceptance of foreign exchange and Rial (currency of the countries) by sections for customers.
- Agency and administratorship services and faculties according to the rules and regulations.

### **Taxation system**

Taxation system has two types in Iran, “tax on properties” and “tax on incomes”. Taxation on properties includes yearly tax of landed properties, tax on utilized or cultivated farmland, tax on agricultural incomes, tax on salary, tax on incomes jobs and incomes of legal people.

### **According to law, people mentioned below have to pay taxation**

1. All the property owners, including veracious or legal people, depending on their properties in Iran.
2. Any veracious person who has Iranian citizenship, depending on their properties in Iran or abroad.
3. Any veracious Iranian person who has a citizenship of another country, depending on the incomes he gets from Iran.
4. Any veracious Iranian person, depending on their incomes from Iran or abroad.
5. Any foreign (whether veracious or legal) depending on the incomes he gets from Iran and also depending on incomes from licenses and rights or trainings and technical helps and also movies shows that make them earn.

### **Important Economical Centers**

- Tehran and Karaj in Tehran state: car manufacturing companies like IranKhodro, Saipa, ShahabKhodro, ParsKhodro, Stock Exchange of Tehran, Refinery of Tehran, Iran's Export Development Center and Trade.
- Esfahan: Mojtaba Fulad Mobarake (Steel manufacturing), Nuclear Industries, Zoob E Ahan (Iron Melting industries) and handicrafts.
- Mashhad: Food Industry and Composite Manufacturing, Vehicle Components Industry, Petrochemistry Industries.
- Arak: big part of car industries of the country.
- Kerman: Sarcheshmeh Copper Manufacturing, Kerman Car Manufacturing Industries.
- Bushehr; Pars Energy Power Production, Oil Rich Southern Pars and Shipbuilding Industries.
- Khozestan: Imam Khomeini port, Imam Khomeini Petrochemistry Complex, Trade Freezones<sup>5</sup>, Chabahar, Qeshm, Kish and economic freezones<sup>6</sup>, Pars Energy and Power in Bushehr and Shiraz electronic and electricity, Amir Abad Behshahr port,

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.itto.org/freezones/trade.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.itto.org/freezones/economic.htm>

Anzali port, Bushehr port, Khoramshahr port, Shahid Rajaei port, Jolfa, Sirjan, Sarakhs, Khozestan and Salafchegan) are also in list of important economical centers. In freezones, there are rules such as releasing from customhouse with special condition (imported goods of those freezones are free from tax). There are rules for investments too, and even incentive centers with special services for importing and exporting goods.

### **Political infrastructure**

The government of Iran is Islamic and Republic, which the nation gained it by Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini (R.A.) and in a referendum of 11-01-1358 (dated according to A.H.) got the vote of 98.2 %. The Constitutional law of Iran was assembled and approved in the same year and political infrastructure of Iran was founded and determined, in which the leadership as a Juris consult was the first person. According to the Constitutional law, the President had less executive power and prime minister as the chairman of the government had the highest executive power and he was the one, responding and replying to the parliament. But in the changes and reformations happened in the year 1368 A.H. the political infrastructure

was changed in a way that there is no Prime Minister and the highest executive power is in the hands of the President.

According to the 6<sup>th</sup> principle of Constitutional law which was approved in the year 1358 A.H and corrected in the year 1368 A.H all the governmental posts from leader to the state chiefs and everyone else are selected directly or indirectly by the votes of the people.

## **Social Condition**

### **Customs and Ceremonies**

Iranian has various ancient customs and traditions and it is because of their culturally rich history. Religion has always been an important part of customs, traditions and ceremonies of Iranians. Most of the customs of Iran are a mixture of national and religious traditions. As an example of the customs and tradition we can mention the following:

- Hospitality is one of the main characteristics of the Iranians, and this fact is known to everyone. For Iranians, guest is “God’s Friend” and according to Islam, Iranians considers a great value for guest and they believe that the guest brings the bread of the day to the host’s house.
- Respect to the elders is one of the main characteristics of Iranians. Respecting elders is so necessary that in public places like metro or bus younger offer their seats to elders, children also have an outstanding respect for their parents, while sitting with them they have proper manner of sitting. Even after

marriage they keep visiting their parents often.

- Greeting is one of the good characteristics of Iranians, and they always try to be the first person that starts the greeting. Parents teach their children from childhood to greet elders.
- Iranians have especial respect for those who passed away, and they always wish them peace and forgiveness. Every Friday night they remember them and they go to cemetery and pray for them and give charities. They also have yearly remembrance for them, and even for great religious people who were alive in past time and they have especial cemetery for them that the most important one of them is “Ashoora” and “Moharram” that is held all over the country.<sup>7</sup>
- “Saadaat” who are descendants of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) have a great respect among Iranians. Iranians call them with the word “Seyyed” and some of them wear a green cap as sign.
- Religious leaders also have special respect, and those who also reach a high level in religious studies are respected and appreciated.

---

<sup>7</sup> Full explanation in “religious ceremonies” chapter.

- Iranians respect martyrs and those who were part of war to defend the country and even their family.
- One of the traditions of Iran is to help poor people in religious, cultural and financial aspects. Taking care of poor and parentless people is not only important for common people but also for governmental organizations and institutions that have been founded for that purpose only.
- When some natural disaster like earthquake, storm or flood happens, everyone goes to help the victims and as it is written in holy Quran “this duty must be considered as a social and religious duty”.
- Neighborhood is very important for Iranian and in some cases they are even closer than family relatives. As a religious matter and as the great Prophet Mohammad said: be respectful to your neighborhoods and consult with them even while choosing house. But we have to mention that modernization and mechanization of life has influenced the culture of peoples and the neighborhood life is not as before.
- Marriage of youth is considered as one of the most important customs of Iran. In families, parents and elder brothers

and sisters also help in marriage of the younger brothers and sisters. Marriage ceremony is one of the most important ceremonies of Iran that has its own customs. First the boy's family proposes the girl and after that the engagement ceremony will happen and the priest will do that, after this bride and groom are religiously married. There will be a tablecloth spread, which is known as engagement tablecloth, which will contain holy Quran, mirror, greens, walnut, a bowl of water and eggs. Bride and groom are both covered with a white cloth above their heads and two piece of sugarloaf that are robbed to each other above that white clothe (above their heads). This sugarloaf is considered as the sweetness of their life together. The custom of this ceremony is such that he bride's family according to their financial support and social class, will gift the necessary furniture stuff for living, and this is called "Jahiziyeh" or trousseau.

Dowry system also has its own custom in Iran, which is considered as a religious and statutory fact, it is an amount of money, usually gold, silver or anything else, which is gifted to the bride by groom at the time of

engagement, that will be a debit on him and he will pay it whenever demanded by the bride. The amount of dowry depends on the both family's social class, age and loveliness of the bride. After engagement ceremony, the marriage ceremony's day will be finalized by both families' agreement and it will be usually in one of the days which is considered as a holy day by the Iranians. In some of the families there will be "Hanabandan" ceremony, just before the marriage ceremony which is a religious custom in which they put Henna (Egyptian privet) in hands of bride and groom and wish them a happy ever after.

While baby birth, they hold a feast and they perform "Azan" the religious stanza in her/his ear. It is also a custom that they usually name their children by the names of one of the religious priest such as Prophet, his sons...etc, hoping that they will resurrect with them. According to the latest information, the name "Mohammad" is the most admirer and use among the men and after that Ali, Hosein, Mahdi, Hassan...etc and for women the first name would be "Fatemeh" and after that "Zahra, Maryam, Masoomeh..." would be the most admirable names. Out of two top names, most of them are directly related to religious believe which shows that Iranian people are deeply religious.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.baztab.com/news/2778.php>

Traveling also has its own customs, like passing the travellers below the holy Quran while they are leaving; they kiss the holy Quran and put on their head before they leave. People believe that this will bring a safe journey for travellers and they will arrive their destination safely. They also reach the way by which they left, because they say this means they will be safely back. The travellers will bring back the special gift of the place where they travelled, and it is from the depth of their religious believes, as the great prophet Mohammad said that, traveller while coming back, must bring a gift of that place, even if it is not financially noticeable.

Apart of all these customs, which all have some religious customs too, Sacrificing is one of them. Iranians for keeping away the disasters and bad events, sacrificing a sheep and distributing the meat among friends and relatives and give some of it to poor people. Another religious believe is carrying religious prayers and keep praying, like trip prayer which is a prayer to avoid bad events and disaster in trips.

Charity is another custom of Iranians, every morning before starting the day they always give some amount of money to poor people and the reason behind it is that, they believe that this will increase their income and keep the bad events away. Iranians even do the same while going to trip and every month also.

Another type of charity they do is called “endowing” in which they give their properties to public people to use for certain period of time, like farms...etc.

The income of this charity will be handed over to the religious priest for its best uses in religious purpose.

Another ceremony is “Jashn E Taklif” which is a ceremony for the youth entering the religious age or the age from which they have to do all the religious acts. They will be doing prayer, and keeping fast and other religious acts. It is interesting to know that for younger under the religious age, there is a fast called “Rozeyeh Kalle Gonjeshki”. In this fast, parents in order to encourage their children for keeping fast, teach them to eat nothing between breakfast to lunch and lunch to dinner, and at the end the parents will give them a present.

In the month of “Ramadan” all the food centers, like restaurant...etc, are closed till the time of evening Azan, after which they break their fast, and it is because of how people believe in religious and religious matters. Restaurants between the cities would not be close because from a religious point, those travellers are not considered to fast.

Iranians are very conscious about religious festivals and ceremonies and they attend all of them. They are also sensitive about religious places. Everyone considers them as a holy

places, they do not even talk loudly when they are there, because they believe that there should be no talk of this mortal world, it must be all prayer and talks about the great God.

We can say that Iran is a religious country, in which there are many mosques, religious schools, collages and centers and even religious historical places, on top of which there are tombs' of Imam Ali Ebne Moosal Reza in Mashhad city and tomb of Holy Masoome, his sister, in Qom city where everyone goes for giving respect and their prayers. Even villages in Iran have mosque and priest. Effects of following religion can be seen among peopel.<sup>9</sup> In the pray time all the mosques will be full of people and you hear Azan in every road and street. Friday Prayer (Namaz Juma) is very important for Iranians and the Hijab (religious cover) is kept.

Using alcoholic drinks is prohibited and alcohol drinks sale center can never be found legally.

Norooz is also one of the main and especial national customs of Iran which is celebration of the New Year. Herein we explain some of its ceremonies and acts. One of the beautiful customs of Norooz is "Sofreyeh Haft Sin" which is an spread tablecloth containing seven eatable things starting with the letter "sin" (S).

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.aqaed.com/>

Another custom of Norooz is to buy present and sweets for friends and relatives. In some of the tribes, there is still a custom called “Noroozaneh” in which they gift flower and sweet to each other and they send it to each other’s house in the morning of the Norooz day. In these days people wear new clothes and meet each other. They visit their parents and relatives and also go to tomb of their passed away relatives.

Preludes of Norooz are of beautiful ceremonies of Norooz like “greens of Norooz”. All over the Iran, people prepare beautiful and nice greens like, grass or any other type, and they put it in the “Sofreyeh Haft Sin” on the day of New Year and it will be fresh and lively till the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the New Year which is the last day of New Year celebration.

### **The Races and Tribes**

One of the specialties of Iranian society is their living style together, while having various races and tribes. As the studies about Iran and tourism says: one of the reasons that Iran is interesting is its tribes and races diversity. North, south, west, east and center of Iran are all having different cultures. Iran’s cultures are influenced by the weather and climate of the areas. These cultures are of different parts of Iran and because of cultural

conflicts, they are even influenced by each other.

Tribes and races like, Kurd, Lors, Arabs, Torkamans, Azaries, Bakhtiaries and Baloochies are all happily and unanimity living together. Iran, because of its geographical location, has always been the connection between west and east, and different nations has always passed through and stopped in Iran, that's why different cultures with different characteristics have been mixed up in this land. Before entrance and settlement of Aryans in Iran, ancient tribes were living there. Tribes of Iran are the followings:

- 1- **Parsiaha (Fars ha or Persians):** More than 65% of Iran's populations are Persians. Persians are descendant of Aryan tribes that entered the Iran's internal flat, 2000 B.C and named it Persia (Pars).
- 2- **Azariha:** Azari Torks are the biggest tribe of Iran. Though most of them live in western (Gharbi) and eastern (Sharghi) Azerbaijan, Ardebil, Zanjan and Hamedan, but we can find them in other states too.
- 3- **Kurds:** Kurds have covered a vast part of Middle East, from east of turkey to north east of Iran and some parts of suriya up to the west and north west of Iran. Kurds are the eldest and the most

ancient tribe of this part and they have been there since 2000 B.C.

- 4- **Lors:** This Aryan tribe is mixed with “kashi” or “Ksit” tribe. Through out the history, Arabs and Turks have also been mixed with Lors but this never influenced their originality. 2% of Iran’s population is Lors and most of them are in Lorestan and Hamedan States.
- 5- **Arabs:** Most of the Iranian Arabs live in Khuzestan state and Persian Gulf Islands. You can find Persian characteristics in Arabs living in southern beach of Iran. Many of Iranian Arabs talk in both Persian and Arabic languages.
- 6- **Qashqaees:** Most of Qashqae tribes live in Fars state. many of them are still migrating in different seasons, from summer quarter to winter quarters. Qashqaees like many other tribes are originally Turk.
- 7- **Turkamans:** They are also originally Turks, but they have less population. This tribe is settled in Torkaman Sahara (A prairie in east of Mazandaran state and North of Khorasan state, near to republic of Turkmenistan).
- 8- **Bakhtiaries:** This tribe is settled in Chahar Mahal-o-Bakhtiyari State.

Bakhtiyari tribe is one the oldest tribes of Iran. They have even been there in the era of old kingdom, as are of the powerful and effective tribes.

- 9- **Baloochs:** One of very rare tribes which their lifestyle is still semi-nomadic. Probably the dry climate and weather have made them to continue this lifestyle. The vast desert of south east of Iran and West Pakistan are habitant of Baloochs. They are expert riders and their camel-riding race is very famous.

### **Status of Women**

Even though in some stages of the history, condition of women was poor and not very good, but overall from the ancient Iran till now, the rights for men and women has always been the same and equal, even their salaries are same. Some jobs are for women only and some are for both men and women. In jobs, that need traveling repeatedly, women are not use. Most of the women in the Perspolis sculptures are tailors, they had very miscellaneous jobs and technical training facilities were same for both men and women. In an ancient Iran also, women were able to have job improvement and go to the higher

levels like being a manager or chairman of different sectors.<sup>10</sup>

According to the Constitutional Law of Iran, women are not a “tool” or an equipment to be used or misused by people, but they have the important and serious duty of being a mother and the foundation of family is in their hands. Such an important responsibility in Islamic outlook is itself highly appreciated.

Studies and researches show that nowadays women in Iran have two fold duty:

- 1- being mother, which is very important for family
- 2- Social place, or in other word where women stay in society which has no conflict with the one above.

According to our collected data related to hygienic, educational, social association and effective political role indicators, Iranian women are in a much better circumstance than the developing countries. At present time almost in every governmental organizations and institutions there is a sector, which has the duty of improving women by, supporting, observing and planning for them. “The Presidential Women Associations’ Affair Center” was developed from “Women Affair Office” into “The Presidential Women Associations’ Affair Center” by the direct

---

<sup>10</sup> Marry Kokh, translated by Dr.Parviz Rajabi, Az Zabane Daryush,

order of the president in the year 1376 and its duty and aim is to increase women association in fields like, politics, science, social...etc. even in parliament there is a committee for, family, youth and women affairs.

Social and political association of women in Iran has had an increasing growth. They have the smallest limitations in socio-political affairs, so that their role in government and parliament is noticeable. Choosing women for, being assistance of president, consultant of president,(chief of women association center), consultant and assistant for ministries, vice-chancellor of universities or even as a mayor or governor of cities, shows the important role of women in politics of Iran.

According to the historical background, and also Islamic outlook of women, we can say that women and overallly mothers have especial place in Iran. There is a day for appreciating and respecting women in Iran which is known as "The women day", this day which is the birthday of Holy Fatemeh Zahra, daughter of holy Prophet Mohammad, is known as "The mothers' day" for children and "The wives' day" for husbands. On this day women get gift from their children as mother and husbands as wife, as an appreciation.

Women of Iran have gained Gold Medal in international sports also, which show the association of them in all the cultural fields. Their participants in science in the levels of

national and international, and their improvements in the educational fields and even religious fields, show their associations in all educational and scientific fields.

## **Condition of Culture and Education**

### **Iranian Culture and Civilization**

The name “Iran” was “ARYAN” in Persian which has come from the old phase of it, “ARYANA” that means “The Land of Aryans”. The word “ARYA” means “liberal” or “freemen” which ancient Iranians used to call themselves. Liberality is one of the outstanding characters of Iranians, they were the first tribe that shouted the believe of liberality in the ancient world.

There was a civilization in 3500 B.C in the southeast of Iran, contemporaneous to Mesopotamia civilization which is named as “The unknown Civilization”, this information are from the discoveries in “Yahya Hill” which is 250 KM away in southern part of Kerman state, also from states of cuneiform script in desolateness of “Sush” (Sosa), which are from the period of “ILamian” Kingdom. The states are the oldest writings of mankind which are available. Discoveries in the ancient hills located in the southwest of Andimeshk city show that immigrating lifestyle was there nearly about 8000 year ago.

Iranians, despite of culture and civilization, have a bright religious past, since Achamenian period, which was 2500 years ago, till now, for

14 century the religion of Iran has been Islam. The interest of affection of Iranian to Islam was initiated in the beginning of Islam itself, so that “Selman Farsi”, one of the close friends of Prophet Mohammad was an Iranian. Selman Farsi is one of us, Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said about him. Selman was one of the ten uppermost Muslims of the Islam, which did a lot for it with Prophet Mohammad and Imam Ali, and his wisdom was such that making and digging moat(ditch) around Madineh city was his idea. The effect of Islam can even be seen in the architecture of Iran, so that Iranian and Islamic Art and architecture are mixed and they have made a unique Art.

From Achemenian era onward Iran was into the development of science, but in the Sassanide time interchanges of information among Iranians, Indians, Greeks and near east countries led the expansion of science development, especially in the fields of medical science, Mathematics and Astrology. We can name few scientists of that time: Jaber Abne Hayyan, Abu Ali Sina, Abu Eshagh Farabi, Mohammad Abne Zakariaye Razy, and Hakim Ommare Khayyam. In Sassanide period there was a religious course which was the reason for expansion of Greek science and foundation of many churches which also shows the interest of Iranians for divine religions, intellectual science, Mathematic, Philosophy and Islamic discourses, Astrology,

Medical science and expansion of science and civilization in Islam.

Iranians have had an important role in Islamic kingdoms too, for example one of the commanders of army in beginning of Islam was an Iranian named “Masoud Abne Naser” the conquerer of Andles. The most important role was the role of “Barmakiank” family in this kingdom who were the consultants of “Abbasi” kings.

### **General Education System**

Iran is one of the literate countries. According to the latest information the percentage of literate people is 75.5 % and this is increasing day by day. Number of literate people and comparing condition of men and women shows an important fact with developing outlook. Percentage of literate women is 67 % and literate men is 81.9 %.

There are different educational fields. In technical and professional field, students join one of the training groups industry, agriculture, electronic, material, shipping on navigation industry, art, management, internal economic, finance and after clearing 96 credits, they will start learning required techniques and then they will get a certificate, but in the field of experts which is more practical, students will clear 49 subsidiary credits by which they will get a diploma and after that they will clear 95 practical course

credits by which they will get certificate and work licenses.

In the education system of Iran the pre-university is a completion of high school, which is one year and students who want to join universities or any other institution of government have to do this one year period.

For joining universities in Iran, students after doing one year of pre-university, have to take the entrance exam and after getting good rank, they will join the university tagged for their. Universities are of two type, governmental and private, governmental is free of cost and private universities will have certain fees.

Recently, the increased youth population, and more demands for universities, has led the foundation of practical and even virtual universities and even universities which does not require entrance exam. The purpose behind this, is association of executive governmental and non-governmental institutions in training the required professional human resources, in a way that after they graduate they would be professional enough to perform well in their careers.

Virtual education centers are the first educational centers that do their admission process and even teachings through internet and for the first time they have made an electronic virtual universities.

These universities are all adhering the rules and regulations of ministry of science and technology and their certificates have been approved by the ministry.

Every capital city of the states in Iran has a university; most of the cities also have universities. As important universities of Iran we can name: University of Tehran, Sanaat Sharif University, Amir Kabir University, Shahid Beheshty University, Elm Va Sanaat E Iran University, Khaje Nasir Toosi University, Tarbyat Modarres University, Imam Sadegh University, Payyam Noor University, Bu Ali sina University, Isfahan Sanaati University, Ahavz Shahid Chamran University, Qazvin Imam Khomeini International University, Al Zahra University and Ulum Hadis Collage. Islamic Azad University which has 3 branches in central, northern and southern Tehran and also many other branches in other cities.

At the end we must say that studying demand among Iranians is increasing day by day.

### **Literary Men and Poets**

Iran is one of the main countries of poetry and literature. There has been many poets in different stages of the time, and also different styles of poetry have been created in Iran such as Ghanaee (lyrical), Hemasi (epical), Hindi and Iraqi which has many Arabic words in it.

Overall contents of poems are usually plaintive, eulogies, tragedy, educational, mystical...etc. the poetic patterns used by the poets are: Qasideh (statically poem), Ghazzal (love poem), Masnavi (couplet poem, mathnavi), Robaee, Do beity (distich), Tarkib band ...etc. The effect of Islam and Shia on Iranian poets can be seen in their poetry.

As there have been many poetry styles rising from Iran, so there also have been many poets such as: Hafiz, Saadi, Ferdoosi, Roodaki, Hatef Isfahani, Baba Taaher, Khayyam, Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, Attar Neishaburi, Sanaee...etc, some of these poets are world famous and their books have been translated in different languages, for instance poets like, Hafiz, Saadi, Khayyam, Ferdoosi and Mollavi (Rumi). In some countries courses of Hafiz logy, Mollavi logy...etc exists. In the last few decades new great poets and literary men have come up who have created new poetry styles, which does not seems necessary to be explained here.

## **Sightseeing and Pilgrimage Places**

### **Pilgrimage Places**

#### **Buried Prophets in Iran**

Tombs of four Jewish messengers namely: “Sahooli”, “Salam”, “Alqia” and “Sooloom” who are known as “The four Prophets” are in Qazvin state, in western part of Chehelsotoon Garden, close to the school and mosque of Safavid era. They were the messengers who brought the birth news of Jesus from Jerusalem to east. This place became a respected pilgrimage place which was given some garden as Charity. The phase of the place is work of Mirza Masoud Sheikh Al Islam. Beside the tomb of those prophets the tomb of Imamzadeh Saleh, son of Imam Hasan Mojtab is there too.<sup>11</sup>

The tomb of prophet “Daniel” which was another Jewish prophet is in “Shoosh” city of “khoozestan” state, which is located on the mountain feet of “Acropolis” hill, near “Shover” river. He was contemporaneous with the great Cyrus, he reached the level of ministry at the Dyrus time. It seems that Daniel used to go to visit Jerusalem by order

---

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.qazvintourism.com/>

of Dyrus, and he finally died therein.<sup>12</sup> “Joshua” another Jewish prophet is buried in Isfahan State, his tomb is located in “Takht e Foolad” which is one of the oldest cemeteries of Isfahan.<sup>13</sup>

### **Imam Reza Tomb**<sup>14</sup>

Imam “Ali Ibne Moosa Reza”<sup>15</sup> the eighth Imam of Shia people was born in Medina city on the year 147 A.H. (according to lunar calendar) and when his father was martyred, reached the great level of being an Imam. His age was 55 years old, out of which 25 years was with his great father and the rest being an Imam for Shia people.

Imam Reza had a great knowledge and was enlightened, his wisdom was more noticeable while compared to the other religions. In his time when scientists after sitting and talking could not find the answer of certain things, they used to go to him and find out about it. Imam Reza, was known as “The Wiseman of Mohammad’s Family” because of his wisdom.

Imam Reza in all his life either before becoming an Imam and even after that, had the responsibility of leading and guiding Shias, which was in the time of “Abbasi Kingdom”.

---

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.ostan-kz.ir/city\\_inofrmation\\_fa.html](http://www.ostan-kz.ir/city_inofrmation_fa.html)

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.isfahan.us/isfahan\[b17\].htm](http://www.isfahan.us/isfahan[b17].htm)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.aqrazavi.org>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.imamreza.net/>

Abbasi people by saying that they are the descendant of the Prophet Mohammad and playing with people's emotions, managed to destroy the Omaviyan kingdom and became the ruler of Muslims. The only danger for them was the Shias who by leadership of Imams, consider this kingdom unqualified to rule the Muslims and even they were trying to destroy their kingdom and leadership.

So the real enemies of the Abbasi Kingdom are the Shias' Imams, so any contemporaneous Imam with Abbasi Kingdom, were killed by them. Abbasi Kingdom was so cruel to Muslims and tortured them and threatened them that historians were ashamed to write about it.

Mamoon son of "Haroon Al Rashid" noticed that people were going toward Imam Reza, that is how he felt danger and he was planning to somehow take him out of his way, so in the journey to "Baghdad" from "Toos" he poisoned him by poisoned grape, and that is how Imam Reza was martyred.

From the first days of 202 A.H. (lunar calendar) that the eighth Imam of Shias was buried in "Hamid Ebne Qahtabeh Tae Garden" this place became the tomb of holy Imam Reza, which became visiting place for those who were and are interested in him. The name of place was "Toos" that later on became "Mashhad Al Reza" which means the place were holy Imam Reza was martyred.

His enlightening tomb has been repaired many times, through out the history, and different leaders have done it by their own test and style.<sup>16</sup>

Imam Reza is the only Imam of Shias' whose tomb is in Mashhad (Iran), and he is the proud for Iran. Every year many Shias from different parts of world come to visit his tomb. One of his nickname is "Gharib Al Qoraba" which means some one who is away from his friends and family.

### **Tomb of Holy Masoumeh<sup>17</sup>**

In the year 200 A.H. (lunar calendar) as Mamoon Abbasi exiled Imam Reza to "Marv" city, he left without taking any of his family.

A year after Imam Reza moved to Khorasan, his sister, holy Masoumeh went to meet him. She took along some of his brothers and nephews, on the way while passing through different cities they were welcomed by the people. There happened, that holy Masoumeh was informing people about his brother, and the cruel kingdom and that she, and her family were against the kingdom. That is how, when they reached the city "Saweh", some of the agents of the King started fighting with them and they almost killed everyone and some people said that they

---

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.aqrazavi.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.masoumeh.com>

even poisoned holy Masoumeh. Anyhow; which because of poisoning, she became ill and as it was not possible to continue toward Khorasan, so she moved to Qom city, and finally on 10<sup>th</sup>-RabiAlsani (some say 12<sup>th</sup>)-year 201 she met her brother Imam Reza and then she died.

Qom people were fell into grief and sorrow and they buried her in a place named “Babolan Garden” which that time was out of the city and it became a shrine for Shias and recently in the year 1384, the shrine has been beautifully developed.<sup>18</sup>

### **Shahcheragh**

The most important shrine of Shiraz city is the tomb of “Mir Seyyed Ahmad” son of the seventh Imam. The shrine is known as “Shahcheragh”. Between the years 193 to 210, at the time of Abbasi rule, Mir Seyyed Ahamd moved toward khorasan, through Fars and Shiraz, to meet his brother Imam Reza but he was martyred and buried.

No one knew about his tomb, till in the time of “Amir Mogharabbedin” the minister of Atabak, his body was found and due to the writings on his ring’s stone he was recognized, and then build a shrine on his tomb. After the shrine was build, it was repaired by different

---

18

<http://ww.masoumeh.com/far/page.php?page=1&id1=1>

kings of different eras. In the eighth century A.H. (lunar calendar), a dome of 72 pieces was made by the order of “Queen Tashi Khatoon” mother of the king “Abu Eshagh Inju”, which is one of the important artworks of 8<sup>th</sup> century in Shiraz. The present building has the main veranda in the eastern part, a vast harem with verandas in all four sides, a mosque in the western part of the harem, and many interconnected rooms to the main tomb. Mirrors decorations, sculptural writings, silver decorations and the vast harem are elements that have made this place more beautiful. At the ends of the veranda two small minarets are located.

The vast courtyard of Shahcheragh is another one of the beauty elements, beside holy Shahcheragh, many great scientists, men of letter and priests have been buried. The Ahmadi library is one of the parts of Shahcheragh, which contains old and handwritten books and manuscripts, and it is one of the famous and old libraries of Shiraz.

<sup>19</sup>

### **Abdul Azim Hussain<sup>20</sup>**

He was the son of “Abdullah Ebne Ali”, grandson of Imam Hassan Mojtaba (A.S.), and

---

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.farstourism.org/shahe%20cheragh/shah%20cheragh\\_farsi.htm](http://www.farstourism.org/shahe%20cheragh/shah%20cheragh_farsi.htm)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.abdulazim.com>

by four routes he is connected to him. His father was Abdullah, his mother was Fatemeh daughter of Aghabe en Qeis. In his 79 year of life, he was contemporaneous with Imam Moosa Kazem (A.S.), Imam Reza (A.S.), Imam Mohammad Taqi (A.S.) and Imam Ali An Naqi(A.S.).

He learnt from Imam Reza, Imam Taqi and Imam Hadi and he has announced many of their sayings. This descendant of Prophet Mohammad is known as Hassani, since he is one of the grandchildren of Imam Hassan Mojtaba.

Holy Abdul Azim Hassani, was one of the Shias' scientist and announced of Imam sayings, and he was one of the admirable and trustworthy people for Imams and their followers. He had a vast knowledge of Quran, and religious studies.

The Imams' commendation about him shows his value in Imams' view. Holy Hadi used to send some of those who had some questions and problems to solve, to Abdul Azim, and he introduced him as one of his close friends.<sup>21</sup>

The shirne of Holy Abdul Azim Hassabi, holy Imamzadeh Hamzeh and Imamzadeh Taher, are the most renown sightseeing and

---

21

[http://www.abdulazim.com/persian.who\\_is\\_abdulazim/default.asp](http://www.abdulazim.com/persian.who_is_abdulazim/default.asp)

pilgrimage shrine of Iran since the third century. Those have been the place for their followers who come from all over the world and Iran to convey and give their respects.

Even though these places had no discipline as a pilgrimage and sightseeing place, and the rules of “Qajar” and “Pahlavi” did not pay attention to them, but after revolution the project of supporting the southern part of Tehran city, and also supporting pilgrimage place started. In this project, the priest school of Abdul Azim was founded in the place of “Rezakhani” tomb.<sup>22</sup> As Imam Khomeini was debating about non-religious carpet of the shrine, in the recent years by the help of Mr. Reyshahri the program of restoring disused of the shrine, by using and restoring these disused, the whole shrine was developed, the decoration of the shrine were changed. This improvement and development was rare change in this holy shrine.

### **The Home and Shrine of Imam Khomeini and Behesht e Zahra**

Imam Khomeini (R.A.) lived in different houses in Khomein, Qom and Tehran cities throughout his life. The khomein city which is his birthplace is an old city. He lived in his father’s house in Khomein till he was fifteen. In Qom he stayed in few houses, which the

---

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.abdulazim.com>

main one was in “yakhchal Qazi” colony. This house was place of literature and knowledge and a place for unity of people wherein the leadership of Islamic nation initiated. This house has now been documented as a cultural place, which people go and visit. Other houses of Imam Khomeini in which he stayed just before the revolution is in “jamaran” colony of Tehran. There is a mosque near this place which was the place, where Imam Khomeini met people. It is noticeable that this house was rental till the death of Imam Khomeini, and he stayed there till the end of his life.

Behetsh e Zahra in Tehran is the place for burying martyrs and people who died in Tehran. It is located at the starting of Tehran to Qom highway. After the sorrowful death of Imam Khomeini, the Founder of Republic Islamic of Iran, he was buried near by Beheshte Zahra, which led his followers and admirers to go and visit there often. His shrine is near to the martyrs’ cemetery. There is a yearly event in his shrine, for his memorial and his death anniversary.

### **Jmakaran Mosque<sup>23</sup>**

Jamkaran mosque is near Qom city which is constantly visited by people from all over the world and Iran.

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.jamkaran.info>

Some people according to their believes, visited there every Wednesday and do prayer.

## **Sightseeing Places**

### **Tehran State**

#### **1. Museums**

Ancient Iran Museum (Iran bastan), Decoration Arts Museum, National Arts Museum, Abyaz Palace Museum, Takhe Marmar Museum (The Marble Bed museum), Anthropology Museum (Mardomshenasi museum), Treasury of Central Bank, Iran carpet museum (Farsh e Iran), Reza Abbasi Museum, Negarestan Museum (Picture Gallery), Abginah Museum (Glass and Mirror), Mallek Museum.

#### **2. Historical Places**

Seyyed Esmaeil Shrine, Imamzadeh yahya Shrine, Imazadeh Zeid shrine, Seyyed Naserodin Shrine, Imamzadeh Eshagh Shrine, Imamzadeh Saleh Ebne Moosal Reza Shrine, Qazi Saber Shrine, Imamzadeh Ebrahim, Chehl Tan Shrine, Malek Al Khatoon and Bibi Zobeideh, Noorali Khan Drinking Fountain, Marvi or fakhreyeh School, Imam Mosque, Sepahsalare Qadim School, Sarqabr Aqa, Aali Motahari School, New Gate (Daravazeh No), Menar Pamenar, Baharestan palace, Golestan Garden and palace, Marmar palace, Saadabad palace and Tawoos Church, Palaces of Saltanatabad and Sahebqaranieh Palace.

Amusement places of Tehran: we can mention, many big and small parks around the city, hilly areas of north Tehran like: Darband, Darakeh, Tochal, Farahzad, Oshan and Fasham and Lawasanat.

### **3. Rey City's Historical Places**

Holy shrine of Abdulazim, Imamzadeh Hamzeh, Imamzadeh Taher, Ebne Babuyeh, Bogheye Bibi Shahrbanu, Imamzadeh Hassan, Tapeye Mil, Zedan e Harun or Zendan e Khan. Sorsoreyeh Fathali Shah Qajar, Borje Toghrol and Haft Chenar.

### **4. Karaj City's Historical Places**

Imamzadeh Qasem, Baghe Saltanati, Takhte Rostam and Takhte Keikavoos Shahryar.

### **5. Waramin City's Historical Places**

Masjed Jame, Imamzadeh Yahya, Shahzadeh Hosein and Imamzadeh Jafar, Borje Alaodin.

### **Isfahan State**

Isfahan state is one of the most historically rich states of Iran, which has many historical places, mostly of Seljukian and Safavid era. The most important historical places of Isfahan State are:

Holy shrine of Ebrahim Ebne Moosa Ebne Jafar, Holy Shrine of Qasem Ebne Moosa

Ebne Jafar, Masjed Jame, Miedam Imam (Naqsh-e- Jahan) Chehel Soton Palace, Aali Qopa Palace, Allahwordi Khan bridge, Khaju bridge, Shahrestan bridge, Menarjonban, Badkhim (Beit alham) Wank and Maryam Churches.

### **1. Golpayegan City's Historical Places**

1. Golpayegan Masjed Jame, Maghbareye Haft Tan, Bogheye Seido sadat, miaret said to be of Saljukian era.

### **2. Natanz city's Historical Places**

Masjed Jame Natanz, Shrine of Sheik Abdulsamad Natanzi, Holy Shirne of Aqa Ali Abbas, Imamzadeh Abdullah.

### **3. Kashan City's historical places**

Shrines of Hibib Ebne Mossa and Soltanali Ebne Mohammad Baqer, Fin garden, Bande Qeisar, Aqabozorg Masjed, Imam Khomeini school, Khaneye Boroojerdiha.

### **Fars State**

Most important historical places of fars state are in Shiraz and Abadeh cities, which are the followings:

#### **1. Shiraz**

Shahcherag Shrine (Seyyed Mir Ahmad), Shrine of Seyyed Mir Mohammad who was the brother of Shahcheragh, holy shrine of Seyyed Alaodin hosein, Shrine of Shah Mir

Ali Hamzeh, Shrine of Seyyed Tajudin Gharib, Bibi Dokhtaran tomb, Masejd Jame Atigq, Masjed Vakil, masjed Nasir Almulk, Masjed Moshir, Khan School, Vakil School, Saadi Tomb, Hafeziyeh, Shah Daeie Allah Tomb, Khajavi Kermani Tomb, Baba Koohi Shrine, Takht e Jamshid<sup>24</sup>, Takht e Abunasr, Shah Shoja Tomb, Darvazeh Quran<sup>25</sup>, Tekeye Chehel Tanan, Zoroastrian temple (Adrian), Baghe Delgosha (Delgosha Garden), Baghe Eram, Baghe Afif Abad, Baghe Golshan, Baghe Khalili, Baghe Farsi and Baghe Takht.

## **2. Abadeh city**

Qaleye Kohne (The old palace), Qaleye Narenji, Qaleye Kohneye Sasani, Qaleye Shirazi, Timcheye Sarafan (Covered passageway with Moneychangers' shop),

---

<sup>24</sup> Takhte jamshid is a complex of very big and beautiful palaces that were build in era of first Cyrus na Khashayar and Ardeshir Hakhamaneshi (512 B.C). These palaces are few thousand years old and they are masterpiece of architecture. Takhte jamshid was build beside city called (parse) which Greek people named it Perspolis. Eskandar Maquni (Alexander) burned the Takhte Jamshid in his Invasion to Iran (331 B.C)

<sup>25</sup> Darvazeh Quran, which means Quran gate, is the gate built in the entrance of shiraz city. In the old times there was a Quran on top of it so that the travellers are passed under it. In the era of Karim Khan Zand, the gate was repaired and a big handwritten Quran was put in it which is still there and it is famous as "Quran e Hefdah Man" among the people of the city.

Izadkhast Bridge and Caravansary e Shah Abbasi.

### **3. Khorambid**

One of the oldest historical places of Iran which is the “Pasargad”, is located in this area. Cyrus founded the Achaemenian rule and kingdom in the 550 B.C and built the “Pasargad” in Pars which became the first great capital of the world. By the order of Cyrus a complex of kingly palaces were designed and build in the green gardens of Passargad, which contained: Darvazeh Palace, (winged human), Baream Palace, Private Palace, The famous buildings of Takh e Soleiman and Do Tak Banaa. Apart from this, architecture of garden and stone-made waterscapes were made in the same time.

### **4. Haffeziyeh**

Khaje Shamsaldin Mohammad Hafiz Shirazi is the greatest lyric poet of Iran. His tomb is in northeast of Shiraz, in a place called Haffezieh. This place is at the entrance of Shiraz city, after Darvazeh Quran. The present tomb was designed and built by Master Ali Asghar Hekmat in the year 1315. The mensuration of entrance garden and tomb garden and the building is 20,000 square-meters. The roof has diaphoretic tile-work, and the roof is based on eight store-made columns. The external outlook of the tomb looks like Calendar and Dervish’s hat, and it has copper cover. Eight poetry of Hafiz has been written

by diaphoretic tile and Sols style of calligraphy on the single-piece stones of the columns inside the roof.

### **5. Saadyeh**

Saadi, who is known as “The poet of poets” in Iran, decided to go for a journey to learn knowledge and his journey took thirty years. After he came back, he settled outside the Shiraz city, on the mountain feet of the north eastern, mountains of Shiraz which people of there, call it, Sorsoreh Mountain, and Jaah Qalleh Mountain, he lived there till the end of his life and was buried there.

The present building of Sa'adi', which is called “Saadyeh” was built by Master Ali Asqar Hekmat in the year 1330. the mensuration of the area is more than 8,000 square-meters, and below that area there is a spring and as it has so many fishes, it is called “The Fish Pool” (Hozeh Mahi). Inside the place, there is a big piece of stone, with Saadi's poetry written on it, which is his tombstone. The building of the tomb is octagonal, and on each part poetry of Saadi is written by tile-work.

### **Hamedan State**

Most important historical places of Hamedan are: Masjed Jame, Madreseye Akhoond, Madreseye Damghani, Gonbad Alavian, Borje Qorban, Tappehaye Bastani, Katibeye Ganjnameh or Jangnameh, Mojasameye Shire Sangi, Aramgah Abu Ali

Sina (Tomb of Abu Ali Sina), Aramgah Babataher (Tomb of Babataher), Ghare Ali Sadr ( Ali Sadr Cave), Ghare Agh Ghaya ( Agh Ghaya Cave), Ghare Beglijeh ( Beglijeh Cave), Solooki Temple, The Great Nahavand inscription, inscriptions of Safavid era and Historical Hills of Asadabaad.

### **Yazd State**

Yazd state has many pre-Islamic and post-Islamic historical places due to its geographical situation; the followings are some of them:

Yazd Jame Mosque; it is one of the most valuable places for Iran due to its architectural work. The building is of eighth century.

Amir Chakhmaq mosques are famous due to their gateways. The mosque was made in the year 830, but its gate and minarets were made in Qajar era, in thirteenth century.

Dolatabaad Gardens, Historical complex of Dolatabaad Garden including Kolah Farangi Palace, Badgir, Haramkhaneh Behesht Aeen, Mostakhdemin Palace, Divan Khaneh, Establ and Shotorkhaneh, the main gate of Ab Anbar and Moshajjar Garden.

The Yazddan Firetemple, in which the holy fire of Fars Firetemple is lightened for 700 years.<sup>26</sup> Darvazeh Imam Shrine, Khan

---

<sup>26</sup> Yazd is the biggest Zoroastrians place in Iran, and their ceremonies and weather traditional or cultural happens in this place, most important of these

Garden and Eskandar (Alexander) Prison in the city of Abarkooh.<sup>27</sup> There is a tree named Yazd Derakht which is 4,000 years old. This tree is the oldest cypress tree in the world. The height of the tree is 25 meter, and the length of its body (rounding) is 11.5 meter, and its perimeter is 18 meter. This tree and also ventilating houses (Houses with ventilation shaft-louver) of the city are being visited by many people from all over the world and Iran. Jame Mosque and old houses with old architecture are other sightseeing places of this city and also the houses which have two ventilation shafts or louvers. Yazd is also called the city of louvers, because all the old houses of the city have louvers or ventilation shafts on their roof which now have become a sightseeing outlook.

Icehouses made of sun dried bricks are other historical places of the Abarkooh city. These icehouses were shaped in such a way that the only way to enter them was on small door, which after storing the ice was blocked with withered grasses and sticks, so that they could use the ice in summers.

### **Kerman State**

In this state, not only old mosques can be found but also many other historical places,

---

ceremonies are, Norooz, Mehregan, Zoroast's birthday and the Sadeh.

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.earthwatchers.org/>

for instance: The great Masjed Jame, Masjed Mallek or Imam Khomeini, Masjed Pamenar, Masjed Bazar Shah or Imam Zaman, masjed Vakil, Imamzadeh Shahzadeh Hosein tomb, Ganjali Khan complex; including school, bathhouse, Jaballyeh (Firetemple of sassanid era), Nematollah tomb, Arg e Bam<sup>28</sup>, Qalleye Sang Sirjan, Sheikh Ali baba tomb and Takht e Qoli beik.

### **Tabriz city**

Because of being on the way of east and west, it has got the shape of a big city from the very beginning, and became an economical zone and a place for transportation of goods from European and Asian countries and the city itself also started exploring agricultural and industrial goods to different parts of world. This circumstance, made the markets to have different center to sell and buy western and eastern goods and items. Tabriz market<sup>29</sup> is one of the biggest markets of Middle East. Architectural style of the shops, covered passageways with shops, all types of works, schools and mosques beside market, that all are old have made Tabriz market a suitable and unique place for trade, and also eastern Islamic life.

---

<sup>28</sup> Arg e Bam had mensuration of 6 square-Km and 2000 years old, but it was destroyed in a massive earthquake of Bam in the year 1383.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.tabrizinfo.com/>

This city has passed golden times, in history. Like being capital residential place and dehiscence. The Tabriz primary school which was an old-fashioned school had a great and noticeable improvement in Art, and unique works of that time are in museum all over the world.

### **Tourism and Sightseeing Khorasan State**

It is one of the most important states of country as per the tourist. Out of many historical and sightseeing places of it, as we mentioned: Imam Reza Shrine, Masjed Goharshad, Masjed 72 Tan, Sheikh Bahae Tomb, Ferdoosi Tomb (in Toos city), Khaje Rabi Tomb, Khaje Abaa salt and Khaje Morad Tombs in beginning of the Mashhad to Neishabur way, Mashhad Mosalla, Arsalan Jazzeb Tomb, Gohar Shad Tomb, Khahare Gohar Shad Aaghal, Naderi works and Kalaat Nader including Khorshid palace, Masjed Kabood, Naderi Shrine and inscription, Waterhouse of Khesht Village and the artworks inside them, Darvadeh and Hacheh, Darvadeh Goshaneh, Takhe e Dokhtar and Nadershah tomb.

Imamzadeh Mahroq tomb, Khayyam tomb, Faridoddin Mohammad Ataar Tomb and the tomb of the great Kamaal Al-molk, the great contemporary artist and painter of Iran, are in Nieshabur city.

### **Kermanshah State**

The following are the most important historical places of Kermanshah: Masjed Jame Shahbaz Khan, Masjed Haj Mohammad Taqi, Masjed Vakilo Doleh, Masjed Shahzadeh, Tekeye Moavenodolleh, Tekeye Biglarbeigi, Taq e Kasra, Taqe Bostan, Takhte Shirin and Historical Sculptures of Bisotun.

#### **1. Saqiz City**

Malek tomb, Mazar Imamzadeh Ahmad Ebne Mohammad Baqir, Mahan Kooh's ancient hills, Rashan, Zanan and Qarre Tappeh.

#### **2. Qasre Shirin City**

Sheikh Khan stonecutting, Dakan Davoud, Naqshe Anu Bani Ney, Otaq e Farhad (Farhad's Room), Mahal Ganj Gonbad, Khakhe Sasani (Sassanide Palace), Kakhe Kuri, Javar Kobi ( Chahar Otaq or Chahar Qapu).

#### **3. Paveh City**

Mir Abdullah tomb, Darnu Sood, Gavat Cave in the north of Shakooh Mountain.

#### **4. Sarpole Zahab**

Sheikh Abu Ali Ahmad Ebne Eshaq e Qomi Tomb

#### **5. Kangavar City** Anahita temple.

### **Gilan State**

Gilan has many historical and natural places such as: Caspian Sea (Daryaye Khazar),

Forest of Gilan State, Anzali Lagoon, Sefid Rood River, Masoole Village in Fooman city and ..etc. historical places are the following cities:

**1. Rasht**

Imamzadeh Khahar Imam, Imamzadeh Hashem, Danaa Ali, Masjed Safi.

**2. Roodbar**

Archegeolistic area of Marlik ( Cheraghali tappeh).

**3. Lahijan**

Sheikh Zahed Gilani Tomb, Chahar Padeshaah tomb, Shirkhanoor tomb, Mir Shamsedin tomb, Masjed Akbaryyeh.

**4. Looshan**

historic bridge of Looshan.

**5. Astaneyeh Ashrafyyeh**

Aqa Seyyed Jalaloding Ashraf tomb, Dr. Mohammad Moen's tomb.

**Talesh:**<sup>30</sup> Imamzadeh seyzed Mahmood Dinvari tomb, Aqa Seyyed Ahamd Naal Tarbe tomb, Soltan syyed tomb, Siah Alaam Khalle Sara Tomb, Pir Seyyed Sharafshah Tomb, Silar or Salsaal Palace, Marian cemetery, Aq Oolar cemetery, summer quarters of Aq Oolar Marian, Soobootaan, Ardeh.

There are many around Talesh natural places which are being visited by people. Talesh Mountains, Gisum Park, Gisum beach.

---

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.waresh.com/no\\_80/talesh.htm](http://www.waresh.com/no_80/talesh.htm)

## **Mazandaran State**

Three thousand years old valley in Tonekabun, Caspian (Mazandaran Sea) Estakhar e Posht Lake in Neka and Jawaher Deh (Jawaher Village)

### **1. Amol City**

Mir bozorg tomb, Shams Toosi tomb, Mir Heidar tomb, Se Gonbade Atashkadeh, Masjed Imam Hassan Askari, Masjed Jame, Imamzadeh Ebrahim, Imamzadeh Qasem, Qomoddin Tomb, Davazadeah Cheshmeh bridge, Gabri Tombs.

### **2. Babol**

Imamzadeh Ebrahim, Imamzadeh Qasem, Shahpur palace.

### **2. Behshahr**

Behshahr palace, Shah palace, Shahebozaman garden and palace.

### **3. Saari**

Imamzadeh Yahya tomb, Seyed Zeinol Abedin tomb, Imamzadeh Abbas Tomb, Maziar Palace, Khazrabald Sea plot.

### **4. Savadkooh**

Imamzadeh Abdul Haq, Imamzadeh Zakaria tomb, Imamzadeh Yahya, Imamzadeh Mohammad Saleh and Lajim Tower.

Mazandaran Sea and its beautiful beach, caves, waterfalls, rivers, hot springs, lakes and also historical places like Mir Bozorg Amol, lajim Savadkoojh tower, Reskat Savadkooh

tower, Behshar's farahsaraye and Abass Abad historical complex, Poolad Baldeh Boor palace, Kandloos noshar and ...etc have made this province a proper state for tourism.

### **Golestan State**

#### **1. Gorgan**

Imamzadeh Abdullah, Imamzadeh Noor, Emadyyeh school, Masjed Jame, Aqa Mohammad Khani palace, Nahar Khoran Park.

#### **2. Gonbad Kavoos**

Imam Yahya Ebne Zeid tomb.

#### **3. Ali Abaad Katool**

This city has thirty one ancient and historical hill and many old trees.

### **Bushehr State**

Bushehr state has many historical places such as:

#### **1. Bushehr City**

Holy Alis footprint, Holy Abolfazl footprint, Masjed Sheikh Saadoon, Majed Jome, Masjed Jamaat, Masjed Fil, Masjed Shanbadi, Masjed Abdolmihaman, Imamzadeh Aqakoochika, Khaje Khezr Tomb, Amir Mohammad Kharag tomb, Ilamy Reishahr destroyeds, Tal Pi Tal, Shah Neshin, Shoghab cemetery, Mallek palace, Zohure Masih Church, Kharag Stone-made tombs, Bushehr Old Bazaar, Kharag temples, Nasturian Church, Kharag Holandi palace.

## **2. Dashtestan**

Imamzadeh Sheikh Olia, Aechmanian Borazjan palace, Black Stone palace (Kakhe Sang Siah), Tang Araam Wokrs, Bardak Siah works, Moshir Caravanserai and bridge, Rostam Khan Borje, Joq qil, ancient works of Tooz, Pir Haddaf Saadabaad and Saadabaad's Chehel Khane Caves.

## **3. Kanagvar**

Imamzadeh Sabzehpooshan, bibi hakimeh, Qryeh Hesare Deilam, Soleyman Ebne Ali Shrine, Tal gonbad, Tal Goori, Baba Kloo firetemple.

## **4. Shahdir**

Masjed Bardestan, Bardestan Fort, Kanoovi Palace, Jalal Khan Hakem Fort, Gangkhak Hibarooni Fort, Tal Sozo works, Jabarooni destroyeds.

## **5. Kangan**

Qotbedin tomb, Kangan Fort, Bandar Akhtar works, Siraf ancient places, Goore Siboooyeh.

## **6. Tangestan**

Kallat Fort, Kallat Khavanin Fort, Tangestan Fort, Mohammad Ali Khan Palace.

## **7. Dashtestan**

Imamzadeh Mir Araam, Kallat tomb, Khor Mooj Fort, Moshir Fort, Mond Firetemple.

### **Hormozgan State**

The following are the most important historical and sightseeing places of Hormozgan State:

#### **1. Bandar Abbas**

Imamzadeh Seyyed Mozafar, Imamzadeh Seyyed Kaamel, Mohamad Taqi, Khaje Khazr shrine, Masjed Sabz Kohne, Hindu temples, Kolah Farangi Palace.

#### **2. Bandar Lengeh**

Masjed Ali, Minareh Ebne Abbas, Masjed haj Khodadad, Masjed Afghan, Masjed Aqa Seyyed Abduqaher, Hoseinyyeh Ghazanfari, Qalleye Lashtan, Baghestan Gasheh and Maloo sea plot.

#### **3. Minab**

Minab palace.

#### **4. Qeshm Island**

Masjed Borj, Shah Shahid and Seyyed Mozafar Palace and ancient dums.

### **Lorestan State**

Most important historical places of this state are:

#### **1. Mosques**

Jame Broujerd city, Jame Khoramabad city, Imam Khomeini.

#### **2. Tombs**

Imamzadeh Jafar, Imamzadeh Qasem Broujerd city, Shahzadeh Ebrahim, Imamzadeh Mohammad Hassan and seyed

Fazeleh “(Aligudarz city), Pir Imam (Aligudarz City), Zeid Ebne Ali, Baradaran, Babataher (Khoramabaad city), Shahzadeh Abulhassan, Shahzadeh Ahmad and Shah Ahamd in Kabir kooh.

### **3. Historical Places**

Ajori Minaret and Kookan Cave (Khoramabaad), Chashmak Cemetery (Khoramabaad), Kalhor bridge over the Kashkan river, Kor bridge, Dokhtar bridge over the Kashkan river, Samsaa cave, Gar Kooch Village and Alshtar, Khor Moosa, inscriptions of easter Khoramabaad, Falak Al Aflak Castle, Sir and Silan ancient hills in villages, Hommeh Sofla and Alyyaye Aligudarz.

### **Qazvin State**

The following are the important historical places of this state:

Imamzadeh Hosein, Masjed Kabir jame Qazvin, Masjed Al Nabi, Masjed Amniyyeh, Hamdollah Mostofi tomb, Allamoot Castle, Ivan Lake, Kharqan towers, Kolah Farangi Museum and palace, Caravansary Mahmood Abaad Khoreh City, Qazvin Bazaar, Mildar Mountain.

## **Sistan Va Baloochestan States**

### **1. Iranshahr City**

Stone-made buildings, Iranshahr Old Castle, Sarbaz Castle, Bempur Castle, Pishin Castle and ancient hills.

### **2. Chabahaar City**

Seyyed Gholam Rasool Chabahaar tomb, works of this city including: Kalar, Piroozgah, Balloch gate, Baan Mesiti, Shahbazband ruins, Tis Kooban, Pelle band, Dums of Raas Tis gate, Qasr Qand and Nik Shahr castles.

### **3. Khalsh City**

Stone-made buildings of Koosheh village, Godal Castle, the ancient cemetery of Khash castle.

### **4. Zabol City**

Masjed zarang, Mil Qasemabaad, Shahre Sookhte (The Burned City)<sup>31</sup>, historical buildings of Khaje Mountain, Historical works of Dahaneye Gholaman which are of Achemanian period, Bibi Doost Castle, Terequn Castle, Teimoor Castle, Hoozdar Castle, Rostam Castle, Rendan castle, Saam Castle, Se Koohe Castle, Taaq Castle, Fath Castle, Raam Shahrestan firetemple, Karko firetemple, hamoon lake, Wells of Nimeh.

---

<sup>31</sup> Traced back to 3200 B.C

## **5. Saraavaan City**

Mir Seyed Ommar Jaleq Ancient Hill, Kalatak Bakhshan ancient Hill, Roobahak hill, Koohak Mahtab Khazaneh hill, Sib Castle, Gasht castle, Zaboli Castle, Koohan and Shishreriz Houses, the ancient cypress tree of Sarjoo.

## **Semnan State**

### **1. Semnan City**

Masjed Jame, Masjed Imam Khomeini, Arg Gate.

### **2. Damghan City**

Masjed tarikhaneh, Masjed Jame, Hesar Hill, Cheshmeh Ali.

### **3. Shahrood**

Imamzadeh Mohammad shrine, Masjed jame Feroomad, Sheikh Abulhasam Juri tomb, Ebne Yaman Foryomod, Sheikh Abulhassan Khrqani tomb, Bayazid Bastami complex, Bastam Minaret, kashaneh tower, Ghazan Khan Shrine.

### **4. Garmsar City**

Ghoolabad Hill, Shahr Ruineds.

## **Percentage of Followers of Religions**

Iran has something around seventy million populations out of which 98.8% are Muslim. The followers of other religions are as the following: 0.7 % Christian, 0.3 % Jewish, 0.1 % Zoroastrians and 0.1 % other religions.

## **Christians**

There have been two religious minorities of Christians in Iran since before Islam:

### **1-Aramaneh (Armenians)**

These people are in Azerbaijan, Esfahan, Tehran, Khozestan and .... Aramaneh are the most populated Christian minority in Iran and according to the Constitutional Law they have to representatives in parliament, which are chosen from the southern and northern Armenians. Their Caliphs are in three parts: Tehran and north, Esfahan and South and Azerbaijan.

### **2-Ashoorians**

They are the descendant of Kaldeh tribe which has been in Iran since 2500 year ago. In the Sassanide and Arsacian period they converted to Christian and they chose to be in the minority of Nastoori. The population of Ashoorians is 25 thousand people and they have a representative in Parliament. They have two communities which lead all of their activities in the fields of art, sports, social and political. These two communities are called: Tehran Ashoorians' Community and Uroomiyeh Ashoorians' Community.

Beside these religious minorities there are catholic and protestant Christians too.

**Jewish**

Jewish people entered Iran around 27 centuries ago in the time of The Great Cyrus. They are mostly in the cities like: Shoosh, Nahavand, Hamedan, Esfahan and Shiraz, and some of them traveled back to Israel after the war between Israel and Palestine was over. Most of these people are into economical and trade activities.

**Zoroastrians**

They are one of the oldest Iranian in tribes and as the Prophet Zoroaster used to live Iran about 700 to 1000 year B.C so Zoroastrians are as old as 3000 years. Their population is 0.1 which is around 20 thousand. They live in the cities like: Tehran, Kerman, Shiraz and Yazd they are freely doing all the costumes of their religion.

**Percentage of the four faiths of Islam**

According to the 12<sup>th</sup> principle of Constitutional Law the official religion of Iran is Islam and that to the faith of Jafari Asna Ashari and other faiths of Islam like: Hanafi, Shafeie, Maleki, Hanbali and Zeydi are respected and free to do all their religious costumes. Out of all the Muslims in Iran 91% are Shias and 9 % are Sunni. Sunni Muslims are mostly in the faiths of Shafeie (59 %) and Hanafi (49 %).

### **The Unity of Shia and Sunni**

One of the objective of the superpowers are disunion of Muslims and it is because they are always afraid of union of billions of Muslims all over the world. They want to create disunion among Muslims and this has been their plan since the death of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) till the present time. The history also proves this, where ever there has been disunion among the Muslims the reason has been an external superpower.

According to Islam, Muslims are all brothers and even the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) has said that they should be all brothers and friends of each other they should avoid disunion. At the time of Mr. Boroojerdi, there was a great union between him and the priests of Egypt and this lead the foundation of Darlataqrib and some other noticeable projects.

After the death of Mr. Boroojerdi, Imam Khomeini brought up the philosophy of Islamic union as a leader of Shias. The union of the Shia and Sunni was considered as one of the main concerns of Muslims. Imam Khomeini said that the only way of succeed for Muslims is their union in word and practice according to the Holy Quran, and he mentioned the similarities between the Muslims of the world, and he determined some principles:

Believing in union, Islam, Holy Quran, Prophet Mohammad, Brotherhood among the Muslims, adherence to the Islamic principles and reference to the Constitutional Law.

He believed that these similarities are the main things for the Islamic society and the other factors were not considered as a reason of stoppage for union of Muslims.

Now the Sunnis and Shias are living happily together like brothers and that how they are always ready to stay in front of any external invader and the reason is the great work of Imam Khomeini (R.A) on the union of Muslims and the principles he determined for them. One of his works for union of Shias and Sunnis is the Unity Week, as the Shias and Sunnis have different ideas about the birthday of the holy Prophet Mohammad so he called this week the Week of Prophet Mohammad's Birth. Another one is the war which was between Iraq and Iran. In this war the external enemies tried their best for disunion of Shias and Sunnis but because of the great leadership of Muslims, nothing happened and all of them were against the enemy and finally they drove them out of the country.