



When did Iran become a full member of the SCO?

# When did Iran become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- A. July 1, 2023
- B. July 4, 2023
- C. July 6, 2023
- D. July 8, 2023

Show Answer...

**Correct Answer: B (July 4, 2023)**

## **Explanation:**

Iran officially became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) **on July 4, 2023**. The decision was announced at the 23rd summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State, which was hosted by India and held virtually.

Iran's journey towards full membership in the SCO started in 2005 when it was granted observer status. The country applied for full membership in 2008 and its application was approved at the 21st SCO summit in 2021. However, the process of becoming a full member requires several months.

The SCO, established in 2001, is a political, economic, and security organization that spans across Eurasia. Its current members include China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Iran's accession to the SCO is considered a significant development as it grants the country a greater influence in regional affairs and potential economic benefits.

The SCO aims to promote regional cooperation in various areas such as security, trade, and energy. It has also been actively involved in counterterrorism and countering extremism efforts.

Russia and China are viewed as the main driving forces behind the SCO's expansion, and they have been working towards increasing the organization's



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membership in recent years. Iran's membership is seen as a means to counter Western influence in the region.

While the United States and its allies have expressed concerns and criticized the SCO, accusing it of being a tool for Russian and Chinese influence, the organization has consistently denied these allegations. The SCO emphasizes that it is not a military alliance and poses no threat to any country.

Iran's full membership in the SCO is a significant development that will likely have a substantial impact on regional politics and security. The future evolution of the organization remains to be seen, but its expansion is expected to challenge Western influence in the region further.

## **Total Members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2023**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Membership Year</b>
1	China	Beijing	26-04-1996
2	Kazakhstan	Astana	26-04-1996
3	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	26-04-1996
4	Russia	Moscow	26-04-1996
5	Tajikistan	Dushanbe	26-04-1996
6	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	15-06-2001
7	India	New Delhi	09-06-2017
8	Pakistan	Islamabad	09-06-2017
9	Iran	Tehran	04-07-2023

## **Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and their joining dates**

### **China (1996)**

China has been a member of the SCO since its establishment in 1996. As one of the founding members, China played a crucial role in the formation of the organization. The SCO was originally founded in Shanghai, China, by five member



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states known as Shanghai five, including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. China's membership in the SCO reflects its commitment to regional cooperation and its desire to strengthen ties with neighbouring countries.

### **Kazakhstan (1996)**

Kazakhstan has been a member of the SCO since its inception in 1996. As one of the founding members, Kazakhstan played an instrumental role in the establishment of the organization. The SCO was formed in Shanghai by five members of Shanghai Five, China, with the aim of promoting regional stability, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange. Kazakhstan's participation in the SCO reflects its commitment to regional integration and its desire to foster closer ties with neighbouring countries.

### **Kyrgyzstan (1996)**

Kyrgyzstan became a member of the SCO in 1996. Alongside China, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan was among the founding members of the organization. The SCO was established in Shanghai, China, as a platform for regional cooperation and dialogue on political, economic, and security issues. Kyrgyzstan's membership in the SCO demonstrates its commitment to promoting regional stability and cooperation among member states.

### **Russia (1996)**

Russia has been a member of the SCO since its formation in 1996. Along with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, Russia was among the founding members of the organization. The SCO was established in Shanghai, China, with the goal of promoting regional stability, economic development, and cultural exchange. Russia's involvement in the SCO reflects its commitment to regional cooperation and its desire to strengthen ties with neighbouring countries.

### **Tajikistan (1996)**

Tajikistan joined the SCO in 1996 as one of the founding members. Alongside China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan played an integral role in



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the establishment of the organization. The SCO was founded in Shanghai, China, as a platform for regional collaboration and dialogue on various issues. Tajikistan's membership in the SCO showcases its commitment to regional integration and its efforts to enhance cooperation among member states.

### **Uzbekistan (2001)**

Uzbekistan became a member of the SCO in 2001. After the organization's initial formation in 1996, Uzbekistan joined the SCO as a full member in Shanghai, China. By joining the SCO, Uzbekistan aimed to strengthen regional cooperation, particularly in the areas of security, trade, and cultural exchange. Uzbekistan's membership in the SCO signifies its commitment to enhancing regional stability and advancing mutually beneficial partnerships within the organization.

### **Pakistan (2017)**

Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017, together with India. Pakistan's accession to the SCO was finalized during the Astana summit held in Kazakhstan. The inclusion of Pakistan in the SCO was seen as a significant step in expanding the organization's influence in South Asia and enhancing regional cooperation. Pakistan's membership in the SCO aims to strengthen ties with member states and foster greater economic and security collaboration.

### **India (2017)**

India joined the SCO in 2017 along with Pakistan. The decision to grant full membership to India was made during the SCO summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan. India's inclusion in the SCO marked a significant development, expanding the organization's reach and influence in South Asia. India's accession to the SCO was seen as a step towards enhancing regional connectivity, trade, and security cooperation.

### **Iran (2023)**

Iran officially became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on July 4, 2023. The announcement was made at the 23rd summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State, which was held virtually and hosted by India. Iran's membership in the SCO has been in the works for several years. The



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country was granted observer status in 2005 and applied for full membership in 2008. Its membership was approved at the 21st SCO summit in 2021, but the process of becoming a full member takes several months.

As the SCO continues to grow and evolve, its member states collaborate on initiatives and projects that promote economic integration, counterterrorism, combat drug trafficking, and enhance cultural and educational exchanges. The organization plays a significant role in shaping regional dynamics and fostering dialogue among member states to achieve common goals.

Through the SCO, member countries have the opportunity to strengthen economic ties, engage in diplomatic discussions, and jointly address regional challenges. The organization's cooperative efforts contribute to the stability and development of the Eurasian region, while also facilitating partnerships with other countries and organizations around the world.

In conclusion, the addition of Iran as a full member enriches the diversity and potential of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The SCO continues to play a crucial role in promoting cooperation, stability, and development among its member states, and its expansion signifies a growing regional influence in the Eurasian landscape.

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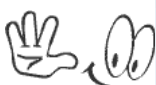
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