



EXCLUSIVE

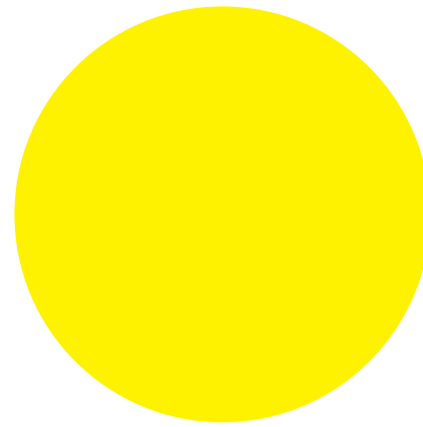
Iran's claim to Arash gas field indisputable

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Iran Culture Week opens new horizon on Tehran-Moscow ties: Minister

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Iran formally joins Shanghai Cooperation Organization



بیست و سومین اجلاس سران کشورهای عضو سازمان همکاری شانگهای
۱۳ تیر ۱۴۰۲
23RD MEETING OF THE SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE
4 JULY 2023
एससीओ राष्ट्र अध्यक्षों की परिषद की 23वीं बैठक
4 जुलाई 2023

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi listens as India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (on screen) speaks during a virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Heads of State Council in Tehran on July 4, 2023.
president.ir

International Desk

Iran formally joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as the ninth member of the Asian bloc on Tuesday. Iran's membership was announced by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he head-

lined the SCO leaders' summit held virtually on Tuesday. Modi congratulated Iran on becoming a full member of the alliance, saying, "New countries joining the group underlines the importance of the group". Iran first applied for membership in the bloc 15 years ago,

but it took until 2021 for the request to be approved. Iran and the organization started a formal process for Tehran's accession in March 2022. In September of the same year, Iran signed a memorandum of commitment to join the SCO. Addressing the Tuesday sum-

mit, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Tehran's membership will support "collective security... expand ties and communications and strengthen unity". "In particular, I hope that Iran's presence in this important and influential organization will

provide a platform for collective security, lead to sustainable development, expand links and communications, strengthen unity, respect the sovereignty of countries more than ever before, and provide synergies to deal with environmental threats," Raisi said.

De-dollarization a necessity

He also warned against the dominance of the dollar in global exchanges, saying de-dollarization is a pivotal necessity to form a just international system.

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UN to hold urgent meeting on Qu'ran desecration in Sweden

The United Nations Human Rights Council will hold an urgent meeting on the desecration of the Muslims' holy book, Qu'ran, outside a mosque in Sweden, following a request from Pakistan. The desecration of the Qu'ran took place outside the Swedish capital Stockholm's main mosque last week, which was authorized by the police and was carried out by an Iraqi man.

The Swedish government condemned the "Islamophobic" act, after the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation called for measures to avoid future desecration of the holy book. Officials from numerous countries, including many in the Middle East, have also condemned the incident, calling on Stockholm to step up measures against religious

hate. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We will teach the arrogant Western people that it is not freedom of expression to insult the sacred values of Muslims." Ankara is currently holding up Sweden's application for NATO membership on accusations that the Nordic nation harbours people Turkey considers "terrorists".

Fresh blood in SCO as Iran joins Eastern bloc



By Javad Mohammad Ali
Staff writer

Iran's recent inclusion in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) marks a historic milestone for the Islamic Republic, opening up new avenues to strengthen its economy and shape its foreign policy. By aligning with the SCO, Iran strategically prioritizes its relations with

Eastern powerhouses - Russia, China and India - in an effort to mitigate the impact of US sanctions and establish regional partnerships as alternatives to Western counterparts. One of the key benefits of Iran's SCO membership lies in the economic sphere. The Islamic Republic aims to enhance its energy sector, particularly oil sales, by fostering collaborations with other SCO member states. By leveraging its SCO attachment, Iran envisions

transforming into a pivotal energy hub in the region, attracting foreign investments and improving its oil and gas infrastructure. This move not only bolsters its economic structures but also augments its competitive position. Moreover, the SCO's emphasis on economic cooperation, under China's leadership, gives Iran opportunities to reduce its reliance on the US dollar in global trade.

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