



## India's PM Historic Visit to Cyprus

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India's Prime Minister's visit to Cyprus — the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 23 years — marks a significant step in **bolstering bilateral relations**, with a focus on **energy security, counterterrorism cooperation, and India-EU strategic alignment**.

- India's Prime Minister was awarded the **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III**, Cyprus's highest civilian honour, named after its first President, **Archbishop Makarios III**.



- **About Cyprus:**

- **Location:** Cyprus is a **Eurasian island country** located in the northeast **Mediterranean Sea** at the **crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa**.
- It is the **3rd largest Mediterranean island** after Sicily and Sardinia.



- **Historical Background:** Cyprus gained **independence from Britain in 1960**, but the **1974 Turkish invasion** led to its partition into the **Turkish-controlled north** (recognized only by Turkey) and the **Republic of Cyprus in the south**.
  - The **UN patrols the Green Line**, maintaining peace between the divided regions.
- **Political Division:** It is politically divided between the **Republic of Cyprus** (internationally recognized and an **European Union (EU)** member) and the **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**.
- **Geography:** It has a **Mediterranean climate** with **hot, dry summers and wet winters** and rainfall critical for agriculture.
- **India-Cyprus Relation:** India and Cyprus established **diplomatic ties in 1962**. India supports a **bi-zonal, bi-communal federation** for the **Cyprus issue**, in line with **UNSC resolutions**, and **international law**.
  - **Archbishop Makarios (Cyprus's first President)** and **Pandit Nehru** were pioneers of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**.
  - Cyprus's consistent support for India's **UNSC bid**, **NSG membership**, and **stance on Kashmir and terrorism** makes India's engagement with Cyprus a **strategic counterbalance** to growing **Turkey-Pakistan military ties**.

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