

India-Cyprus Bilateral Relations

India and the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) enjoy excellent bilateral relations based on friendship, mutual respect and close cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 10 February 1962. Over the past six decades, the relationship has grown stronger, more diversified and multifaceted, including in areas of trade, technology, investment, defence and security. Both countries support similar positions on major regional and international issues and have collaborated constructively in the United Nations, Commonwealth and other international fora.

2. The foundation of this long-standing relationship was laid by the first President of RoC, Archbishop Makarios, and the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. They were among the pioneers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), who realised the aspirations of their respective people for self-determination and nationhood. President Archbishop Makarios deeply appreciated the support of India rendered to the Cypriot struggle against British colonialism.

3. India has consistently endorsed the solution to the Cyprus Issue based on UNSC resolutions and international law. India supports a bi-zonal bi-communal federation based on UN Resolutions as a solution to the Cyprus question.

4. RoC supports India's candidature in various international fora including India's candidature as a permanent member of the expanded United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It has also extended its full support for the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, within the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) and the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA). RoC has also conveyed its support to India's candidature for non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2028-29.

5. Within the EU, Cyprus is a keen supporter of India and has contributed actively towards the further enhancement of India-EU relations, within the framework of India-EU strategic partnership. Cyprus recognizes and appreciates India's contribution to global affairs and its prominent and stabilizing role in South Asia. It also commends India for its participation in UN peacekeeping operations throughout the world, as it has been one of the beneficiaries. India had contributed three Force Commanders serving in UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since its creation in 1964, namely Lieutenant General PS Gyani, General KS Thimayya and Major General Diwan Prem Chand. General KS Thimayya, who died while on active duty in 1965 in Cyprus, was honoured by a commemorative stamp and naming an avenue in Larnaca in RoC in his memory in 1966. At present, one officer from Indian Army is serving in the UNFICYP.

6. There have been several goodwill gestures between the two countries, marking their special regard and gratitude for each other. India has named an avenue in New Delhi in the honour of Archbishop Makarios, the first President of RoC. The street on which the High Commission of India in Nicosia is located is named after Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in the garden adjacent to the Parliament of RoC in July 1972 and the avenue in front of the bust was named as "Jawaharlal Nehru Avenue" in 1983. RoC issued two postal stamps on the occasion of Centenary Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 1970. On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary, RoC issued a commemorative stamp on 10 September 2019. During his visit to Cyprus from 29-31 December 2022, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and Acting President Ms. Annita Demetriou, also the Speaker of the House of Representatives, jointly issued a Commemorative Stamp on the occasion of 75 years of

India's Independence and 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Republic of India and Republic of Cyprus.

High-Level Visits

7. Over the years, political relations have strengthened through a series of bilateral visits at the level of President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other Ministerial level visits.

Presidential Level

- On the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, President Nikos Christodoulides will undertake a State visit to India, including Mumbai & Delhi, from 20-23 May 2026. Earlier, President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Cyprus in September 2018 and President of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades visited India in April 2017.

Prime Minister Level

- Hon'ble PM Modi paid an official visit to RoC from 15-16 June 2025, marking a historic milestone as the first such visit in over two decades. The last Prime Ministerial visit to RoC took place on 7-8 October 2002, when Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited RoC. PM Modi was received at the airport by Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides. Both leaders participated in a business roundtable in Limassol on 15 June 2025. On 16 June 2025, the two leaders held a tete-a-tete meeting, followed by delegation-level talks. They reaffirmed the strong and enduring partnership between India and Cyprus, and discussed a wide range

of bilateral, regional, and global issues. Both Leaders committed to strengthening cooperation in areas such as security, defence, trade, technology, and people-to-people ties, with a focus on tackling terrorism, enhancing connectivity, and advancing economic collaboration. They also agreed to work towards a comprehensive Joint Action Plan to guide bilateral relations for the next five years 2025-29. PM Modi was conferred RoC's highest civilian honour, the →Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III," by President Nikos Christodoulides. A Joint Declaration was also issued on 16 June 2025. On the sidelines of the visit, an MoU was signed to establish a Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Nicosia. Additionally, NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) also signed a strategic MoU with Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE) to enable Cross and Dual Listings and to enhance bilateral Capital Market Collaboration. Furthermore, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and Eurobank Cyprus, a leading bank in the Republic of Cyprus, and subsidiary of Eurobank S.A., signed an MoU to enable cross-border payments through India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President Nicos Anastasiades on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 26 September 2019 and earlier at CHOGM in London on 20 April 2018.

Foreign Minister Level

- EAM met with Cyprus' FM Dr. Constantinos Kombos at the sidelines of the Foreign Affairs Council of EU in Brussels on 15 March 2026, and discussed bilateral, regional developments in Middle East and issues related to India-EU strategic partnership.

- On 3 March 2026, FM Kombos had telephonic conversation with EAM, during which views on the situation in the Gulf region were exchanged.
- EAM briefly met with FM Kombos on 4 February 2026 at the sidelines of the Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC. FM Kombos congratulated EAM on recent trade agreements with the US and the EU, calling them a sign of “effective diplomacy”.
- FM Kombos visited India from 29-31 October 2025 and had a one-on-one meeting with EAM, followed by delegation level talks on 30 October 2025. The visit of Cyprus’ FM to India took place after a gap of 14 years, with the last visit taking place in 2011. Both ministers reviewed progress on commitments from the Joint Declaration issued during Prime Minister’s visit to Cyprus in June 2025, and reviewed the Joint Action Plan 2025–2029. FM Kombos participated in the 75th Sapru House Lecture and delivered a key note address titled “Cyprus and the World” at the Indian Council of World Affairs.
- EAM met with FM Kombos at the sidelines of 80th UNGA High-Level Week in New York on 24 September 2025. They reviewed the progress in bilateral ties since the successful visit of PM Modi to Cyprus in June 2025. EAM appreciated the insights of FM Kombos on developments in Europe, and reaffirmed support for a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus Question in accordance with the agreed UN framework and the relevant UNSC resolutions.
- During the visit of the PM Modi to Cyprus in June 2025, the Cypriot Foreign Minister welcomed the EAM at the airport and they held discussions on issues of mutual interest.

- Post Pahalgam terror attack, FM Kombos had telephonic conversation with EAM on 29 April 2025, during which he condemned the terror attack and expressed solidarity with India.
- The two Foreign Ministers again held a telephone call on 30 May 2025, to discuss ways to enhance cooperation, and exchanged views on advancing EU-India relations, especially in light of Cyprus' upcoming Presidency of the EU Council.
- EAM had a meeting with Cyprus' FM Dr. Constantinos Kombos at the sidelines of EU-Indo Pacific Forum in Stockholm on 13 May 2023; on the sidelines of 78th UNGA High-Level Week in New York on 23 September 2023 and 79th UNGA on 25 September 2024; and during Doha Forum on 07 December 2024 in Doha.
- EAM paid an Official Visit to RoC from 29-31 December 2022. During the visit, he met with Acting President and President of the House of Representatives (Speaker) of RoC, Ms. Annita Demetriou and the Foreign Minister of RoC Ioannis Kasoulides. During the visit, an MoU on Defence and Military Cooperation and a Declaration of Intent on the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) were signed. RoC also joined the International Solar Alliance. EAM and President of the House of Representatives jointly released a Commemorative Stamp on the occasion of 75 years of India's Independence and 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. They also addressed an Economic and Business Forum in Limassol on 30 December 2025. EAM addressed the Indian community at an event in Larnaca on 30 December 2025.
- EAM had a virtual meeting with the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of RoC, Nikos Christodoulides on 16 February 2021. EAM had a bilateral meeting with the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of RoC Ioannis Kasoulides during the sidelines of

CHOGM 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda on 23 June 2022 and at the sidelines of 77th UNGA in New York on 24 September 2022.

Parliamentary Delegation

- A parliamentary delegation of RoC, led by the President of the House of Representatives, Ms. Annita Demetriou visited New Delhi from 24–28 November 2025 at the invitation of speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla. The visit took place after a gap of 30 years at this level. The delegation comprised of MP Nikos Tornaritis (DISY), MP Aristos Damianou (AKEL), MP Christiana Erotokritou (DIKO), and senior officials from the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. During the visit, President Demetriou met with Rashtrapatiji Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar. She also met with MP & Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri Shashi Tharoor . A tour of both the houses of the Parliament was organised. Ms. Demetriou also gave an interview to DD News.

Ministerial Level

- The Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of RoC, Dr. Nicodemos Damianou visited India on 18-19 February 2026 and represented the President Christodoulides in the “India AI Impact Summit 2026” held in New Delhi and was accompanied by Chief Scientist Dr. Demetris Skourides. Dr. Damianou participated in the Ministerial Discussion “Safe & Trusted AI,” emphasizing secure, reliable, and human-centric AI systems and international regulatory cooperation.

On the sidelines, Dr. Damianou met with Indian officials, including the Minister of Technology and Biotechnology of Karnataka, Shri Priyank M. Kharge.

- Dr. Damianou also headed a delegation from Cyprus to attend the ICC Global Business Summit 2025, from 18-20 September 2025 in Mumbai. The delegation also comprised of the Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus and the CEO of Invest Cyprus. During the visit, Dr. Damianou addressed the roundtable “India–Cyprus Business and Investment Opportunities: Economic Collaboration and Shared Growth”. Dr. Damianou also met Managing Director and CEO of National Stock Exchange, Shri Ashish Chauhan in Mumbai and discussed the prospects for cooperation in areas such as the development of new financial products and the parallel listing of companies on the Stock Exchanges of the two countries.
- A Cypriot delegation, led by Dr. Nicodemos Damianou, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of RoC, visited India from 5-6 September 2024, to participate in the →CII India Mediterranean Business Conclave→ in New Delhi. At the conference, he joined a ministerial session on trade and investment with India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and delivered a closing speech on →India-Middle East: shaping cooperation for the future," also attended by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar. Dr. Damianou met with India's Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada to discuss enhancing cooperation in digital transformation, AI, and cybersecurity.
- Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State (MoS) for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways of India, visited RoC from 08-11 October 2023 to attend the “Cyprus Maritime 2023 Conference” in Limassol, organized by the Deputy Shipping Ministry of RoC. The

Maritime Service Exhibition was inaugurated by the President of RoC Nikos Christodoulides, along with the MoS and the Shipping Deputy Minister of RoC, Ms. Marina Hadjimanolis.

- Mr. Nicos Nouris, Interior Minister of RoC visited India to attend 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter Terrorism “No Money for Terror” from 18-19 November 2022.

Other Engagements/Visits

- Chief Scientist of RoC, Dr. Demetris Skourides participated in the EU–India Forum in New Delhi on 6–7 February 2026 to strengthen Cyprus’ role in the evolving EU–India Innovation and Technology Partnership. Dr. Skourides was accompanied by Nicolas Kyriakides, President of the Cyprus Forum.
- A Cypriot Defence Delegation, led by the Permanent Secretary of the Defence Ministry of RoC, Ms. Anna Aristotelous participated in AERO India 2025 in Bengaluru from 10-14 February 2025. On the sidelines of the event, Ms. Anna Aristotelous met with Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth and held productive discussions on enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.
- A high-level Indian delegation, led by Hon’ble Justice Mr. Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Ld. Attorney General Mr. R. Venkataramani, visited RoC to participate in the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference at University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus), held from 7-8 October 2024. During the visit, the delegation also met with Ms. Katerina Stamatiou, President of the Supreme Court, and Ms. Rea Limnatitou,

Former President of the Court of Appeal. They also met with the Attorney General of Cyprus, George L. Savvides and Deputy Attorney-General Savvas Angelides.

Institutional Mechanism

8. **Foreign Office Consultations:** In March 2001, the two sides signed a protocol institutionalizing Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on an annual basis, at the level of Secretary, alternately in Nicosia and New Delhi. So far six rounds of consultations have taken place. The last round of FOC was held on 26 November 2024 in Nicosia. The Indian side was led by Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, Additional Secretary (Central Europe) and the Cypriot side was led by Ms. Thessalia Salina Shambos, Political Director, MoFA. .

9. **Joint Economic Committee (JEC) on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Industrial Co-operation:** In April 1989, India and the Republic of Cyprus signed an agreement on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Industrial Cooperation, leading to the establishment of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC). The last meeting (9th) of this Committee was held virtually on 21 October 2021. The Permanent Secretary of the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development led the Cypriot side while the Indian Delegation was headed by Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce.

Defence Cooperation

10. An MoU on Defence and Military Cooperation was signed on 29 December 2022 during EAM's visit to RoC from 29-31 December 2022. Indian Defence Attache (based at Eol, Cairo) was accredited to Cyprus on 12 September 2024.

11. Chief of National Guard of RoC, Lieutenant General Dimokritos Zervakis and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India, General Anil Chauhan, engaged in a cordial telephone conversation on 14 August 2023, addressing Eastern Mediterranean geostrategic challenges and issues of shared interests.

12. A Bilateral Defence Cooperation Programme (BDCP) for 2025 was signed in Nicosia on 23 January 2025. The BDCP 2025 outlined various activities to be carried out in Cyprus and India, including a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Defence Cooperation. The BDCP 2025 laid the foundation for defence cooperation. On 18 February 2026 a BDCP for 2026 was signed in Nicosia which includes several activities for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

13. INS 'Triakand', a state-of-the-art Talwar-class guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived for port call at Limassol Port, Cyprus for four days from 21-24 September 2025. This landmark visit reflects the deepening India–Cyprus friendship, strengthening maritime bonds, defence cooperation and shared values across the seas. INS Triakand conducted a PASSEX (Passing Exercise) with the Cyprus Navy on 24 September 2024.

14. A defence delegation led by Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), MoD, accompanied by officials of MoD and CMDs of BDL and BEL, visited Cyprus from 11-13 September 2025.

15. High Commission of India in Nicosia organized "Brand India" event in Defence Production in Nicosia from 2-4 March 2026.

Economic and Commercial Relations

16. The economic and commercial ties between India and Cyprus have grown steadily, supported by shared commitment to enhance bilateral trade and investment. Bilateral trade between India and RoC has remained steady amidst fluctuations over the recent years. Bilateral trade between the two countries was USD 140.47 Million for April 2024-March 2025. The figures for the last five years are as follows:

Trade Figures

(All figures USD mn)

Trade	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Imports by RoC from India	90.11	139.85	81.88	94.92	89.92
Exports from RoC to India	23.98	74.32	116.17	42.04	50.55
Cyprus – India Trade	114.09	214.17	198.05	136.96	140.47
India – Cyprus Balance of Trade	66.13	65.53	(-)34.29	52.88	39.37

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

Major items of export from India: Organic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical Products, Fish and Crustaceans, Molluscs and other Aquatic Invertebrates, Iron & Steel, Ceramic products, Electrical Machinery and Equipment and parts thereof, Sound Recorders and Reproducers, Television Image and parts and accessories of such articles.

Major items of export from RoC: Ferrous & non-Ferrous Metals, Aluminium and articles thereof, Pulp of Wood or of other Fibrous Cellulosic Material, recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, Copper and articles thereof, Iron and Steel, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances.

17. **FDI:** RoC is among the top 9 investors in India with cumulative investments of US\$ 15.76 Billion during April 2000 – June 2025 (DPIIT estimates). These investments as FDI equity inflows were in sectors including services, computer and software, auto manufacture, manufacturing industries, real estate, cargo handling, construction, shipping and pharmaceuticals.

18. **Invest India and Invest Cyprus:** In December 2021, Invest India and Invest Cyprus signed an MOU with the intention of enhancing their mutual investments activities and promoting overall business cooperation between Indian and Cypriot companies.

19. **MoUs between Regional Chambers:** The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has signed MoUs with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). Similarly, the Limassol Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an MoU with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2023, while the Larnaca Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an MoU with the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce in 2024.

20. **Cyprus-India Business Association (CIBA):** On 16 September 2005, under the auspices of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce, the Cyprus-India Business Association (CIBA) was established to strengthen economic ties between Republic of Cyprus and India by promoting trade, investment, and business partnerships.

21. **India-Greece-Cyprus (IGC) Business and Investment Council** was launched in Mumbai on 13 February 2025. Following its official launch, IGC Business Investment Council has been meeting regularly.

22. **DTAA:** The revised India-Cyprus DTAA was signed on 18 November 2016 in Nicosia. India retrospectively rescinded the classification of RoC as a “Notified Jurisdictional Area” from 01 November 2013.

23. RoC was notified as an eligible country for obtaining category- I FPI under SEBI (FPI) regulations, 2019. RoC is one of the three countries, outside FATF (Financial Action Task Force) countries, to obtain such an approval from India.

Start-up and Innovation Cooperation

24. India participated as a partner country during Reflect Festival 2023 (20-21 September), and in Reflect Festival 2024 (30-31 May 2024) in Limassol. Reflect Festival is the largest tech event of the region, during which 8 Indian start-ups under the aegis of DPIIT participated in 2023. In 2024, in addition to 8 Indian start-ups, Pristyn Care, an Indian Unicorn, also participated in the event.

Cooperation in Space Sector

25. On 3 November 2025, an Indian delegation participated in 6th COSPAR 2025 Scientific Symposium themed “Humanity’s Challenges & Celestial Solutions” hosted in Nicosia by the Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO) and the International Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). India’s delegation included officials from ISRO and representative of Indian space-tech startup Pixxelspace India Private Ltd. High Commission facilitated meetings of ISRO and Pixxel with Cypriot entities.

Cultural Cooperation

26. India and Cyprus signed an agreement on Cultural Cooperation in New Delhi on 24 October 1980. The last Executive Programme for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the two countries was signed on 28 April 2017.

27. Indian High Commission in Nicosia undertakes a wide range of cultural, commemorative and outreach activities, including celebrations of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, World Hindi Divas, cultural performances and promotion of Hindi and other Indian languages; organisation of Indian Film Exhibitions and screenings of films across major cities, promotion of Indian music; and national day events such as Republic Day and Independence Day featuring ceremonial functions and cultural programmes.

28. Indian High Commission also coordinates observance of major Indian festivals including Holi, Diwali, Onam, Maha Shivaratri and Ganesh Chaturthi in partnership with the Indian community and local stakeholders. Literary and heritage-focused programmes such as Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti, exhibitions and cultural evenings on “Vande Mataram,” and commemorative events highlighting India’s civilizational legacy form part of the annual calendar. Nationally significant observances including Gandhi Jayanti, National Unity Day (Sardar Patel Jayanti), and Constitution Day are also organised to project India’s democratic values and historical milestones.

29. Indian High Commission organized “Flavours of Bharat”, showcasing Indian craft, culture and cuisine on 29 March 2025. Second edition of the event was held on 27 March 2026. High Commission launched the inaugural edition of “Namaste Cyprus” on 14 September 2025 to showcase India’s cultural diversity through music, dance and thematic presentations. The Cultural Wing also promotes India’s wellness traditions through observance of the International Day of Yoga, lead-up yoga events and Ayurveda

outreach activities. Media briefings and interactions are organised to enhance awareness of India–Cyprus relations, and commemorative events are held to highlight historical linkages between the two countries, including tributes to General K. S. Thimayya, the second Force Commander of the United Nation Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) .

Indian community

30. There are around 15,500 Indians living and working in RoC (April 2026). The Indian diaspora mainly consists of professionals working primarily in shipping, IT, Fintech, farmhands, domestic workers and students. Indian diaspora organizes various cultural events. This vibrant community actively participates in cultural programs organized by the Mission.

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