High Commission of India
Nicosia
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INDIA-CYPRUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

Political Relations:

Relations between India and Cyprus have been traditionally very close and friendly. Archbishop Makarios had the highest respect for Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. He was deeply appreciative of the support rendered by India to the struggle of Cyprus against British colonial rule. India has consistently and unwaveringly supported sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus and a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus problem. Cyprus too has staunchly supported India on all issues of importance including publicly endorsing its support to India's bid for a permanent seat in the reformed UNSC.

There have been several goodwill gestures marking their special regard for and gratitude to India. On the occasion of **Centenary Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi,** Cyprus issued two postal stamps in 1970. On the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary also Government of Cyprus issued a comomorative stamp on 10 September 2019. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in the Nicosia Municipal Park near the Parliament House in July 1972 on the occasion of the visit of President V.V. Giri, the only bust of foreign leader in the park. The avenue on which the House of Representatives (Cyprus Parliament) is located was named after Jawaharlal Nehru during the visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983. The street on which the High Commission premises and India House are located is named after Indira Gandhi. India has also named an avenue in New Delhi after Archbishop Makarios.

Since 1964 establishing the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), India has contributed three force commanders – Lieutenant General PS Gyani, General KS Thimayya, who died in harness in 1965, and Major General Diwan Prem Chand. The Republic of Cyprus, also honored him by issuing a commemorative stamp in his memory in 1966.

Cyprus has been a staunch supporter of India on issues of critical and crucial interest to it. Cyprus has supported India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Cyprus has also supported India post- Shakti series of nuclear tests, NSG etc.

India has consistently supported the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus, and has expressed support to a solution of the Cyprus problem, based on UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the aspirations of the people of Cyprus. India conveyed that it respects the democratic choice exercised by the people of Cyprus in the April 2004 referendum on Annan Plan.

In 2006, Cyprus extended full support to India in evacuation of Indian nationals from Lebanon. Under operation *Sukoon*, Indian Navy ships took the evacuees to Cyprus, from where chartered Air India flights flew them back to India.

Following 2014 parliamentary elections in India, President Anastasiades, FM Kasoulides and President House of Representatives sent letters of felicitation to PM, EAM and Speaker of Lok Sabha respectively. DISY (ruling party) President sent a letter of felicitation to the BJP President.

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi met with President Anastasiades on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York on 25 September 2015 and also on the sidelines of the CHOGAM in London on 20 April 2018. In the context of India's NSG membership, EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj spoke to Cyprus Foreign Minister on 16 June 2016. She spoke to him for Cyprus' support for re-election of Dr. Dalveer Bhandari to the International Court of Justice in July 2017 also.

High Level Visits:

Over the years, India-Cyprus political relations have been maintained and strengthened through a series of high level visits. Almost all the Presidents of the Republic of Cyprus have paid State visits to India. The last high-level visit from Cyprus was that of President Nicos Anastasiades who paid a State visit to India from April 24-29, 2017.

From the Indian side, President V.V. Giri (July 1972), and President R. Venkataraman (September 1988) visited Cyprus. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's historic visit in September 1983 remains etched in public memory and is recalled as a significant milestone in India's relations with Cyprus. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Cyprus in October 2002. President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State visit to Cyprus in October 2009. President Ram Nath Kovind paid a state visit to Cyprus in September 2-4, 2018.

The President of the House of Representatives, Mr. A. Ghalanos visited India in 1995. There was a return visit by an Indian Parliamentary delegation in 1996. Two members of the House of Representatives attended the International Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India, held in New Delhi in January 2003. From India, Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil led a Parliamentary delegation to Cyprus in September 1992 at the invitation of the President of the House of Representatives. In 1996, Dr. Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Shri S. Malikarjunaiah, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Cyprus. An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Somnath Chatterjee, visited Cyprus to participate in the mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting held in Limassol in April 2007. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, MP attended the 45th Regional Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region held in Limassol, Cyprus from 24 to May 2015. A three Member Indian Parliamentary Delegation accompanied by a Secretary to delegation attended the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) standing committee on Economic and sustainable development in Pissouri Bay, Cyprus from 25-28 June, 2018. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, MP (Lok Sabha), leader of delegation met H.E. Mr. Demetris Syllouris, the President of the House of Representatives on 26 June, 2018.

Important Ministerial Visits:

From India: Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS(EA) from March 30 to April 1, 2017; Smt. Preneet Kaur, MOS (EA) in April 2013; Shri Pranab Mukherjee, EAM in May 2007.

From Cyprus: Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr. Antonis Paschalides visited India in October 2010; The Foreign Minister of Cyprus, Mr. Markos Kyprianou paid an official visit to India from Apri17-19, 2011; Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment Sofoclis Albert Aletraris visited India to attend the COP-11 to CBD (October 8-19, 2012) in Hyderabad; The current Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides visited India in November 2013 for the ASEM FFM 11; Mr. Marios Demetriades, Minister of Communications and Works was on a two-day visit to India in March 2015 to canvass support for Cypriot candidate for the post of Secretary General of IMO; Mr. Giorgios Lakkotrypis, Minister for Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism December 2016 to participate in Petrotech and India Europe 29 Business Forum

Bilateral Institutional Arrangements:

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 three rounds have been held (2001-Nicosia, 2004 and 2009 in New Delhi). Interim talks at the level of Joint Secretary (Central Europe) from the Ministry of External Affairs and Political Director in the Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs were held on November 11, 2014 in Nicosia.

Joint Economic Committee: India and Cyprus signed an Agreement on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Industrial Co-operation in April 1989, following which the Joint Economic

Committee (JEC) was established. The first meeting of the JEC was held in Nicosia in May 1992 and the last session through video conferencing on 8 June 2016.

Joint Working Group (JWG) on Science & Technology (S&T): In order to facilitate cooperation in Science & Technology, with the possibility of commercial application in this field, a MoU providing for joint research and development projects and joint ventures in S&T was signed in October 2002. The first meeting of the JWG was held in New Delhi in November 2005.

Cyprus-India Business Association (CIBA): In September 2005, Cyprus-India Business Association (CIBA), was established under the auspices of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce.

Agreements/MOUs signed between India and Cyprus: Total 21 MoUs/ Agreements have been signed between India & Cyprus (*details available on Mission's website*)**.**

Economic Relations:

FDI: As per the DIPP figures, Cyprus is 8th top investor in India with cumulative investments of US$ 9.927 bn during April 2000 – June 2019. These investments as FDI equity inflows have gone into areas such as services sectors, computer and software, auto manufacture, manufacturing industries, real estate, cargo handling incidental to land transport, construction, shipping and pharmaceuticals.

The revised India Cyprus DTAA was signed on 18 November 2016 in Nicosia. Subsequently, India rescinded the classification of Cyprus in the "Notified Jurisdictional Area" as from the 1st of November 2013. The revised agreement provides for source based taxation for gains from the alienation of shares; investments undertaken prior to 1 April 2017 are grandfathered with the view that taxation of disposal of such shares at any future date remains with the contracting state of residence of the seller.

It may be recalled that Cyprus was notified by the CBDT as 'Notified Jurisdictional Area' on 1 November 2013 under Section 94 A of the IT Act of 1961, since Cyprus was reported not to be providing the information requested by the Indian tax authorities under the exchange of information provisions of the agreement.

Trade Relations: Bilateral trade between India and Cyprus has increased over the recent years. In the year 2018, imports from Cyprus to India were approximately 60 mln Euro. The figures for the last three years are given below:

Cyprus Global Trade and Cyprus – India Trade figures (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019(Jan-June)

(All figures Euro mln)

	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019 (Jan – June 2019)**
Cyprus Global Imports	5,960	8,041	5,923	4,096
Cyprus Imports from India	58	73,11	37,7	43,03
Cyprus Global Exports	1,740	1,540	3,273	1,694
Cyprus Exports to India	8	19,22	8,8	10,87
Cyprus Global Trade	7,700	9,582	9,196	5,790
Cyprus – India Trade	66	92	46.5	53.9

(Source: Cyprus Statistics Service)

Cyprus Balance of Trade	(-) 4,223	(-) 5,132	(-) 3,424	(-)2,402
India – Cyprus Balance of Trade	50	54	29	32

Major items of exports from India: Organic chemicals, oil seed, oleagi fruits, fish & other aquatic invertebrate, vehicles & amp; accessories and Iron & steel. **Major imports from Cyprus**: Aluminum & articles thereof, pulp of wood, iron & steel, machinery, boilers, engines, plastic and articles thereof.

Indian community: The Indian community in Cyprus stands at around 7200**.** While the number of permanent residents is very small, the major chunk of the community consists of domestic workers, Indian students studying in private colleges in Cyprus, farm workers, professionals, computer engineers, software programmers. Besides software development, the other MNCs employing Indians include those dealing in merchant shipping, shipping management banking, tourism, tobacco industry, and market research companies.

Useful references: **High Commission of India, Nicosia**
website: **http://hci.gov.in/nicosia/**
Facebook: **http://www.facebook.com/indiaincyprus**
Twitter: **HCI_Nicosia**
Youtube**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9wVQt4-hZElhyvguXJN16g**

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