

CSIR Diplomatic Insights

President Nikos Christodoulides' Visit to India (May 2026): Advancing India–Cyprus Cultural Relations

The State Visit of Nikos Christodoulides to India from 20–23 May 2026 marks an important step in strengthening India–Cyprus relations. The visit gains added significance as Cyprus currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, enhancing its strategic importance for India within the European framework. Building on the momentum created by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Cyprus in June 2025, the visit reflects a shift in bilateral ties towards a more focused and result-oriented partnership.

India and the Republic of Cyprus have enjoyed warm and longstanding relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties on 10 February 1962.¹ The partnership is anchored in mutual respect, political trust, support on key national issues, and close cooperation in multilateral forums. Over the years, Cyprus has emerged as an important partner for India in the Mediterranean and Europe, while India remains a trusted partner for Cyprus in Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

Cultural diplomacy has become an important pillar of bilateral engagement. The Indian High Commission in Cyprus has actively promoted “India's civilisational heritage through initiatives such as “Flavours of Bharat” in March 2025 and March 2026, showcasing Indian crafts, cuisine, and cultural traditions. The launch of the inaugural “Namaste Cyprus” programme in September 2025 further strengthened cultural outreach through music, dance, and thematic presentations reflecting India's diversity.”² The Mission has also expanded outreach in Yoga and Ayurveda through celebrations of the International Day of Yoga, wellness programmes, and public cultural events. The Indian diaspora in Cyprus continues to play a significant role in strengthening people-to-people ties through active cultural and community engagement.

During bilateral talks held in New Delhi on 22 May 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Nikos Christodoulides expressed satisfaction with the renewed momentum in bilateral engagement across political, cultural, economic, and institutional domains and reiterated their commitment to strengthening the India–Cyprus Comprehensive

¹ India-Cyprus Bilateral Relations. *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/INDIA-CYPRUS-may-2026.pdf>

² Ibid.

Partnership. The discussions underscored the growing importance of sustained high-level political dialogue as a central pillar of bilateral cooperation. Both sides welcomed the progress achieved under the India–Cyprus Joint Action Plan 2025–2029 announced during Prime Minister Modi’s 2025 visit and called for its timely implementation. The Leaders also agreed to commemorate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027 through special events and diplomatic initiatives aimed at highlighting the enduring nature of bilateral ties. The visit further reflected broader strategic convergence between India and Cyprus on regional and global issues. A major outcome of the visit was the reaffirmation of mutual support on issues of strategic importance.

The visit highlighted the growing importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening India–Cyprus relations. The signing of the MoU on Cultural Cooperation for 2026–2030 between the Ministry of Culture of India and the Deputy Ministry of Culture of Cyprus marked an important step toward expanding cultural and educational exchanges. The agreement is expected to promote cooperation in visual and performing arts, heritage conservation, arts education, museums, and creative industries. Both sides also encouraged collaboration between universities, cultural institutions, museums, and academic organisations through joint exhibitions, research, and capacity-building initiatives. The Leaders further noted the growing popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Indian cultural traditions in Cyprus, reflecting stronger people-to-people ties between the two countries. Recognising growing mobility and expanding people-to-people exchanges, both sides welcomed the launch of a dedicated Consular Dialogue to strengthen consular cooperation and institutional coordination. The initiative reflects the growing depth of bilateral relations and aims to support educational exchanges, tourism, professional mobility, and diaspora engagement through more structured cooperation mechanisms.

President Christodoulides’ visit marks an important step in transforming the traditionally friendly India–Cyprus relationship into a modern strategic partnership with wider geopolitical significance. The visit underscored the shared vision of India and Cyprus as strategic partners linking Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Indo-Pacific. It also signalled the beginning of a new phase in bilateral relations characterised by strategic convergence, institutional cooperation, cultural engagement, and expanding geopolitical coordination. Moving beyond symbolic diplomacy, both countries demonstrated a clear commitment to building an ambitious and future-oriented partnership.