



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# India will continue efforts to strengthen ties with cyprus - PM

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## Context

- PM Modi was awarded Cyprus's highest honour, the **Grand Cross of the Order of Macarios III**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held talks with Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, and sent an **indirect message to Turkiye** while renewing India's support for the unity of Cyprus and "peaceful resolution" of the "Cyprus question".

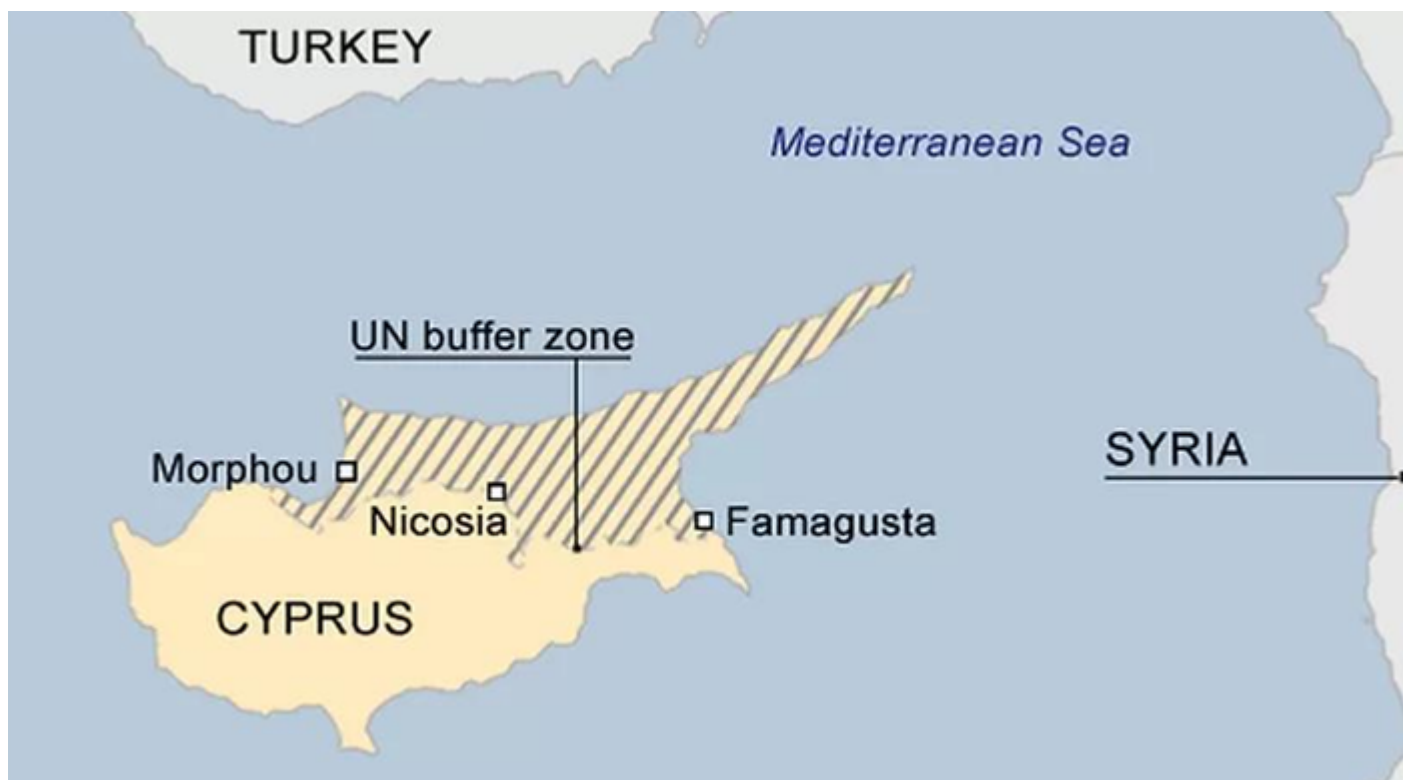
## Cyprus issue

- Cyprus gained **independence from Britain in 1960** with a constitution aiming for peace between the **Greek Cypriot majority and the Turkish Cypriot minority**.
- **Inter-communal tensions** escalated in 1963, leading to violence and the **division of the capital, Nicosia, along the "Green Line."**
- A 1974 **Turkish invasion** further divided the island, with the northern part declaring **independence as Northern Cyprus (recognized only by Turkey)**.
- The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in 1964 to maintain peace and has been present ever since, with the UK as a key contributor.
- Peacekeepers patrol the buffer zone, a 180km strip separating the two sides, and monitor for unauthorized activity.

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