



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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PM to visit Cyprus, Croatia during his trip to Canada

Published On: 10-06-2025

Context

- Reiterating India's traditional foreign policy goals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Cyprus and Croatia, official sources said here on Monday.
- Mr. Modi will visit Cyprus **on his way to Canada to participate in the G-7 summit** (June 15 17), and on the way back, he will pay a visit to **Croatia**, which will be the **first Prime Minister-level visit from the Indian side since the formation of Croatia in 1991, after the dissolution of former Yugoslavia**.
- Both visits are being described as important from a political as well as commercial point of view. Sources here hinted that the Cyprus visit will serve as a **message to Turkiye** that had assisted Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in May.
- It will also act as a timely revival of top-level contacts as **Cyprus is set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2026**.

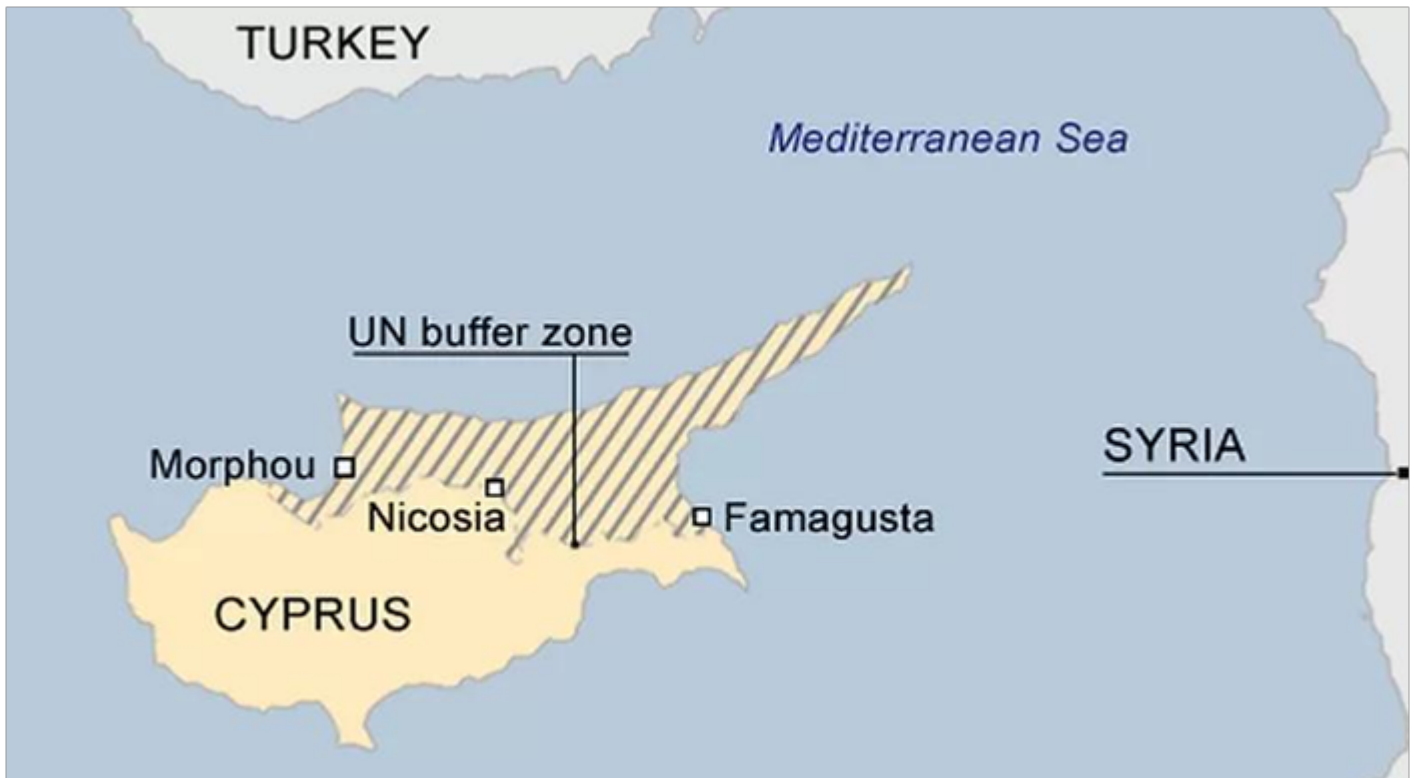
Importance of the visit

- Officials here indicated that both Cyprus and Croatia have acquired growing significance in recent years after the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** was launched during the **G-20** summit in New Delhi in 2023.
- 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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