India – Cyprus Relations

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Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Cyprus recently, first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in over 20 years.

- **Cyprus** - Cyprus is an island in the ***Eastern Mediterranean Sea***, located close to Turkey and Syria.
- It is a member of the ***European Union (EU)*** despite being geographically in Asia.
- Cyprus supports India's candidature as a ***permanent member of the expanded UN Security Council.***
- It has also extended its full support for the
  - **India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement**, within the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) and
  - **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),** which helps India address its increasing energy needs and benefit its economic development.
- Cyprus is a crucial part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), an infrastructure project that India expects multiple benefits from.
- IMEC is supposed to boost trade and connectivity between India and Europe via the Middle East, and Cyprus, in the Mediterranean, has an important role to play.
- Cyprus is set to hold the ***Presidency of the Council of the EU*** in the first half of 2026, and as India looks to build stronger trade and security ties with Europe, Nicosia could be a crucial ally.

Reference

The Indian Express | PM Modi in Cyprus