



India Values its long standing and close friendship with Cyprus, says President

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The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee yesterday (April 28, 2017) received His Excellency Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, the President of the Republic of Cyprus at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He also hosted a banquet in his honour.

Welcoming the President of Cyprus on his first ever State Visit to India, the President said that almost all Presidents of Cyprus before him have paid a visit to India. We, therefore, feel honoured that he has kept up that tradition.

The President said that India values its long standing and close friendship with Cyprus. India-Cyprus relationship is pinned on the foundation of ideological commonalities of our founding fathers - Mahatma Gandhi and Archbishop Makarios.

The President said that both India and Cyprus suffer from the scourge of terrorism. This global menace needs to be fought by all civilized societies and countries not just individually, but at a bilaterally, regional and global level. He stressed that there is an urgent need to strengthen the global counter-terrorism legal framework to combat the scourge of international terrorism. India seeks to build a broad consensus at the United Nations for finalization of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and early adoption of the CCIT in the United Nations.

Subsequently, in his banquet speech, President Pranab Mukherjee said that India lauds the economic recovery of Cyprus under the leadership of Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, particularly its return to a positive rate of growth - among the fastest in the European Union. In recent years, India has seen rapid economic progress - despite the global slowdown - and achieved a steady growth rate of about 7%. We welcome Cyprus to take advantage of our flagship programmes like 'Make in India' and 'Skill India' - and join India's growth story. Our information technology sector as also our renewable energy, natural gas and hydrocarbons, sustainable tourism, infrastructure and health and wellness sectors are open for partnerships and foreign investment. The recent signing of the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is a good step in this direction. The President expressed confidence that this State Visit will result in new initiatives in all these areas of immense potential.

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