

Grand Cross of the Order of Honour

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About Grand Cross of the Order of Honour:

- It is the **second-highest civilian honour in Greece**.
- It is **conferred to “eminent personalities who by reason of their distinguished position, have contributed to enhancing the stature of Greece”**.
- The Order of Honour was **established in 1975**.
- The **head of the goddess Athena is depicted on the front side of the Star** with the **inscription “ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD BE HONOURED”**.

Key Facts about Greece:

- **Location:** It is located in **southeastern Europe**, on the **southern tip of the Balkan Peninsula**.
- **Official Name:** **Hellenic Republic**
- **Bordering Countries:**
 - The country is bordered by **Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey, and North Macedonia**.
 - Greece shares **maritime borders with Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, and Libya**.
- **Geography:**
 - The **mainland has rugged mountains, forests, and lakes**.

- The country is **well known for the thousands of islands** dotting the blue Aegean Sea to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Ionian Sea to the west.
- The **largest Greek island is Crete**.
- **Capital: Athens**
- **History:**
 - Greece is often **referred to as the “cradle of Western civilization”** because of its contributions to philosophy, democracy, and literature.
 - It was the **home of famous ancient philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle**.
 - During **ancient times, the country was divided into city-states**, which were **ruled by noblemen**. The largest were **Athens, Sparta, Thebes, and Corinth**.
 - **Independence:** Greece **gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire** in the **early 19th century**, following a war of independence that began in 1821.
- **Political System:**
 - It is a **parliamentary republic** with a **head of government** - the [Prime Minister](#) - who has the **most political power**, and the head of state - the president - whose duties are largely ceremonial.
 - The **executive power is exercised by the government**.
- **Languages: Spoken languages are Greek (official) and Turkish** (predominantly spoken by a minority of Turks in Western Thrace).
- **Olympics:**
 - The Olympic Games **have their origins in ancient Greece**, where the **first Olympic Games were held in Olympia in 776 BC**.
 - Greece also **hosted the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896**.

Q1) What is a parliamentary republic?

A parliamentary republic is a republic that operates under a parliamentary system of government where the executive branch (the government) derives its legitimacy from and is accountable to the legislature (the parliament). There are a number of variations of parliamentary republics. Most have a clear differentiation between the head of government and the head of state, with the head of government holding real power and the head of state being a ceremonial position, similar to constitutional monarchies.

Source: [Greece confers PM Modi with Grand Cross of the Order of Honour](#)

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