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# India Vision and Support for Development in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

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**Abstract:** India and Papua New Guinea established diplomatic relations and the two countries have maintained good relations with each other at the federal level. Trade between India and Papua New Guinea is limited. There is no serious trade and investment between the two countries. However, there may be small collaborations in areas such as agriculture, mining and technology. Papua New Guinea is home to a small community of Indians working in various fields such as business, education and healthcare. They contribute to the economic development of Papua New Guinea. Cultural exchange between India and Papua New Guinea is limited. However, both countries can make efforts to improve cultural understanding through specific events, exhibitions or festivals. There may be greater cooperation between India and Papua New Guinea in various fields such as energy, agriculture, education, health and technology. Both countries can explore ways to enhance trade relations and cultural exchanges to improve bilateral relations. Both India and Papua New Guinea are members of many international forums and organizations such as the United Nations, the People's Republic of China and the Commonwealth of Nations. They can think about international issues within the framework of these meetings. Although India and Papua New Guinea maintain friendly relations, the relationship is not characterized by cooperative cooperation. But as both countries continue to develop and participate in the world, there may be more cooperation and better relations in the future.

**Keywords:** PNG, India, Relationship, Development, Support

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. India-Papua New Guinea Relations

Following its independence from Australia in 1975, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and India established diplomatic ties. In 1996, the Indian Resident Mission was established in Port Moresby. In 2006, PNG established a resident mission in New Delhi. As fellow Commonwealth nations, India and PNG have friendly and cooperative relations. Regarding the majority of world issues, they hold similar opinions. The two nations have been collaborating closely in international forum such as the UN, NAM, and Commonwealth (Wikipedia, 2024).

**Political relations:** Papua New Guinea has maintained cooperation with India on issues discussed with India in various international forums such as the United Nations and the Commonwealth. They support our projects for many organizations and offices around the world. India also joined Papua New Guinea as a PIF negotiating partner and announced several grants through the forum. Minister of Foreign Affairs restated that the goal of Papua New Guinea's administration is to enhance its political and economic ties with India, particularly in the areas of energy, education, communications, and information technology.

**Business and economic relations:** Papua New Guinea has a population of approximately 7 million and a GDP of US\$13 billion. This is a country in rich-resources. India's trade and investment ties with Papua New Guinea continue to grow. In 2010-11, India's exports to Papua New Guinea were \$22 million and exports were \$217 million. The main export products include textiles, machinery and equipment, food, manufacturing, medicine, surgical equipment, soap, washing powder, polishing paper, pulp, etc. is located. These do not affect real trade because Papua New Guinea imports Indian products from our country. The main products imported from Papua New Guinea are gold, copper ores and concentrates, timber, copra, seafood, coffee, vanilla and cocoa (Hcipom, 2022).

With the discovery of oil, Indian companies are gradually focusing on various future projects in Papua New Guinea. Located in the Southern Highlands Province, this facility is heavily invested and developed by ExxonMobil. Likewise, oil discoveries are made in Western and Gulf countries and Indian companies can participate in relevant projects. GAIL is testing some medium and low scale projects related to this field. Indian companies also see rich

resources of non-ferrous metals/ores. Also roads, airports, communications etc. They are also involved in infrastructure construction. Likewise, as the Papua New Guinea market expands, trade and commerce growth is also likely to increase, especially in Indian white goods and processed foods. Various agreements such as trade cooperation, promotion of bilateral trade and double tax exemption (DTAA) are being discussed.

Papua New Guinea's Embassy hosted a business conference in New Delhi in conjunction with the business delegation from Papua New Guinea's 2012 IITF visit. Officials from the National Fisheries Authority, PNG Power, Cocoa Board, Mineral Resources Development Corporation (MRDC), and Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) are part of the PNG delegation. According to an IPA official, the investment goal in New Delhi was accomplished since they were able to pique the curiosity of possible investors. He also mentioned that an Indian businessman is scheduled to visit Papua New Guinea the following month, possibly to explore commercial opportunities in the energy sector. Additionally, rumors have it that Indian businessmen are interested in setting up a gold processing plant in Papua New Guinea. On November 27, 2012, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Center in Port Moresby, the High Commission hosted a seminar on Indian investment and economic prospects in Papua New Guinea as part of its business growth. The meeting was attended by local businesspeople as well as representatives from the Oxford Business Group, Essar Group, Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Agency, and Indian merchants in Australia and Papua New Guinea. At the seminar, samples of Indian tea (provided by Tea Board), Indian spices (provided by Adani Group), basmati rice (provided by APEDA), and Ayurvedic medicine (provided by Baidyanath) were on display. Additionally, this model emphasized the various Port Moresby corporate environments.

- Assistance/Technical Assistance: Papua New Guinea is rapidly developing its human resources to meet its development needs. India has played an important role in developing this capacity. More than 300 Papua New Guinean officers/cadets have received ITEC training in India. Similarly, India trained members of the Papua New Guinea Defense Force at military academy in Pune, Dehradun and New Delhi. Indian scientists and researchers are well known in Papua New Guinea universities and research institutes. IGNOU, polytechnic etc. Contracts made with are also used. Research and development cooperation agreements are currently being evaluated.

As part of the Pacific Islands Regional Assistance Initiative, the Government of India provided assistance totaling US\$600,000 to Papua New Guinea between 2008 and 2012 to provide equipment and supplies for food development, health and treatment. India is also providing humanitarian aid and assistance to Papua New Guinea, which is facing earthquakes, forest fires, tsunamis and other natural disasters. Additionally, services are provided to establish an IT Center of Excellence and assist in the creation of our “hole in the wall” IT learning centre. The Indian Center for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) is helping Papua New Guinea build 13 vocational training schools. The Papua New Guinea Cultural India Society celebrated its annual cultural event, India Night, with great fanfare and merriment on 27 October at the Sir John Guice Stadium in Port Moresby. The event drew about 600 attendees. The event's high point was the Siddhi Damal Dance Troupe's performance, which was sent by ICCR. Politicians and business executives, such as Governor Bose Parkop of the National Capital, Minister of Sports and Events Management Justin Tachenko, Governor Sahidran Muthuvil of West New Britain, members of the diplomatic corps, and businesspeople, attended the demonstration. The Prime Minister stated in his brief speech that sharing is the essence of being Indian and that each Indian should strive to grow and advance Indianness in a positive manner. On October 28, the Siddhi Damal Dance Group gave another performance at Port Moresby's Jack Piddick Open Air Park. The protest drew hundreds of Papua New Guineans from various backgrounds, some of whom were from the Port Moresby area (Post-Courier (2024).

Indian Community: Of the approximately 3000 Indians in PNG, about 2000 are employed by the LNG industry. Professionals in the fields of chartered accounting, medicine, education, technology, and finance are among the others. There are middle-level Indian employees in government ministries. The Indian Association of PNG has been working for PNG's development and charity purposes. In a similar vein, Indian missionaries—such as Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity—assist in social work.

On December 6, 2023, India announced that it would be providing US\$ 1 million in emergency relief aid to Papua New Guinea following a volcanic eruption (<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.html>).

- More than 26,000 people had to be evacuated from Papua New Guinea due to a significant volcanic eruption that occurred on November 20, 2023, and there were immediate humanitarian needs.
- India expresses its sincere condolences for the loss of life and property caused by the calamity to the Government and People of Papua New Guinea. The Government of India extends an immediate relief assistance to support relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in Papua New Guinea as a show of solidarity with the friendly

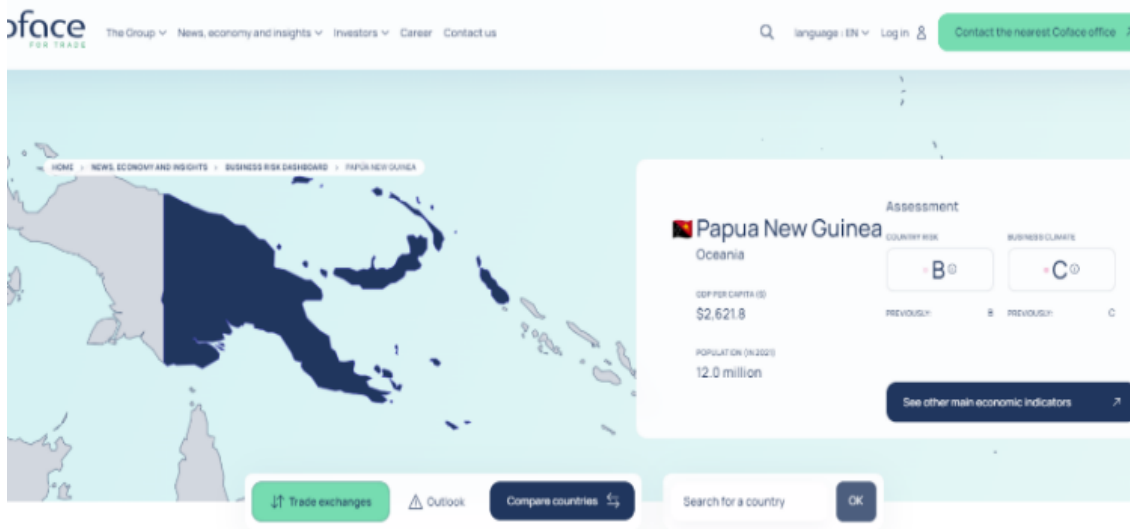
people of Papua New Guinea and as a close friend and development partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

- Following the earthquake, India has steadfastly supported Papua New Guinea in times of crisis and destruction brought on by natural calamities.

## 1.2. About Papua New Guinea---Oceania

GDP PER CAPITA (\$) ---\$2,621.8

POPULATION (IN 2021) ---12.0 million



### Trade exchanges

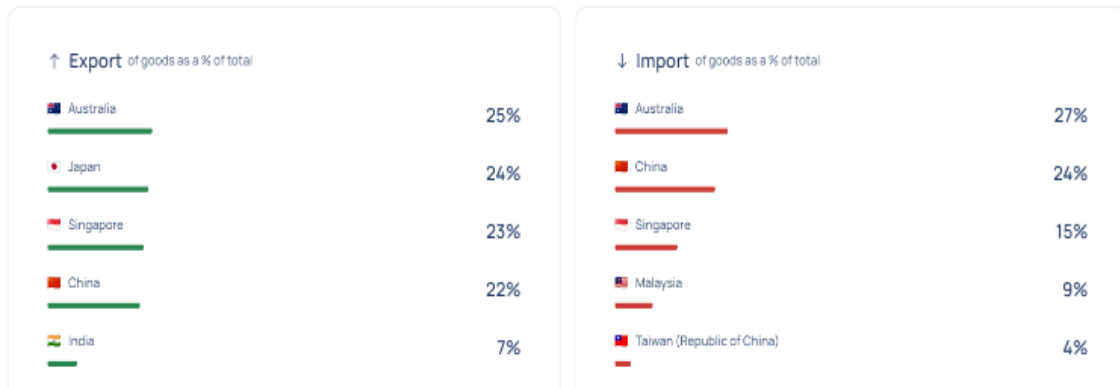


Fig. 1. Trade exchange with different country (Source: <https://www.coface.com/news-economy-and-insights/business-risk-dashboard/country-risk-files/papua-new-guinea>).

Table 1. Strength and weakness related to natural sources

Strengths	Weaknesses
Rich natural resources include timber, seafood, hydrocarbons (gas), minerals (gold, copper, silver, nickel, and cobalt), agricultural goods (coffee, cocoa, and palm oil), and lumber.	high susceptibility to climatic and natural calamities

Plans to create additional mines (Wafi-Golpu gold mine), liquefied natural gas production units (Papua, P'Nyang, Pasca A, and Pandora), and gas fields	Poor network of infrastructure (roads, power, health)
15% of the world's tropical rainforest is located there.	low financial resources (15 percent of GDP)
monetary assistance from both bilateral and multilateral partners	economically reliant on raw material exports (raw material exports account for 90% of overall exports, over ¼ of local value-added, but only 1% of budget income)
Participant in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Commonwealth	Significant governance flaws include red tape, corruption, the delay of mining and gas developments, and unclear land laws. Tribal conflicts, low literacy rates, urban violence, rural poverty, and a shortage of qualified labor

- Growth will continue to be robust in 2024, mostly driven by the natural resources sector, after a notable upturn in 2023 that was fueled by the improving health situation, the reopening of the economy, and high commodity prices. Natural resource exports will continue to be robust. The world's demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG), which makes up over 25% of all exports, is expected to stay high, keeping prices high owing to a restricted supply. The future of gold exports is also bright: the 2020 closure of the Porgera mine is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, which should increase gold output in 2024. A weaker currency in 2024 is predicted to strengthen the competitiveness of other exports.
- Public and private investments will be driven by infrastructure projects, in particular connecting Papua New Guinea (transport highway announced in 2020) and the Papua LNG terminal production facility (owned by Total Energy, Exxon Mobil and Santos Development), the project will begin. Inflation will also gradually decrease due to the slowdown in fuel and food prices. The economic slowdown, combined with good conditions in the mining and construction sectors, will stimulate job creation and wage growth, resulting in a small increase in domestic consumption (about 50% of GDP). However, domestic health will be limited by reduced family expenditures, persistent poverty (about 40% in 2022) and the negative effects of other activities of agriculture, which employs 85% of the population and is mostly informal work.
- Consolidating the budget and maintaining the current account surplus
- The population shortage that increased due to the epidemic in 2020 will continue in 2024. The rapid increase in gold mining and the continued success of the oil industry will bring income to the population. In addition, the state is playing an increasing role in resource development negotiations, making it more profitable. Public spending will slow down, especially special measures to encourage home buying (free tuition fees, temporary removal of food and fuel taxes, etc.) and finally public salaries. However, a significant portion of public spending will still be directed to ongoing development (especially Papua New Guinea) and human capital needs. The current account will continue to run large surpluses due to increased competition in LNG and gold exports and weakening kina expectations. However, the surplus will decrease somewhat due to the increase in supply as the demand for goods is used to build infrastructure.

As the International Monetary Fund confirmed in its March 2023 revision, the country will benefit from a loan facility of \$918 million over three years. This system will strengthen the foreign currency while strengthening the currently existing kina. It is more valuable and gives the central bank more freedom. Although the public debt is below the 60 percent ceiling, the return risk is very low since most of it is in the nature of short-term securities (Treasury). Thus, by 2024, public expenditures will shift to more bilateral donors and more private donors as domestic budgets increase. In this context, fiscal consolidation, which will affect public enterprises, will gain importance.

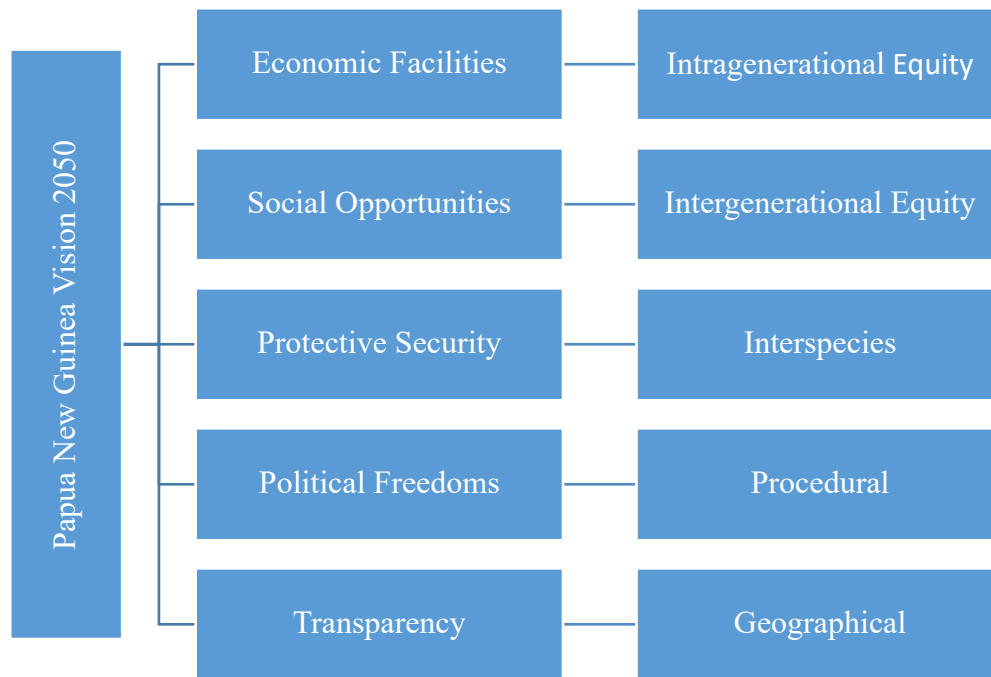


Fig. 2. Papua New Guinea Vision 2050.

- Risk of conflict: In the context of fighting the epidemic and war, Ukraine, Prime Minister James Marape returned to office after the legislative elections in July 2022, but there are also some stressful situations. The country, historically known for tight elections, was a site of election fraud and violence that led to 55 deaths. But the Prime Minister's Pangu Party was stronger with an easy victory (77 seats, 39 out of 110 for the general governing body) and no seats in 18 months (as of February 2024). Movement of no confidence. This means that negative changes to the International Monetary Fund's lending facilities will face no real opposition. There is no good opposition in the country, the prime minister must remain in office until 2024 but will still have to deal with local conflicts, the environment and land in decisions about resource extraction in a highly fragmented society. Additionally, the question of Bougainville's independence remains. A discussion between the state and the government resulted from the fact that the region's independence, which stood at 98% in November 2019, had no bearing. The democratic state is still not permitted by the government to give up its copper reserves, though. Lastly, in terms of geopolitics, Marape will keep bolstering its relationships with Australia, which has been pursuing special relations since 2019, particularly by developing significant initiatives (ports, communications, etc.).

## 2. India-Papua New Guinea Sign MoU for India Stack Collaboration

New Delhi: Papua New Guinea Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MICT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce India Stack, a good solution to the public (Mint, 2023). The scale program was held in New Delhi on July 28. Earlier, MeitY hosted the first international DPI conference in Pune on June 12-13. More than 250 delegates, including approximately 150 foreign delegates from 50 countries, and more than 2,000 virtual participants attended the event. According to the official website, India Stack consists of a set of open APIs and digital commons designed to unlock financial concepts such as identity, data and payments among citizens. Although the project has the word "India" in its name, India Stack's vision can be applied to any country. According to MeitY, the MoU between India and Papua New Guinea is a continuation of the meeting. During the event, the importance of digital transformation such as digital public infrastructure, digital identity, digital payments, data exchange, data governance and data protection policy, internet and mobile connectivity were discussed. " said the Ministry of Electronics and Informatics. MOU will help build capacity and facilitate the sharing and use of digital public infrastructure on a public scale, and develop transformation platforms and projects to improve ease of life and increase management efficiency and transparency." he added.

During the signing of the MoU, the Indian side was led by MeitY National E-Governance President and CEO Abhishek Singh. He was joined by MeitY joint secretary Sushil Pal and senior. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National E-Government Office. MICT Secretary Steven Matainaho represents the Government of Papua New Guinea. Paulias Kornii, Minister of the Pontifical High Commission in New Guinea, also attended the event.

### **3. Papua New Guinea Ready to Host Indian PM**

Papua New Guinea is prepared to welcome Indian Prime Minister Hon. Narendra Modi from May 21–22, according to Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. James Marape. He made this statement following a high-level discussion on Friday, May 12, 2023, to review visit arrangements, with Indian High Commissioner to PNG, H.E. Imbasekar Sundaramurhti, and Chief Liaison Officer, H.E. Visvas Sapkal. On Sunday, May 21, Prime Minister Modi's plane will land in Port Moresby in the evening, to a red carpet welcome and a 19-gun salute. After that, he would have a meeting with Port Moresby's Indian community members. Prime Minister Modi will make a courtesy call on Governor-General Grand Chief Sir Bob Dadae at Government House on Monday, May 22, at 9:00 a.m., according to Mr. Marape's description of the program. After that, Prime Minister Modi will head to APEC Haus for a bilateral meeting with PM Marape that begins at 9.15 a.m. Additionally, Mr. Modi will meet with leaders of the Pacific Islands at the Third Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Marape stated that PM Modi will hold another meeting following lunch (Heipom, 2018; MoEA, 2018; ICT, 2022). The National Executive Council has endorsed possible deliverables to be formalized during Mr Modi's visit.

The deliverables include:

- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between India and PNG on cooperation in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMES); • reciprocal arrangements for visa-on-arrival (which PNG benefits from at Indian international airports); • an agreement exempting holders of diplomatic and official passports from paying a visa;
- Cultural exchange program (CEP); Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PNG's National Broadcasting Corporation and the Indian Election Commission; MOU on Foreign Office Consultation; MOU on Information and Communication Technology Cooperation; and Various Proposals regarding Assistance to be Provided by India to PNG.

The non-implemented MOUs are:

- The following MOUs were signed in April 2016: one on a US\$100 million line of credit from Exim Bank of India for the construction of Kimbe-Hoskins Road and Madang-Baiyer Road; another on collaboration in the medical sciences and healthcare fields; and a third on a US\$150 million line of credit signed in September 2019 during the FIPIC Summit.
- PM Marape stated, "The Department of Foreign Affairs has been instructed by the Cabinet to coordinate with pertinent sectoral agencies and departments to guarantee the above deliverables are prepared in time to be announced during my meeting with Prime Minister Modi."

The Treasury, Works, and Health departments were also instructed by the Cabinet to provide reports on all MOUs that have not been implemented with India and provide them to my office by Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

### **4. PM visit to Papua New Guinea: Navigating through the Contested Space in the Pacific Islands**

Papua New Guinea is being visited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is the first prime minister from India to travel to Papua New Guinea. He met with Prime Minister James Marape and Governor General Sir Bob Dadae of Papua New Guinea while he travels there (Biometric, 2023).

- On May 22, Prime Minister Modi will also serve as host of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) third summit. India is trying to reach out more to the Pacific Islands, but from a geopolitical and geo-

economics standpoint, the region is still hotly contested between China and the West. India has shaped its interactions with the Pacific Islands by geography and by being a less focused region in its foreign policy.

- The Pacific Islands as a disputed region
- The Pacific Islands have long been seen as Australia's hegemonic domain and the United States' backyard. China, though, is dominating the area and posing a threat to the US and Australia. Trade is the first step towards China and the Pacific Islands' collaboration.
- In 1989, China joined the Pacific Islands Forum as a negotiator. The China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development Cooperation Forum was established by China in 2006. China is expanding its collaboration with the region under President Xi Jinping, and many Pacific Island nations have joined the Belt and Road Initiative.

Apart from fostering economic collaboration, China has enhanced the competitiveness of the region and is actively pursuing partnerships with Pacific nations in the areas of law enforcement, trade, cybersecurity, and information networking. In an effort to counter China's influence, Papua New Guinea recently declared that it will enter a security agreement with the United States. The US military will have access to the nation's ports and airports according to the pact. However, despite geopolitical and geo-economics difficulties, the region's worries—particularly those related to climate change—remain unheeded.

## 5. India's Cooperation with the Pacific Islands

Over the past few years, India's partnership with the Pacific Islands has only been stronger. After Indira Gandhi's 1981 visit to Fiji, Modi became the first Indian prime minister to visit the country in 2014; it took 33 years for India to turn its attention back to the region. Along with tackling international problems, the Indo-Pacific policy includes India and the US's engagement with the Pacific Islands. India resumed collaboration with the 14 Pacific Islands (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua) that make up FIPIC New Guinea in 2014. This came after India had restored its connections with the area. Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, and Tuvalu. Through the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), India is also a member of the Pacific Islands in addition to FIPIC. Pacific Island nations received a US\$150 million loan from India in 2019 to help with the development of solar, renewable energy, and climate-related initiatives. In addition, PSIDS member nations can use an additional \$12 million from India to carry out development initiatives of their choosing.

Through the India Trade and Cooperation (ITEC) initiative, India also collaborates with the Pacific Islands to develop their natural resources. By giving officials in FIPIC member states training opportunities, India can increase collaboration on capacity building. This will equip civil officials with the abilities needed to function in a dynamic and complicated world. The Pacific Islands' cooperation aligns with India's Global South program. India has voiced worry over the Pacific Islands' perceived isolation in global fora like the UN. As the G20 chairman at the moment, India might lead the Pacific Islands group. India might propose disengagement to these nations in order to provide Pacific Islanders with a platform to voice their grievances and experiences in influential forums. The Pacific Islands and India are still forming their ties. However, India has positioned itself as a nation ready to listen to and assist in resolving issues in the area. India ought to advance the initiatives it started with the Pacific Islands. India's strategy for the Pacific Islands aligns with its Indo-Pacific vision.

Modi's trip to Papua New Guinea is a significant step in expanding India's influence in the area. Regular high-level meetings between India and the Pacific Island Countries are required to follow this visit.

## 6. India has provided support to Papua New Guinea (PNG)

India has given bolster to Papua New Guinea (PNG) through different channels, counting advancement help, capacity building programs, and conciliatory engagement. Whereas the degree and nature of this bolster may change over time, here are a few ways in which India has backed PNG:

- Development Help: India has advertised improvement help to Papua New Guinea in a few zones, counting framework, healthcare, instruction, and horticulture. This help may come within the shape of awards, ventures, or specialized participation pointed at advancing socio-economic advancement in PNG.

- **Capacity Building Programs:** India has actualized capacity building programs in Papua New Guinea to upgrade aptitudes, information, and organization capacities. These programs may center on regions such as administration, open organization, healthcare, horticulture, and innovation transfer.
- **Trade and Financial Participation:** India's engagement with Papua New Guinea incorporates exchange and financial participation, in spite of the fact that the volume of exchange may not be as critical compared to India's relations with a few other nations. India may consequence minerals, such as copper, gold, and nickel, from PNG, contributing to Papua New Guinea's economy.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** India and Papua New Guinea keep up political relations, and India may lock in with PNG strategically on different two-sided, territorial, and worldwide issues of shared intrigued. This engagement can offer assistance reinforce ties between the two nations and advance participation in regions such as exchange, venture, and worldwide affairs.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:** India and PNG may lock in in social trade programs and cultivate people-to-people ties to advance common understanding and social appreciation. These intuitive contribute to building closer relations between the people groups of both countries.
- **Regional Participation:** India's engagement with PNG is portion of its broader engagement within the Indo-Pacific locale. Both nations may collaborate on territorial activities related to security, oceanic participation, and financial integration, contributing to territorial soundness and prosperity.

India's bolster for Papua New Guinea underscores the significance of reciprocal relations and participation between the two nations. The particular nature and scope of India's back to PNG may proceed to advance based on changing priorities, needs, and openings for collaboration. For the foremost exact and up-to-date data on India's back for Papua New Guinea, it's fitting to allude to official government sources or later news reports.

## **7. India's participation in Papua New Guinea (PNG) compared to China's Participation**

India's participation in Papua New Guinea (PNG) compared to China's participation can be analyzed in different aspects:

- **Development Help:** Both India and China give advancement help to PNG. In any case, the nature and scale of their help may vary. China regularly gives large-scale foundation ventures and monetary help, whereas India may center on smaller-scale ventures, capacity building, and specialized help in divisions such as healthcare, instruction, and agriculture.
- **Trade and Financial Participation:** China tends to have a more noteworthy nearness in PNG's economy in terms of exchange and speculation compared to India. China is one of PNG's major exchanging accomplices, especially within the mining and vitality divisions. India's exchange with PNG may be comparatively littler, with a center on bringing in minerals.
- **Infrastructure Improvement:** China's association in PNG regularly incorporates large-scale foundation ventures such as streets, ports, and vitality offices. These ventures may be financed through advances or ventures from Chinese state-owned undertakings. India's foundation ventures in PNG may be littler in scale and scope.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Both India and China keep up discretionary relations with PNG. Whereas China's conciliatory engagement may be more unmistakable due to its broader worldwide methodology, India too locks in with PNG carefully on different reciprocal, territorial, and worldwide issues.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:** Both India and China lock in in cultural trade programs and people-to-people ties with PNG, in spite of the fact that the degree of their social impact may shift. China's social outreach frequently incorporates activities such as Confucius Establishing, whereas India may advance social trade through instructive grants, social celebrations, and trade programs.



- **Regional Competition:** India and China's parts in PNG can too be seen inside the setting of broader territorial competition and geopolitical flow. Both nations look for to improve their impact within the Indo-Pacific locale, and their engagement with PNG may be portion of their key interface within the region.

whereas both India and China play parts in PNG's advancement and engagement with the worldwide community, the nature and degree of their inclusion may contrast based on their particular needs, procedures, and capacities.

Table 2. The roles of India and China in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Aspect	India	China
Development Assistance	Provides development assistance, including projects, grants, and capacity-building programs. May focus on sectors such as healthcare, education, and agriculture.	Provides significant development assistance, often through large-scale infrastructure projects and financial aid.
Trade and Economic Cooperation	Engages in trade with PNG, primarily importing minerals such as copper, gold, and nickel. Trade volume may be moderate.	Major trading partner of PNG, particularly in the mining and energy sectors. Trade volume is substantial.
Infrastructure Development	Invests in infrastructure projects, which may be smaller in scale compared to China. Projects may focus on areas such as roads, healthcare facilities, and education.	Invests in large-scale infrastructure projects, including roads, ports, and energy facilities. Projects may be financed by loans from Chinese state-owned enterprises.
Diplomatic Engagement	Maintains diplomatic relations and engages with PNG on various bilateral, regional, and global issues. Diplomatic engagement may be moderate.	Actively engages with PNG diplomatically, often as part of broader global strategies. Diplomatic presence and influence may be more substantial compared to India.
Cultural Exchange	Engages in cultural exchange programs and people-to-people ties, although the extent may vary. Cultural outreach efforts may include educational scholarships and cultural festivals.	Engages in cultural outreach efforts, including the establishment of Confucius Institutes. Cultural influence may be significant.

Please note that the comparison provided here is based on general observations and trends and may not capture all aspects of India's and China's roles in PNG comprehensively. Additionally, the extent and impact of their roles may vary over time and depend on various factors such as geopolitical dynamics, economic conditions, and policy decisions.

## 8. Papua New Guinea (PNG) gets support from different Nations and Universal Organizations

Papua New Guinea (PNG) gets support from different Nations and Universal Organizations to address an extend of Improvement Challenges and compassionate needs. Here are a few cases of other nations that give help to PNG:

- **Australia:** As PNG's closest neighbor and previous colonial control, Australia could be a noteworthy benefactor to PNG. Australian help to PNG centers on zones such as wellbeing, instruction, administration, foundation, and financial advancement. Australia too gives bolster for calamity help and capacity building.
- **New Zealand:** Comparative to Australia, New Zealand gives advancement help to PNG in different segments, counting instruction, healthcare, agribusiness, and administration. New Zealand's help centers on moving forward the well-being of communities and reinforcing educate in PNG.
- **Japan:** Japan gives improvement help to PNG through awards, advances, and specialized participation programs. Japanese help to PNG may incorporate framework ventures, healthcare activities, and capacity-building programs pointed at advancing maintainable development.
- **United States:** The Joined Together States bolsters PNG through improvement help programs, especially in zones such as wellbeing, instruction, financial development, and administration. The U.S. too gives helpful help and underpins activities to address issues such as sex balance and human rights in PNG.

- **European Union:** The European Union (EU) gives improvement help to PNG through different channels, counting awards, specialized help, and arrangement bolster. EU help to PNG centers on zones such as provincial improvement, natural preservation, administration, and human rights.
- **China:** China too gives help to PNG, basically through framework ventures and financial participation activities. Chinese help may incorporate speculations in streets, ports, vitality, and broadcast communications foundation, as well as back for financial improvement projects.
- **United Countries and Worldwide Organizations:** PNG gets back from different Joined Together Countries organizations and worldwide organizations, counting the World Bank, Asian Advancement Bank, Joined together Countries Advancement Program (UNDP), Joined together Countries Children's Finance (UNICEF), and World Wellbeing Organization (WHO). These organizations give specialized help, subsidizing, and ability in ranges such as destitution diminishment, healthcare, education, and natural sustainability.

These are fair a number of cases of nations and organizations that give back to Papua New Guinea. The help given by these substances plays a significant part in tending to advancement challenges and progressing the well-being of the individuals of PNG. Papua New Guinea (PNG) gets bolster from various nations and international organizations to address its improvement challenges and compassionate needs. Whereas it's challenging to supply a correct number, PNG gets help from a wide run of reciprocal benefactors, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other partners.

Some of the major donors to PNG's improvement help and back endeavors incorporate nations like Australia, New Zealand, the Joined Together States, Japan, China, and different European countries. Additionally, international organizations such as the Joined Together Countries, the World Bank, the Asian Advancement Bank, and territorial bodies just like the Pacific Islands Gathering moreover give critical back to PNG. Furthermore, PNG collaborates with a huge number of NGOs and gracious society organizations, both nearby and worldwide, which contribute to different improvement ventures, compassionate help, and capacity-building activities over the country. While the precise number of nations and organizations supporting PNG may not be promptly accessible, it's clear that PNG benefits from an assorted arrange of accomplices working together to address its advancement needs and progress the well-being of its people (Cedric Patjole, 2017).

### 8.1. Here are a few ways in which Indians may be supporting PNG

**Government Authorities and Ambassadors:** Indian negotiators and authorities positioned in PNG, as well as those working in the Indian High Commission or international safe haven, play a pivotal part in cultivating two-sided relations, encouraging participation, and giving help where needed.

**Development Experts:** Indian advancement experts, counting specialists in zones such as healthcare, instruction, farming, and foundation, may work in PNG beneath different advancement ventures, capacity-building programs, or specialized help initiatives.

**Business Community:** Indian trade proprietors, business visionaries, and financial specialists may be included in commerce wanders, exchange exercises, and speculation ventures in PNG. They contribute to financial improvement, make work openings, and advance exchange relations between the two countries.

**NGOs and Respectful Society:** Indian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), respectful society organizations, and charities may work in PNG, actualizing improvement ventures, giving compassionate help, and supporting community activities in regions such as healthcare, instruction, and social welfare.

**Academics and Analysts:** Indian scholastics, analysts, and researchers may collaborate with teach in PNG on scholarly trades, investigate ventures, and knowledge-sharing activities. They contribute to capacity building, information exchange, and scholarly associations between the two countries.

**Diaspora Community:** The Indian diaspora living in PNG may effectively contribute to community improvement, social trade, and social cohesion. They may organize social occasions, volunteer for community benefit, and take an interest in activities to back the nearby community.

### 8.2. Papua New Guinea to tap India's Digital Public Infrastructure Experience

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two nations, India will share with Papua New Guinea the experience of its digital public infrastructure (DPI), known as "India Stack," which enables identity verification, data sharing, and digital payments. According to an Indian government news release, the agreement was signed by the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of India and the Ministry of Information

and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea in the presence of other senior government officials from both nations. It follows a recent meeting between Timothy Mark Masiu, the minister of ICT for Papua New Guinea, and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the union minister of state for skill development and entrepreneurship as well as electronics and IT in India. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal is very clear."

Any nation looking to get involved in the recent acceleration of the digitization trend can now access the India stack, according to Chandrasekhar. "Debates about digitization used to frequently focus on the differences between developed and developing countries, but with alliances like these, like-minded nations can work together to innovate and implement DPIs (Digital Public Infrastructures) to create an ecosystem that shares technology and innovation." The officials also discussed topics pertaining to digital ID, digital payments, digital public infrastructure, data security and exchange, digital government, and internet connectivity at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. By 2025, Papua New Guinea hopes to have a new national digital identification system in place.

Through the collaboration, both nations will carry out digital public infrastructure initiatives meant to make it easier for people to access services offered by both the public and commercial sectors. India inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with seven other nations in May and four more in June to share its experience with digital public infrastructure. Meanwhile, the way citizens access public services have been changed by India's digital public infrastructure development is detailed in an opinion piece written for the Indian Express. The article emphasizes how the India stack has not only helped the economy of the nation develop significantly, but it has also laid the foundation for a society that is both financially and socially inclusive (The Print, 2022).

### **8.3. India Announces New Development Initiatives at Meeting with Pacific Island Nations**

PM Modi announced 12 new development projects, from dialysis centers spread over all 14 island nations to a fully funded cardiology facility in Fiji. In Papua New Guinea on Monday, May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a number of development initiatives, including yoga centers and a cardiac facility, during the third summit with 14 Pacific island nations. The Prime Minister of India is currently traveling to three different countries, having started with a G7 conference in Hiroshima. Modi's trip would come to an end in Australia following the second leg in Papua New Guinea. James Marape, the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, and Modi co-chaired the third Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) conference during their full-day visit to Port Moresby. Fiji hosted the first two editions in 2015.

As part of a coordinated attempt to counter China's influence in the Pacific, politicians from throughout the region and beyond descended on the capital of Papua New Guinea on Monday, which was the site of the third summit. This caused a diplomatic traffic congestion. On Monday, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken flew to PNG to sign a new defense accord, which was supposed to be the centerpiece of President Joe Biden's postponed trip. After China revealed last year that it had inked a security deal with the Solomon Islands, raising concerns about a larger Chinese footprint in the South Pacific, the West had refocused on the region. This came after years of economic support from China to the strategically positioned island states as it sought deeper relations with them. Despite resource constraints, India has also been making efforts to increase its influence in the region. During the third FIPIC, Modi presented a list of twelve new development projects, which included dialysis centers spread among the 14 island nations and a fully funded cardiology facility in Fiji. In an effort to improve healthcare throughout the Pacific, we have made the decision to build a super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji. This hospital would function as a lifeline for the entire region and have new infrastructure, trained staff, and facilities, according to Modi.

In addition, he suggested that yoga centers and Jan Aushadhi Centers be opened in the area. Last but not least, Modi declared that India would have a Jaipur foot camp in Papua New Guinea this year, with two more to be held annually starting in 2024. In addition, he announced that the Papua New Guinea Center of Excellence for IT would be renovated to become a "Regional Information Technology and Cybersecurity Hub". Additionally, Modi unveiled a plan to advance the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) industry in every nation that makes up the Pacific Islands. In every FIPIC nation, the Indian government also plans to transform at least one government building into a solar-powered structure. Modi promised to provide desalination units to every nation of the Pacific Islands in order to alleviate the lack of water.

### **8.4. PNG, India enters into an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**

PNG and Indian have recently signed a new EPA which aims at realigning the economic cooperation between two nations. A landmark Area trade intention is said to have been set to promote trade, investments and cooperation in energy, natural resources, agriculture. According to the EPA, both countries share long-term vision of establishing strong trade partnership with each other especially since PNG has sought to extend its market destinations.

The increasing engagement of India in the Pacific dovetails the PNG's planned approach to attract more investors especially from Asia as well as improve its exports capacity. The EPA is seen as a strategic attempt to lock the natural resources of PNG into export markets particularly in view of the new shift the union wants with the European countries which PNG has trade relations with. This agreement paints the desire of PNG to deepen and diversify its economic engagement across globally, while for India it effective means extending its interests and trade frontiers in the Pacific (Zee5, 2022).

## 9. Conclusion

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two nations, India will share with Papua New Guinea the experience of its digital public infrastructure (DPI), known as "India Stack," which enables identity verification, data sharing, and digital payments. According to an Indian government news release, the agreement was signed by the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of India and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea in the presence of other senior government officials from both nations. Through the collaboration, both nations will carry out digital public infrastructure initiatives meant to make it easier for people to access services offered by both the public and commercial sectors.

### Data Availability

The data supporting findings of this study are all presented in the article.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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### Authors' Contributions

Author, Arun Kumar Singh, researched the literature, collected data and organized the study. Supervised the preparation of the study and gave final approval of the article for publication.

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