

Cambodia Accepts UPI Payments

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Bilateral relations

Why in News?

Cambodia Becomes 9th Country Where Indian Travellers Can Make UPI Payments.

- **Ease of Cross-Border Payments** - The introduction of UPI-enabled QR payments simplifies cross-border transactions, especially for tourists accustomed to cashless systems.
- In the first phase, Indian travellers visiting Cambodia can now make QR-based payments seamlessly across the country.
- **Institutional Partnership**
 - The initiative was launched through a partnership between **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and ACLEDA Bank Public Limited Company** in Cambodia.
- **Two-Way Payment Corridor**
 - **Current Phase** - Focuses on enabling Indian travellers to pay in Cambodia.
 - **Next Phase** - Will expand into a bi-directional corridor, allowing Cambodian citizens visiting India to use their domestic banking and mobile apps to scan UPI QR codes at millions of Indian outlets.
- **Advantages for Travellers**
 - Eliminates the need to carry large amounts of cash.
 - Reduces concerns over fluctuating exchange rates.
 - Enhances ease, security, and comfort for tourists in shopping, dining, and other transactions.
 - Provides a familiar payment ecosystem abroad, reducing transaction friction.
- **Boost for Local Businesses in Cambodia**
 - Cambodian merchants gain access to a digitally active Indian tourist base.

- Benefits include increased spending, faster transactions, and reduced dependence on cash.
- Digital payments improve operational efficiency, lower overhead costs, and enable secure, real-time settlements — particularly valuable for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Strategic Significance**
 - Strengthens India's digital diplomacy and financial integration with Southeast Asia.
 - Enhances soft power by exporting India's successful digital payment model.
 - Supports regional economic cooperation and aligns with India's broader Indo-Pacific strategy.

Other Countries that accepted UPI payments are Singapore, United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Mauritius, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Qatar.

Reference

[NDTV | Cambodia accepts UPI Payments](#)

