

India-Pacific Island Countries / FIPIC

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International Relation

Why in News?

Recently, the External Affairs Minister proposed customised capacity-building programmes for Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

- It was the **2nd Foreign Ministers' Meeting** under the FIPIC framework.
- **Proposed at - FIPIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting** in New York.
- **Held alongside - 81st session of the UN General Assembly.**

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

A multinational platform to strengthen India's partnership with Pacific Island nations

Launched in

2014

To expand India's diplomatic, economic, and strategic engagement with 14 Pacific Island nations.

Establishment

Conceptualized and launched during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Suva, Fiji, in 2014.**

Policy Anchor

Operates as a key pillar of India's recalibrated **Act East Policy.**

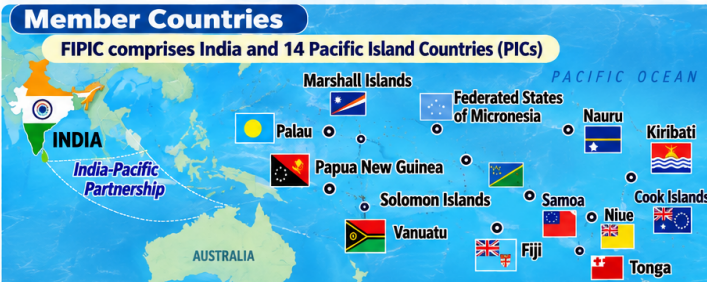
Strategic Focus

Focuses on **South-South cooperation, capacity building, disaster resilience, and climate change mitigation.**



Member Countries

FIPIC comprises India and 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs)



List of 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

1 Cook Islands	8 Palau
2 Fiji	9 Papua New Guinea
3 Kiribati	10 Samoa
4 Marshall Islands	11 Solomon Islands
5 Federated States of Micronesia	12 Tonga
6 Nauru	13 Tuvalu
7 Niue	14 Vanuatu

Key Summits

1st Summit



Held in **Suva, Fiji** (November 2014).

2nd Summit



Held in **Jaipur, India** (2015).

3rd Summit



Held in **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea** (May 2023), where PM Modi announced a comprehensive **12-Point Action Plan.**

FIPIIC

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation



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 Full form	Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation
 Focus	India-Pacific Island Countries cooperation
 Major areas	 Health  Capacity building  Digital technology  Renewable energy  Climate action  Disaster resilience
 3rd FIPIIC Summit	2023
 Current focus	Implementation of the 12-Point Action Plan (2023)
 Other framework	India-UN Development Partnership Fund



• India's Major Initiatives with Pacific Island Countries

- Customized training programs tailored to the specific priorities of individual Pacific Island Countries (PICs).
- Professionals from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) may participate in specialized training programs conducted **in India**.
- Training modules will be developed based on the specific needs identified by each participating country.

• Healthcare Cooperation Initiatives

- Establishment of a 100-bed super-specialty hospital in Fiji.
- Hemodialysis machines have been supplied to the following countries:
 - Papua New Guinea
 - Solomon Islands
 - Samoa
 - Palau
 - Nauru
 - Kiribati
 - Marshall Islands
- Twelve member states have requested a total of **20 sea ambulances**.
- Delivery of the sea ambulances is anticipated by **March 2027**.
- **An artificial limb fitment camp** is planned to be held in Fiji.
- Approximately **650 patients** are expected to benefit from this initiative.
- **The Indian Pharmacopoeia** has been recognized by the following countries:
 - Fiji
 - Nauru
 - Solomon Islands
 - Medicines have been supplied to **Nauru**.

• Digital and Information Technology Cooperation - India has committed to

establishing the following initiatives:

- **Centres of Excellence in Information Technology and training programs for local trainers**
- These initiatives have been completed in the following countries:
 - Fiji
 - Papua New Guinea
 - Cook Islands
 - Vanuatu
 - Nauru
 - Niue
 - Solomon Islands
 - Marshall Islands
- **Renewable Energy and Solarisation Initiatives** - India has completed the following initiatives:
 - **Solarisation of 2,800 households was achieved.**
 - These efforts were implemented across **14 Pacific Island countries.**
 - Seventy women were trained as solar engineers.
- **Significance**
 - Facilitation of the clean energy transition
 - Improvement of energy access
 - Enhancement of women's participation in renewable energy sectors
 - Strengthening of climate resilience
- **Space and Ocean Cooperation Initiatives** - India intends to establish the following institutions:
 - **Space Technology Application Centre**
 - Location - **Papua New Guinea**
 - **Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research Institute**
 - Location - **University of the South Pacific**
- These initiatives aim to strengthen the following areas:
 - Space technology applications
 - Ocean research
 - Coastal management
 - Climate-related research
- **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** - India has implemented 20 projects through the fund, with three projects currently in progress.
- Key focus areas include:
 - Climate change mitigation
 - Promotion of renewable energy
 - Advancement of sustainable development
 - Improvement of healthcare systems
 - Development of water infrastructure
- Highlighted ongoing projects:
 - Country Area
 - Federated States of Micronesia Health
 - Tuvalu Water infrastructure
- **Quick-Impact Projectd** - India has extended invitations to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to submit proposals for **Quick-Impact Projects (QIPs)**.

- **Key Features**

- Projects are designed to generate measurable impact at the community level.
- Initiatives prioritize the utilization of local resources.
- Indian funding support is available as needed.

- **Priority Areas**

- Processing of locally produced goods
- Support for educational institutions
- Community development initiatives

- **To date, proposals have been received from seven** member states.

- **India's Wider Pacific Engagement** - It facilitates cooperation with Pacific Island Countries (PICs) through the following initiatives:

- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
 - Focus on advancing solar energy cooperation
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
 - Focus on promoting disaster-resilient infrastructure

- Both initiatives are particularly relevant to Pacific Island Countries due to their heightened vulnerability to the following risks:

- Sea-level rise
- Extreme weather events
- Cyclones
- Climate change

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

- India has formally expressed its support for the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**.

- **The strategy encompasses the following broad areas:**

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Effective ocean governance
- Promotion of sustainable development
- Enhancement of regional resilience
- Strengthening of regional cooperation

Reference

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