



India Shares INDIA STACK with Papua New Guinea

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of India** and the **Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea** have taken a significant step towards digital transformation by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share [India Stack](#)**.

- Earlier in June 2023, India had already signed MoUs with four countries namely **Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, and Antigua & Barbuda** to share India Stack, showcasing the growing interest and acceptance of the initiative on a global scale.

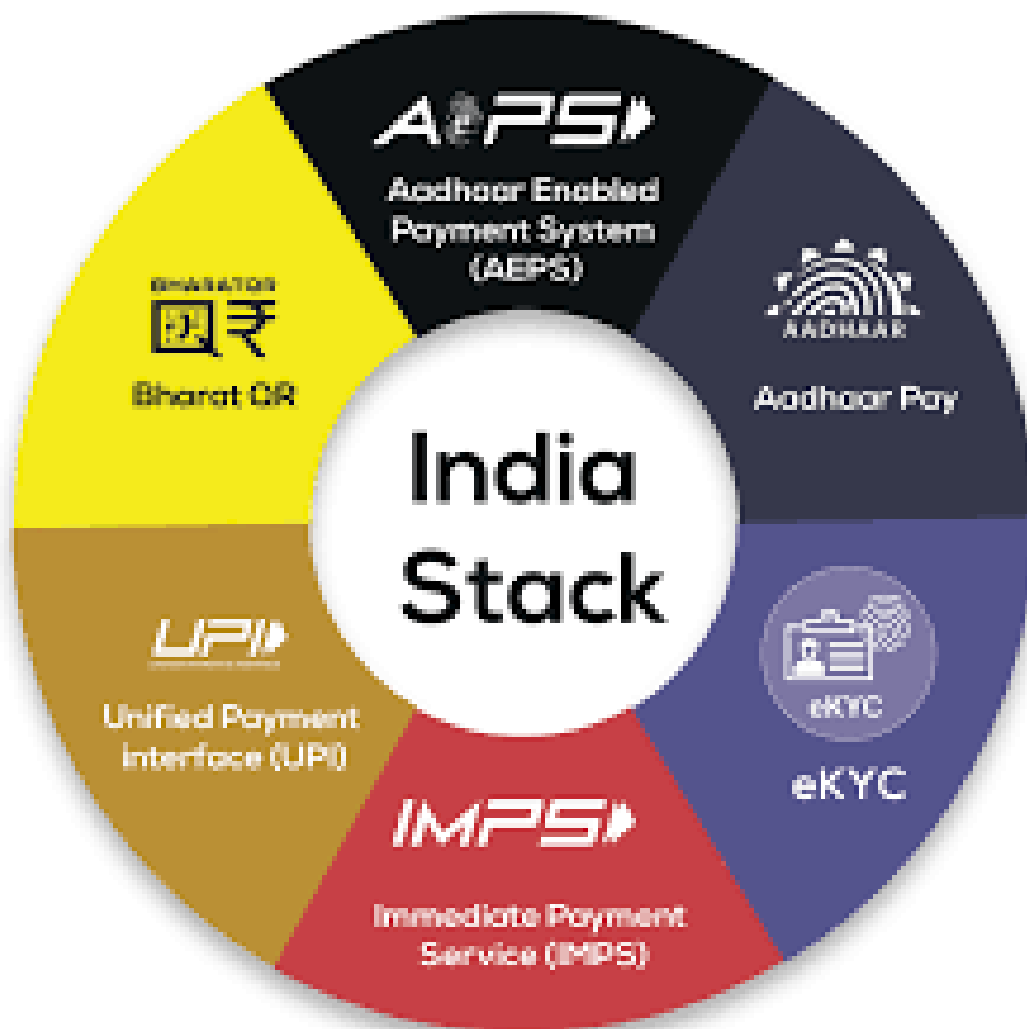
What are the key highlights of the MoU between India and Papua New Guinea?

- The MoU facilitates the sharing of India Stack, to support identity, data, and payment services on a large scale.
- The MoU focuses on the **implementation of population-scale [Digital Public Infrastructure](#) and Transformational Platforms/projects to improve living standards and governance efficiency**.
- The collaboration seeks to **strengthen digital identity systems and digital payment mechanisms** for seamless transactions.

What is India Stack?

- India Stack is a **set of APIs (Application programming interface)** that allows governments, businesses, startups, and developers to utilize a unique **digital Infrastructure** to solve India's hard problems towards **presence-less, paperless, and cashless service delivery**.
- India Stack is a **government-led initiative** that focuses on building a **robust digital infrastructure** to enable various **digital services across different sectors**.
 - The components of this collection are owned and maintained by different agencies.
- INDIA STACK aims to streamline and enhance **identity verification, data exchange, and digital payment processes** to make them more accessible and efficient for citizens.
- It includes **digital public goods**, which are digital resources and tools made available to the public to support various digital services and initiatives.
- The key components of INDIA STACK include **[Aadhaar](#) (unique biometric-based identification system), [Unified Payments Interface \(UPI\)](#) for instant digital payments, and [Digital Locker](#) for secure storage of personal documents**.
- The vision of India Stack is not limited to one country (India); it can be applied to any nation, be it a developed one or an emerging one.

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Papua New Guinea:

- Papua New Guinea is an **island country** located in the **south-western Pacific**. It shares land borders with **Indonesia** and water border with **Australia, and the Solomon Islands**.
- It includes the **eastern half of New Guinea and many small offshore islands**.
- The capital is **Port Moresby**, Papua New Guinea is mainly **mountainous but has low-lying plains in southern New Guinea**.
- Papua New Guinea gained self-government in 1973 and full independence in 1975.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Exp:

- The Aadhaar platform helps service providers authenticate identity of residents electronically, in a safe and quick manner, making service delivery more cost effective and efficient. According to the Gol and UIDAI, Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship.
- However, UIDAI has also published a set of contingencies when the Aadhaar issued by it is liable for rejection. An Aadhaar with mixed or anomalous biometric information or multiple names in a

single name (like Urf or Alias) can be deactivated. Aadhaar can also get deactivated upon non-usage of the same for three consecutive years.

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