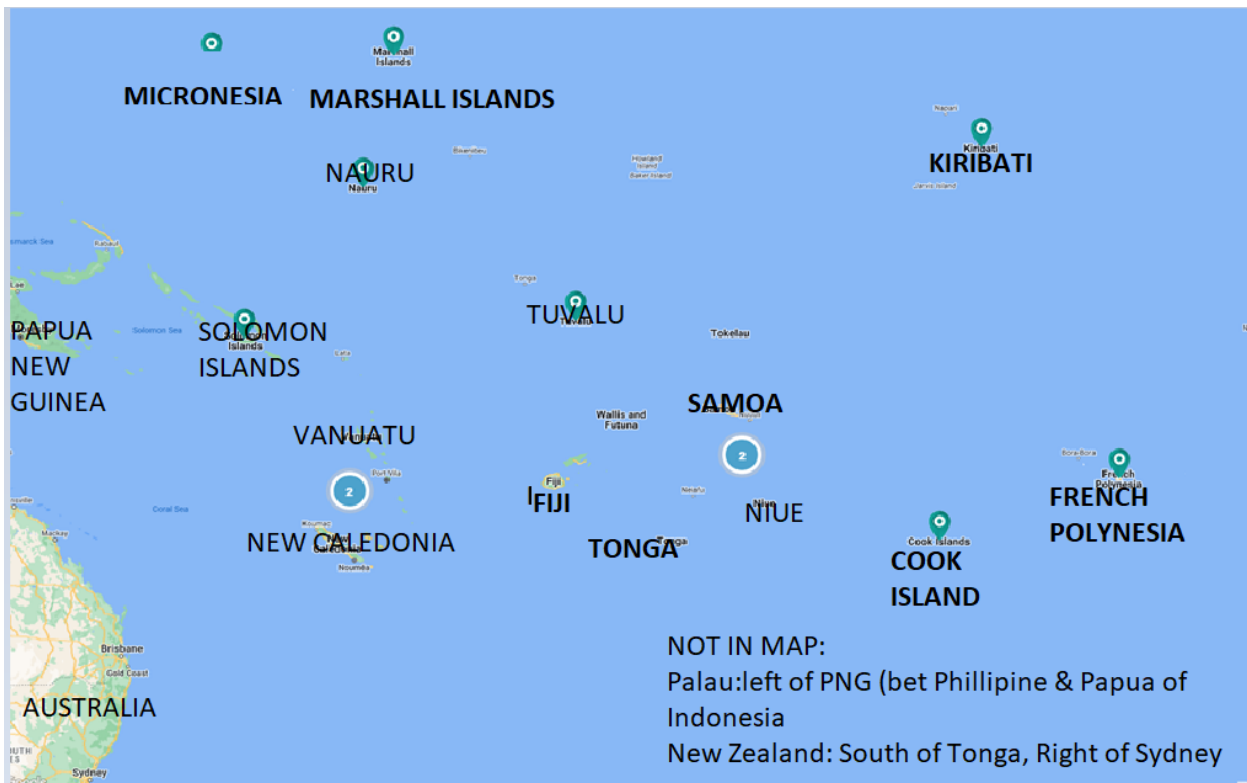


Papua New Guinea:

Part 2: Three Nation Visit of Modi: May 21-22

May 25, 2023

May 21, 2023: Port Moresby: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday arrived in Papua New Guinea (PNG) on his first visit during which he will host the 3rd summit on Monday between India and 14 Pacific Island countries. Modi was received at the airport by Prime Minister **James Marape**. PM Modi was accorded a 19-gun salute, guard of honour & ceremonial welcome. *(Normally PNG does not give a ceremonial welcome to any leader coming after sunset. But a special exception was made for Prime Minister Modi)*



Map of Indo-Pacific Island countries (incomplete)

The Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was launched at Suva, Fiji during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Fiji in 2014. FIPIC-2 was at Jaipur in 2015. On September 24, 2019, the **India-Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting** (comprising delegations of 12 out of the 14 Pacific Islands countries) was held in New York on the sidelines of the 74th UN General

Assembly. The Indian government then announced an allocation of \$12 million grant (\$1 million to each PSIDS) towards implementation of high-impact developmental projects in the area of their choice. In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of \$150 million, which could be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on each country's requirement, was announced.

The FIPIC Summit of 2023 at **Port Moresby** in Papua New Guinea had participation from leaders of 14 countries.

HONOURING NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER of INDIA: **Sitiveni Rebuka**, the Prime Minister of Fiji, honoured Narendra Modi through award of **Companion of the Order of Fiji**, the highest honour of Fiji.



Sir Bob Dadae, Governor General of Papua New Guinea awarded '**Companion of the Order of Logohu**', the highest honour of Papua New Guinea, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

2023 INITIATIVES: Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the following announcements:

- Establishment of a super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji.
- Sea ambulances to be provided to all the Pacific Island countries.
- To provide desalination units for the people of every Pacific Island country.
- To organize in 2023 a Jaipur Foot Camp in Papua New Guinea (similar to the one in 2022 at Fiji, where prosthetic limbs were provided free of cost to more than 600 people.)
- From 2024, to organize every year, two such Camps in Pacific Island countries

FIPIC includes 14 island countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu – that are located in the Pacific Ocean, to the northeast of Australia.

Based on 2021-22 data, the total annual trade between India and Pacific Island countries is valued at \$570 million, in commodities such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, sugar, mineral fuel and ores. Among them, Papua New Guinea is the biggest trade partner in terms of value.

Sasindran Muthuvel, 49, is a young citizen of Papua New Guinea (PNG). He was born and educated in India. On January 28, 1999, Muthuvel came to Papua New Guinea and started a retail business in the middle of no way between Kimbey and Galay, two different towns at the time. In 2007, Muthuvel became a naturalized citizen. In 2012, **he was elected in 2012 as an MP and is now in his third tenure.** Sasindran Muthuvel is now the **incumbent Governor of West New Britain Province**, Papua New Guinea.

In a conversation with Nishtha Badgamia of WION, Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel said that there are at least **3,000 persons of Indian origin in PNG**. He said that **PNG is a large nation of 20 provinces, one autonomous region, and one capital district.** (Reference: <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/exclusiv-fstii-rda-muthuvel-on-pm-modi-s-visit-to-papua-new-guinea/ar-AA1bGYdn>)

The summit took place at a time when China has been making efforts to enhance its military and diplomatic influence in the region.

INDIA as a DIALOGUE PARTNER of Pacific Islands Forum: In 2006, India became a Dialogue Partner. India has **Diplomatic Missions in four Forum Member States:** Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

Note: Please visit <https://diginews360.com/3rd-in-person-quad-meeting-at-hiroshima/> for opening statements of the QUAD Leaders of May 20, 2023.

Please read important parts of the Communique issued after the QUAD meeting at Hiroshima at <https://diginews360.com/quad-leaders-joint-statement-may-20/> .

-----BACKGROUND of the PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM -----

Reference: <https://www.forumsec.org/>

MEMBERS: The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organization. Founded in 1971, it comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

DIALOGUE PARTNERS: Since 1989, the Forum has organized an annual meeting with key Dialogue Partners at Ministerial level. The Forum currently recognises 18 dialogue partners: Canada, People's Republic of China, Cuba, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

The **annual Forum meetings** are chaired by the Head of Government of the Host Country, who remains as the [Forum Chair](#) until the next meeting.

HISTORY: Smaller Island States (SIS): In 1991, the then South Pacific Forum recognized the special development needs and vulnerabilities of the Smaller Island States and on 16-17 January 1992, the Inaugural Summit of the SIS Leaders was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Their small size, lack of natural resources, and remoteness, SIS face a range of development challenges that limit their capacity to ensure resilience and long-term sustainable development. Its membership comprises of 1. Cook Islands, 2. Federated States of Micronesia, 3. Kiribati, 4. Nauru, 5. Niue, 6. Palau, 7. Republic of the Marshall Islands, and 8. Tuvalu.

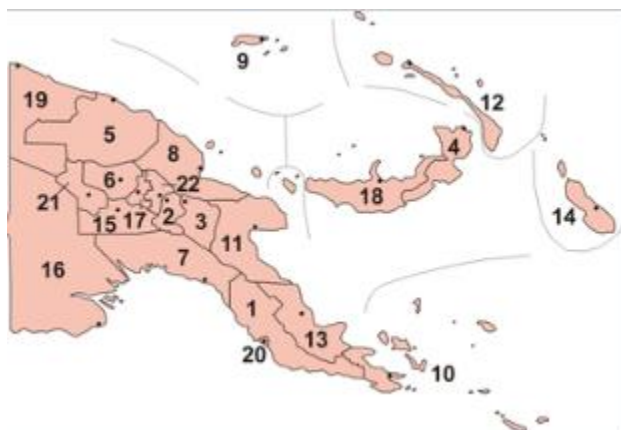
PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM MEMBERS (according to Population)

<https://www.forumsec.org/who-we-arepacific-islands-forum/>

#	COUNTRY	CAPITAL	POPULATION	AREA km ²	GDP in US\$
1	Australia	Canberra	26,494,900	7,692,024	1,708 Trn
2	Papua New Guinea (20 provinces, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the National Capital District. About 600 main islands)	Port Moresby	8,935,000	462,840	21.54 Bln
3	New Zealand (two larger islands-North and South islands- and more than 700 smaller islands)	Wellington (Largest city is Auckland)	5,166,140	268,021	242 Bln.
4	Fiji	Suva	926,276	18,274	4.85 Bln
5	Solomon Islands (six major islands and over 900 smaller islands)	Honiara	707,851	28,400	1.511 Bln
6	Vanuatu (archipelago, which is of volcanic origin)	Port Vila	307,815	12,189	1.002 Bln
7	French Polynesia (121 islands 7 atolls, overseas collectivity of France)	Papeete	278,786	4,167	6.01 Bln
8	New Caledonia (overseas collectivity of France)	Noumea	271,407	18,576	9.44 Bln
9	Samoa (two main islands (Savai'i and Upolu); two smaller, inhabited islands (Manono and Apolima); and several smaller, uninhabited islands, including the Aleipata Islands (Nu'utele, Nu'ulua, Fanuatapu and Namua))	Apia	205,557	2,831	881 Mln

10	Kiribati (32 Atolls and one remote raised coral island)	South Tarawa	121,388	811	187 Mln
11	Federated States of Micronesia (607 islands, 4 States -free association with USA)	Palikir	104,468	702	383 Mln
12	Tonga (171 islands – of which 45 are inhabited, monarchy)	Nuku'alofa	100,209	748	493 Mln
13	Republic of Marshall Islands (5 major islands and 29 coral atolls, comprising 1,156 islands and islets)	Delap-Uliga-Djarrit on Majuro	61,988	181.43	220 Mln
14	Palau (about 340 islands, spread between 'Caroline Islands' and parts of 'Federated States of Micronesia)	Ngerulmud	18,024	459	322 Mln
15	Cook Islands (15 islands- in free association with New Zealand, monarchy)	Avarua	15,040	236.7	384 Mln
16	Tuvalu (three reef islands and six atolls)	Funafuti	11,900	26	45 Mln
17	Nauru (dependent on Australia, surface deposits of Phosphate, exhausted in 1990s)	Yaren	10,834	21	133 Mln
18	Niue (association with New Zealand)	Alofi	1,937	261	30.5 Mln

Papua New Guinea:



Some islands are associated with many of the 21 Provinces

Forum Leaders



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