

NPCI International partners with QNB to launch UPI Payments in Qatar

Indians travelling to Qatar will soon be able to make QR Code-based UPI merchant payments through QNB merchant network

Mumbai, July 11, 2024: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed an agreement with QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, headquartered in Qatar, to launch QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments across the country. This initiative marks a significant milestone by enabling UPI payment acceptance in Qatar through the QNB merchant network, greatly benefiting Indian travelers visiting and transiting through the country.

This partnership will provide Indian tourists the option to use their preferred payment method across retail stores, tourist attractions, leisure sites, duty-free shops and hotels. This announcement is of particular significance considering that Indians rank as the second largest¹ group of international visitors to Qatar.

By adopting UPI payments, merchants in Qatar will also be able to offer a faster and more convenient payment and checkout process, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and opening up numerous opportunities for businesses across the country.

Speaking on the development, **Anubhav Sharma, Deputy Chief – Partnerships and Business Development, NPCI International** said, *“We are happy to collaborate with QNB to bring UPI payments to Qatar. We believe that enabling UPI acceptance in Qatar will offer substantial benefits to the large number of Indians visiting the country, simplifying their transactions, and ensuring a hassle-free travel experience abroad. Additionally, merchants in Qatar will greatly benefit from UPI, gaining access to a wider customer base and more efficient payment and collection processing.”*

Commenting on this **Mr. Adel Ali Al-Malki, Senior Executive Vice Present, QNB Group Retail Banking** said, *“We are thrilled to embark on this pioneering journey with NIPL to bring UPI*

1. <https://www.qatartourism.com/content/dam/qatar-tourism/qatar-tourism-reports/Qatar-Tourism-FY-2023-tourism-performance-report.pptx.pdf>

payments to Qatar, setting a new standard in innovation in the region. With this new digital payment solution acceptance, we are revolutionizing the way transactions are conducted, enhancing the travel experience like never before. We are confident that the strategic initiative will not only elevate the travel and hospitality sectors but also empower local merchants to thrive in a dynamic and increasingly digital marketplace.”

This partnership underscores NIPL’s dedication to use technology and innovation for creating a truly interoperable digital payments ecosystem for Indians travelling across the globe.

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About NPCI International:

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) was incorporated on April 3, 2020, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). As NPCI’s international arm, NIPL is devoted to deploying NPCI’s indigenous, successful real-time payment system—Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—and card scheme (RuPay) outside of India. NPCI has successfully developed and proved its products and technological capabilities in the domestic market by transforming the payment segment in India. Currently, there are several countries that seek to establish a real-time payment system or a domestic card scheme. NIPL, with its knowledge and experience, can offer these countries technological assistance through licensing and consulting for building real-time payment systems to meet the rapidly evolving needs of fast-growing global businesses. NIPL focuses on transforming payments across the globe through technology and innovation. It will not only enable payments for Indians but also support other countries by enhancing their payment capabilities using technological assistance, consulting, and infrastructure.

For media inquiries, please contact:

NPCI	Adfactors PR
Swagata Gupta swagata.g@npci.org.in	Joelle Fernandes joelle.fernandes@adfactorspr.com
Ankur Dahiya ankur.dahiya@npci.org.in	Aneek Kundu aneek.kundu@adfactorspr.com

About QNB:

QNB Group currently ranks as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa. Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the Group extends to more than 28 countries across 3 continents providing a comprehensive range of advance products and services. The total number of employees is more than 30,000 operating through 900 locations, with an ATM network of more than 5,000 machines.