Solomon Islands

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | World Geography*

Why in News?

Recently, a 6.7-Magnitude earthquake hits Solomon Islands' Kirakira.

- Solomon Islands is an independent nation in the ***South Pacific,*** part of Oceania.
- **Capital -** Honiara on Guadalcanal, situated along the *Mataniko River.*
- **Independence-** Gained from the ***United Kingdom in 1978.***
- **Climate -** Tropical, with mountainous, heavily forested terrain.
- **Highest Point -** The highest point is Mount Popomanaseu on Guadalcanal, reaching 2,332 meters.
- It is an archipelago of nearly 1,000 volcanic islands and coral atolls located east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu.
- **Atolls and Lagoons -** The country is home to the ***Marovo Lagoon*** in New Georgia, one of the world's largest saltwater lagoons, and Ontong Java, one of the largest atolls on Earth.
- **Archipelago-** Comprises 992 islands, including 6 large volcanic islands (Guadalcanal, Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Malaita, and Makira).
- **The Coral Triangle -** The western islands sit within the Coral Triangle, the global center of marine biodiversity.
- **Tectonic Activity -** The geography is defined by its position on the boundary of the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates.
- **Lifestyle -** Largely rural (90% outside urban areas) with a subsistence economy.
- **Currency -** Solomon Islands dollar (SBD).
- **Economy -** Often called the ***"land of gold,"*** with active Chinese-funded gold prospecting.
- **Renowned sites** - Renowned for diving, WWII sites, and diverse culture (93% Melanesian).
- **Geopolitics** - As of early 2026, the nation is in a state of "economic and

strategic turmoil" with increased security concerns, including a controversial, recently established temporary police post funded by a Chinese community organization.



Reference

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