

South Island

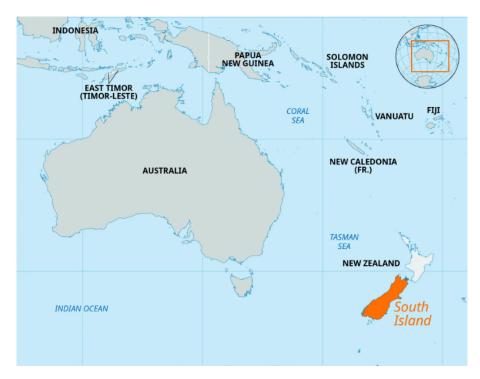
Prelims - Current events of International Importance

Mains - Important Geophysical Phenomenon

Why in News?

A strong 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck off New Zealand's South Island recently.

- It is one of the *larger and southernmost of New Zealand* in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- **Straits** South Island is separated from North Island to the north by *Cook Strait* and from Stewart Island to the south by *Foveaux Strait*.
- **Geography** Mountainous terrain occupies almost three-quarters of South Island.
- It is dominated by the **Southern Alps** which divide the island and affect both climate and flora.
- The Alps divide the *Westland Plain from the Canterbury Plains*.
- **Fiordland National Park**, distinctive area with numerous coastal fjords (inlets) and high lakes is situated in this island.
 - It is part of the Te Wahipounamu <u>UNESCO World Heritage site.</u>



- Lakes Lake Tekapo, Lake Wakatipu, and Lake Pukaki.
- Urban areas Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

References

- 1. Alzajeera | Earthquake in New Zealand's South Island
- 2. Britannica | South-Island-New-Zealand

