South Island

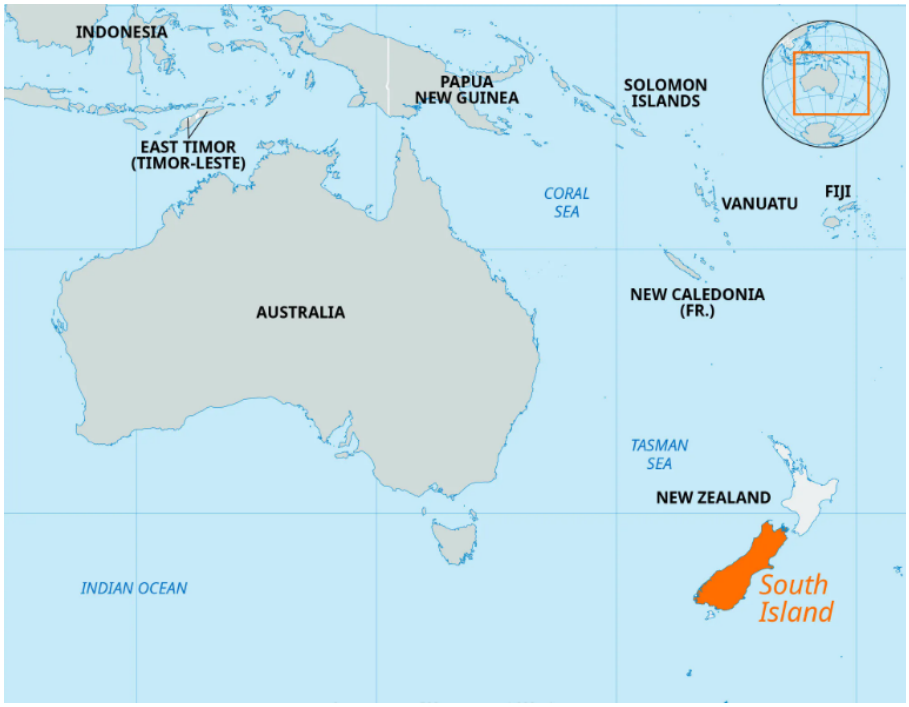
Prelims *– Current events of International Importance*

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 *UNESCO World Heritage site.*



- **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

