



Solomon Islands

Why in News?

Recently, the US says it will open an embassy in the **Solomon Islands**, laying out in unusually blunt terms a plan to increase its influence in the **South Pacific nation** before China becomes “strongly embedded.”



What is the Reason behind the Decision?

- Solomon Islanders cherished their **history with Americans on the battlefields** of [World War II](#) (1939-45), but that the US was in danger of losing its preferential ties as China “**aggressively seeks to engage**” elite politicians and business people in the Solomon Islands.
- The move comes after **rioting rocked the nation of 7,00,000 in November, 2021**.

- The riots grew from a peaceful protest and highlighted long-simmering regional rivalries, economic problems and concerns about the country's increasing links with China.
- The embassy announcement fits with a **new Biden administration strategy** for the **Indo-Pacific** and emphasises building partnerships with allies in the region as a way to counter China's growing influence and ambitions.
 - In the **Quad meeting** held recently, the US has said that it is committed to a "free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient" **Indo-Pacific region**.

Where is the Solomon Islands Located?

- Solomon Islands is a nation in **Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea**, comprising more than 990 islands. Its capital is Honiara, located on the island of Guadalcanal.
- The Solomon Islands have been **inhabited by Melanesian people** for at least 30,000 years.
- It consists of a **double chain of volcanic islands** and **coral atolls** in Melanesia.
 - Melanesia is a **subregion of Oceania** in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- The country **comprises most of the Solomons chain**—with the exception of Buka and Bougainville, two islands at the northwestern end that form an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.
- The island is a **constitutional monarchy**, with the British monarch, represented by a governor-general, serving as the formal head of state. Still, the country, **a member of the Commonwealth**, is independent, and the governor-general is appointed on the advice of the unicameral National Parliament.

[**Source: TH**](#)

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