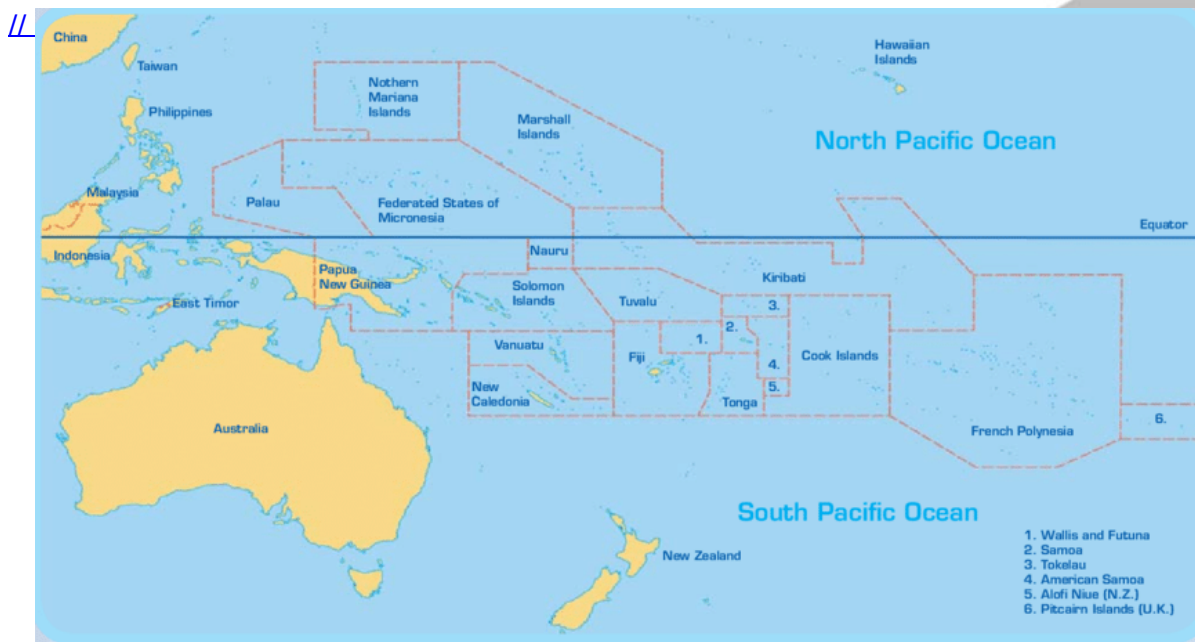




US-Pacific Island Summit 2022

Why in News?

Recently, the US President hosted the first-ever **U.S.- Pacific Island Country Summit** in Washington, D.C, and announced **USD 810 million in funding for Pacific Islands.**



What were the Key Highlights of the Summit?

- **Expand US Presence:** The announced USD 600 million will be in the form of a **10-year package** to clean up and **develop dirty waters to support the tuna industry**, which will also expand climate and development aid and its diplomatic presence.
- **Countering China's Aggressive Policy:** China had made inroads in the strategic but sparsely populated region by asserting itself strongly in recent years in the Pacific Islands through investment, police training and, most controversially, **a security pact with the Solomon Islands**. Therefore, the US is re-engaging with the region that has been tied closely to it since World War II.
- **Forging Alliances:** The US administration recently **formed Partners in the Blue Pacific with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Britain** and further said that Canada and Germany will join and that France, itself a South Pacific power, as well as the **European Union, South Korea and India would participate as non-members.**

What are Pacific Island Countries?

- **About:** The Pacific Island Countries are a **cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean** between Asia, Australia and the Americas.
 - They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of

Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

▪ **Significance:**

- **Largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs):** The islands are **divided on the basis of physical and human geography** into three distinct parts — **Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia**.
 - Despite their small land area, the **islands are spread out over a wide swath of the Pacific Ocean**. Kiribati and FSM, have EEZs larger than that of India.
- **Economic Potential:**
 - Large EEZs have a **great deal of economic potential** since they can be used to exploit the wealth of fisheries, energy, minerals, and other marine resources present there.
- **Potential Vote Bank:** The 14 PICs, bound together by shared economic and security concerns, account for as **many votes in the United Nations**, and act as a potential vote bank for major powers to mobilise international opinion.

[Source: TH](#)

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