

# Solomon Islands

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**In news**– Recently, Solomon Islands and China signed the framework agreement on security cooperation that Australia, the US and other allies fear could be used to establish a military base in the Pacific island nation.

## **About Solomon Islands-**

- Solomon Islands is a **country consisting of six major islands** and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania, to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu and about 1,500 kilometres northeast of Australia.
- It has a population of about 700,000 – mostly Melanesian but also Polynesian, Micronesian, Chinese and European.
- **Almost all Solomon Islanders are Christian;** most are Protestant with smaller numbers of Roman Catholics.
- **English is the official language, but Pijin, an English-based Melanesian pidgin,** is the language that is most widely used and understood.
- **Its capital, Honiara is located on the largest island, Guadalcanal.**



- The country **takes its name from the Solomon Islands archipelago.**
- This place is best known for the **bloody fighting that**

took place there during World War II between the United States and Japan.

- **World War II Battle of Guadalcanal** named after the country's largest island.
- **It 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.
- It was then known as the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and became the Solomon Islands before **independence in 1978**.
- **A migration of settlers from Malaita**, the country's second biggest island and most populous province, to the economic opportunities on Guadalcanal and Honiara **stoked ethnic tensions and eventually unrest**.