

## CHINA RENAMES PLACES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



### Issue

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs has standardized the names of 15 places in Arunachal Pradesh in accordance with the geographical names issued by the State Council.

### Background

China has been claiming Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory and calls it south Tibet.

### Details

- China claims several areas of Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory and calls the area "Zangnan" in the Chinese language.
- Maps of China frequently show Arunachal Pradesh as part of China. There are frequent references to 'South Tibet'.
- China has renamed eight residential areas, four mountains, two rivers, and a mountain pass all present in Arunachal Pradesh.

### Previous instances

- Chinese government had previously assigned Chinese names for six places in the state on April 14, 2017.
- These names written in Roman alphabet were "Wo'gyainling", "Mila Ri", "Qoidengarbo Ri", "Mainquka", "Bumo La" and "Namkapub Ri".
- These areas correspond to Tawang, Kra Daadi, West Siang, Siang, Anjaw, and Subansiri respectively in Arunachal Pradesh.

### Reasons for China's move

- China does not accept the legal status of the McMahon Line, which was agreed between Great Britain, China, and Tibet in 1914.
- Chinese representative did not consent to the Shimla Convention and the present government came to power only in 1949.

### Significance

- China routinely makes such statements whenever Indian dignitaries visit Arunachal Pradesh. Recently, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu had visited the state.
- China also wants to keep making reference to Arunachal Pradesh so that it can claim its right over the territory.

### India's response

India's external affairs ministry has said that Arunachal Pradesh will always be an integral part of India and assigning new names will not change the fact.

#### NOTES

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