

China To Hold 'Himalayan Forum' Meet Near Arunachal Border, Pakistan To Attend

Why In The News?

- China Is Set To Hold The Meeting Of **3rd Trans-Himalayan Forum For International Cooperation** Close To The Border With India's Arunachal Pradesh On **October 4-5**, And Those Among The Attendees Will Be Its Ally Pakistan.
- The Forum, **Formed In 2018** Under Beijing's Watch To Enhance Cooperation Among Countries In The Himalayan Belt, Lists **Pakistan, Mongolia And Afghanistan** Among The Member Nations.



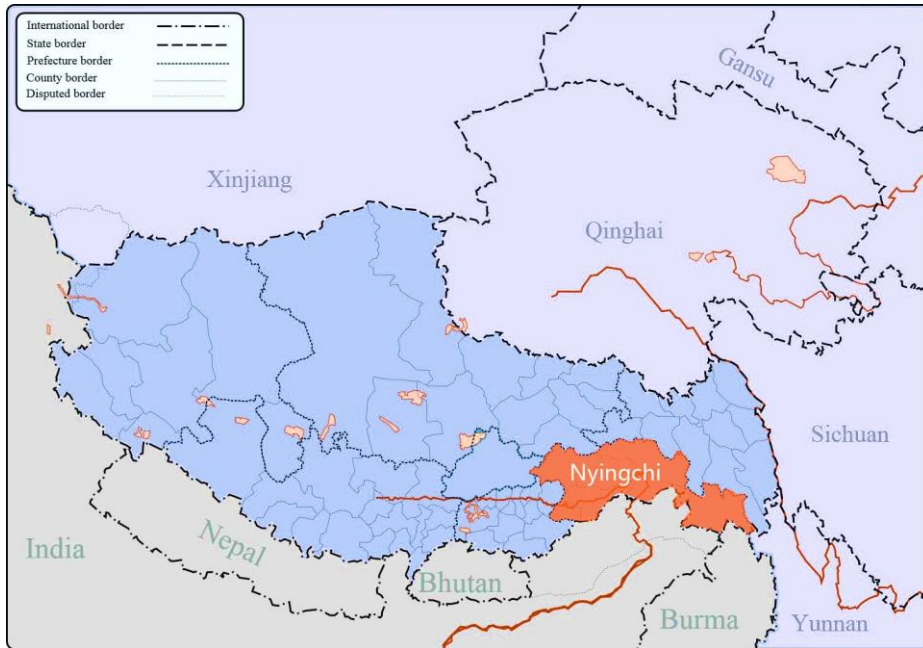
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What Do We Know?

- The Meeting This Year Is Being Organised In **Nyingchi, Tibet**, Which Is Administered By The Chinese Government. The Area Is 160 Km Away From Arunachal Pradesh, The Province Falling In India's Northeast Region.
- **Islamabad**, In A Statement, Confirmed That Its **Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani** Will Be In Attendance. Jilani Will Be Addressing The Forum's Opening Ceremony And Will Be Holding Meetings At Its Sidelines With His **Chinese And Afghan Counterpart**, As Well As The **Deputy Prime Minister Of Mongolia**.



Purpose Of The Forum

- While The Forum Was Formed With The Goal To Address An Array Of Regional Issues, Including Geographical Connectivity, The Theme For This Year's Meeting Is **'Ecological Civilization And Environmental Protection'**. This Will Also Be The First In-person Meeting To Be Held Since The Outbreak Of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Matter Of Concern For India

- The Meeting, Close To The Arunachal Border, Comes At A Time When **China And India Share A Tense Relationship**. Both Countries Are Locked In A Standoff Along The Line Of Actual Control In Ladakh.
- India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, In His Recent Public Statements, Has Noted That The Sino-Indian Relations Have Been "Abnormal" Since The **Clash In Galwan Valley In June 2020**, Which Claimed The Lives Of 20 Indian Soldiers.

