



New Height for Mount Everest

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Why in News

Nepal and China have announced the **revised height of Mount Everest as 8,848.86 metres**. The new height is **86 cm more** than the previous measurement.

Key Points

- The new height of **8,848.86 meters** replaced the long-associated **8,848 metre-height**, which was, as per a measurement carried out by the **Survey of India in 1954**.
- The common declaration meant that the **two countries have shed their long-standing difference** in opinion about the mountain's height — 8,844 m claimed by China and 8,847 m by Nepal.
Resolving the **three-metre difference**, attributed to China calculating the **“rock height” underneath the snow** and **Nepal using the “snow height” which included the snowcap**, was the aim of a joint project.
- Everest is also known as **Sagarmatha** in **Nepal** and **Mount Qomolangma** in **China**.
- The mountain lies on the border between **Nepal and Tibet** and the summit can be accessed from both sides.

- **Related Information:**

- It gets its English name from **Sir George Everest**, a colonial-era geographer who served as the **Surveyor General of India** in the mid-19th century.
- It **was first scaled in 1953** by the Indian-Nepalese **Tenzing Norgay** and New Zealander **Edmund Hillary**.
- **First Survey of Everest:**
 - The first effort was carried out in **1847** by a team led by **Andrew Waugh, Surveyor General of India**.

The survey was based on trigonometric calculations and is known as the **Great Trigonometric Survey of India**.
 - The team discovered that **'Peak 15'** (as Mount Everest was referred to then) was the highest mountain, contrary to the then-prevailing belief that **Mount Kanchenjunga** (8,582 m and the 3rd highest peak in the world now) was the highest peak in the world.

Mount K2, at **8,611 metres** above sea level, is the **second highest mountain** in the world.

Source:TH