



## Tulagi Island



A **Beijing**-based company which has close ties to the Chinese Communist Party has secured **exclusive development rights** for the entire **island of Tulagi** and its surroundings.

- It has been reported that a secretive deal was signed in the month of September 2019 with the provincial government in the Solomon Islands, for the same.
- **Tulagi** is an island within the **Solomon Islands**, which are located in the **South Pacific, directly between Australia and the U.S.**
  - It was the administrative seat (from 1893) of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate until it was destroyed by the Japanese (1942) during World War II.
- The move has **alarmed U.S. officials** who see the island chains of the South Pacific as crucial to keep China in check and protect important sea routes.
- The agreement includes provisions for a fishery base, an operations centre, and the building or enhancement of the airport.
- China is also pushing to **end the region's status as a diplomatic stronghold for Taiwan.**
  - The **Solomons cut ties to Taiwan** and allied with Beijing just a few days before the Tulagi deal. A second Pacific nation, **Kiribati, followed suit** the same week.

**Source: TH**

