

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road has white dashed lines for lane markings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding trees.

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# DAILY NEWS DECODE

06.11.21

# **Longest lunar eclipse of this century to occur on Nov 19, to last over 3 hrs**



- **The longest lunar eclipse of the century will occur on November 19, American space agency NASA has said. The partial eclipse will peak just after 1:30 pm IST when the Earth will hide 97% of the Moon from the Sun's light, giving the Moon a reddish hue. The eclipse is predicted to last up to 3 hours and 28 minutes.**

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# IRISH BACKSTOPS



- There is concern that the UK might trigger Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, popularly known as the Irish Backstops, several media reports have said.
- The Irish Backstops determine the nature of post-Brexit trade and in case the UK does invoke it, it would further strain relations with the EU as well as with Ireland.
- The Irish Backstop, formally known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, is an agreement that was reached between the UK and the EU that there would be no new checks on goods crossing the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- Before Brexit, people and goods could move freely between the two areas because both were part of the EU's single market and customs union, but the border situation changed post-Brexit.

- **The UK comprises Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. Out of these, Northern Ireland is the only country, which still remains within the EU's single market system for goods.**
- **Having the backstops means that there would be no border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It also means that goods cross to and from the country into the EU without customs checks, tariffs and extra paperwork.**
- **The backstops were opposed by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland since they saw them as weakening Northern Ireland's position within the UK.**

### **What is Article 16?**

- **Article 16 of the protocol, titled "Safeguards", says that if the application of this agreement leads to "serious economic, societal or environmental difficulties that are liable to persist, or to diversion of trade," then the UK can unilaterally take appropriate safeguard measures.**
- **Essentially, invoking this article would pause the protocol and will create a space for further negotiations about how trade should be conducted.**
- **There are fears that triggering Article 16 could lead the EU to take retaliatory action, ultimately leading to the suspension of the free trade agreement between the EU and UK.**

# Kameng river



- Recently, a large number of fish and aquatic life were found dead in Kameng river in Arunachal Pradesh.
- As per the state government, the reason for such happening may be high total dissolved solids (TDS) levels in the river.
- The total dissolved solids (TDS) level of the Kameng river is around 6,800 mg/litre, which is much higher than normal.
- Water of the River has turned black with high levels of turbidity.
- The district authorities suspected mudslide in the upper reaches of the Kameng river to be the cause behind the turbidity.
- It was previously named Bhareli River, now called Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh and Jia Bhoreli in Assam.

- **The river originates from a glacial lake below the Gori Chen mountain south of the imaginary McMahon Line dividing India and China.**
- **It is one of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River.**
- **It forms the boundary between East Kameng District and West Kameng Districts.**
- **It is also the boundary between the Sessa and Eaglenest sanctuaries to its west and the Pakke tiger reserve to the east.**
- **The Dafla Hills are east and the Aka Hills (home of Aka tribe) are west of the Kameng River.**

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# Akharas



- Recently, Mahant Ravindra Puri was elected as the new president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, the highest governing body of Hindu saints and seers in the country.
- The word 'akhara' literally means a wrestling arena, and the akhara system is believed to have been started by Adi Shankaracharya in the 8th century AD to prepare a warrior class that could fight for Hinduism against foreign invaders.
- The reason behind creating a force of monks and seers was that they would not have a family of their own, and hence would not be weakened by materialistic desires.

- **Initially, there were four akharas, but their numbers increased with time.**
- **Currently, there are officially 13 akharas divided by their belief systems.**
- **The Sanyasi sampradaya has seven akharas – Juna Akhara, Avahan Akhara, Agni Akhara, Niranjani Akhara, Anand Akhara, Nirvani Akhara and Atal Akhara.**
- **The Vaishnava sampradaya has three akharas, namely Nirmohi Akhara, Digambar Akhara and Nirvani Ani Akhara.**
- **There are three akharas which worship Guru Nanak Dev – Bada Udasin Akhara, Naya Udasin Akhara and Nirmal Akhara.**

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