

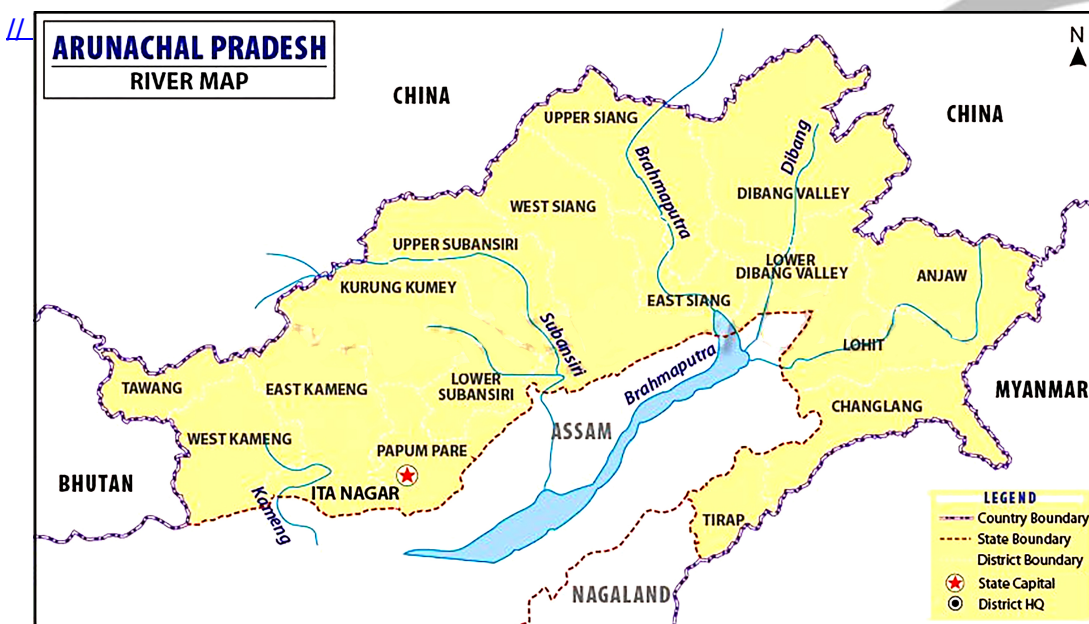


# Mass Fish Death in Kameng River

## Why in News

Recently, the landslides caused by an earthquake of 3.4 magnitude close to the border with China has led to mass fish death in the **Kameng river in Arunachal Pradesh**.

- The region has been placed into **Seismic Zone V**, thus most vulnerable to earthquakes.



## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- The **earthquake** happened in the vicinity of the source of the river at an elevation of about 6,300 metres above Mean Sea Level.
- The **landslides dumped several tonnes of mud and rocks** into the river, substantially reducing the flow of water.
- The river **turned blackish due to very high turbidity** resulting in **low dissolved oxygen** that killed the fish.
  - Low dissolved oxygen concentrations **can arise through** natural phenomena that include seasonality, changes in river flow, and both saline and thermal stratification of the water column.
  - Low dissolved oxygen levels can also indicate an **excessive demand on the oxygen** in the system.

### ▪ Kameng River:

- It originates in **Tawang district** from the glacial lake below snow-capped **Gori Chen**

**mountain** on the India-Tibet border.

- **Kameng is not a transboundary river.**
- It flows through Bhalukpong circle of **West Kameng District**, Arunachal Pradesh and **Sonitpur District of Assam**.
- It becomes a braided river in its lower reaches and is one of the **major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River**.
  - It joins Brahmaputra river at Tezpur, just east of the **Kolia Bhomora Setu bridge, Assam**.
- It forms the boundary between East Kameng District and West Kameng Districts.
  - It also forms the boundary between the **Sessa and Eaglenest sanctuaries** to its west (Arunachal Pradesh) and the **Pakke tiger reserve** to the east (Arunachal Pradesh).
- The **Dafra Hills** are east and the **Aka Hills** are located west of the Kameng River.
- **Tributaries:** Tippi, Tenga, Bichom and Dirang Chu.
- **Historical Significance:**
  - During the medieval period i.e. between 13<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century, it marked the **borders between the Chutiya kingdom and the Kamata kingdom**.
  - Later, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, after the annexation of the Chutiya kingdom by the Ahoms and the downfall of Kamata kingdom, it acted as the border between the **Ahom kingdom** and **Baro-Bhuyan rule**.
    - The **Chutiya Kingdom (also Sadiya)** was a late medieval state that developed around Sadiya in present Assam and adjoining areas in Arunachal Pradesh.
    - The **Kamata Kingdom** emerged in western Kamarupa probably when Sandhya, a ruler of Kamarupanagara, moved his capital west to Kamatapur sometime after 1257 CE.
      - Kamarupa is an ancient state corresponding roughly to what is now the state of Assam.
    - **Sukapha** was a 13<sup>th</sup>-century ruler who **founded the Ahom kingdom** that ruled Assam for six centuries.
    - The **Baro-Bhuyans** refers to the confederacies of soldier-landowners in Assam and Bengal in late middle age and early modern period.

**Source: TH**

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