

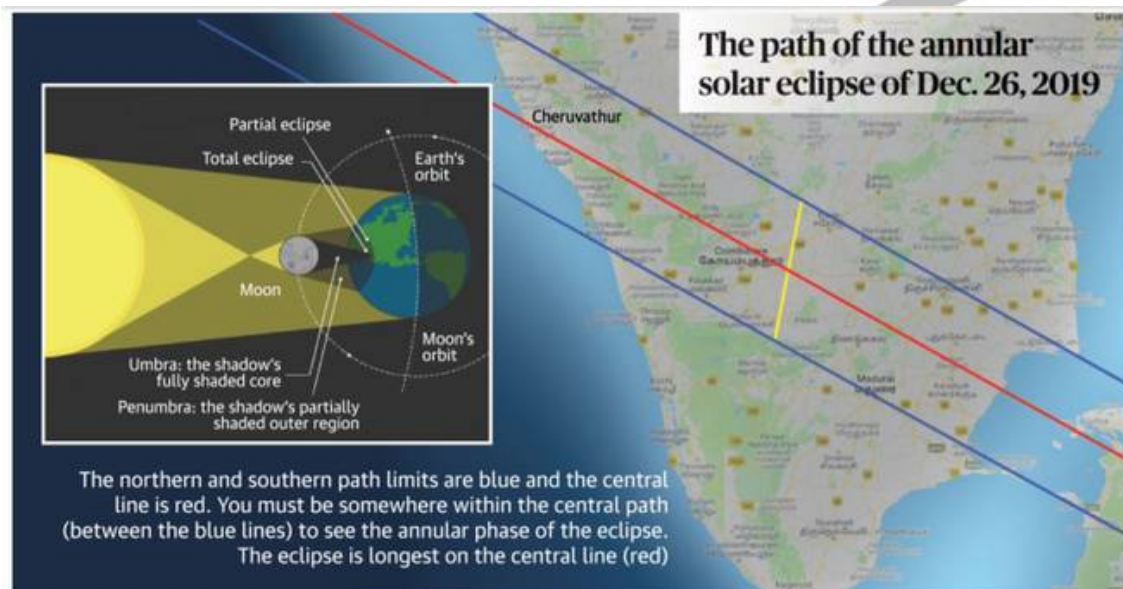


# Solar Eclipse

## Why in News

Cheruvathur in Kasaragod district, Kerala is one of the three places in the world where the solar eclipse will be most clearly seen on December 26, 2019.

- It will be an **annular solar eclipse** in which the '**ring of fire**'- a characteristic of this kind of solar eclipse could be clearly observed.



## Solar Eclipse

- A **solar eclipse** is a phenomenon that happens when the moon comes in the way of the sun's light. The moon's shadow casts itself on Earth, blocking out the sun's light (as seen from Earth).
- The moon's shadow has **two parts**: a central region (**umbra**) and an outer region (**penumbra**). Depending upon which part of the shadow passes over the Earth, one of three types of solar eclipses could be observed:
  - **Total Solar Eclipse**- The entire central portion of the sun is blocked out by the moon.
  - **Partial Solar Eclipse**- Only part of the sun's surface is blocked out.
  - **Annular Solar Eclipse**- The sun is covered in such a way that only a small ring-like sliver of light is seen from the sun's disc. This ring is known as the **ring of fire**.



- An annular eclipse happens when the moon **is farthest from Earth**. As the moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller and is **unable to block the entire view of the sun**, because of which the ring-like structure could be observed.
- The **total eclipse** happens about every year and a half somewhere on Earth, while the **partial eclipse** happens at least twice a year somewhere on Earth.

[Source: TH](#)

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