



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Mount Etna

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Why in news?

The volcano erupted at dawn on August 4 sending plumes of ash and smoke into the sky over **Sicily**.

About Mount Etna:

Mount Etna is a **stratovolcano**, which means it is composed of layers of lava, ash, and rocks that have accumulated over thousands of years of eruptions.

It is located on the **east coast of Sicily**, an **island in the Mediterranean Sea** that **belongs to Italy**.

It stands about **3,300 metres above sea level** and covers an area of about 1,200 square kilometres.

Mount Etna has four summit craters and hundreds of lateral vents that can produce different types of eruptions, such as explosive, effusive, or mixed.

Mount Etna has been **erupting almost continuously since 1500 BC**, making it one of **the most active volcanoes in the world**.

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About volcanos:

Volcanoes are openings or vents where lava, rocks, and steam erupt onto the Earth's surface.

They result from both their own eruptions and the general formation of the planet through the movement and collision of tectonic plates.

Types of Volcanoes:

Based on frequency of Eruption:

Active volcanoes:

They erupt frequently and are mostly located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, which includes New Zealand, Southeast Asia, Japan and the western coast of the Americas.

About 90% of all earthquakes worldwide strike within this region.

Volcanic activity is linked to the movement and collision of tectonic plates.

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Examples include Kilauea in Hawaii and Santa Maria in Guatemala.

Dormant Volcano:

These are not extinct but have not erupted in recent history.

The dormant volcanoes may erupt in future.

Example: Mount Kilimanjaro, located in Tanzania, also the highest mountain in Africa, is known to be a dormant Volcano.

Extinct or inactive volcanoes:

These have not worked in the distant geological past.

Example: Dhinodhar hill, Gujarat.

Based on the Type of Eruption:

Basic:

The basic magma is dark-coloured like basalt, rich in iron and magnesium but poor in silica. They travel far and generate broad shield volcanoes.

Acidic:

These are light-coloured, of low density, and have a high percentage of silica therefore they make a familiar cone volcano shape.

The Barren Island Volcano is the only active volcano in India, which is situated in the Andaman and Nicobar islands.