



Taal Volcano: Philippines

Why in News

Recently, the Philippines increased the alert level on **Taal Volcano** to **level 3 on a five-level scale** after a **Phreatomagmatic Eruption (PE)** occurred that generated a dark grayish plume, one kilometer high.

- **Alert Level 3** means there is magmatic unrest, or movement of magma that may further drive succeeding eruptions.



Key Points

- **Location:**
 - Situated on the island of Luzon, 50 km from Manila, Philippines.
- **Susceptibility:**
 - The Philippines is situated at the boundaries of two tectonic plates - the **Philippines Sea Plate and the Eurasian plate** - thus susceptible to earthquakes and volcanism.
 - Taal is one of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines due to its location on the Pacific ["Ring of Fire"](#) - a zone of intense seismic activity.
- **Phreatomagmatic Eruption:** An eruption **resulting from the interaction of new magma or lava with water** and can be very explosive. The water can be from groundwater, hydrothermal

systems, surface runoff, a lake or the sea.

- Other **Types of Eruptions** are: Icelandic, Hawaiian, Strombolian, Vulcanian, Pelean and Plinian.

▪ **Dangers:**

- Possible hazards of **pyroclastic density currents** (clouds of hot gas, ash, and other volcanic debris) and **volcanic tsunami**.

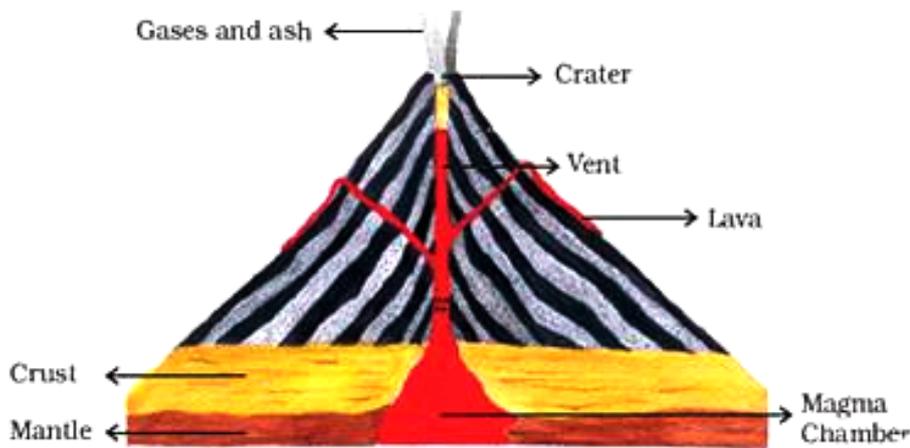
▪ **Complex Volcano:** It is classified as a “**complex**” volcano by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

- A complex volcano, **also called a compound volcano**, is defined as one that doesn't have just one main vent or cone but several eruption points. Another such **example is Mount Vesuvius on the west coast of Italy**.

▪ **Unpredictable:** Taal has erupted more than 30 times in the last few centuries, the most **recent was in 2020**.

Volcano

A volcano is a **vent (opening) in the earth's crust** through which **molten material** erupts suddenly.



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