

Mauna Loa

November 5, 2022

In news— The ground is shaking and swelling at Mauna Loa, the largest active volcano in the world, indicating that it could erupt.

About Mauna Loa-

- Mauna Loa is **one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii** in the U.S. state of Hawai'i in the Pacific Ocean.
- The largest subaerial volcano in both mass and volume, Mauna Loa has historically been considered the largest volcano on Earth, dwarfed only by Tamu Massif.
- It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but **it's the largest and makes up about half of the island's land mass.**
- It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is currently erupting from its summit crater.
- Kilauea is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean.
- Mauna Loa's eruptions differ from Kilauea's in part because it is taller. Its greater height gives it steeper slopes, which allow lava to rush down its hillsides faster than Kilauea's.
- Its enormous size may allow it to store more magma, leading to larger lava flows when an eruption occurs.
- Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago. In written history, dating to 1843, it's erupted 33 times.
- The Big Island is mostly rural and is home to cattle ranches, coffee farms and beach resorts.



Note:

- **Hawaii's volcanoes are called shield volcanoes** because successive lava flows over hundreds of thousands of years build broad mountains that resemble the shape of a warrior's shield.
- Shield volcanos are also found in California and Idaho as well as Iceland and the Galapagos Islands.
- Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park has eight shield volcanoes including Mount Wrangell. Volcanoes like Mount St. Helens are called composite or stratovolcanoes.
- Their steep, conical slopes are built by the eruption of viscous lava flows and rock, ash and gas. Japan's Mount Fuji is another example of a composite volcano.