

# The Shiveluch volcano of Russia

November 28, 2022

**In news**– The Shiveluch volcano in Russia's far eastern Kamchatka peninsula may be gearing up for its first powerful eruption in 15 years.

## **About the Volcano-**

- Shiveluch is **one of the largest and most active volcanoes in Kamchatka**, having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years.
- **It has two main parts:** Old Shiveluch, which tops 3,283 metres (10,771 ft), and Young Shiveluch – a smaller, 2,800-metre peak protruding from its side.
- **Young Shiveluch lies within an ancient caldera** – a large crater-like basin that likely formed when the older part underwent a catastrophic eruption at least 10,000 years ago.
- It is this part that has become extremely active and has been warned that the volcano's lava dome continues to grow and that stronger "fumarole activity" has been observed.
- **Domes are mounds that form from accumulating lava**, and fumaroles are openings through which hot sulphurous gases emerge.
- The volcano has been continuously erupting since August 1999, but occasionally undergoes powerful explosive events, including in 2007, when NASA said it ejected a large ash cloud 9,750 metres (32,000 ft) into the sky.



**Note:**

- **Kamchatka is home to 29 active volcanoes, part of a vast belt of Earth known as the “Ring of Fire”** which circles the Pacific Ocean and is prone to eruptions and frequent earthquakes.
- Most of the **peninsula’s volcanoes are surrounded by sparsely populated forest and tundra**, so pose little risk to local people, but big eruptions can spew glass, rock and ash into the sky, threatening aircraft.
- According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), these kinds of eruptions typically happen three or four times a year in Kamchatka, requiring air traffic to be rerouted.
- Six volcanoes in Russia’s northeast are currently showing signs of increased activity, including Eurasia’s highest active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka, which began erupting most recently.

