



Danakil Depression

Why in News

A recent study stated that an **active and naturally occurring life cannot** be sustained at **Danakil, Ethiopia**.

- The two barriers to the survival of life in the Danakil region are:
 - Magnesium-dominated brines that cause cells to break down
 - An environment having simultaneously very low pH and high salt, a combination that makes adaptation highly difficult.

Danakil Depression



- It is located in northeastern Ethiopia.
 - At the **northern end** of the **Great Rift Valley**, and **separated** by **live volcanoes** from the **Red Sea**.
- Danakil is **one of the world's lowest** places at **100 metres below sea level**.
- The plain was formed by the evaporation of an inland water body.
- All the water entering Danakil evaporates, and no stream flows out from its extreme environment.
- It is covered with more than 10 lakh tonnes of salt.

[Source: IE](#)

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