

Batagaika Crater

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About Batagay Crater:

- It is also called the “**gateway to the underworld**,” by some locals in Russia’s Sakha Republic.
- **Location:** It is located in **Russia’s Far East** that forms the world’s biggest **permafrost crater**.
- It is a crater or megaslump, features a rounded cliff face that was first spotted on satellite images in 1991 after a section of hillside collapsed in the Yana Uplands of northern Yakutia in Russia.
- Scientists believe that the crater is the result of a melting permafrost land, which was frozen during the Quaternary **Ice Age 2.58 million years ago**.

What is Permafrost?

- **Permafrost** is any ground that remains completely **frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder**—for at least **two years straight**.
- **Global Distribution**
 - These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth’s higher latitudes—near the **North and South Poles**.
 - It covers large regions of the Earth. Almost a quarter of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere has permafrost underneath.

Q1: What is Snowpack?

Snowpack refers to the snow that has fallen on the ground and does not melt for months due to below-freezing temperatures is called a snowpack. Snowpacks can consist of multiple layers of snow, each one from a different snowfall, that become compacted under the weight of the subsequent layers that lie on top.

Source: Gateway to the underworld' in Siberia is growing at a staggering rate every year: Study

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/batagaika-crater/>

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