



Pandavula Gutta and Ramgarh Crater as Geo-Heritage Sites

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Pandavula Gutta, an ancient geological marvel predating the Himalayan hills, has been officially designated as the **sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana**.

- Also, the Rajasthan government designates **Ramgarh Crater in Baran district** as a geo-heritage site.
- The recognition marks a significant milestone in preserving the region's geological legacy.

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What are the Key Facts About Pandavula Gutta?

- Pandavula Konda (Pandavula Gutta) is a geological marvel situated in the **Jayashankar Bhupalpally district of Telangana**.
- Pandavula Gutta is rich in terms of rock shelters, and habitation from **the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) to mediaeval times**.
- Pandavula Gutta boasts **Palaeolithic (500,000 BCE-10,000 BCE)** cave paintings offering a

glimpse into prehistoric life.

- The cave paintings depict wildlife like Bison, Antelope, Tiger, and Leopard, as well as **shapes like swastika symbols**, circles, squares, and weapons.
- The paintings also feature geometrical designs and impressions in green, red, yellow, and white pigment colours.
- The topography of Pandavula Gutta makes it a popular destination for rock climbing enthusiasts.



What are the Key Facts About Ramgarh Crater?

- Ramgarh Crater, Rajasthan formed around **165 million years ago** due to a **meteor** impact, this 3-km diameter crater provides essential ecosystem services, contributing to the region's ecological balance and biodiversity.
- Recognised as a **Ramgarh Conservation Reserve under the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)**, the Ramgarh Crater is protected to preserve its unique ecological and cultural heritage.
- It is declared as the Ramgarh Conservation Reserve under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the presence of **Pushkar Talab complex within the crater**, recognised as **wetlands** under **Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017**.

Ramgarh Crater



Geo-Heritage Site/National Geological Monuments

- Geoheritage refers to **sites or areas with significant scientific, educational, cultural, or aesthetic value** due to their geological features.
 - These sites may have **unique rock formations, fossils, or landscapes** that are important for education, research, cultural significance, or visual appeal. They can also contribute to local and regional economies as tourist destinations.
 - GSI or the respective State governments take necessary measures to protect these sites.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declares geo-heritage sites/**national geological monuments** for protection and maintenance.
 - GSI is a scientific agency that was founded in 1851 to find **coal deposits for the Railways**. The GSI is **headquartered in Kolkata**, and is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines**. Its main functions include creating and updating national geoscientific information, and assessing mineral resources.

Geological heritage site /National geological monument	
ANDHRA PRADESH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volcanogenic bedded Barytes, Mangampeta, Cuddapah Dist. ▪ Eparchaeon Unconformity, Chittoor Dist. ▪ Natural Geological Arch, Tirumala Hills, Chittoor Dist. ▪ Erra Matti Dibbalu- the dissected and stabilized coastal red sediment mounds located between Vishakhapatnam and Bhimunipatnam.
KERALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laterite near Angadipuram PWD rest house premises, Malapuram Dist. ▪ Varkala Cliff Section, Thiruvananthapuram Dist.
TAMILNADU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fossil wood near Tiruvakkarai, South Arcot Dist. ▪ National fossil wood park, Sattanur, Tiruchirapalli Dist. ▪ Charnockite, St. Thomas Mount, Madras. ▪ Badlands of Karai Formation with Cretaceous fossils along Karai – Kulakkalnattam Section, Perambalur District.
MAHARASHTRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lonar Lake, Buldana Dist.
GUJARAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sedimentary Structures – Eddy Markings, Kadan Dam, Panch Mahals Dist.
RAJASTHAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sendra Granite, Pali Dist. ▪ Barr Conglomerate, Pali Dist. ▪ Stromatolite Fossil Park, Jharmarkotra Rock Phosphate deposit, Udaipur Dist. ▪ Gossan in Rajpura-Dariba Mineralised belt, Udaipur Dist. ▪ Stromatolite Park near Bhojunda, Chittaurgarh Dist. ▪ Akal Fossil Wood Park, Jaisalmer Dist. ▪ Kishangarh Nepheline Syenite, Ajmer Dist. ▪ Welded Tuff, Jodhpur Dist. ▪ Jodhpur Group – Malani Igneous Suite Contact, Jodhpur Dist. ▪ Great Boundary Fault at Satur, Bundi Dist.
KARNATAKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Columnar Lava, St Mary Island Udupi Dist. ▪ Pillow lavas near Mardihalli, Chitradurga Dist. ▪ Peninsular Gneiss, Lalbagh, Bangalore ▪ Pyroclastics & Pillow lavas, Kolar Gold fields, Kolar Dist.
CHATTISGARH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower Permian Marine bed at Manendragarh, Surguja Dist.
HIMACHAL PRADESH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Siwalik Fossil Park, Saketi, Sirmur dt.,
ODISHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pillow Lava in Iron ore belt at Nomira, Keonjhar dist.
JHARKHAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant Fossil bearing Inter-trappean beds of Rajmahal Formation, upper Gondwana sequence around Mandro, Sahibganj dist.
NAGALAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nagahill Ophiolite Site near Pungro,
SIKKIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of Buxa Formation at Mamley, near Namchi, South district.



Read more: [Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics Bill, 2022](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. Consider the following historical places:

1. Ajanta Caves
2. Lepakshi Temple
3. Sanchi Stupa

Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Ans: (b)

Q. Where is the famous Virupaksha temple located? (2009)

- (a) Bhadrachalam
- (b) Srikalahasti
- (c) Hampi
- (d) Chidambaram

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q.1 Safeguarding the Indian Art Heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. **(2018)**

Q.2 Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. **(2020)**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/pandavula-gutta-and-ramgarh-crater-as-geo-heritage-sites>