



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



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)**

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### **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>