

**05– 04 – 2024**

**News: Pandavula Gutta and Ramgarh Crater as Geo-Heritage Sites**

- 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.

## **Pandavula Konda**

- 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.

## **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.

## **National Geo – Heritage Sites / 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.
- Geological Survey of India (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 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 Bhimuniapatnam.</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 Tiruvakkara, 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 Mardihalii, 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>

geological monuments for protection and maintenance.

