



## Erra Matti Dibbalu

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/erra-matti-dibbalu](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/erra-matti-dibbalu)

Erra Matti Dibbalu is dissected and stabilized coastal **red sediment mounds**, located **between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.**



- **Formation:**

- Formed around **12,000 years ago** due to **sea-land interaction**.
- Comprises a mixture of sand (40-50%), silt and clay (another 50%) with oxidation imparting the unique red colour.

- **Significance:**

- They are geologically important as they represent the geological history of the **late Quaternary period** and carry the imprints of the fall of sea level and its subsequent rise, the impact of climate, monsoon and geological processes on the sediments.
- They are **anthropologically and archeologically important** as they possibly contain **mesolithic and neolithic cultural materials as well.**

- **Recognition:**

It was recognised as a **national geo-heritage site** in 2014 and as a protected site by the Andhra Pradesh Government in 2016.

The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declares geo-heritage sites/ national geological monuments for protection and maintenance

- **Other Similar Place:** The **only other place** in the country to have a similar stretch of red sand dunes is **Tamil Nadu**, which has the **Teri dune complex**.

## **Geological Survey of India**

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in **1851** primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- The main functions of the GSI relate to **creation and updation of national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment**.
- It is **headquartered in Kolkata**, and has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata and State Unit offices in almost all States of the country.
- Presently, GSI is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines**.

**Source: TH**