

Erra Matti Dibbalu

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Erra Matti Dibbalu Latest News

Recently, Andhra Pradesh's Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Dunes) have been included in the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.

About Erra Matti Dibbalu

- Erra Matti Dibbalu, also known as the **Red Sand Dunes** is located along the coast near Visakhapatnam in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- It was first **documented by British geologist William King in 1886**, these formations are regarded as rare **coastal geomorphological features**.

Key Features of Erra Matti Dibbalu

- It is composed of sand, silt, and clay, with their distinct reddish hue resulting from **natural oxidation over thousands of years**.

- The uniqueness of this site is that the red sediments are a **part of the continuation of the evolution of the earth** and represent the late quaternary geologic age.
- They exhibit badland **topography with different geomorphic landforms** and features, including gullies, sand dunes, buried channels, beach ridges, paired terraces, the valley in the valley, wave-cut terrace, knick point and waterfalls.
- It is a lively scientific evolution site, which depicts the real-time effects of climate change.
- The site also has archaeological significance, as studies of artefacts indicate an **Upper Palaeolithic horizon** and on cross dating assigned to **Late Pleistocene epoch**, which is 20,000 BC.
- The site contains dendritic drainage patterns and sediment layers that record fluctuations in sea level and climatic changes over the late Quaternary period.
- **Other similar sites:** Only two other similar sites exist in the world, one in Sri Lanka and another in Tamil Nadu (**Teri Sands**).
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) declared Erra Matti Dibbalu a **National Geo-heritage Monument in 2016**.
- **Issues:** Experts note that the site faces threats from tourism and filming activities.

Source: NIE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/erra-matti-dibbalu/>

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