

## **5. Erra Matti Dibbalu**

**Prelims Syllabus:** Geo

**Mains Syllabus:** GS-I Geo -Geographical Features & Their Location

### **Why in News?**

- Citizens join hands to preserve the geological marvel of Erra Matti Dibbalu in Visakhapatnam.

### **What is Erra Matti Dibbalu?**

- Located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam, the Erra Matti Dibbalu are rare red sand dunes that are a reminder of the million years of geological processes.
- Its towering red sand dunes with patches of greenery is like a meandering maze.
- The width of the dunes, which runs for five kilometres along the coast, varies from 200 metres to two kilometres.
- It is listed among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India.

### **Its formation:**

- Studies indicate that the area was tectonically active between 2.5 million years and 11,000 years ago.
- The sediments are mainly derived from the Khondalite rocks from the hinterland of the Eastern Ghats.
- Geologically these red sand dune sediments particularly hold significance.
- They are the result of the combined effect of numerous factors including global climatic changes, sea-level Variations, Monsoonal Variability and as a result serves as valuable Paleo-Environment Indicators.