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Q:- Write notes on CHARACTERISTIC AND PECULIAR FAUNA OF AUSTRALIAN REGION ?

Ans:- Fauna of Australia :-

The Fauna of Australia consists of a huge variety of animals; some 83% of mammals, 89% of Reptiles, 90% of Fish and insects and 93% of amphibians that inhabit the continent are endemic to Australia. This high level of endemism can be attributed to the continent's long geographic isolation, tectonic stability, and the effects of an unusual pattern of climate change on the soil and flora over geological time. A unique feature

of Australia's fauna is the relative scarcity of native placental mammals. Consequently, the marsupials, a group of mammals that raise their young in a pouch, including the macropods, possums and dasyurids - occupy many of the ecological niches placental animals occupy elsewhere in the world. Australia is home to two of the five known extant species of monotremes and has numerous venomous species, which include the platypus, spiders, scorpions, octopus, jellyfish, molluscs, stonefish, and stingrays. Uniquely, Australia has more venomous than non-venomous species of snakes.

The settlement of Australia by Indigenous

Australians between 48,000 and 70,000 years ago. Research in 2011 using DNA suggests an arrival around 50,000 years ago, and by Europeans from 1788. It has significantly affected the fauna, hunting, the introduction of non-native species, and land management practices involving the modification or destruction of habitats have led to numerous extinctions. Some historical examples include the paradise parrot, pig-footed bandicoot and the broadfaced potaroo. Unsustainable land use still threatens the survival of many species. To target threats to the survival of its fauna, Australia has passed wide-ranging federal and state legislation and established numerous protected areas.

### Mammals :-

Australia has a rich mammalian fossil history

as well as a variety of extant mammalian species dominated by the marsupials, currently however there is limited taxonomic research into Australian mammals. The fossil record shows that monotremes have been present in Australia since the early Cretaceous 145-99 MYA, and that marsupials and placental mammals date from the Eocene 56-34 MYA, when modern mammals first appeared in the fossil record. Although terrestrial marsupials and placental mammals did coexist in Australia in the Eocene, only the marsupials have survived to the present. Non-volant placental mammals made their appearance in Australia in the Miocene, when Australia moved closer to Indonesia and rodents started to appear reliably in the early

Pliocene fossil record.

See also :-

- List of mammals of Australia
- List of Australian monotremes and marsupials
- List of Australian bats
- List of Australian rodents
- List of placental mammals introduced to Australia
- List of Australian marine mammals
- List of Australian birds
- List of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds
- List of birds of Oceania