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Question :- Write notes on FAUNISTIC PECULIARITIES OF COENOZOIC ERA ?

Ans :- Cenozoic :-

The Cenozoic Era meaning "new life," is the current and most recent of the three geological eras of the Phanerozoic Eon. It follows the Mesozoic Era and extends from 66 million years ago to the present day. It is generally believed to have started on the first day of the Cretaceous - Paleogene extinction event (also referred to as the K-Pg, or K-T, extinction event) when an asteroid hit the earth.

The Cenozoic is also known as the Age

of Mammals, because the extinction of many groups allowed mammals to greatly diversify so that large mammals dominated the Earth. The continents also moved into their current positions during this era.

Earth in the Cenozoic, following the K-Pg extinction event, most of the fauna was relatively small, and included small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. From a geological perspective, it did not take long for mammals and birds to greatly diversify in the absence of the large reptiles that had dominated during the Mesozoic. Phorusrhacids, a group of avians known as the "terror birds", grew larger than the average human and were formidable predators. Mammals came to occupy almost every available niche (both marine and terrestrial), and some also grew very large.

obtaining sizes not seen in most of today's mammals.

The Earth's climate had begun a drying and cooling trend, culminating in the glaciations of the Pleistocene epoch, and partially offset by the Paleocene - Eocene Thermal Maximum.

Nomenclature :-

The Cenozoic, meaning "new life", is derived from Greek *καινός* (*kainos* "new", and *ζωή* (*zōē* "life". The *era* is also known as the *Cænozoic*, *Cænozoic*, or *zoic*. The name "Cenozoic" (originally: "kainozoic") was proposed in 1840 by the British geologist John Phillips (1800-1874).

Divisions :-

The Cenozoic is divided into three periods: the Paleogene, Neogene, and

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Quaternary: and seven epochs: the Pliocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene and Holocene. The Quaternary period was officially recognized by the international commission on Stratigraphy in June 2009, and the former term, Tertiary Period, became officially disused in 2004 due to the need to divide the Cenozoic into periods more like those of the earlier Paleozoic and periods more like those of the earlier Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. The common use of epochs during the Cenozoic helps paleontologists better organize and group the many significant events that occurred during this comparatively short interval of time. Knowledge of the relatively young, well-preserved rocks associated with it.

Life :-

During the Cenozoic, mammals proliferated from a few small, simple, generalized forms

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forms into a diverse collection of terrestrial, marine and flying animals, giving this period its other name the Age of Mammals, despite the fact that there are more than twice as many bird species as mammal species. The Cretaceous is just as much the age of saurians, the age of co-dependent flowering plants and insects, and the age of birds. Grass also played a very important role in this era, shaping the evolution of the birds and mammals that fed on it. One group that diversified significantly in the Cretaceous as well were the snakes. Evolving in the Cretaceous, the variety of snakes increased tremendously, resulting in many colubrids, following the evolution of their vertebrate primary prey source, the rodents.