

**Dr. VIPIN KUMAR**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,**  
**ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
**L.S COLLEGE, MUZAFFARPUR**

## **EVOLUTION OF MAN**

***Homo sapiens***, or modern man is a member of the order **Primates**, along with the Prosimians, Monkey and apes. Despite of many varied groups, primates have certain features in common. All the primates have forward facing and highly developed eyes, flexible shoulder joints that permit a wide range of the arm movement in it. All primates have functional digits with flattened nails and the thumb or the big toe are set in apposition to other digits. These have an enlarged cerebral cortex.

- Primates are supposed to have evolved from some primitive tiny insect feeder quadruped, similar to the modern tree line which lived between 75 to 60 millions years ago.
- This might have taken to the trees to avoid predation and competition for food on the ground.
- Two evolutionary lines diverged leading to the present day **prosimians** (the old world and New world monkeys) and the hominids (family of primates) of which modern human beings are the only living members.

### **1. Australopithecus (The first man-ape)**

- The first fossil of man ape was discovered in **South Africa** in **1924** by Raymond Dart.

- After excavation from other places like **Java** etc ,All these fossils together with some other exhibiting identical features have been grouped together in the sub-family **Australopithecus**.
- They were small statured forms averaging about four feet. these walked nearly straight.The vertebral column had distinct lumber curve with pelvis broad and basin like .The teeth were strikingly man like because:-

△ the dental arch was smoothly rounded parabola.

△ Face was prognathous and a chin was absent.Eyebrow ridges projected over the eyes.

△ Brain capacity 450-600 cc or slightly above.

- Two main type of Australopithecus have been recognised:-
- First **Gracile** type were lightly constructed.Although omnivorous, these were predominantly carnivorous. Ex. Australopithecus African
- **Robust** type had heavier body structure and massive cheek teeth.it is grouped into two (1)*Zijonthropus* from East Africa (Tanzania) (2) **Meganthropus** from Java.