

Topic :- Cenozoic Era.

Introduction:-

The Cenozoic is the latest era. It began 63 million years ago and is continuing upto the present. The name Cenozoic is comprised of two Greek words 'Kainos' and 'zoikos' meaning recent and life respectively. Though this era is marked by great adaptive radiation in birds, insects and flowering plants yet it is called 'age of mammals'. This era is divided into two periods.

Tertiary Period:-

This period began 63 million years ago continued upto one million years ago. The name Tertiary was given by Giovanni Arduino (1760). This period is characterised by the flourishing of mammals. The modern mammals originated due to adaptations and modification in primitive mammals. Its early warm climate became colder later on. Tertiary period is divided

into five epochs.

(i) Palaeocene :- This epoch began 63 million years ago and continued upto 58 million years ago.

(ii) Eocene : This epoch began 58 million years ago and continued upto 36 million years ago.

(iii) Oligocene : This epoch began 36 million years ago and continued upto 25 million years ago.

(iv) Miocene : This epoch began 25 million years ago and continued upto 13 million years ago.

(v) Pliocene : This epoch began 13 million years ago and continued upto one million years ago.