

TOPIC :- MESOZOIC ERA

INTRODUCTION :-

The Mesozoic era began 230 million years ago and continued upto 63 million years ago i.e. it lasted for about 167 million years. The features possessed by its fauna were midway between those possessed by the primitive palaeozoic animal and the advanced coenozoic animals, hence this era is known as the period of middle life or medieval life. As this era witnessed the rise, diversification, dominance and extinction of reptiles the mesozoic era is also called the Golden age of reptiles. This era is divided into three periods.

1. Triassic period :

This period began 230 million years ago and continued upto 180 million years ago. This name was coined by a ~~geolo~~ German geologist F. Von Alberti. It was based on three distinct subdivisions of contrasting rocks of Germany. Triassic exposures are very poorly developed in N. America than those in Europe.

climatic conditions:-

The climate was warm, temperate and dry over major parts of the earth. In some areas it was subtropical with seasonal changes. lofty Appalachian peaks underwent great erosion. This helped in land elevation and reduction of height which resulted in expression of deserts and continents, often occurring dry situations favoured land adaptations. The end of this period is marked by palisade disturbances in Eastern North America.

Faunistic Peculiarities:

- i) coral reefs appeared.
- ii) Brachiopods became restricted in both number as well as distribution.
- iii) Molluscs were represented by numerous snails, bivalvia and cephalopods.
- iv) Insects and sea-urechins diversified and spread.
- v) primitive amphibians like Stegocephalians became extinct.
- vi) Dinosaurs became abundant as small creature.

vii) Certain reptiles like Ichthyosaurs (fish like reptiles) and plesiosaurs (clumsy with flattened turtle-like body) descended from land to ocean and adapted marine life.

viii) prototherians appeared first time as a result of diversification of reptiles.