7.9 Origin and Evolution of Man :-

* The fossil evidence clearly indicates that origin of man occured in central Asia, China, Java and India (Shivalik Hills)
* It has been established that Dryopithecus is one of the oldest fossil which in turn evolved into apes and men.
* The main morphological changes occured in the ancestors of modern man.

(i) formation of chin (ii) Reduction of brow ridges (iii) Flattening of face (iv) Increase in height (v) Erect posture & bipedal locomotion (vi) Increase in brain size and intelligence (vii) Enlargement and rounding of cranium.

Dryopithecus :- They lived about 15 million years ago. They were hairy & walked like gorillas and chimpanzees. They were more ape like. They ate soft fruits & leaves.

Ramapithecus :- They appeared about 15 mya. fossils are found in shivalik hills of India. They were more man like and was hairy and walked like gorilla and chimpanzee.

Australopithecus :→ First ape man. They propably lived in East African grasslands. There fossils have been discovered in Ethiopia and Tanzania. These revealed hominid features leading to the belief that about 3-4 mya, man-like primates walked in eastern africa. They were probably not taller than 4 feet but walked upright. There cranial capacity is 500c.c.

Homo Habilis :- He lived in africa 2 mya. They propably did not eat meat. This creature was called the first human-like being the hominid. There brain capacity were between 650-800c.c. They hunted with stone weapons but essentially ate fruit.

Homo erectus (Erect man) :→ They appeared about 1.5 mya. It has large cranial capacity around 900cc Ha probably ate meat. Homo erectus include three fossils : Java Ape-man, Peking Man, Heidelberg man.

True man including Modern man

- Neanderthal man :- The lived in near east and central Asia between 1,00,000 - 40,000 years back. Their brain capacity is 1400 c.c. They used hides to protect their body and buried their dead. They did not evolve into Homo sapiens.

Cro-Magnon man :- It is regarded as most recent ancestor of today's man. There brain size is 1650c.c. They are more intelligent & cultured than modern man. It become extinct about 10,000 - 11,000 years ago. Homo sapiens fossilis

Homo sapiens :- They arose in Africa and moved across continents and developed into distinct races. During ice age between 75,000 - 10,000 years ago modern Homo sapiens arose. Their average cranial capacity is 1450cc. Homo sapiens sapiens

* Pre-historic cave art developed about 18,000 years ago. One such cave paintings by Pre-historic humans can be seen at Bhimbetka rock shelter in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.
* Agriculture came around 10,000 years back & human settlement started.
* A number of cave paintings done by Cro-Magnon man have been discovered.