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Q2(a)

Discuss the Miocene hominoid remains and their significance in evolution

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · Characteristics of Primates

1.5 Characteristics of Primates; Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy; Primate Adaptations; (Arboreal and Terrestrial) Primate Taxonomy; Primate Behaviour; Tertiary and Quaternary fossil primates; Living Major Primates; Comparative Anatomy of Man and Apes; Skeletal changes due to erect posture and its implications.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Miocene epoch

Approximately 23 to 5.3 million years ago. This is the principal radiation of fossil apes.

Proconsul

An early Miocene East African stem hominoid. It was tailless but not a modern suspensory ape.

Sivapithecus

A Siwalik fossil ape with orangutan-like facial architecture. It is not a hominin.

Ramapithecus

Formerly promoted as an early hominin on dental grounds. It is now generally grouped with Sivapithecus and removed from the human line.

Gigantopithecus

An East Asian giant ape on the orangutan side of the family, not ancestral to Homo.

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