

**TRENDS IN INDIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY
MODULE IV-HISTORIOGRAPHICAL
TRENDS IN INDEPENDENT ERA**



**TOPIC –ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY AND
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ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY



- Environmental history is the study of human interaction with the natural world overtime, emphasizing the active role nature plays in influencing human affairs and vice versa.
- Environmental history emerged in the united states out of the environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s.
- The field of Environmental history was founded on conservation issues, but was broadened in scope to include more general social and scientific history and may deal with cities, population and sustainable development.
- In 1967, American historian, Roderick Nash published the ‘Wilderness and the American Mind’ and it is still considered a classic text of environmental history. He was the first to use the term ‘environmental History’.
- Many of the early works on environmental history focused on pre-industrial societies and their relation to the environments.



- There are three strands of EH,- Material EH focusing on changes in the biological and the physical environment, cultural EH which studies the representations of the environment and what it says about a society and political EH focusing on government regulations, laws and official policies.
- Climate history is often considered as a part of environmental history and certainly shares many areas of study.
- EH in India has generated a rich literature on forests, wild life, human and animal conflict, tribal rights, commercial degradation, displacement and development, pastoralism and desertification, famine and disease etc.
- The work ‘India’s Environmental History’ edited by Mahesh Rangarajan and K.Sivaramakrishnan, published in 2011 is an important contribution to the environmental history of India.



- The work has two volumes, the first one covers the ancient times to colonial period and the second is titled as colonialism, modernity and nation.’

RAMACHANDRA GUHA



- Ramachandra Guha is an Indian historian whose research interests comprise environmental, social, economics, political and cricket history.
- He is also a columnist for some of the news papers and journals. He is considered as a notable Indian historian and environmental specialist of the present period.
- The American historical association has conferred its ‘honorary foreign member prize’ to him for the year 2019.
- He is the third Indian historian to be receive the prize after Jadunath Sarkar in 1952 and Prof.Romila Thapar in 2009.
- Ramachandra Guha, after his masters degree from Delhi school of Economics, did a fellowship programme equivalent toPh.D, on the social history of forestry in Uttarakhand focusing on the ‘chipko’ movement, from the Indian institute of Management,Culcutta.



- He has taught at various universities in India, Europe and America. Now settled at Bangaluru, Guha is the Managing Trustee of the New India foundation, a non-profit body that funds research on modern Indian history.
- **BOOKS**
- The Unquiet woods; Ecological change and peasant resistance in the Himalayas
- Social Ecology
- Environmentalism: A Global History
- He has co-authored with Madhav Gadgil, -----works
- Fissured Land: An ecological history of india



- Ecology and Equity
- The use and abuse of Nature in contemporary India
- Guha has written several books on different subjects including cricket and its history, and Gandhi and India with the titles: ‘Gandhi Before India, India after Gandhi, Gandhi: The year that changed the world.’
- His book ‘Environmentalism: A global history’ is acclaimed as a significant contribution to international studies on environmentalism.
- It encompasses the major trends, ideas, campaigns and thinkers with in the world wide environmental movement.