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CHAPTER -1

THE FUNDAMENTAL UNIT OF LIFE

Types of Organisms on the Basis of Number of Cells

There are two kinds of organisms on the basis of cells:

(i) Unicellular Organisms: The organisms that are made up of single cell and may constitute a whole organism, are named as unicellular organisms.

For example: Amoeba, Paramecium, bacteria, etc.

(ii) Multicellular Organisms: The organisms which are composed of a collection of cells that assume function in a coordinated manner, with different cells specialized to perform particular tasks in the body, are named as multicellular organisms. For example: Plants, human beings, animals, etc.

Shape and Size of Cells

- Cells vary in shape and size. They may be oval, spherical, rectangular, spindle shaped, or totally irregular like the nerve cell.
- The size of cell also varies in different organisms. Most of the cells are microscopic in size like red blood cells (RBC) while some cells are fairly large like nerve cells.