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CHAPTER –1

THE FUNDAMENTAL UNIT OF LIFE

6. Plastids:

Plastids are present in most of the plant cells and absent in animal cells.

They are usually spherical or discoidal in shaped and double membrane bound organelles.

They also have their own DNA and ribosomes.

Plastids are of three types:

(a) Chloroplasts: These are the green coloured plastids containing chlorophyll. Chloroplasts aid in the manufacture food by the process of photosynthesis.

(b) Chromoplasts: These are the colourful plastids (except green colour).

(c) Leucoplasts: These are the colourless plastids.

Function:

- Chloroplasts trap solar energy and utilise it to manufacture food for the plant.
- Chromoplasts impart various colours to flowers to attract insects for pollination.
- Leucoplasts help in the storage of food in the form of starch, proteins and fats.

7. Lysosomes:

Lysosomes are small, spherical, sac like structures which contain several digestive enzymes enclosed in a membrane.

They are found in eukaryotic cells mostly in animals.

Functions:

- Lysosomes help in digestion of foreign substances and worn-out cell organelles.
- They provide protection against bacteria and virus.
- They help to keep the cell clean.

- During the disturbance in cellular metabolism, for example when the cell gets damaged, lysosomes may burst and the enzymes digest their own cell. Therefore, lysosomes are also known as **suicide bags** of a cell