

WB-CS

**Provincial Civil Services** 

Prelims & Mains

WEST BENGAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

General Studies
Volume 5

General Science and Technology



# WB - CS

# VOLUME - 5

# GENERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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# Biology



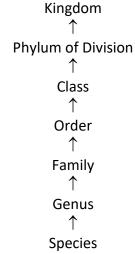
## **Organisms**

- A living thing with an organized structure that can:
  - o React to stimuli
  - o Reproduce
  - o Grow
  - Adapt
  - Maintain homeostasis.
- Classified by taxonomy into groups:
  - O Multicellular animals, plants, and fungi or unicellular microorganisms
  - O Eg. protists, bacteria, and archaea.
- All organisms made of cells.

#### **Classification of Organisms**

В	Based on the number of cells		Based on the subcellular structure	
<ul> <li>Single-celled: Bacteria, archaea, and protists</li> <li>Multicellular: Animals and Plants</li> </ul>		•	Eukaryotes: Having a well-defined nucleus with genetic material.  Prokaryotes: Without nucleus but possess genetic material in a nucleoid.	

## **Hierarchy of Classification- Groups**





- **Hierarchy sequence of categories** in a **decreasing** or **increasing order** from kingdom to species and vice versa.
- Kingdom (highest rank) followed by division, class, order, family, genus and species (lowest rank).



#### 1. Species:

• Group of population similar in form, shape and reproductive features so that fertile sibling can be produced.

#### 2. Genus:

- A group of similar species.
- Genera having only one species monotypic.
- Genera having more than one species polytypic.
- Eg. Lion & tiger are quite similar species placed under genus Panthera.

#### 3. Family:

- Collection of similar genera.
- Separated from genera by reproductive and vegetative features.
- Eg. cats and leopard family Felidae.

#### 4. Order:

- One or more than one similar families constitute order.
- Eg. Family Felidae are included in the order Carnivora.

#### 5. Class:

- One or more than one order makes a class.
- **Eg.** Class Mammalia includes all mammals bats, rodents, kangaroos, whales, great apes and man.

#### 6. Phylum:

- Collection of similar classes.
- **Eg.** Phylum chordata of animals has class Mammalia along with birds, reptiles and amphibians.

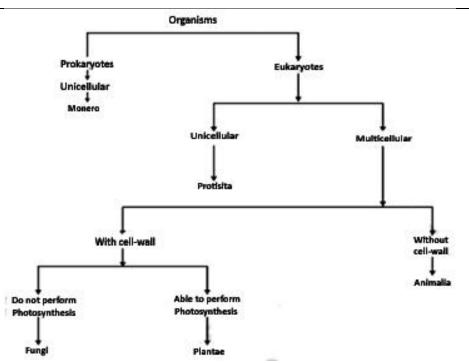
#### 7. Kingdom:

- Top most taxonomic category.
- Eg. all animals are included in Kingdom Animalia.

#### Taxon

Unit that denotes grouping of organisms based on observable features.

#### 5 Kingdom classification

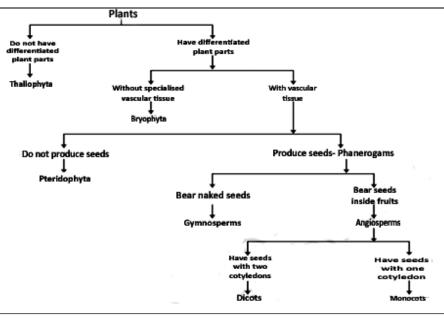






Comparison of Five Kingdom					
Criteria	Monera	Protista	Fungi	Plantae	Animalia
Cell Type	Prokaryotic	Eukaryotic	Eukaryotic	Eukaryotic	Eukaryotic
Leval of	Unicellular	Unicellular	Multicellular	Tissue/organ	Tissue organ/
organisation			and unicellular		organ system
Cell wall	Present (made up	Present in some	Present	Present (made	Absent
	of peptidoglycan	(made up of	(made up of	up of cellulose)	
	and	cellulose, absent	chitin or		
	mucopeptides)	in other)	cellulose)		
Nutrition	Autotrophic	Autotrophic	Hetetrophic,	Autrophic	Heterotrophic
	(Phototrophic,	photosynthetic	Parastic or	(photosynthetic)	(holozoic)
	Chemoautrophic)	Hetetrophic	saprophytic		
	Hetetrophic				
	parastic and				
	saprophytic)				
Motility	Motile or non-	Motile or non-	Non-motile	Mostly Non-	Mostly motile
	motile	motile		motile	
Organisms	Archaebacteria,	Chrysophytes,	Yeast,	Algae,	Sponges,
	Eubacteria,	Dinoflagellates,	Mushrooms,	Bryophytes,	Invertebrates
	Cyanbacteria,	Euglanoids,	and molds	Pteridophytes,	and
	Actinomycetes	Slime molds,		Gymnosperm	vertebrates
	and mycoplasma	Amoeba,	-h +h	and Angiosperm	n in vo
	Į.	Plasmodium,	12 LU	POPPE	r iri yo
		Trypanosoma,		1 1	
		Paramecium			

# **Plantae Kingdom**





#### 1. Thallophyta

- Unique features:
  - O Plants that do not have well-differentiated body design.
  - o Commonly called algae.
  - o Predominantly aquatic.
  - Eg. Spirogyra, Ulothrix, Cladophora, Ulva and Chara.
- Reproduction: No specialised reproduction process

#### 2. Bryophyta

#### **Bryophyta**

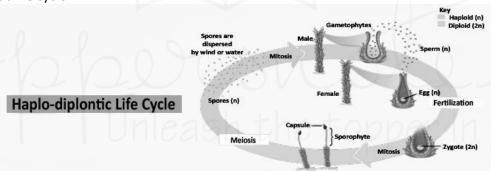
- Amphibians of plant kingdom
- Grow in terrestrial environment but depend on water for reproduction
- Grow in moist & shady areas
- Responsible for plant succession on bare rocks
- Habitat: Arid forests, rainforests, apart from the alpine habitats
- Grow on rocks, soil, tree trunks, bones, rotting wood etc.



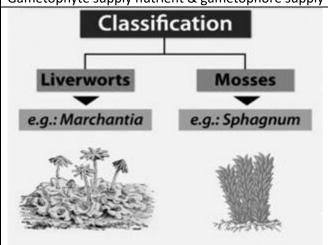
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#### **Unique Bryophyta**

- Length: Few millimetre to 1 m
- Partially differentiated body, lacking true roots, leaves & stem
- · Root-like structure called rhizoid present, body is more thallus-like & haploid
- Spore producing, non-vascular plants
- Exhibit haplo-diplontic life cycle



- Reproduction: Sex organs are multicellular. Antheridium is the male sex organ while archegonium is the female sex organ → Antheridium produces antherozoids with 2 flagella & archegonium produces single
  - (i) Antherozoid released in water come in contact with archegonium
  - (ii) Male & female gametes fuse to form zygote which remains in archegonium for some time.
  - (iii) Mitosis of zygote forms embryonic sporopyte that is covered & proteced by calyptra
- (iv) Meiosis occurs in sporophyte to produce haploid spores which germinate to produce gametophyte Gametophyte supply nutrient & gametophore supply water & minerals to embryo



#### **Importance**

- Have the ability to initiate soil formation in barren lands as they survive on bare rocks.
- Maintain soil moisture & replenism nutrients in fores tvegetation
- Peat mosses act as biofuel & are economically useful



 Used as packing material for shipment of living material as they can retain water.



#### 3. Pteridophyta

#### Pteridophyta

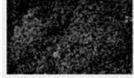
- Family of ferns & horsetails
- Called cryptogams as they don't bear flowers & seeds.
- First group of terrestrial vascular plants.
- Found in damp and shady places.
- Ferns are grown as ornamental plants.





#### **Unique Featuers**

- **Length**: Mostly short but few grow tall upto few metres.
- Plant body is differentiated into true roots, leaves &

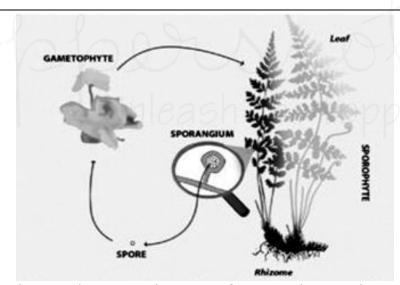




Sellaginella (microphylls)

- Leaves can be small (microphylls) or large (megaphylls)
- Sporangia bear leaf-like appendages sporophyll
- Sporophylls form compact structure called cones or strobili in som plants.
- Reproduction: Show true alternation of generation.





- Dominant sporophyte produce spores by meiosis & gametophyte produces gametes by mitosis.
- Sporangia produce spores in the spore mother cells that germinate to give gametophytes.
- Gametophytes are free-living, multicellular, photosynthetic Prothallus
- Male sex organ anteridia produce antherozoids & female sex organ is archegonia.
- Reproduction procedure.
  - o Antherozoids are released in water and come in contact with archegonia.
  - Gametes fuse in the archegonium to produce zygote
  - Zygote produces sporophyte after division.
- Spores: Homosporous or heterosporous
- In heterosporous plants, microspore & megaspore give rise to male & female gametephyte respectively.



#### 4. Gymnosperms

#### **Gymnosprem:**

- Consist of pines & deodar
- Gymno-naked: sperma seed
- Plants with naked seeds that do not bear flower & fruits
- Seeds are visible as cones & develop on surface of reproductive structure.



#### **Unique Features**

- Wind is the major source of pollination.
- Leangth: Medium to large tree & few are shrubs
- Vascular & Complete differentiation into leaves, steam & roots
- Leaves: Needle-like with thick cuticle & sunken stomata.

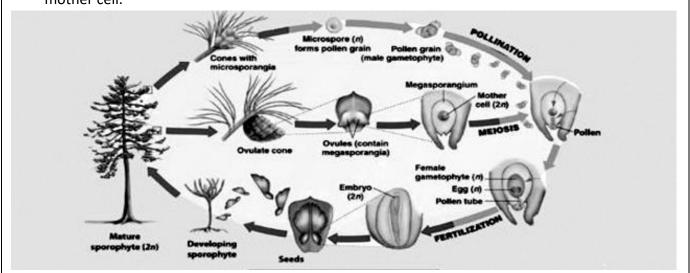


#### **Roots**

- Taproot system
- Some from mycorrhiza (e.g. pinus)
- Some form specialized roots called coralloids roots (e.g. Cycas)

#### Reproduction:

- Male & female cones can be same (e.g. Pinus) or different (e.g.: cycas) plants.
- Heterosporous plants that produce haploid microspores & megaspores.
- Male cones: Contain microsporophyll, few of which develop into pollen grains & rest degenerate.
- Female Cones: Several megasporophyll cluster to form female cone.
- Female cone bears ovule with megasporangium & give rise to haploid megaspores & a megaspore mother cell.







#### 5. Angiosperms

#### **Angiosperms**

- The family of flowering platns.
- Vascular fauna dominating across the globe.
- Called phanerogams due to the presence of flowers
- Seeds (ovules) are enclosed inside hollow ovary (which forms the fruit)



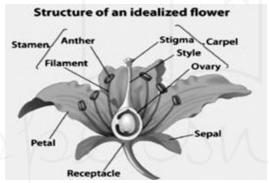
#### **Unique Features**

- Well differentiated plant body with fully developed root & shoot system.
- Survive in various habitats.
- Length: Microscopic Wolfia to > 100 m tall Eucalphytus
- Vast diversity including woody trees, shrubs & herbs.
- Leaves, steam & roots are adapted as per habitat

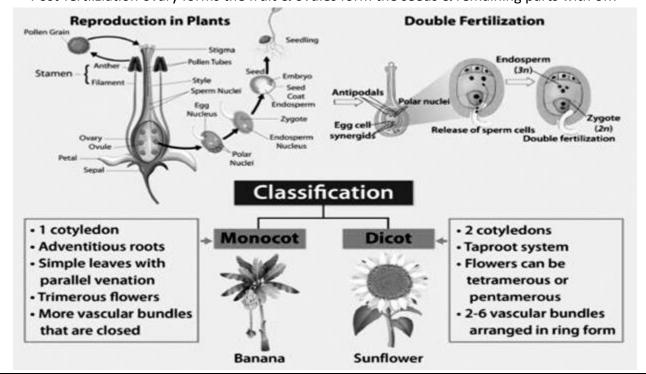


#### Reproduction:

Flower is the reproductive structure can be unisexual or bisexual



- Alternation of genetation haploid gametophyte alternates with the diploid sporophyte.
- Double fertilization is characteristic to Angiosperms Syngamy & triple fusion.
- Post-fertilziation ovary forms the fruit & ovules form the seeds & remaining parts with off.



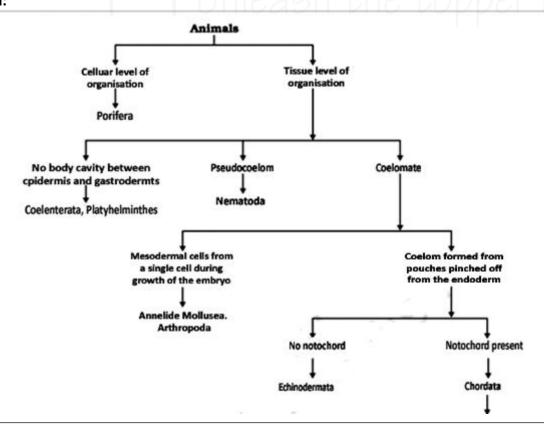


#### **Vascular and Nonvascular Plants**

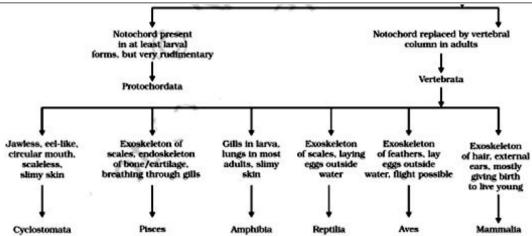
	Vascular Plants	Non - Vascular Plants
Definition	Possess vascular system to conduct	Lack vascular systems
	food and water throughout the plant	
Diversity	Higher	• Low
Vascular System	Present	• Absent
True stem, Roots &	• Yes	No; a stem and leaf-like
Leaves		structures and rhizoids, instead
		of true structures.
Plant Strength	• Xylem tissues contain lignified tissues	<ul> <li>No water conducting tissues</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>provide support and rigidity to the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tender and shorter than</li> </ul>
	plant.	vascular plants
Reproduction	<ul><li>Sporophytes</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Gametophytes</li> </ul>
Examples	• Ferns, conifers, and flowering plants.	Bryophytes, including
		liverworts, mosses, and
		hornworts.
<b>Drought Resistance</b>	Almost all are drought resistant	Susceptible to drought.
		Associated with swamps

Sporophytes	Gametophytes
Use the process of <b>meiosis</b>	Use the process of <b>mitosis</b>
Results- formation of spores	Results - <b>production</b> of game <b>t</b> es
Diploid plants	Haploid plants
Have two sets of chromosomes	Have a single set of chromosomes
Reproduce asexually	Reproduce sexaully

#### Animalia:







#### 1. Porifera

- Non mobile animals attached to some solid support.
- Holes or pores all over the body.
- A canal system circulating water throughout body to bring in food and O2.
- Mainly found in marine habitats.
- Commonly k/a sponges

#### 2. Coelenterata

- Animals living in water.
- **Diploblastic**: body is made up of two layers of cells.
- Some live in colonies while others have a solitary life
- Eg. span (Hydra) jellyfish .

#### 3. Platyhelminthes

- Triploblastic: 3 layers of cells from which different tissues can be made.
- Some degree of tissues formation.
- Either free living or parasitic.
- Eg. Planarians, liver flukes.

#### 4. Nematode

- Bilaterally symmetrical and triploblastic.
- Body is cylindrical rather than flattened.
- Tissues, but no real organs,
- A sort of **body cavity** or a **pseudocoelom**, is **present**.
- K/a parasitic worms causing diseases, such as worms causing elephantiasis (filarial worms) or worms in the intestines (roundworm or pinworms).

#### 5. Annelida

- Have true body cavity.
- Allows true organs to be packaged in body structure.
- Extensive organ differentiation.
- Eg- Earthworms, leeches.

#### 6. Arthropods

- Open circulatory system and so the blood does not flow in well defined blood vessels.
- Have joint legs.
- Eg- prawns, butterflies, houseflies, spiders, scorpions and crabs.



#### 7. Mollusca

- Have an open circulatory system and kidney like organs for excretion.
- Little segmentation.
- A foot is used for moving around.
- Eg- snails, and mussels, octopus.

#### 8. Echinodermate

- **Spiny skinned** organisms.
- Exclusively free living marine animals.
- Have a water driven tube system that they use for moving around.
- Have hard calcium carbonate structure that they use as skeleton.
- Eg- starfish, sea cucumber.

#### 9. Protochordats

- Marine animals.
- Eg. balanoglossus, hardemania and amphioxus.

#### 10. Vertebratia

- Have a true vertebral column & internal skeleton.
- Bilaterally symmetrical
- Triploblastic
- Coelomic and segmented
- Complex differentiation of body tissues and organs.
- All chordates possess the following features:
  - o have a **notochord**
  - o have a dorsal nerve cord
  - Triploblastic
  - Paired gill pouches
  - O Coelomate.
- Grouped into six classes:

#### A. Cyclostomes

- Jawless vertebrates.
- Have an elongated eel-like body, circular mouth, slimy skin
- Scaleless.
- Ectoparasites or borers of other vertebrates.
- Eg. Petromyzon (Lamprey) and Myxine (Hagfish)

#### **B.** Pisces

- Exclusively aquatic animals.
- Skin is covered with scales/ plates.
- Obtain oxygen dissolved in water by using gills.
- Body is streamlined, and a muscular tail for movement. T
- Cold-blooded
- Hearts have only two chambers.
- Lay eggs.
- Eg. sharks, tuna or rohu



#### C. Amphibia

- No scales
- Have mucus glands in the skin,
- 3 chambered heart.
- Respiration through either gills or lungs.
- Lay eggs.
- Found both in water and on land.
- Eg. Frogs, toads and salamanders

#### D. Reptilia

- Cold-blooded
- Have scales and breathe through lungs.
- Most have a three-chambered heart
- Exception: crocodiles- 4 heart chambers.
- Lay eggs with tough coverings.
- Do not need to lay their eggs in water, unlike amphibians.
- Eg. Snakes, turtles, lizards and crocodiles

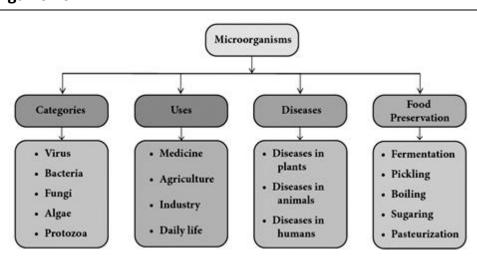
#### E. Aves

- Warm-blooded animals
- 4-chambered heart.
- Lay eggs.
- An outside covering of feathers; 2 forelimbs modified for flight.
- Breathe through lungs.
- Eg. All birds

#### F. Mammalia

- Warm-blooded animals with four-chambered hearts.
- Have **mammary glands** for production of milk.
- Skin has hairs& sweat and oil glands.
- Produce live young ones.
- Few like platypus and echidna lay egg
- Kangaroos give birth to very poorly developed young ones.
- Eg. human, monkeys, whale etc

#### Microorganisms







- Very small in size & cannot be seen with naked eye.
- Can be seen only with the help of a microscope.
- aka microbes.
- Microbiology- Branch of science dealing with study of microorganisms.
- Found in: air, water (ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans), soil and even inside our bodies.
- 5 categories.

Virus	A tiny particle made up of genetic material and protein.
	Intermediate between living and non living things.
	Intracellular obligatory parasites.
	Virology- study of viruses.
	• 10,000 times smaller than bacteria.
	Can be rod shaped, spherical or of other shapes.
	Contains a core DNA or RNA.
	Core surrounded with a protein coat
	Protein coat is sometimes covered by an envelope of proteins, lipids, and
	carbohydrates.
	Causes diseases to plants, animals and human beings.
Bacteria	Single-celled prokaryotes(cells without nuclei).
	Considered 1st living organisms on earth.
	Grouped under the kingdom Monera.
	Bacteriology- study of bacteria.
	• Size - 1μm to 5μm(micrometer).
	2 types based on respiration :
	<ul> <li>Aerobic bacteria (requires oxygen),</li> </ul>
	Anaerobic bacteria (does not require oxygen).
	An outer covering k/a cell wall.
	Other cell organelles (mitochondria, golgi body, endoplasmic reticulum etc.,) are
	absent.
	Eg: E.coli, Bacillus anthracis, Vibrio cholera etc.
Fungi	Eukaryotic organisms that lack chlorophyll.
	Grow in dark environments.
	Either unicellular (like Yeast) or multicellular (like Penicillium).
	Found in all kinds of habitats.
	Included under kingdom Fungi.
	Mycology- study of fungi.
	Some are macroscopic (Eg. Mushroom).
	Around <b>70,000 species of fungi</b> in the world.
Algae	Very simple plants like <b>eukaryotic organisms.</b>
	Found in moist habitats.
	Rich in chlorophyll
	Seen as thin film on surface of lakes and ponds.
	o aka 'grass of water'.



	Autotrophic and produce their own food(with help of chloroplast).		
	Algology/ phycology- study of algae.		
	Size - 1 micron to 50 meter.		
	Eg: Chlamydomonas, Volvox, Ulothrix, Fristschiella etc.		
Protozoa	Single celled eukaryote.		
	Included under the kingdom Protista.		
	Protozoology- Study of protozoa.		
	Found in ponds, ocean, in moist soil, and in the cells and tissues of plants and		
	animals - causing diseases.		
	• Range - 2 to 200 microns.		
	Eg : Paramecium, Euglena, Amoeba, Plasmodium etc.		

#### Animals

- Any eukaryotic multicellular organism of kingdom Animalia.
- Heterotrophic, motile & with specialized sensory organs,
  - o Lacking a cell wall & growing from a blastula during embryonic development.



## **Characteristics**

Multicellular	<ul> <li>Body composed of several cells performing specific functions.</li> <li>Cells organized into various animal tissues,</li> <li>Eg: Epithelial tissues, connective tissues, etc.</li> </ul>
Eukaryotic	<ul> <li>Contain a membrane-bound nucleus.</li> <li>Nucleus -organelle containing chromosomes that bear genes.</li> <li>Other organelles suspended in the cytoplasm of an animal cell,</li> <li>Eg. Golgi apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, lysosomes, and peroxisomes,</li> </ul>
Heterotrophic	Depend on other organisms for food.
Motile	<ul> <li>Capacity to move at will.</li> <li>by muscles and locomotory structures (e.g. arms, legs, wings, fins, tails, etc.)</li> </ul>
Specialized sensory organs:	<ul> <li>Eg: eyes, ears, nose, skin, and tongue.</li> <li>Vital in recognizing and responding to stimuli in environment.</li> <li>Contains common and specialized receptors.</li> </ul>
Reproduce sexually	<ul> <li>Produce a haploid sperm cell (a male sex cell) &amp; a haploid ovum (a female sex cell)</li> <li>Unite at fertilization to form a diploid zygote.</li> <li>Capable of asexual reproduction.</li> <li>Eg: some cnidarians produce a genetic clone by budding.</li> </ul>
Aerobic Respiration	<ul> <li>Inhale oxygen and release carbon dioxide .</li> <li>Oxygen important to cell respiration for synthesis of energy.</li> </ul>



#### Cell

- Simplest and most basic unit of life.
- **Discovered:** Robert Hooke (1665)
- All living things made up of cells- structural, functional, and biological unit of life.
- Has the ability to duplicate itself on its own.
- aka "building blocks of life."

### **Cell Structure and its components**

# **Cell Organelles**







Plasma / Cell	Outermost covering of the cell		
Membrane	Separates contents of cell from its external environment.		
	A selectively permeable membrane as it allows entry and exit of some		
	materials in and out of the cell.		
Cell Wall	ONLY in plants		
	Outside the plasma membrane.		
	Mainly composed of cellulose.		
	Cellulose: A complex substance - provides structural strength to plants.		
Cytoplasm	Jelly-like substance present between cell membrane & nucleus.		
®V® R-¥AC	Fluid content inside plasma membrane.		
日本第4章 日本8条	• Contains many specialised cell organelles (mitochondria, golgi bodies,		
	ribosomes, etc)		
Nucleus	• Contains chromosomes that contain information for inheritance of features		
	from parents to next generation in form of DNA		
	Plays a central role in cellular reproduction.		
	Nuclear membrane- a double-layered covering on nucleus.		
	o Allows transfer of material from inside nucleus to its outside, i.e., to		
	cytoplasm.		
Nucleolus	Ribosome synthesis site regulating cellular activity and reproduction.		
Gene	Unit of inheritance in living organisms.		
Protoplasm	Entire content of a living cell [cytoplasm + nucleus].		
	aka living substance of the cell.		
Chromosomes	Rod-shaped structures		
	Visible only when the cell is about to divide.		
	• Contain information for inheritance of features from parents to next		
	generation in the form of DNA (deoxyribo nucleic acid)		
	Composed of DNA and Protein.		
DNA molecules	Contains information necessary for constructing and organising cells.		
	Functional segments of DNA - genes.		
Vacuoles	Empty structure in cytoplasm		
	Act as storage sacs for solid or liquid contents.		
	Common in plant cells.		

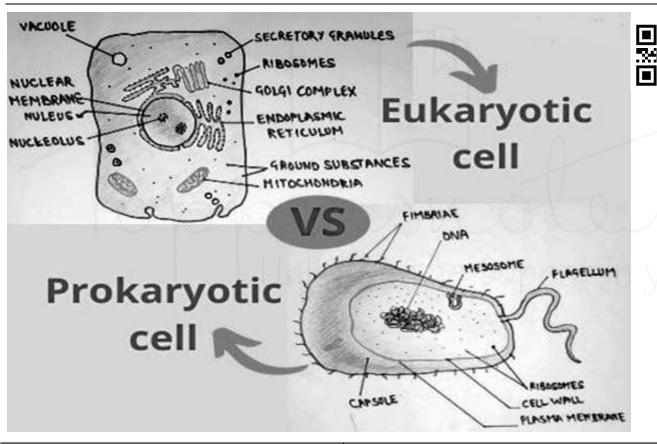


	<ul> <li>Smaller in animal cells.</li> <li>Substances stored- amino acids, sugars, various organic acids and some</li> </ul>
	proteins.
Endoplasmic	A large network of membrane-bound tubes and sheets.
Reticulum	• 2 types :
回》。 82003 839年	<ol> <li>Rough endoplasmic reticulum [RER]</li> <li>Has ribosomes attached to its surface.</li> </ol>
EIRO.C	Ribosomes - sites of protein manufacture.
	2. Smooth endoplasmic reticulum
	-
	<ul> <li>Helps in the manufacture of fat molecules, or lipids, important for cell function.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Some of these proteins and lipids help in building the cell membrane</li> <li>k/a membrane biogenesis.</li> </ul>
	• Serve as <b>channels for transport of materials</b> between various regions of cytoplasm or between the cytoplasm and the nucleus.
	<ul> <li>Also functions as a cytoplasmic framework providing a surface for some</li> </ul>
	biochemical activities of cells.
Golgi Apparatus/	A system of membrane-bound vesicles arranged parallel to each other in
Complex	stacks called cisterns.
Complex	
	Packages and dispatches material synthesised near ER to various targets inside and outside the cell.
	Stores, modifies and packages products in vesicles.
	Involved in the formation of lysosomes.
	<ul> <li>Membrane-bound sacs filled with digestive enzymes.</li> </ul>
	Kind of waste disposal system of the cell.
	O Help to keep the cell clean by digesting any foreign material as well as
	worn-out cell organelles.
Mitochondria	Aka powerhouse of the cell.
	• Energy required for various chemical activities is released by mitochondria in
5366 626	the form of <b>ATP</b> (Adenosine Triphosphate) molecules.
EIM-E	• 2 membranes:
	Outer membrane- porous
	Inner membrane - deeply folded.
	■ Folds create a large surface area for ATP-generating chemical
	reactions.
АТР	aka energy currency of the cell.
	<ul> <li>Body uses energy stored in ATP for making new chemical compounds and for</li> </ul>
	mechanical work.
Ribosomes	
	Site of protein synthesis.      Polyribosomes or Polysomes: Soveral ribosomes may attach to a single mPNA.
	Polyribosomes or Polysomes: Several ribosomes may attach to a single mRNA and form a chain.
	and form a chain.
	Prokaryotes- ribosomes are associated with the plasma membrane of the cell.



Cilia and Flagella	Hair-like outgrowths of the cell membrane.
Cilia	Cilia - small structures which work like oars, causing the movement of either
	the cell or the surrounding fluid.
	Flagella - comparatively longer and responsible for cell movement.
	Prokaryotic bacteria have flagella but structurally different from eukaryotic
	flagella.
Centrosome and	• Centrosome- an organelle usually containing 2 cylindrical structures called
Centrioles	centrioles.
	Surrounded by amorphous pericentriolar materials.
	Both the centrioles in a centrosome lie perpendicular to each other

# **Types of Cells**



Prokaryotic Cell	Eukaryotic Cell
• Primitive/undeveloped nucleus.	<ul> <li>Has true or developed nucleus</li> </ul>
• Size - 0.2 - 2.0 micrometers	• Size- 10- 100 micrometers.
Simpler in structure	More complex
Organelles not membrane-bound	• Organelles membrane bound & specific in function.
DNA arranged in circular shape	DNA linear in shape
<ul> <li>Cytoplasm present, but lacks in most cell organelles.</li> </ul>	Consists of both cytoplasm and organelles
Cell wall present.	• Usually, absence of cell wall here.