

## CHAPTER 06

# Reproduction

### Introduction:

Reproduction is an integral feature of all living beings. The process by which a living being produces its own like is called reproduction.

### Importance of reproduction:

- Reproduction is important for each species, because this is the only way for a living being to continue its lineage.
- Apart from being important for a particular individual, reproduction is also important for the whole ecosystem.
- Reproduction helps in maintaining a proper balance among various biotic constituents of the ecosystem.
- Moreover, reproduction also facilitates evolution because variations come through reproduction, over several generations.

### Types of reproduction:

There are two main types, viz. asexual and sexual reproduction.

### Asexual Reproduction:

When a single parent is involved and no gamete formation takes place, the method is called asexual reproduction. No meiosis happens during asexual reproduction.

### Sexual Reproduction:

When two parents are involved and gamete formation takes; the method is called sexual reproduction. Meiosis happens during gamete formation; which is an important step of sexual reproduction.

