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ICTS Biophysics Seminar

Title : A re-look at "What is Life?"

Speaker : Vidyanand Nanjundiah (Centre for Human Genetics, Bengaluru)

Date : Monday, 03 November 2025

Time : 2:00 PM (IST)

Abstract : Erwin Schrödinger's slim book "What is Life?" has had a curious reception. Among some, it is counted as a foundational document of molecular biology. Others have said that its significance for the development of the field has been exaggerated. Most recently, the sins of a DNA-centric, 'programmable' view of life forms have been laid at its door. "What is Life?" (with the subtitle "The physical aspect of the living cell") is the text version of a series of public lectures carrying the same name that Schrödinger gave in Dublin in 1943. The lectures were a hit; they were written up for publication a year later and became a best-seller. This talk will attempt to view the book in historical perspective, sketch what lies behind the diverse assessments, and situate those reasons - though only implicitly - within the sometimes fraught relationship between physics and biology.

Venue : Chern Lecture Hall

Zoom Link: <https://icts-res-in.zoom.us/j/91349419590?pwd=rbabUj7G0TFDnKmaxoE3625mHKao6.1>

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