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## **No single stream of science can define life, claims noted scientist Somdatta Sinha**

At part of the Panjab University colloquium held at SS Bhatnagar University of Chemical Engineering and Technology auditorium on Friday, professor Somdatta Sinha, scientist and professor at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), said there was no all-encompassing definition of life and a single stream of science could not define and explain the concept of life.

Speaking on the topic, 'Life: Where all Sciences Meet' at the SS Bhatnagar, at the event which was presided by vice-chancellor Arun Kumar Grover.

Sinha had been one of the first Indian scientists to shift from physical sciences to biological systems. Sinha discussed interdisciplinary teaching and research in theoretical biology, which can help in elaborating the systems understanding of complex life processes. She also discussed the logic and design of biological processes at multiple spatiotemporal scales using concepts from physics, nonlinear dynamics and complex systems.

Somdatta said that a holistic understanding of biological systems needed integration of information at different levels.

"Life is a characteristic of something that exhibits traits like homeostasis, organization, metabolism, growth, adaptation, stimuli, reproduction etc," she added

## **Lukewarm response to colloquiums**

The colloquium series in which distinguished academicians are being invited by PU to deliver are receiving lukewarm response. On Friday, a large number of chairs were seen unoccupied during the afternoon lecture as very few faculty members and students turned up. Although PU has shifted the venue of public lecture to SSBUICET auditorium, which is smaller in size , yet the audience comprised of a limited number of people.

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