Dr. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Director, School of Natural Sciences and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, was invited to deliver a talk on Holistic Undergraduate Teaching and Science Research, at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata on August 20, 2013. Dr. Ghosh shared the vision of Shiv Nadar University in initiating its multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, and research-led undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Ghosh said, “Interdisciplinarity allows for combining of two or more academic disciplines into one activity (e.g. in a research project). It is not about borderline areas of two disciplines, but the rich, new knowledge at the interface. It is about creating something new by crossing boundaries, and thinking across them. In a research-led approach, the research problem may organically define and demand an interdisciplinary model.” “Modern society faces increasingly complex problems. To address these problems, higher education needs to produce a new brand of scientists—the one who (a) understands a broad range of disciplinary approaches, (b) is able to ask creative questions, and (c) is trained to answer those questions with a wide range of tools. The training has to be broad-based and interdisciplinary but not at the cost of the depth of monodisciplinarity.”

Professor Milan K Sanyal, Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Prof. Pushpendu K Das, Convener, KVPY, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, Dr. Chitra Natarajan of Homi Bhabha Centre, Mumbai, Prof. LS Shashidhara of IISER Pune, and Prof. Sugata Marjit of West Bengal State Council for Higher Education were the other speakers in the Discussion Meeting on Science Education. The audience was impressed by the innovative curriculum of the Shiv Nadar University and the thought-provoking steps taken towards exploiting the synergy between teaching and research.