On Monday, 29 February 2016, Shiv Nadar University hosted some eminent scientists to celebrate the National Science Day. The National Science day is celebrated across India to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect on 28 February 1928 by Indian physicist, C.V. Raman, for which Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. The day-long event was organized by the Department of Life Sciences, in which three brilliant women scientists of India shared and showcased their original and impactful research.

The event was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, an outstanding and renowned physicist herself. Prof. Ghosh in her inaugural speech briefly explained the Raman Effect, and then illustrated the remarkable journey undertaken by the University in the short period of its existence, and also highlighted the dream vision of the research-focused University.

Prof. Kasturi Datta, a Fellow of all three Science Academies of India, currently DBT-Distinguished Biotechnology Professor, and former Dean and Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences, & Adjunct Faculty, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, delivered the first seminar on “HYALURONAN BINDING PROTEIN 1 (HABP1): From identification to characterization as a biomarker of cancer progression.”

It was followed by a lucid seminar by Prof. Rentala Madhubala, again a Fellow of all three Science Academies of India, Professor and Ex-Dean of the School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, on “Vitamin C Biosynthesis in Leishmania donovani: A novel antioxidant defence mechanism”.

The third speaker was the brilliant in-house faculty of Shiv Nadar University, Dr. Shailja Singh of the Department of Life Sciences. She is well known for her insightful work on understanding molecular interactions and signaling mechanisms that mediate host-pathogen interactions in tropical infectious diseases like malaria. This understanding provides the basis for identification of new drug targets against such diseases. Her seminar was on “Molecular signaling involved in entry and exit of malaria parasites from host erythrocytes”.

The event was attended by an audience from across the fields of science and was highly interactive raising many specialized and pertinent questions, which the speakers were more than delighted to respond to.

The expert seminars were followed by short presentations by the doctoral students and one post-doctoral fellow of Life Sciences. The presentations were very much appreciated by the audience, and during the discussions, the students gained new perspectives.

The function was smoothly compered by Dr. Soumya Pati of Life Sciences, and culminated on a note of acknowledgement of all the participants and their contributions and the audience for their enthusiastic engagement and support by the Head of the Department, Prof. Deepak Sehgal.

The day shone bright with the celebration of the spirit of scientific temperament.