

## **CSIR-NEIST celebrated National Science Day 2016**

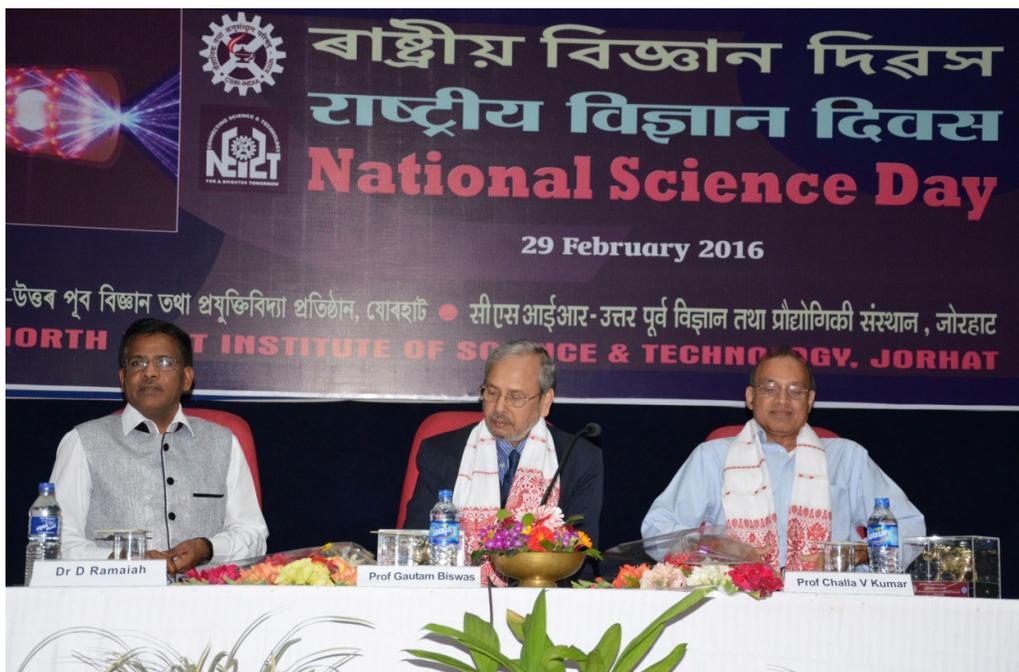
CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat celebrated National Science Day on 29 February, 2016 with a well charted out program held at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium. Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director IIT, Guwahati and Prof. Challa Vijaya Kumar, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Connecticut, USA graced the function as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. The program was attended largely by CSIR-NEIST staff members, invited guests and former CSIR-NEIST employees.

In his Welcome Address, Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST spoke about the significance of the Day in Indian Science context.

Delivering the Science Day Lecture on “Manifesto for Future: Knowledge Economy, Some Concerns and Suggestions” Prof Gautam Biswas spoke in length about how knowledge and its applications can lead to rapid growth of economy in the country. Citing an example he mentioned the invention of Steam Engine by James Watt which not only was a key point for industrial revolution but also dramatically changed the economic scenario of the nation. He also talked about the rich scientific thoughts and approaches of early Indian Scientists such as C V Raman, J C Bose, Meghnad Saha, Homi J Bhabha, S Chandrasekhar, M S Swaminathan, etc. and their scientific achievements which catapulted Indian Science in the realm of International importance. He presented a comparative analysis of research work done in India and Abroad and focussed on major issues like quality of research work, importance of patenting, job opportunities, R & D funding etc. He mentioned that knowledge economy education should start right from school level and that the education system should focus on nurturing academics and research for innovation for upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden.

Prof. Challa Vijaya Kumar spoke on “Nano-Science and Technology in everyday life”. He provided an insight on understanding the meaning of “Nano” and the significance and applications of Nano-technology in the field of science and our everyday lives. He mentioned that Nano- Technology has been widely implemented in USA for production of various improved products. Nanomaterials applications in wide range of products such as in food, clothes, cosmetics, flooring and medicines etc were further illustrated in his lecture. “Nano can open new doors for Clean, Green and Sustainable future for all”, he said.

The program concluded with the vote of thanks offered by Dr Pranab Barkakati, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEIST & Coordinator of the program.



Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST; Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director IIT, Guwahati and Prof. Challa Vijaya Kumar; Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Connecticut, USA (from left) during the program.



Prof. Gautam Biswas delivering the National Science Day Lecture on “Manifesto for Future: Knowledge Economy, Some Concerns and Suggestions”.



Prof. Challa Vijaya Kumar delivering lecture on “Nano-Science and Technology in everyday life”.