

# Panel Discussion on “Freedom of Expression in Academia” held at NIST



National Institute of Science and Technology, Berhampur held a Panel Discussion on “Freedom of Expression in Academia” at its college premises on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Justice Markandey Katju, Former Justice, Supreme Court of India and Former Chairman, Press Council of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Prof. Jayant K. Mahapatra, Former Vice-Chancellor, Berhampur University as the Guest of

Honour. “Freedom of Expression is very much needed for the progress of any nation” said Justice Katju while addressing the audience. He also added saying we must ignore small incidents and not make mountains out of molehills, especially when there are issues like poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, and absence of healthcare in our country. In their



times, the theories of Charles Darwin, Newton, and Copernicus were considered blasphemous as they were against the Bible but later on they have been accepted throughout the world. Hence, universities must allow creative freedom and foster originality. Prof. Mahapatra elaborated on the constitutional policies on Freedom of Speech and Expression and how there are limitations to the same. The programme was organised to commemorate the

14<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of NIST e\_news, the newsletter of the institute and it was attended by students, staff and faculty members of NIST.

