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The college and university ecosystem must be leveraged for promoting research and to bring a better connect between science and society, said Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon.

“We have inadvertently promoted research only in dedicated institutes and have not leveraged the university and college system. This research culture is missing at university level. The approach towards research driven education system must start early than just confining it to our research centres as that will bring a better connect between science and society,” said Shaw at the Annual India Symposium – ‘Science and Society’ held by the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute (LMSAI) at Harvard University in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and NITI Aayog.

Mazumdar said that “our premier research institutions are pulling way below their weight and have not yet optimally delivered”. She stressed on bringing in more investment into the science and technology sector and scaling up the Centres of Excellence to promote the scientific ecosystem.

“Science and technology are the principal drivers of economic growth and investing in the sector is a given to secure the future. Presently, there is only 1% of GDP is invested in science, technology and research. Our space research programmes are outstanding examples of such an investment,” said Mazumdar adding that strong lea-

Research must be promoted in colleges

Along with more investment in technology, strong leadership and more autonomy will deliver better results in research institutes, says **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw**



■ (L-R) Tarun Khanna, LMFSAI, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, VK Saraswat, member (S & T), NITI Aayog, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the Government of India at the Annual India Symposium – ‘Science and Society’

dership and more autonomy will deliver better results in research institutes. The symposium, which hosted scientists from leading universities in the US and India, identified three strategic objectives to bolstering science and its impact on society — strengthen the country’s science clusters so that these are accessible and relevant to all in society, link the country’s efforts in science and technology to global initiatives so communities benefit from shared knowledge and foster a culture of scientific literacy at large.

Tarun Khanna, director LMFSAI and Jorge Paulo Lemann professor, Harvard Business School said, “The Mittal Institute has been active in India for over a decade, serving as a platform to facilitate a two-way exchange of ideas between Harvard and Indian univer-

sities, government agencies and civil society. As a multidisciplinary Institute within Harvard, we have the advantage of working with faculty across all departments and professional schools at the University. We regularly bring creative minds together to provide multiple perspectives on ideas that can address complex societal problems facing South Asia and further help in policy decision making”.