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, Biocom.

“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 (LMFAI) at Harvard University in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor 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 in 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 leadership and more autonomy will deliver better results in research institutes.

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.