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(From left) Sudha Raju, chairperson, Edu.In; Tumkur University vice-chancellor SC Sharma; and other dignitaries at the launch on Saturday

## Knowledge Utsav is city's nod to TED conference

**Vidya Iyengar**

Soon, Knowledge Utsav will be the *desi* version of TED in the next few years. For the uninitiated, TED — Technology Entertainment and Design — is a popular non-profit devoted to the exchange of ideas. It has captured the imagination of some of the best minds across the globe.

Bangalore got to witness something similar on Saturday with Knowledge Utsav. It is claimed to be the first of its kind in India, largest single-day research and development conference. It is an initiative to promote R&D in various sectors across India.

Edu.In, Tumkur University and Jain Research Foundation conducted the conference, which has committed itself to play catalyst and bridge the gap between academia and industry. In an attempt to encourage the youth to take up research as a mainstream career, Dr R Chenraj Jain, chairman of Jain Group of Institutions said: "We need to urge the youth to develop the spirit of enquiry. Conferences such as these provide a platform to those interested in the area."

Funds are available in plenty and Indians should make use of it. "To be a world-teaching centre, it is important that we encourage students from

the younger classes to train their minds, towards research" he said.

Microsoft Corporation has a research unit that interacts with students and educators. "We provide facilities such as e-learning and certification programmes and helps collaborative minds globally. The Imagine Club gets individuals to some up with practical solutions to real problems," said Irania Ghose, director (academia), Microsoft India.

At present, 40 per cent of the module at the programmes at Jain University is geared towards research. Even so, when compared to the other Asian countries, the percentage of doctorate holders is relatively low.

"The state government provides a lot of support and through the collaboration with corporates, and private NGOs, we hope enhance youngsters interest in this area, so that they don't opt for it only when there is no other alternative," said Jain.

Sudha Raju, chairperson of Edu.In, said: "The conference had overwhelming response with 465 papers presented across 44 different disciplines. About 165 institutions from nine states and over 2,000 delegates participated in the day-long event."