

Press Release

VidyaGyan completes five years of successful leadership journey

Many potential leaders emerge. Students excel in academics, sports and art in India and globally

October 14, 2014, Lucknow/Sitapur: The Shiv Nadar Foundation today announced the completion of five years of **VidyaGyan, India's first rural leadership academy. Set up in Uttar Pradesh, VidyaGyan in Bulandshahr completed five years, while its younger sibling VidyaGyan Sitapur completed three years.** The occasion was marked by a visit of **Shrimati Dimple Yadav**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh to the school, where she met and interacted with Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation along with VidyaGyan students and faculty in the presence of Kiran Nadar, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation & Chairperson, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation said, "The Foundation set up Vidyagyan in Uttar Pradesh with a simple conviction that meritorious children, if given the right opportunity and exposure, can be at par with their urban counterparts and be agents of transformation for the society and the nation. Today, we conduct **one of the largest private selection and admission processes in India** covering all 75 districts in UP. In 2014, we **evaluated 200,000 students** for the admission exams and **300 were inducted** in VidyaGyan."

Highlighting the achievements of the students, Roshni said, "Our vision is daunting but we are excited as **we are seeing promising signs already.** Our students, who never stepped out of the villages before they came to VidyaGyan, are making their mark not just in India but globally. Over **50% of the first batch of our students** who appeared for CBSE Standard X Boards has **scored more than 90%.** For two successive years, VidyaGyan students from have been selected for the globally acclaimed **Duke Talent Identification Program.** Our students have been in the US with top universities like **Brown and Lehigh** for the summer programs. **Manvi, a VidyaGyan student from the first batch,** is in the US for one year on the **Kennedy Lugar AFS Youth Exchange Program** and is attending the **Thomas Alva Edison High School in Minneapolis** for a year. We are also seeing leaders emerging in across fields with one of our students qualifying for the third edition of **Doha Goals Gathering of All Leaders in Sport Forum** and four other students winning the **PUMA School of Speed Award**, India's first national school-level athletics meet."

Speaking on **VidyaGyan Sitapur**, **Shikle John David, Principal** said, "I am pleased to inform you that **VidyaGyan Sitapur has received affiliation from the CBSE board** and our students would be appearing for the Standard X boards in 2015. I am proud to inform you that **two students have been selected for the Duke TIP program.** We are also seeing leaders emerge in the field of sports with our students winning in both State and District level sports championships."

After setting up the first VidyaGyan School in Bulandshahr in 2009, the Foundation established the second campus at Sitapur in 2011. Spread over 27 acres, the Sitapur campus have 30 classrooms that include multiple language and science labs and state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor sports facilities. With over 800 students currently from eastern and central UP, VidyaGyan Sitapur in full capacity will accommodate over 2000 students.

VidyaGyan provides children free, world class education to help transcend the disadvantages they face and compete with their urban counterparts. VidyaGyan students come from families of farmers, daily wagers, peasants, among others in rural Uttar Pradesh with an annual income of less than Rs 1 lakh.

About VidyaGyan Leadership Academy

Established in 2009 by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan (www.vidyagyan.in) is a radical social experiment in nurturing leadership from among highly gifted rural poor children in Uttar Pradesh. VidyaGyan currently runs two schools in Bulandshahr and Sitapur and houses over 1400 students. VidyaGyan is not any other school for the underprivileged, but is a state-of-the-art leadership academy that addresses social imbalances and envisions nurturing and creating leaders who would be the inspiration and role models for their families, communities and society at large. The Foundation hopes that this will raise many more aspirations and contribute to leveling the urban-rural divide and inspire others to undertake more such initiatives.

About Shiv Nadar Foundation

The Shiv Nadar Foundation (www.ShivNadarFoundation.org) has been established by Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL - a \$6.5 billion leading technology and healthcare enterprise. The Foundation's mission is to contribute to the process of national development and social transformation by establishing institutions and undertaking new initiatives in the fields of education and culture. The Foundation is committed to the creation of a more equitable, merit based society by empowering individuals to bridge the socio-economic divide through philanthropy based transformational education.

The Shiv Nadar Foundation set up the SSN Institutions (www.SSN.edu.in) in 1996, comprising the SSN College of Engineering (already a highly ranked private engineering college in India), in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Foundation has also set up VidyaGyan, a residential leadership academy for meritorious rural children, at Bulandshahr and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh. In addition, the Foundation runs the Shiv Nadar University (www.snu.edu.in), an international multi-disciplinary university with strong research orientation located in Greater Noida in India's National Capital Region and the Shiv Nadar School (www.shivnadarschool.edu.in), a network of progressive urban schools across India aimed to provide children with education that creates lifelong learners. The Foundation has also set up the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (www.knma.in), India's largest private philanthropic museum in modern and contemporary art with the vision to take art to the common public.