

PRESS RELEASE

Australian High Commissioner to India Inaugurates 'Greenhouse Center of Learning' at VidyaGyan Sitapur

~ Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu was accompanied by Ms Roshni Nadar Malhotra and the leadership team of Shiv Nadar Foundation and VidyaGyan ~

Lucknow, April 20, 2017: VidyaGyan, a leadership academy for meritorious and economically underprivileged students from rural Uttar Pradesh, today announced the inauguration of a **Greenhouse Center of Learning** at its Sitapur campus by **Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu, the Australian High Commissioner to India**. The center was inaugurated in the presence of Ms Roshni Nadar Malhotra, CEO, HCL Corporation and Chairperson, VidyaGyan.

The newly established "Greenhouse Center of Learning" is located in the seven-acre Mango Orchard at the Sitapur Campus and offers a physical learning space that seamlessly integrates the formal set-up of classroom training with the openness of nature. The center is aimed at facilitating an inspiring, innovative and creative learning environment for the students of VidyaGyan and comprises three open and glass topped class-rooms, named Chintan, Chetan and Srijan. Expanding on VidyaGyan's pedagogical approach, the Greenhouse Center of Learning will help students adopt a more collaborative learning methodology instead of the traditional instructional method encouraging students to learn by doing or creating.

Inaugurating the Greenhouse Centre of Learning, **H.E. Ms. Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India** said, "*VidyaGyan is a great model as it addresses the basic problem of every developing nation regarding, unequal access to learning and growth opportunities. I am delighted to be at VidyaGyan and to launch the Greenhouse Centre for Learning. The Australian High Commission and VidyaGyan have been partnering for a couple of years now where we have been supporting the VidyaGyan students towards enhancing their communication skills through our Direct Aid Program. I happy to see the progress made by these gifted students through our support.*"

Speaking on the occasion, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, VidyaGyan** said, "*We are delighted to have H.E. Ms Harinder Sidhu, the Australian High Commissioner to India here with us to inaugurate the Greenhouse Center of Learning. Innovation in education is always a great way to keep students engaged*

and curious and by setting up this center of learning we have taken another step towards enhancing the overall learning experience for our students.”

The inauguration was followed by a key note speech by the High Commissioner to the assembled students, faculty and other guests at the school campus. She was also taken on the tour of the leadership academy and had an interactive session with the students.

About VidyaGyan Leadership Academy

Established in 2009 by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan (www.vidyaGyan.in) today houses 1900 students across two campuses in UP in Bulandshahr and Sitapur. The Academy was launched to bridge the urban-rural divide by selecting, nurturing and developing future leaders from the underprivileged communities of rural Uttar Pradesh. A fully residential academy, VidyaGyan not only takes care of the education of its students but of all their needs. VidyaGyan 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.

About Shiv Nadar Foundation

The Shiv Nadar Foundation (www.ShivNadarFoundation.org) has been established by Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL - a \$7 billion leading global conglomerate. 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 multidisciplinary 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.