

Founding Batch of VidyaGyan Aces Class XII CBSE Exams

- VidyaGyan, a free residential school for underprivileged, meritorious, rural students registers 100% student pass rate
- School topper, Shikha Sirohi, scores 96.6 percent

Dadri, May xx, 2016: VidyaGyan, a leadership academy for economically underprivileged, meritorious students from rural Uttar Pradesh, today announced that the founding class has achieved stellar results in their XII board examinations. Every year, VidyaGyan handpicks 200 rural toppers from 250,000 children across 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP). These children come from families with an annual income of less than one lac per annum.

A total of 187 students appeared for their board examinations this year at VidyaGyan and the School registered a 100 percent pass rate. A whopping 139 students scored above 80 percent, out of which 53 students scored above 90 percent.

Commenting on the results, **Bishwajit Banerjee, the Principal of VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr**, said, ***“71 students have scored over 91 percent marks in English language and 3 students scored 98 percent. This is remarkable, considering that these students studied in Hindi medium schools till Class V and only started learning English when they joined VidyaGyan in Class VI.”***

Highlighting the efforts of VidyaGyan and the impact it has been able to make, **Mr Banerjee** shared Shikha Sirohi's story, who is the School topper for this year. He said ***“Shikha joined VidyaGyan when she was only 11 years old. Coming from the small village of Saidpur in Ghazipur district, Shikha has not only made her parents proud but has also inspired her entire village with her achievement.”*** To watch Shikha's story [click here](#).

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Trustee Shiv Nadar Foundation and the Chairperson, VidyaGyan, said, ***“VidyaGyan is very close to my heart and we started the journey with the hope of creating leaders from rural India and maybe even a Prime Minister for the country someday. The last seven years have been an exhilarating experience of making top quality education accessible to disadvantaged communities, where the impact is dramatic and exponential. We are heartened by the achievement of our founding batch and can already see a multiplier effect where the VidyaGyan children are inspiring several others within their communities to follow their path.”***

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



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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 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 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.