

Press Release

VidyaGyan Opens Admissions for the 2017- 18 Academic Session

Statewide entrance examination scheduled for Sunday, May 14, 2017

May 9 2017, Uttar Pradesh: The Shiv Nadar Foundation today announced May 14, 2017 as the date for the preliminary written examination for the 2017-18 academic session at VidyaGyan Leadership Academy. VidyaGyan is a free residential school for meritorious, underprivileged, rural students of Uttar Pradesh.

VidyaGyan was first set up in Bulandshahr in 2009 and the first batch of its students graduated (Grade XII) from school in 2016. The graduating students performed well in their board exams and secured admission in prestigious institutions for higher education like Delhi University, NIT, Jamia Millia University, Aligarh Muslim University, NIFT etc. A student also went on to study at University of Massachusetts, USA for higher education.

While the class XII results for this year are awaited, six students from the current batch have already secured admission at top Universities and Colleges in the USA. Manvi Chaudhary has secured admission in Wellesley College, currently ranked as the No. 3 national liberal arts college in the US (Best Colleges 2017) with full financial aid of US\$75,000 annually for four years. Along with her, five other students have gained admission to some of the finest institutions in the USA including Purdue University, Virginia Tech, Pennsylvania State University and the University of California, Davis.

The three-stage admission process at VidyaGyan constitutes:

- Preliminary written test in all districts of UP
- Written test for children shortlisted in the preliminary round
- Interaction with the selected students and their families

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants should be studying in Grade V in a rural school
- Age of girls should be less than or equal to 13 years and age of boys should be less or equal to 12 years
- Students should belong to rural, low-income households (with a combined family income of not more than Rs.1 lakh per annum).

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 1800 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 \$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 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.