

PRESS RELEASE

Shri Ram Naik, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Visits VidyaGyan Leadership Academy in Sitapur

~ Governor lays the foundation stone for the upcoming Sports Arena at VidyaGyan

Sitapur, September 28, 2017: VidyaGyan, a leadership academy for meritorious and economically underprivileged students from rural Uttar Pradesh, today hosted Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, at its Sitapur campus. During the visit to the School, Shri Ram Naik laid the foundation stone for VidyaGyan's upcoming sports arena and interacted with the students, inspiring them with the story of his life journey. The Hon'ble Governor also felicitated select teachers for their distinguished service and a group of student achievers in the fields of academics, sports and music.

The world-class sports arena that Shri Ram Naik laid the Foundation stone for will be developed on an 8-acre area and will have courts and fields for Hockey, Football, Basketball, and Volleyball.

An initiative of the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan was established in 2009 to select and nurture potential high achievers from rural Uttar Pradesh and provide them a platform to excel in whatever field they chose. Over the years, the VidyaGyan students have emerged at the top across scholastic and co scholastic fields at both the State and National levels.

Addressing the students, **Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh** said, *"I have always believed that Uttar Pradesh is a powerhouse of talent. After all it is the only State in the country that has given us eight former Prime Ministers. However, to help ensure that a larger pool of future leaders emerges from every corner and strata of the State, we need to ensure access to quality education to one and all. VidyaGyan is doing a wonderful job in selecting and nurturing hundreds of high potential students from the economically underprivileged sections of the State and creating a model that can significantly alter the pace of progress in the State."*

Speaking on the occasion, **Ms Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, VidyaGyan & Trustee Shiv Nadar Foundation** said, *"We are very happy to have Shri Ram Naik here with us today. I have always believed that leadership is inspired and the opportunity that our students received today to hear the Hon'ble Governor share his own life's journey will prove invaluable in helping them aim for the stars. I hope that in future our students will be emulate the motto of 'charaiveti – to keep working, marching*

ahead and remain busy' that the Hon'ble Governor has modeled his life on and achieve great heights while contributing back to the society."

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 \$7.5 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.