

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Shri Pankaj Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly, NOIDA, Felicitates Students during His Visit to VidyaGyan Leadership Academy, Bulandshahr**

**Greater Noida, September 22, 2017:** VidyaGyan, a leadership academy for meritorious and economically underprivileged students from rural Uttar Pradesh, today hosted Shri Pankaj Singh, the Member of Legislative Assembly, NOIDA at its Bulandshahr campus. During the visit to the School, Shri Pankaj Singh participated in a live interaction with the students and also felicitated student achievers, in the fields of arts and sports.

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 on the top across scholastic and co scholastic fields at both the State and National levels.

Addressing the students, **Shri Pankaj Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly, NOIDA** said, *"I am delighted to be at VidyaGyan today and for this opportunity to interact with the immensely talented group of students at the School. Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state of our country and education models like VidyaGyan show that there are bright sparks even in the remotest corners of our State, regardless of gender and economic background, who are only waiting to be discovered and nurtured. I am truly impressed to see the efforts at VidyaGyan, led by Ms Roshni Nadar Malhotra, to help transform these underprivileged children into change-agents for tomorrow."*

Speaking at the occasion, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, VidyaGyan** said, *"We are honored to have Shri Pankaj Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly, NOIDA here with us to address and interact with our students. VidyaGyan is our effort to develop future leaders from rural UP who will uplift their families, communities, villages and the nation at large. Interaction with and exposure to national and international leaders is an important part of our efforts to enable our students in broadening their horizons and I am confident that our students would have gained immensely from their interaction with Shri Pankaj Singh today."*

Currently, close to 1900 students study at the two campuses of VidyaGyan, located in Bulandshahr and Sitapur. Every year VidyaGyan undertakes an intensive and rigorous selection process to identify ~200 students from over 1,50,000 belonging to families with an annual income of less than Rs 1 lakh. For this

process, the Academy has signed a MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Government to conduct the selection process covering all 75 districts of the State. The selected students are given the best residential education with world-class infrastructure facilities, absolutely free of cost. The Academy focuses on the all-round development of these students and invests in several programmes as part curricular and co-curricular activities. VidyaGyan regularly invites luminaries from every field to provide the right motivation and inspiration to its students.

#### **About VidyaGyan Leadership Academy**

*Established in 2009 by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan ([www.vidyaGyan.in](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.knma.in)), India's largest private philanthropic museum in modern and contemporary art with the vision to take art to the common public.*