

**PRESS RELEASE**

**British High Commissioner to India Visits VidyaGyan Leadership Academy**

**Greater Noida, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018:** The British High Commissioner to India, Sir Dominic Asquith, today visited the Bulandshahr campus of VidyaGyan, a leadership academy for meritorious and economically underprivileged students from rural Uttar Pradesh. 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 with a platform to excel in whatever field they chose. Currently, there are close to 1500 students studying at the two campuses of VidyaGyan, located in Bulandshahr and Sitapur.

**Sir Dominic Asquith** said, *"Education, skills and entrepreneurship form the backbone of the UK-India partnership. I've been delighted to meet such an impressive group of ambitious and intelligent young people today and to learn more about VidyaGyan's work in supporting gifted students from rural India. I wish the students every success and hope they will become part of the vibrant UK-India 'living bridge' in the future".*

The event was attended by Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, CEO, HCL Corporation and Chairperson, VidyaGyan and the entire leadership team of the Shiv Nadar Foundation.

Speaking at the occasion, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, VidyaGyan** said, *"It was an honour to have Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG, British High Commissioner here with us to address and interact with the students of VidyaGyan. It is our endeavor to expose our students to role models like Sir Dominic, who have proven themselves to be trailblazers in their own field. We hope that the experiences and wisdom that Sir Dominic has shared with our students today will continue to impress and guide them in times to come. The students of VidyaGyan have shown great potential and I hope that some of them will be able to follow in the footsteps of Sir Dominic and represent India in the global community."*

**About VidyaGyan Leadership Academy**

*Established in 2009 by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan (<http://www.vidyagyan.in/>) today houses 1500 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 \$8.5 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.*