

SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

THE FOUNDATION POST

Q3, 2020



**CREATING AN IMPACT,
DIGITALLY.**

NOTE TO THE READERS



Greetings,

We are delighted to bring to you the Shiv Nadar Foundation Newsletter.

You will all agree that these are interesting times that we live in. Several of us are perhaps reminded of one of the most notable quotes in English prose – taken from ‘The Tale of Two Cities’ the novel written by the great English writer and social critic Charles Dickens, way back in 1859, 161 years ago. It echoes the times we live in – battling a great, global pandemic that has redrawn the social and economic boundaries between people, societies and nations. The quote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair,” truly sums up the times we find ourselves in. These are times of a new normal – when old, established patterns of engagement are no longer relevant and quick adaptability is necessary if you are to survive and thrive.

This is true of institutions as well – whether corporate or philanthropic. Never before has the emphasis and need for sustainable growth been greater. And we’re seeing this both with HCL as well as the Shiv Nadar Foundation where the focus is on moving beyond the present, drawing lessons from it and embracing a new, revitalized future.

The Foundation is well known to most of you - you have been a part of its journey, contributing to its growth and that of its institutions and initiatives. You have seen how the Shiv Nadar University has grown to become one of India’s leading research led institutions of higher learning and its recognition by the Government of India as an Institution of Eminence. You may have noticed the transformational work being done by VidyaGyan and how it’s been an enabler for Uttar Pradesh’s brightest young minds who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Some of you may similarly be familiar with the oldest member of the Foundation - SSN Institutions in Chennai – a leading and merit-led engineering institution in Tamil Nadu.

Our students, our colleagues, our partners and our institutions continue to adapt to the new normal and have their sights firmly on the future. The journey of transformation for the Shiv Nadar Foundation continues. This newsletter is meant to be the cynosure of all the great work, achievements, milestones and triumphs of the Foundation and all those associated with it. We do hope you find it as engaging as we did while putting it together.



SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

Presents




CONVERSATIONS

Stories, ideas and more

2020 has been a year unlike what most of us alive today have faced. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented challenges, affecting individuals and organisations alike in a manner that no one could have foretold or anticipated. Humanity was left dealing with something it never imagined happening to it – a severe constraint on mobility as nations across the world imposed lockdown after lockdown. Trapped as they were, people were bombarded relentlessly with information on the pandemic – in their newspapers, on news channels, on radio and on social media. The overdose was unnerving for many. World over, the surging volume of available information began adversely affecting not only personal well-being but also decision making, innovation, and productivity.

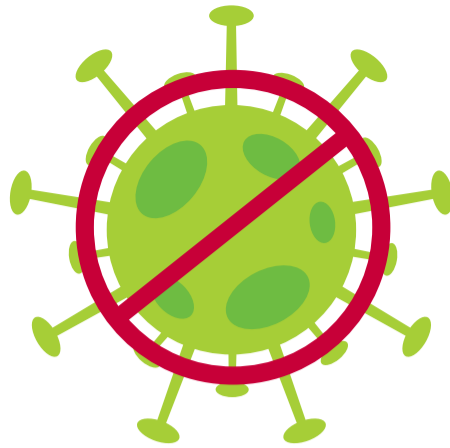
Realising this, the Shiv Nadar Foundation conceptualized and launched Shiv Nadar Foundation Conversations, a platform that curates some of the most unique voices out there to share stories that entertain, motivate and inspire listeners. Artists, diplomats, noble laureates, actors, sportspersons and corporate trailblazers – all leaders and icons in their respective fields are being hosted on this platform to share stories, ideas and more to a ‘live’ audience

 (<https://www.facebook.com/ShivNadarFoundation/>). These personalities engage in a dialogue with leaders from the Foundation on not only the current scenario but also talk about their life’s lessons, motivational anecdotes and interesting projects they are currently working on, all to inspire, motivate and enthuse the audience.

Starting April there have been 31 speakers from across the world who’ve graced this platform. Some of the most popular sessions have been with award winning conservationists, film makers and husband-wife duo, Dereck and Beverly Joubert (1.1 million views); Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Manager of English football club Manchester United, which generated views of 1.7 million; Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and social reformer (1.3 million views); William Dalrymple, acclaimed author and art historian (1.3 million views), Manoj Kohli, Country Head, Softbank India (1.2 million views), and many more.

To date, Conversations by Shiv Nadar Foundation have crossed over 25 million views and boasts a reach of no less than 60 million.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19



As the COVID-19 pandemic spread globally, India – with a population of over 1.3 billion people – faced its own unique set of challenges. At HCL and Shiv Nadar Foundation, we understood early on that our success in tackling the pandemic will get an impetus from the actions that organizations like ours take to not just help slow down the spread but also help the larger population navigate the challenges that emerge from this.

We have always been highly aware of our responsibility towards the larger community and nation and have consistently created programs that help improve the lives of people. Following this approach, we created a multi-pronged strategy, leveraging strengths from within our family and our partner networks, to ensure that we extend all possible support to authorities in this time of emergency. We have also been actively partnering in the State-coordinated efforts to provide urgent and immediate response and relief to the affected communities.

Over the last several months we have been working towards complementing healthcare services by supporting with medical supplies, equipment & accessories, setting up dedicated COVID facilities to minimize disruptions in medical care and delivery of health services. To ensure safety of our frontline workers and healthcare professionals, we have been supporting various states with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits. With technology as our core strength, we have help set up and manage dedicated COVID command centres in Noida, Chennai, Bengaluru and Vijayawada to ensure timely response to all citizen queries. Given the reverse migration, loss of livelihood opportunities etc, a huge part of our efforts has been on ensuring food supplies, including cooked meals, micronutrients and dry ration. Care for the most vulnerable including the elderly, children and most disadvantaged formed another pillar of our response work along with animal welfare initiatives both for abandoned pets and strays as well as animals in shelters.

Our work his not finished. Every day our brave employees go out into the field to identify gaps that we can help bridge from a response perspective and also to ensure that the most affected are not left without support.

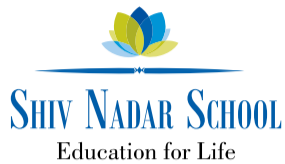
We hope that together we will be able to overcome this challenge soon. Till then, we would also urge you to do whatever you can to support the needy in your own communities...as every small effort will contribute to creating a massive movement required to sail through this difficult time.



The graduating batch of 2020 from the VidyaGyan Leadership Academy dealt with delayed and eventual cancellation of some board exams; however, the overall wait was worth its while as the 162 students across the two campuses (in Bulandshahr & Sitapur) achieved stellar results in their grade 12 board exams. Students achieved a school average of 93.7%, one of the highest in the country as reported by several media houses. 140 students (86.4%) from the batch scored an aggregate of more than 90%. Like every year, students have also gained admission in top-ranking colleges in India and internationally on full scholarships. This year is particularly special as for the first time, a VidyaGyan student gained admission in an Ivy League college. Anurag Tiwari will be pursuing Economics at the Cornell University in the US, with full financial aid. Two more students – Shikoh Zaidi and Sagar Rathi – have secured admission at Georgetown University in Qatar with full aid.



Understanding the limited access to internet, smartphones and laptops suffered by students in rural India, Shiksha Initiative created a unique program called Shiksha ki GOONJ, bringing the school to the students' home. This program allows children from rural primary schools to continue their education without a smartphone and internet, from the comfort and safety of their homes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is done by disseminating educational lessons covering basic Math and Language for the village primary school students over a loudspeaker through interesting stories, songs and poems. Each session under this program runs for 90 minutes, allowing young learners from economically weaker sections to continue their learning journey, when regular schools are unable to function. A key program under this initiative is to disseminate information around hygiene practices to sensitize the larger village community and help contain the spread of the virus. The program is implemented in 10 villages in Kasmanda Block of District Sitapur, covering ~450 households and 1250 students between the ages of 5 years – 15 years



The Shiv Nadar School students made their mark with an outstanding performance in their grade 12 board exams. The second batch of graduating students, comprising 107 pupils, achieved a school average of 86.7%. A total of 58 students (54%) scored an aggregate of 90% and above. Ananya Meghani from SNS Noida became the school topper with 99.75% in Commerce stream, while Palam Modi from the Gurugram School scored 99.75% in Humanities stream. Students have also secured admission at the top global institutions to continue their learning journey. These include the prestigious London School of Economics, University College London and Kings College in the UK; and University of Toronto in Canada. Students will be pursuing undergraduate studies in Economics, Psychology, Law, International Relations and Computer Engineering.



SSN conducted its first ever Global Alumni Meet on 5th September 2020 to bring together the globally spread alumni on a single platform. The meet was attended by 85 proud SSN Alumni from geographies including USA, Canada, Germany, Denmark and Japan, among others, along with the SSN leadership team, various department heads and select others. With the theme of promoting alumni engagement and the spirit of entrepreneurship among students, the virtual event witnessed alumni sharing their experiences around building successful careers and ideating on steps to encourage entrepreneurship, using the SSN Incubation Foundation as a platform.

Students and faculty members at SSN have also been working towards creating much needed research led innovations to strengthen the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A group of first year students developed an app to help track quarantined people to help trace the spread of a disease and eventually help control it through data analysis. In another innovation, a student team developed a robot, Corover 2020, that can be used to disinfect large areas using UV-C-rays or spray disinfectant through an ultrasonic nozzle towards specific areas, allowing for contactless, mass sterilisation effectively, at minimal cost.



Year 2020 brought several challenges and opportunities to quickly learn and grow for most of the Shiv Nadar Foundation institutions. While SNU was amongst the first institutions of higher education in the country to move classes online seamlessly, the University has also been enabling opportunities for students to experience much valued milestones and events in a virtual format. SNU organized a virtual celebration for the graduating class of 2020 in July this year to bring together the 600+ students across undergraduate, Masters and PhD programs on an online platform to celebrate all the hard they had put in to achieve their degrees. This celebration was attended by family members of the graduating students and faculty, staff and leadership team at the University. The event was also live-streamed on the University's social media platforms including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.



Keeping up with its vision of bringing art to the people, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art introduced a unique series 'Art x Fashion' to showcase the connection between Art and Fashion. 'Art x Fashion' brought popular faces from the fashion industry on a virtual platform for viewers to find out how art has inspired these individuals or their work. A total of 12 episodes were aired as part of this special miniseries opening with the designer duo - Gauri & Nanika, whose collection has been inspired by Raza, Souza and Hussain. The finale of the series featured fashion maestro - Tarun Tahiliani who spoke about how Hussain, The Singh Twins, Anjolie Ella Menon and Mrinalini Mukherjee have inspired him and every small detail of his brand. Some of the other popular names that were part of this series included Niharika Bhasin Khan, Sahil Kochher and Sanjay Garg, among others. The series examined how art affects the designers' work, how in some cases famous artworks have been incorporated in their designs, and how art can inspire a new look or a collection. Over 3.5 million views were generated for the series which showcased how global and all-encompassing the world of art can be with its far-reaching influence. The series continues to be available across all KNMA social media platforms.

SNAPSHOT

Number of students	▶	12,646
Number of alumni	▶	18,968
Faculty & staff	▶	2,041
Campus area (acres)	▶	596
Built-up area	▶	7.0 Mn. Sq. Ft.
Investment	▶	US\$ 822 Mn. 6,200 Cr.

*as on 31 Mar'20

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www.ShivNadarFoundation.org