THE FOUNDATION POST

SPECIAL EDITION

Celebrating **25 years** of delivering transformational education

25
YEARS

SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

Building institutions through creative philanthropy ●●●

The early 1990s marked an era of economic liberalization in India with the country aiming to become more market and service oriented. As India opened its gates to expand the role of private and foreign investments, global FMCG and technology companies moved in to capture the market. At that time, HCL Enterprise, a home grown personal computers manufacturing organization, had already successfully completed 25 years in India. Its R&D division, HCL Technologies, had emerged as an independent entity in the software and services business and the conglomerate was valued at over $100 million.

A $8.6 billion company today, HCL is globally recognized as a world-class institution with innovation at its core. Shiv Nadar, driven to contribute meaningfully to society, leveraged his experience of building a successful global
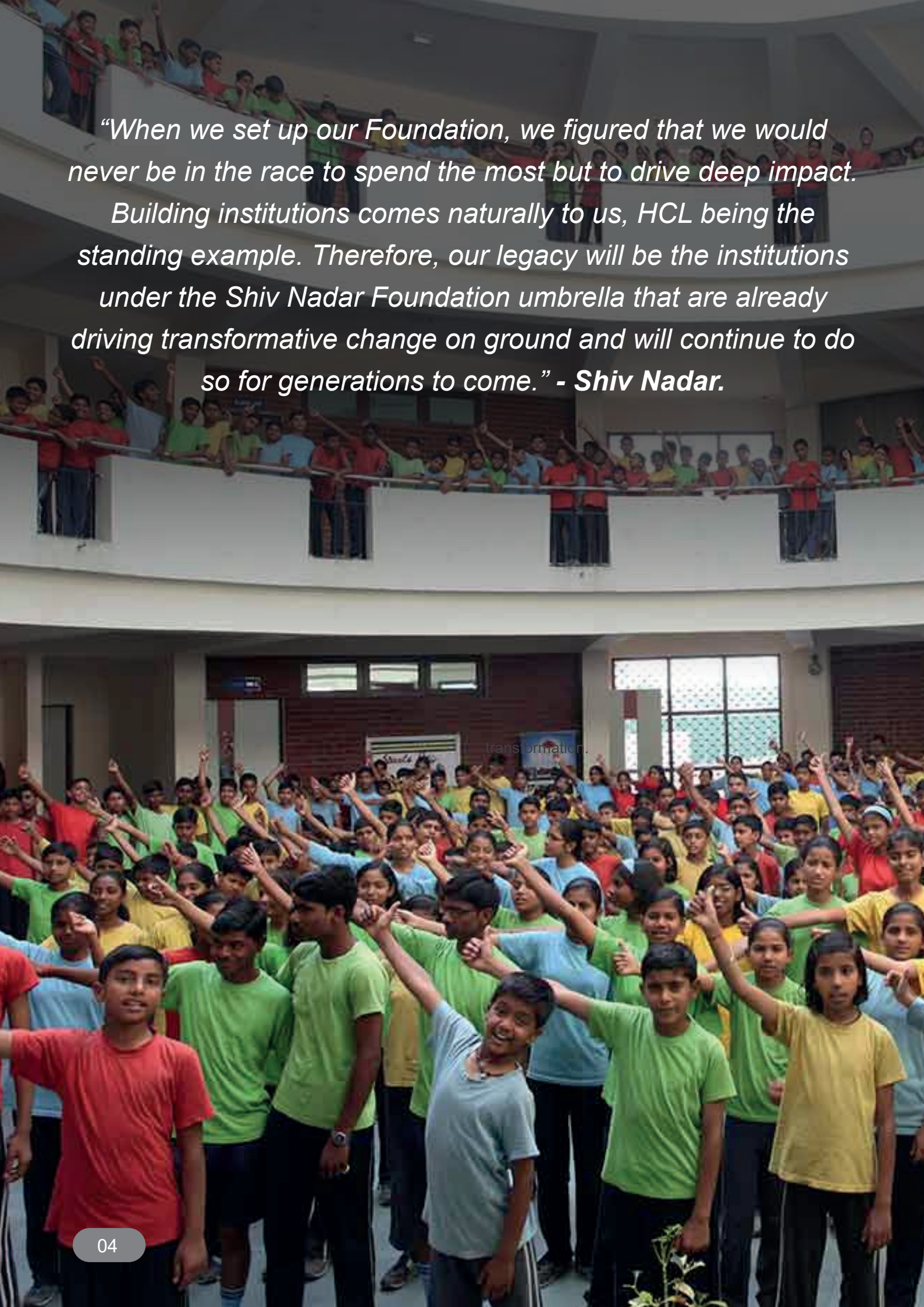
organization and resources to create a philanthropic institution that replicated the HCL model for social innovation. Established in 1994, the Shiv Nadar Foundation has spent the last two and half decades conceptualizing and instituting innovative models that endeavour to create equitable opportunities for education and leadership.

"I have always appreciated the Tatas for their philanthropic efforts, which started in 1929 when they decided to give away two-thirds of their wealth to charity. Their commitment to give back led to the creation of the Indian Institute of Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Institute of Social Sciences, Cancer Research Institute and so on, which are recognized for their excellence today. I wanted our institutions to follow the same trajectory and also drive transformational changes for the larger society," says Shiv Nadar.

The Shiv Nadar Foundation was established on the principles of 'creative philanthropy' which entails designing institutions that drive deep impact, ensuring long-terms transformation for whole sections of society, similar to the model followed by the Tatas. Shiv Nadar's efforts have led to the creation of institutions like SSN, VidyaGyan, Shiv Nadar University and Shiv Nadar School, which are frontrunners in implementing innovative educational models. A case in point is the Shiv Nadar University, which was one of the first higher education institutions in the country to introduce the research-led, four-year undergraduate model for non-engineering courses. Today, the best institutions in the country follow have adopted the same model.

This year Shiv Nadar Foundation completes 25 years. While the last decade has been about building the institutions grounds up, the next decade will be about strengthening the existing institutions and expanding the Foundation's reach, driving long-term, high-impact, socio-economic transformation.

"When we set up our Foundation, we figured that we would never be in the race to spend the most but to drive deep impact. Building institutions comes naturally to us, HCL being the standing example. Therefore, our legacy will be the institutions under the Shiv Nadar Foundation umbrella that are already driving transformative change on ground and will continue to do so for generations to come." **- Shiv Nadar.**

Shiv Nadar Foundation
Nation building through transformational leadership

The Shiv Nadar Foundation was established in 1994 by Shiv Nadar. The Foundation is committed to the creation of a more equitable, merit-based society by empowering individuals through transformational education that bridges the socio-economic divide. To that purpose the Foundation has established institutions and programmes in the underdeveloped areas in India related to rural and urban education and art.

The Foundation believes that education is the single most powerful tool that has the power to not only transform an individual but create ripple effect which impacts an entire group, community and country at large for centuries to come.

SSN INSTITUTIONS

Established in 1996, SSN Institutions (SSN) is a premier centre of learning in India, with the mission of pursuing excellence in higher education and research. Located in Chennai, SSN offers a distinct combination of some of the finest graduate, undergraduate and research programmes to its students. Accomplished faculty, world-class facilities and a residential campus set on a sprawling 228 acres of sylvan surroundings have enabled SSN to be regularly ranked among the leading engineering colleges in India. SSN has created affiliations with global universities such as Carnegie Mellon University (US), National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan), and Aichi Institute of Technology (Japan) to provide its students and faculty with opportunities to engage with the best minds from other cultures and nations.

Has over **4,800** students & over **14,800** alumni

US $70 million invested so far

VIDYAGYAN

VidyaGyan is a leadership academy, designed for the economically underprivileged, meritorious students of rural India. Established in 2009, VidyaGyan envisions bridging the urban-rural divide by creating leaders from rural India who can act as catalysts of change for their communities, villages, and the nation. VidyaGyan selects students from some of the most underprivileged rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and provides them world-class education and exposure in a fully residential setting. It conducts one of the largest admission processes in the country for grade V students with a three-stage selection mechanism and an acceptance rate of ~ 0.08%. Over 2,50,000 children appear for the admissions annually. Beyond academics, co-curricular activities, sports, and fine-arts are given equal emphasis, providing multiple opportunities to the students to indulge in their areas of interest. VidyaGyan has two campuses, in Bulandshahr (near Delhi NCR) and Sitapur (near Lucknow), which house state-of-the-art facilities such as computer, maths and science laboratories, indoor sports rooms, amphitheatre, art blocks, and outdoor sports arena which include football, basketball and athletics.

Combs **75** districts of UP to identify economically underprivileged rural students & bridges the rural-urban divide

2 residential schools, **2,242** students & alumni & **174**-strong faculty

US $93 million invested so far

KIRAN NADAR
MUSEUM OF ART

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art is India's first private philanthropic art museum exhibiting modern and contemporary works from India and the subcontinent. Established in 2010, KNMA envisions instilling a deep appreciation and enjoyment of art, by making art visible and accessible to all strata of the society in a world-class museum. In the last seven years, KNMA has been visited by more than one lakh visitors from all over the world, including art patrons, foreign tourists, CXOs, school children and budding artists. Today, KNMA has more than 4000 carefully hand-picked masterpieces, accessible to the general public in two museum spaces in Saket and Noida, Delhi NCR. It has become the leading platform in India to take art to the masses and generate sustainable dialogue, discussions and knowledge about Indian contemporary and modern art.

Collection of over **4,535** artworks

US **$233** million invested so far

SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

Shiv Nadar University is a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, research university offering the full range of academic programmes at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels. The university's approach towards undergraduate education is to expose students to an integrated multi-disciplinary curriculum. This enables the students to not only gain mastery in the subject of their choosing but also makes them well-rounded professionals with a strong foundation in areas as diverse as humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, technology and engineering studies, arts, communication and management. Nestled in a fully residential campus near Delhi NCR, Shiv Nadar University lays equal emphasis on developing and inculcating leadership values, social responsibility and a deep commitment to serving the community among its students to create responsible professionals of tomorrow.

Set in Greater Noida over **265** acres

Has over **2,058** students with a **457**-member faculty

SHIV NADAR SCHOOL

Rapid and relentless change, catalysed by technology and innovation, is the defining feature of current times. Just as the environment of today was inconceivable a decade ago, the future that the children will grow into, can hardly be foreseen. Preparing them for what would probably be a very different tomorrow means that they need to be educated differently. This is the core philosophy that drives Shiv Nadar School, the K-12 urban education initiative of the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Developing a student-centric world of learning is the core endeavour of Shiv Nadar School. The school aims to constantly motivate the children to realise their unique interests, talent and potential. The belief is that an academic environment suited to discover a child's natural proclivities, helps him or her evolve into an individual who is well-poised to deal with the challenges of life and become a contributing citizen.

03
schools

Over **4,000** students & **627** staff

US $121 million invested so far

SHIKSHA INITIATIVE

Shiksha Initiative envisions eradicating illiteracy from India by changing the way rural education mass intervention programmes are implemented in India. It follows a three-pronged methodology of 'Teaching, Querying and Augmentation' to enhance the learning levels of children and improve knowledge retention. The curriculum of the Uttar Pradesh board primary syllabus has been converted into an interactive animated learning exercise and is imparted to students through audio-video intervention. The learning imparted to students is tested through regular assessments. The students who are found to be lagging behind are selected for special classes imparting deeper learning.

Shiksha+, the adult literacy programme of Shiksha Initiative aims to educate the illiterate adults of rural India and sensitise them about the importance and significance of education.

225 schools | **82** staff

US $4 million invested so far

Shiv Nadar Foundation envisions a society guided by the pillars of **leadership building, creative philanthropy, transparency and longevity**. It believes that **transformational and inclusive learning** can empower India with a future driven by knowledge, acumen, skills, values, and principles. And towards this end that The Foundation is relentlessly working and pledges to work for the foreseeable future.

2019
Shiv Nadar Foundation completes **25 years**

2012
With education as the core focus, The Foundation forays into urban school education with Shiv Nadar School

2010
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, India's first private museum of art to showcase modern and contemporary works from India and the sub-continent, launched

2007
Established a centre for research-based education aimed at innovation

1996
SSN Institutions constituted in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in the underdeveloped disciplinary areas related to rural and urban education and art

2012
Introduces SHIKSHA Initiative aiming to uproot illiteracy by creating an education model that can be replicated, scaled and measured

2011
Shiv Nadar University that offers an array of academic programmes for undergraduates, postgraduates and doctoral levels launched
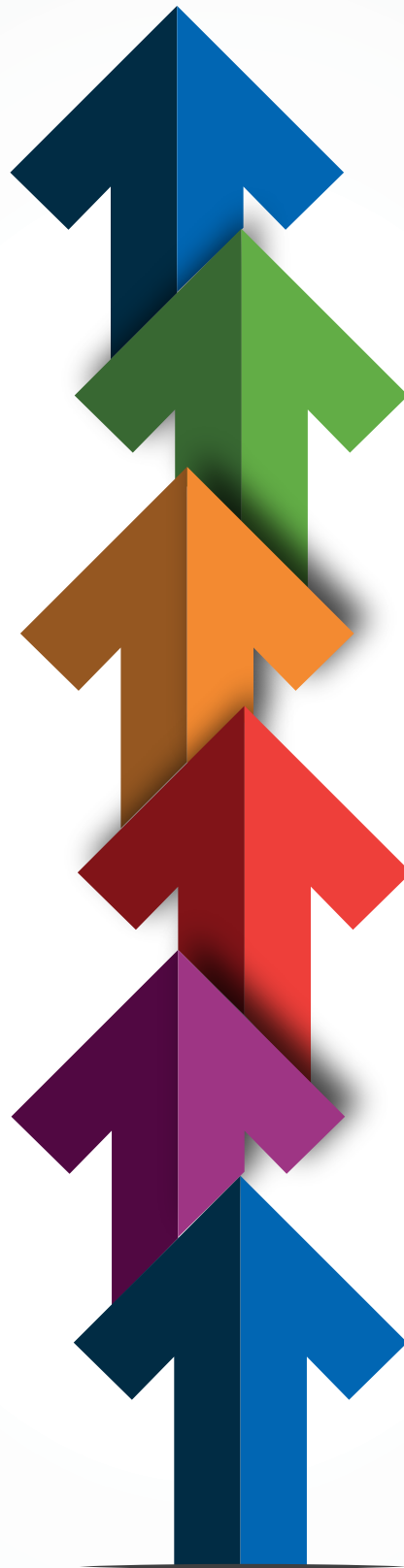
2009
VidyaGyan Leadership Academy launched

2003
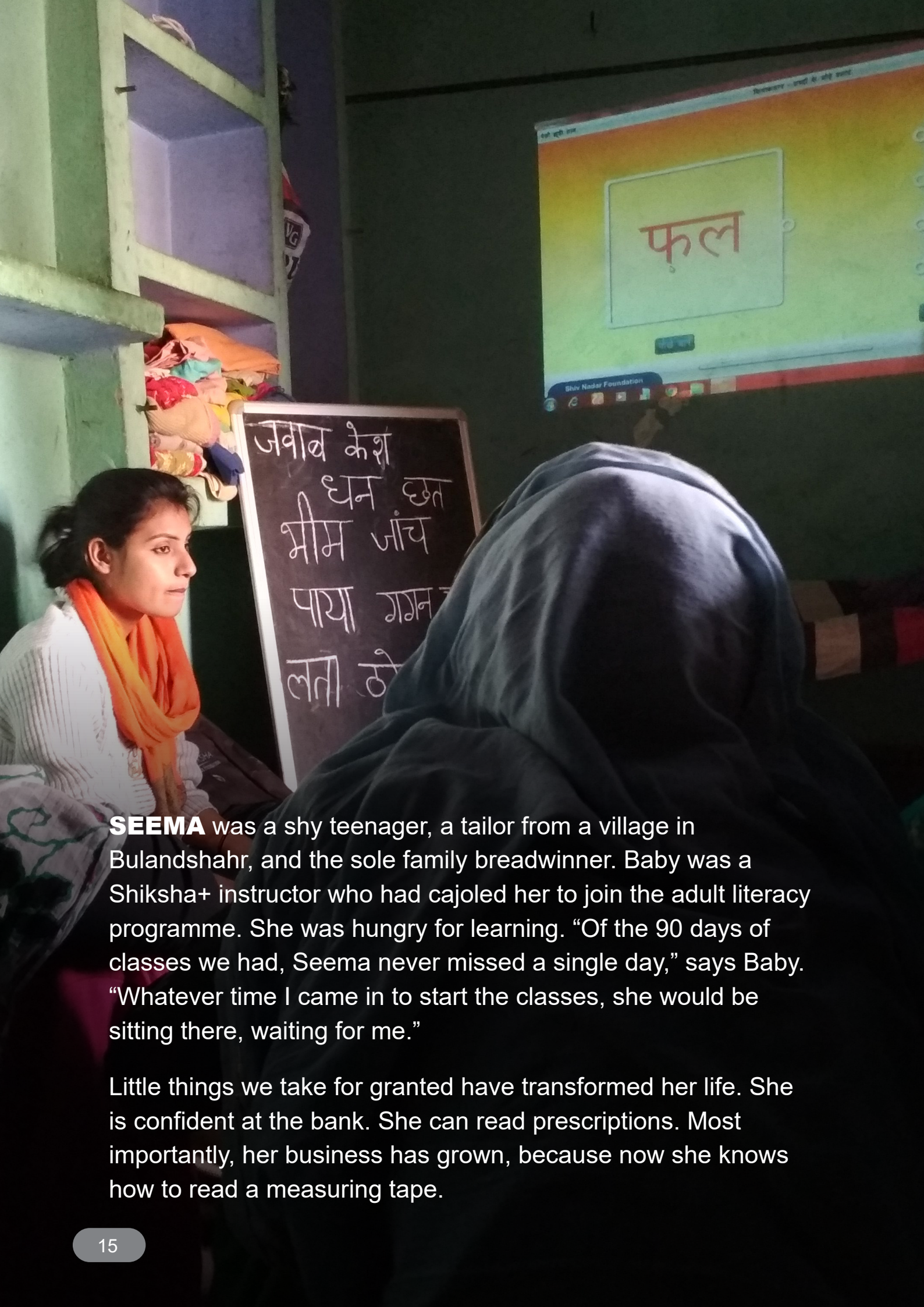Started a PG programme for excellence in higher education and research

1994
Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL, launches Shiv Nadar Foundation; Mission: philanthropic endeavours to create equitable opportunities for education and leadership

25 heart-warming stories
from individuals who've lived through
their experiences at The Foundation

SEEMA was a shy teenager, a tailor from a village in Bulandshahr, and the sole family breadwinner. Baby was a Shiksha+ instructor who had cajoled her to join the adult literacy programme. She was hungry for learning. "Of the 90 days of classes we had, Seema never missed a single day," says Baby. "Whatever time I came in to start the classes, she would be sitting there, waiting for me."

Little things we take for granted have transformed her life. She is confident at the bank. She can read prescriptions. Most importantly, her business has grown, because now she knows how to read a measuring tape.
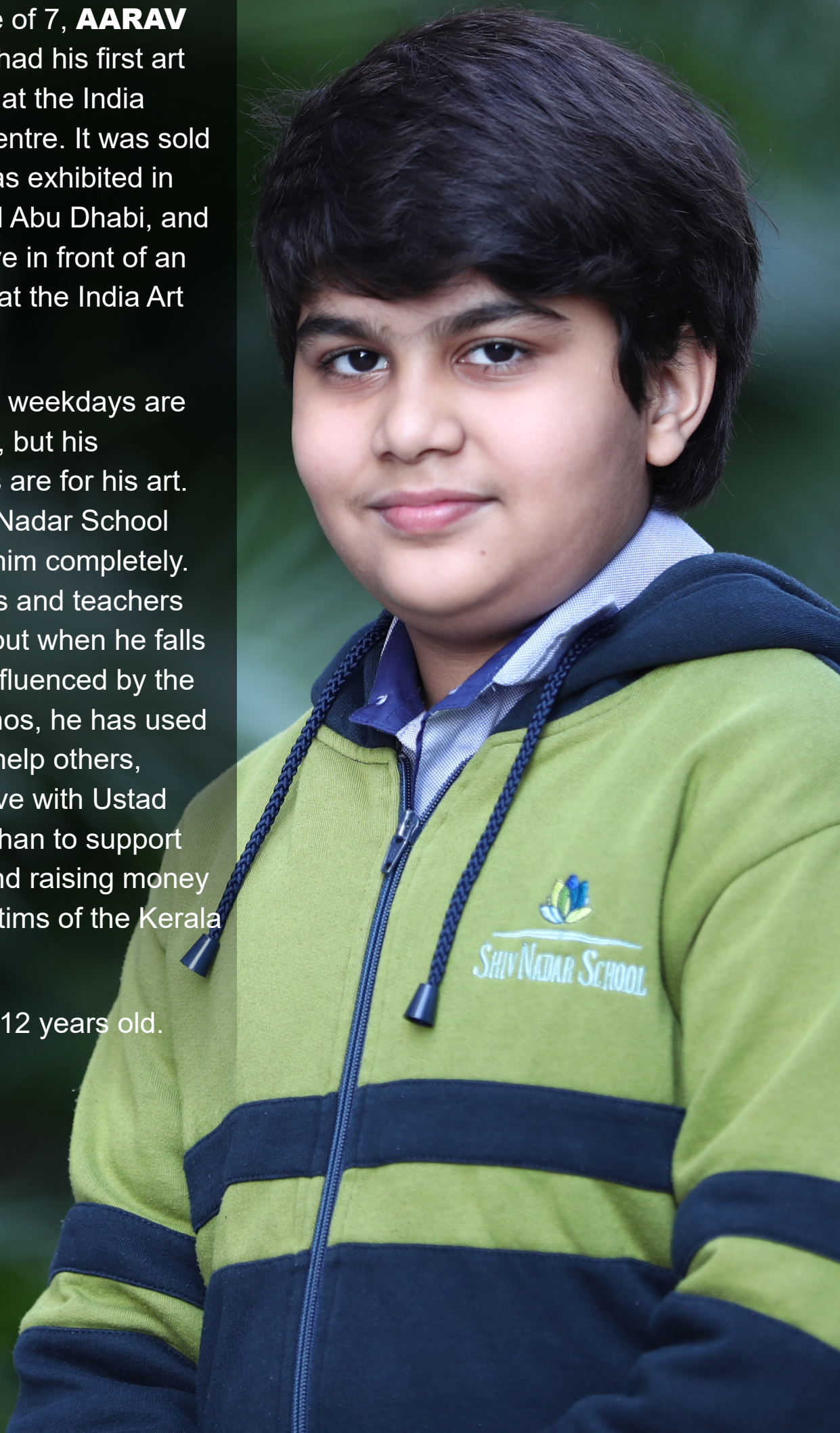
When **AUMKARAN** joined Shiv Nadar School, Gurgaon, he had just been placed second in a state-level badminton tournament. In the school, he met Ankit Kumar, who runs his own badminton academy. He took him under his wing. Now his Under-13 national rank is 21. He has learnt the value of time-tables. "I'm not so good at studies but I manage every day by following a time-table. I take it a day at a time," he says. Classmates help him with courses that he misses. His next goal is to raise his rank to the top 5, and qualify for the Asian Games.

At the age of 7, **AARAV VERMA** had his first art exhibition at the India Habitat Centre. It was sold out. He has exhibited in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and painted live in front of an audience at the India Art Fair 2019.

Today, his weekdays are for school, but his weekends are for his art. The Shiv Nadar School supports him completely. His friends and teachers help him out when he falls behind. Influenced by the school ethos, he has used his art to help others, painting live with Ustad Shujaat Khan to support cancer, and raising money for the victims of the Kerala floods.

He is just 12 years old.

MALAIKANNAN SANKARASUBBU, B.Tech, Information Technology, SSN, 2004

With emphasis given to education at home, Malai grew up knowing that it was the key to opening a world of opportunity– a world his father had been denied in his youth. "I remember spending more time in the library and labs than in the classroom," he says. Now Malai lives in the US, doing cutting-edge work in Artificial Intelligence.

From Class 4 till Class 11, he spent his summer vacations at the Connemara Library in Chennai, devouring books of all kinds, broadening his inquisitive and bright mind. When he found that students could avail a 50% discount on an HCL computer at SSN, Malai jumped at the chance, and unleashed his passion for writing code.

Like all students that pass under the mantle of the Shiv Nadar Foundation, Malai too has a deep desire to give back. He has founded the Indian Deep Learning Initiative (IDLI), a Facebook group, to spread knowledge and awareness about AI in India. With 10,000 members, Malai gives talks on research and applications of AI and mentors youngsters.

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it. –

HARISH was born into a conservative Chennai family of limited means. He was expected to become an engineer or a doctor, and he had financial responsibilities. But after he joined SNU as an engineering student, his interest in art blossomed. He took courses in photography, and was published in National Geographic. Then he began taking courses in design. By his second year, he was a freelance designer. He even helped to upgrade the university website.

Today he is a successful design entrepreneur. "Now I run a design studio called Frozen Iris," he says. "We help businesses grow by applying the first principles in design and marketing."

BHARGAVI GOPALAN is an engineer who loves to dance. Shiv Nadar University has helped to combine the two. Bhargavi took a minor in Dance. She used research opportunities available to study Dance Science which helped her explore her dancer's body through aspects of physiology, biomechanics, psychology, somatics, and more. She says,

"Engineering helped me see that our bodies are Nature's best-designed machine; and dance allowed me to explore the endless possibilities of using this machine."

The dance fraternity lacks awareness of the importance of Dance Science. Bhargavi is going to change that.

ARUN, III Year Mechanical Engineering, SSN

Arun has become a force to reckon with in the Artistic Skating – Solo Dance category – jumping, spinning and dancing his way through over 13 national championships, three Asian championships and three World Championships. At 20, he is India's number one, Asia's number two, and 11th in the world artistic roller skating.

When Arun joined SSN College of Engineering, he found tremendous support from management, faculty and students who are very proud of his accomplishments.

"The president of SSN institutions, the principal, the physical director of the sports department, and of course my friends, are the ones who have been a major part of my success. It made me feel really comfortable and safe and gave me psychological support, all of which have helped a lot to balance between skating and studies," he says.

Back in Chennai, he started skating at the Marina Beach skating rink at the age of 7. His dream is for roller-skating to become an Olympic sport so he can represent India in the arena.

As an engineer, you learn there is a solution to every problem. It may take you a while, but eventually you're going to find it. **– Tony Cardenas**

VISWANATH, IVth Year Bio-Medical Engineering, SSN

The way teachers employ real-life and practical problems for teaching in class, the seminars and guest lectures, the flexible education which covers sports, culture, social service and the helpful faculty at SSN have all been components in Viswanath's journey of achievement.

With his partner Praveen, he developed "Chin Up", an external aid for people affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Monitored and nurtured by SSN, Viswanath designed several other award-winning products in the space of rehabilitative and assistive devices. Later, the faculty helped him patent four designs through the student and cohesive faculty patent filing system.

In March 2019, one of Viswanath's research papers was published in the National Journal of Laboratory Medicine with the help of another faculty member. By the time he finished college, Viswanath was the only B.E. student to take part in four internally-funded projects in the history of SSN.

ISHAN joined engineering, but he never really wanted to be an engineer. As the son of an Air Force officer, he changed schools eight times, and he joined SNU not very sure of what he wanted to do. But it emerged gradually. He took theatre, literature, biotech, technology, sociology and history, each helping him discover different aspects to his personality. He started an acapella singing group called Synergy, which won every competition they ever entered. After graduation, inspired by the SNU ethos, he joined the Piramal Foundation, an education-focussed NGO. Now he is planning to do his post graduation in Public Policy. He wants to help shape the future of education.

PIU BANERJEE wanted to study medicine, but she changed her mind after joining SNU. Thanks to the Opportunities for Undergraduate Research programme, she was exposed to hard research techniques while still a graduate student. She was introduced to the field of Neuroscience. She topped her batch four years in a row. She has received the five-year MEXT scholarship from the Japanese government in the field of neuroscience. She was nervous initially, but she took the leap. Her years in Japan are broadening her horizon. She still misses home, but she is enjoying her new adventure.

SOUMYA, B.Tech, Information Technology, SSN, 2016

"The kind of experiences that I had, being a part of SSN and Saaral Tamil Mandram opened up new doors to what I wanted and what I didn't," says Soumya. Help and support from devoted friends, faculty and her family, as well as the confidence she gained in her own abilities and strength at SSN, helped her choose a path as an Assistant Commissioner of GST, undergoing training in Faridabad.

Growing up in a village near Madurai, Soumya was encouraged and supported in her education by her family, and school teachers who saw something special in her. Now this determined 24-year-old wants to take the civil services exam again, as she wants to join the IAS.

Soumya explains, "The confidence to do what I wanted to do with my life is the greatest boon that I have got from SSN."

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. – **Mahatma Gandhi***

SUDHA ran a cosmetics shop with her older sister. Neither could read or write. Whenever a customer came, one of them had to run home to get a family member to help with the billing. Everyone else in their extended family was literate.

The Shiksha+ programme for adult literacy changed Sudha's life. It uses ICT to help the learning process, but she still found it hard. She had no habit of learning. But she persisted. "I would wake up at 4 am to get an extra hour to study," she says, "And at night from 10 to 11."

Now she handles shop inventory, accounts and billing. Sales are up. She is going to continue her studies.

How has **SHIKSHA** touched lives? Here are four examples.

AMBUJ was terrified of school. His father had to leave work for three-four hours every day just to make sure that he did not run away. Now he rushes out of the house every morning to get to school.

RIYA and Diya's mother took them out of private school and put them in a government school, because funds were temporarily tight. Now they are all so happy, they want to stick with the government school.

GOPAL is not only enjoying school, his parents are very pleased by how his behaviour has changed. It shows in the way he speaks with people. Everything has improved.

After just two years, little **ANSHI** is a different girl. Every day, she tells her parents what she did in school. She does her homework by herself. Her behaviour has improved too.
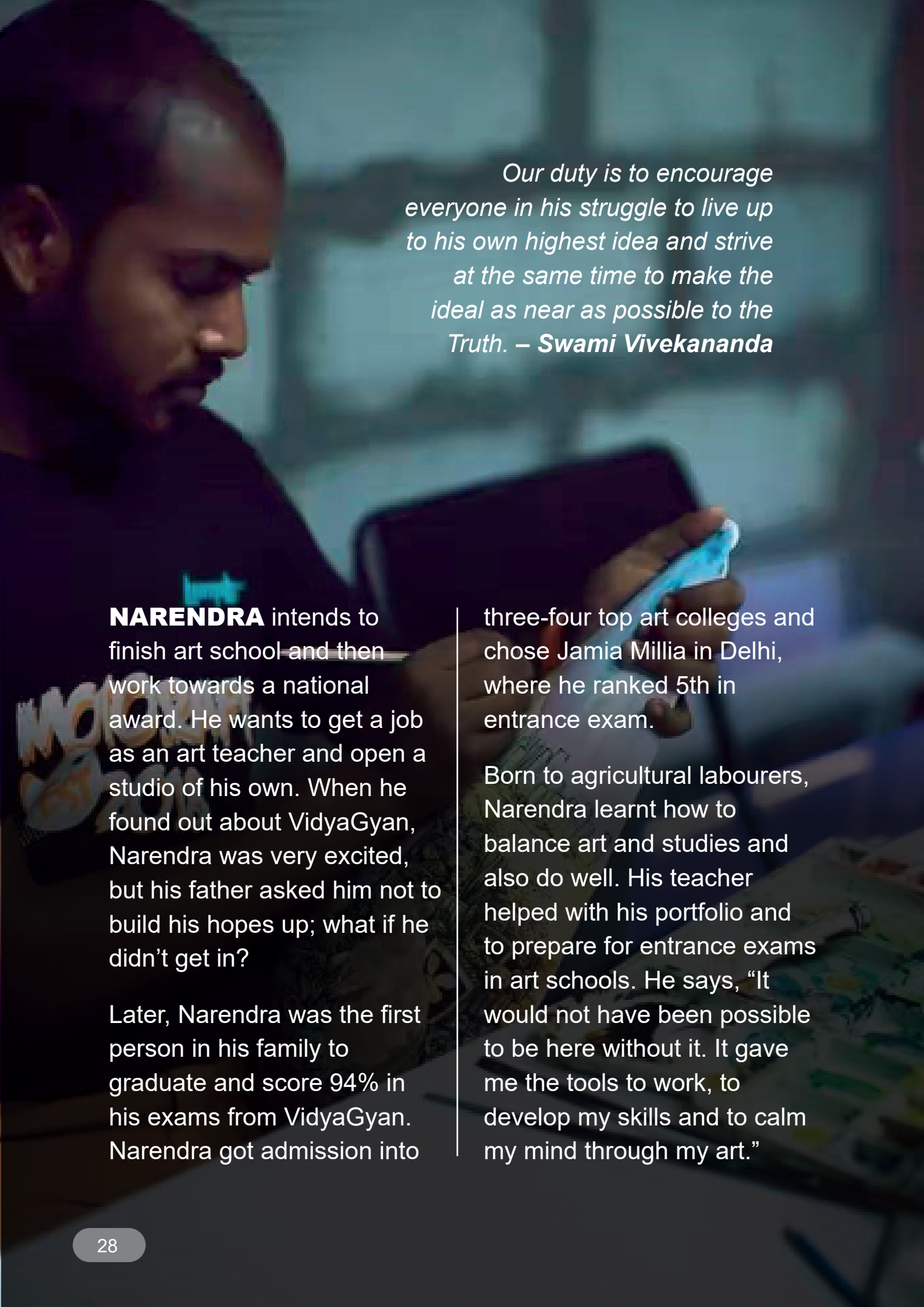
"At VidyaGyan I got to widen my horizon of thinking as well as dreaming," she says. **HEMLATA** was selected to be a United States-India Education Foundation (USIEF) scholar in Class 11, after a rigorous test and interview process. "For seven years, my school helped me to not just close the gap between me and urban children who had earlier access to good education, but also to emerge as the best fit. After giving that interview, I realised that being myself has always paid off and I decided to be the best version of myself," explains Hemlata.

Barely 18 years old, Hemlata Sharma is studying Computer Science at Bryn Mawr College in USA on a full scholarship. When she was 10, the headmaster of her village school filled in the VidyaGyan form for her looking at her potential.

Inspired by the story of Shiv Nadar and her teachers, she persevered and did well in school, scored excellently on her SAT and her board exams. The transformative moments continue for her in that environment, and she is enriched by her study and her new life there.

The first step toward success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself. – Mark Caine

Our duty is to encourage everyone in his struggle to live up to his own highest idea and strive at the same time to make the ideal as near as possible to the Truth. **– Swami Vivekananda**

NARENDRA intends to finish art school and then work towards a national award. He wants to get a job as an art teacher and open a studio of his own. When he found out about VidyaGyan, Narendra was very excited, but his father asked him not to build his hopes up; what if he didn't get in?

Later, Narendra was the first person in his family to graduate and score 94% in his exams from VidyaGyan. Narendra got admission into three-four top art colleges and chose Jamia Millia in Delhi, where he ranked 5th in entrance exam.

Born to agricultural labourers, Narendra learnt how to balance art and studies and also do well. His teacher helped with his portfolio and to prepare for entrance exams in art schools. He says, "It would not have been possible to be here without it. It gave me the tools to work, to develop my skills and to calm my mind through my art."

Education is not only a ladder of opportunity, but it is also an investment in our future. – Ed Markey

SHOBANA, IVth Year Civil Engineering, SSN

A student with an exemplary commitment to learning, the will to work hard, and inborn intelligence, Shobana performed brilliantly in school, and was selected for the Rural Scholarship awarded by SSN College of Engineering to 25 deserving youngsters every year.

"SSN gave me so much freedom in my research, lab access… it even funded one of our projects," she says. It was her teachers and her guide Dr Srinath Rajagopalan who gave this young girl the strength to be the person she is today, with a job as Associate Civil Engineer at Dow Chemicals.

She says, "In SSN, you can knock on anyone's door, irrespective of the department, and they will help with anything." This included clearing her doubts, encouraging her to push herself, taking time out to teach her skills, and showing their happiness at her smallest successes.
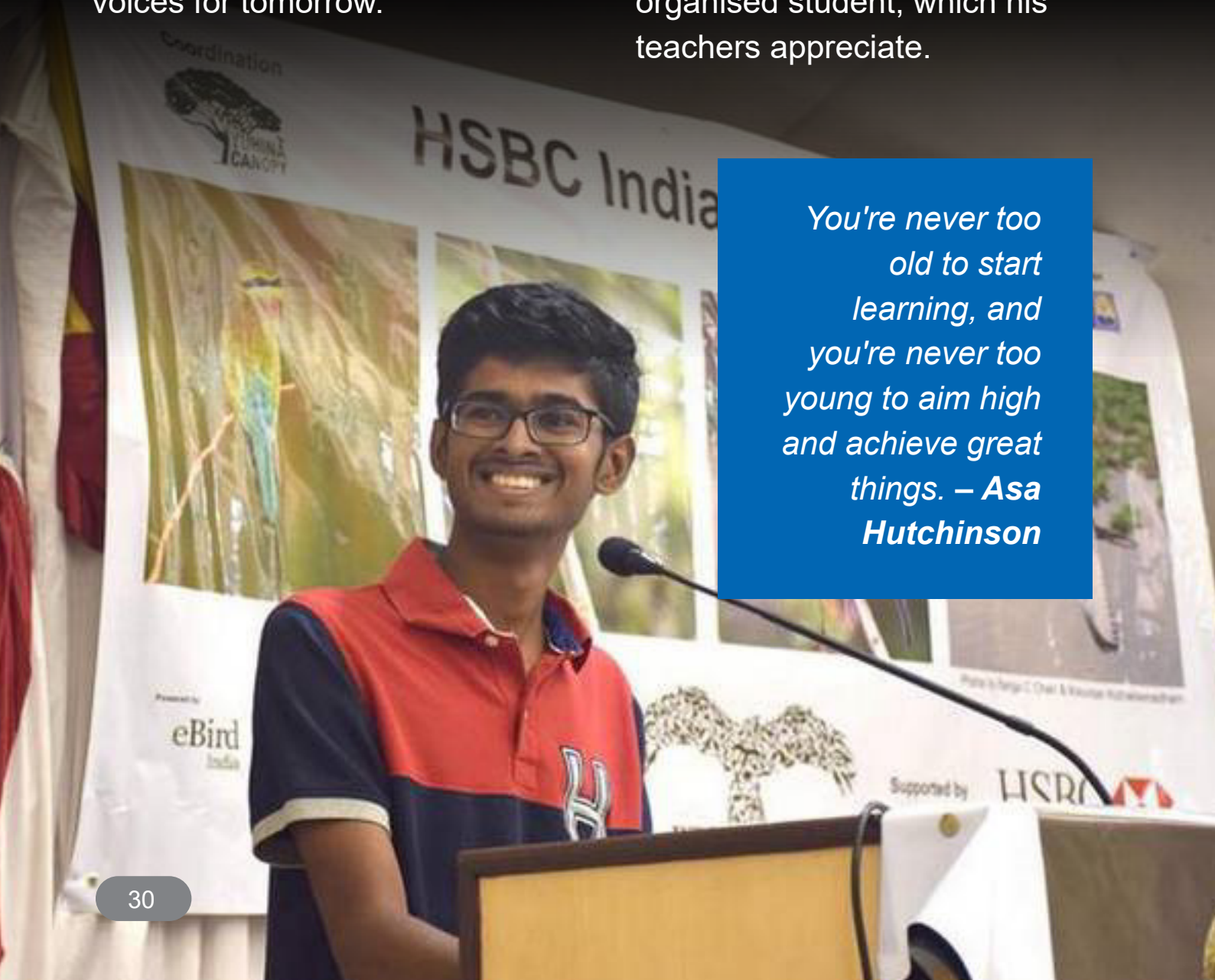
VIKAS, IInd Year, Chemical Engineering, SSN

A key resource for organisations like Sanctuary Asia, WWF and the Madras Naturalistic Society, Vikas has spent weeks climbing mountains and combing jungles in remote parts of Uttarakhand, the North East, the Western Ghats, looking for rare species. Today, he is already a conservation force to reckon with and is destined to be one of India's key conservation voices for tomorrow.

'I wouldn't have managed if I didn't have an understanding college,' says Vikas, who has helped SSN College of Engineering document over 125 species of birds on their campus. A typical day for Vikas means attending college, then coming home and starting wildlife work.

The rigour he has learned as a young wildlife expert has stood him in good stead in studies at SSN, making him a diligent and organised student, which his teachers appreciate.

You're never too old to start learning, and you're never too young to aim high and achieve great things. – Asa Hutchinson

"I got the best teachers and best facilities at VidyaGyan to build myself in that environment so that I now can compete with the outside world," says Nisha a serial achiever at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Jodhpur, one of India's best fashion design schools. After **NISHA** could not get through to London College of Fashion Technology due to financial constraints, her goal became a career in art, although most people she knows in her extended family and village cannot fathom what a career in design could mean.

Aim for the moon. If you miss, you may hit a star. **– W. Clement Stone**

Nisha's experience at VidyaGyan enabled her to do the things she was passionate about and work consistently to overcome the hurdles she faced in her educational career. She believes that it was because of the confidence she gained at VidyaGyan that she could turn her passion for art into a potential career and study Accessories Design. Today, Nisha is happy that her parents support her despite all the restrictions placed on girls in her milieu.

VISHAL was extremely motivated and supported by the VidyaGyan teachers who made a giant impression on him. "I think there can't be a better school than VidyaGyan in this whole world. They developed our emotional intelligence and helped us discover our life's goals," he says. In class, Vishal was an average student, sometimes even playing the fool. But Vishal has ambitious plans.

For a boy who was all set to leave school after Class 5, to earn a trade in auto mechanics or hairdressing, Vishal wants to one day construct his own indigenous PC. He also wants to start an NGO which will revolutionise education, build a library in every village, give homes to orphans and give employment to the poor.

He believes that the real importance of education is understood by people who can't afford it, because they know education is the only thing that can change their life.

*We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own. **– Cesar Chavez***

ASHWIN, B.Tech, Information Technology, SSN, 2008; MBA, SSN School of Management, 2012

Others in college remember Ashwin as a boy with a fighting spirit, who led SSN to many inter-university wins, and bounced back from losses with a great attitude. He has always impressed observers with his astute strategic thinking, innovation and lightning ability to learn.

As an engineering student at SSN, the college supported him wholeheartedly – arranging special classes, giving him scholarships and taking him through an academic rigour that disciplined him, gave him the ability to take on challenges, and the shrewd improvisation he is now well known for.

Among other records of international cricket, in 2017, he became the fastest bowler to take 300 Test wickets, shattering Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee's 36 year-old record. Born in Chennai, Ashwin was inspired by his father to start playing cricket. His start as an opening batsman gave way to his brilliance as a bowler (first medium pace, and then off-spin) and he soon came to be known as an all-rounder.

Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort. – ***Paul J. Meyer***

SHAILY UPADHYAYA,
Class 11, Shiv Nadar School, Noida

It is her brilliance at the sport that will take her places, but by working hard for her Class 10 exams and doing well in academics, Shaily is ensuring that she has a future beyond playing basketball. Painfully shy but with a highly intelligent gleam in her eyes, Shaily says, "The most important moment in my life was when I joined this school. Because I could keep playing basketball and excel at it, and they supported me so much. Especially the teachers – not just the sports teachers – everyone."

Being away from school for two months at a time, Shaily would not have managed if it weren't for the remedial classes she had, the teachers who came in early to teach her, and the support she got from everyone around her.

Shaily was already playing for the Under-14 team when she joined SNS. Prodded by the school, she went on to represent Uttar Pradesh in the state level. While playing a match at SNS, she impressed her coaches so much that they offered her 100% scholarship which made her the first SNS student to be so.

KIRITHIGAA is a member of the founding batch of SNU. When she joined, it was a leap of faith. This was the first year of its existence. But she was inspired by the founding vision. "I loved the idea of trying to create the equivalent of an Ivy League college in India." During these four years, she discovered her passion for education. She now works with the Central Square Foundation, on a project to reform education in Bihar.

She can speak at length regarding the issues. Her analysis is precise and logical. What would she tell parents to make them understand the value of education? "Education will help your child make sense of the world," she says.

MEHUL KUMAR is a bright, soft-spoken young man from a small village in Uttar Pradesh. He is a member of the founding batch of VidyaGyan. Not many were aware of VidyaGyan then. Before VidyaGyan, he had no idea what engineering was, or what computer science was. Nowadays, he finds Java particularly interesting. Like most students his age, he is thinking about his career, and considering the balance between job satisfaction and the pursuit of financial success.

While he considers his own future, he is also quite clear about the need to support others. Over the next few years, he plans to support other kids from his village with contributions from his salary. "I'll help them get through college," he says.

Originally from Tamil Nadu, **PRANAV SRIDHAR** was born and brought up in Kolkata. At SNU, he appreciated the exposure to a wide variety of disciplines, and the social values that it stood for. In his fourth year, he went as an exchange student to Duke Kunshan University in China, Kunshan, where he developed an interest in global health issues. He now works with the Institute for Transformative Technologies, which enhances development outcomes through technology. He and his team have helped to develop an organic solution that converts human waste into compost. Another initiative he is proud of is a proprietary solar mini-grid, which provides electricity to extremely remote villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

What technologies does he prefer focusing on? "Anything that delivers results," he says.

NARENDRAN MOHANA Sundaram's family has been residents of Chennai for over one hundred years. A bright student in school, he had many options. He joined the SSN Institutes, despite the fact that it was very new then. After graduating in 1999, he joined HCL, during the crucial period when the global IT industry was shifting focus from hardware to software. Narendran is a pioneer in his field. While the subject of data and data analytics has attracted widespread interest recently, Narendran has been working as a data analyst for close to 20 years.

He sees a strong philosophical connect between SSN and HCL. "My personality, my character, my values were formed there," he says, "In both SSN and HCL, it was a culture of taking ownership, of doing. We were very natural. No one wasted time on posing."

25 YEARS

SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

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