



Encourage Education. Cultivate Knowledge. Enable Development

November 2024: VIDYA GYAN (in the U.S. and INDIA) ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROGRESS

Vidya Gyan Initiative

Vidya Gyan Initiative	Impact in District Saharanpur's Rural Government Schools
❖ Pencil to Power -----	~70,000 Notebooks distributed to ~22,000 children since 2016
❖ Nirmal Neer Mission -----	~3,000 water bottles to students in primary grades in 2022
❖ Savings to Secure (Sukanya Accounts) ----	Over 1000 girls' accounts opened with Vidya Gyan support
❖ Adopt a Girl Child -----	20 girls adopted since 2021
❖ Super 20 (for Learning and Leadership)----	~400 students in 30 "Super 20s" in 20 schools in 2024
❖ Classroom furniture -----	21 schools affecting over 2000 students since 2018
❖ Library for Learning -----	Children's reading books to ~20 schools
❖ Technology tools -----	20 schools received LED(smart) TV and a printer
❖ Computer Labs -----	2 rural schools furnished for basic computer instructions
❖ Competitive activities -----	Over 180 schools since 2022
❖ During Covid -----	14 Oxygen Concentrators and 10,000 face masks

In 2014, Vidya Gyan received tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization from the Internal Revenue Service in the United States. This was a dream come true for the co-founders. Building on this success, our sister organization, Vidya Gyan India, was established in 2016 and has since been granted tax-exempt status under 12A and 80G. Both organizations have been progressing steadily, although the delay in the approval for our Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration has slowed progress. Our leadership remains committed and has diligently responded to three inquiries from the FCRA in 2024. We are pleased to report that our application is currently under active review.

In 2024, Vidya Gyan's initiatives are prominently showcased through photographs, particularly highlighting our Super 20 networked schools, reflecting the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." While visuals speak volumes, we believe that concise descriptions are also important. We hope our readers will appreciate our streamlined approach.

This year, we made a conscious effort to expand the Super 20 network, nearly doubling its size compared to last year. This achievement would not have been possible without the deep trust we've built with the school staff, our generous donors, and dedicated volunteers. Their unwavering support has been crucial to advancing our mission: "Every Child Matters." Thanks to our donors' generosity, we were able to provide notebooks and stationery to approximately 4,000 students through our Pencil to Power initiative. We also provided smart TVs and printers to schools.

Every contribution to Vidya Gyan plays a vital role in enhancing educational opportunities. Your support, no matter the amount, is invaluable in our quest for improved learning. We encourage you to use the DONATE button below, as your trust empowers us to make a difference.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to teacher collaborators, parents, and school administrators for the opportunities provided to Vidya Gyan. This year has been filled with highlights, including the recognition of Super 20 teachers in various forums, the "Super Sunday" meeting, and teachers being featured in the newspaper. Students in our Super 20 schools excelled not only in academics but also in creative activities, sports, and competitions.

Thank you to all Vidya Gyan donors and friends—you are truly making a difference in the lives of future leaders in rural communities.

click here 

[Donate/Contribute to Vidya Gyan](#)

WHAT IS SUPER 20 (S-20)?



The S-20 initiative was designed to identify about 20 bright students in grades 3 and 6 for advanced learning and leadership development, with their progress monitored over a three-year period. The map on the left, featured on the cover of our 2024 notebooks, illustrates the network of schools in Saharanpur district that embraced the Vidya Gyan vision and joined the S-20.

Earlier in 2024, we conducted visits to around a dozen schools to assess the learning of S-20 students. While our assessment lacked scientific rigor, it produced mixed results: about half of the students were classified as "Saksham," while the other half showed less progress. Encouragingly, teachers reported their effectiveness in fostering student learning at rates of 80-95%. This self-assessment reflects a strong commitment to educational improvement. As the late Dr. Abdul Kalam, former President of India and esteemed space scientist, famously said, "FAIL" means "First Attempt In Learning," reminding us that setbacks are part of the journey.

We reached out to additional schools to invite them to join the S-20 initiative and assess teachers' commitment to collaborative efforts with support by the head teacher. During our meeting on Sunday, March 31 (the Super Sunday), we were delighted to welcome a large group of dedicated teachers. Their willingness to spend their Sunday with us underscores their genuine commitment to enhancing student learning.

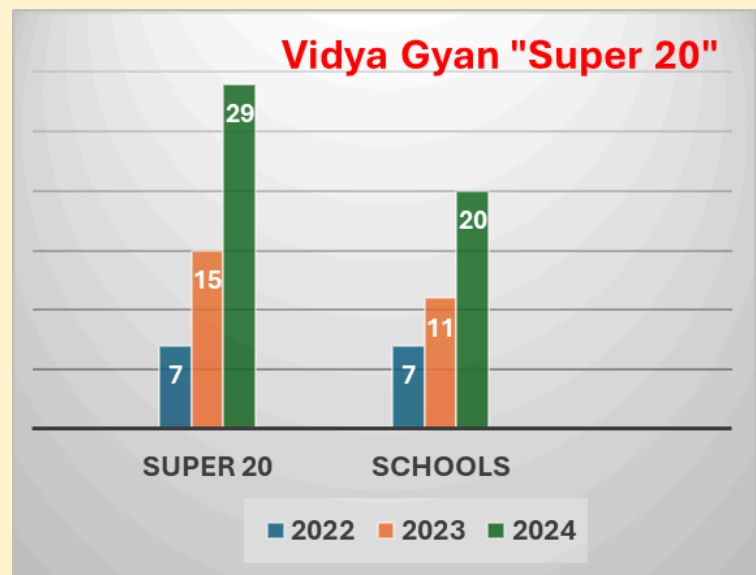
By the Numbers (in 2024)

- **S-20 hosts:**
22 Primary classes and 7 Upper Primary classes
- **Total Number of S-20 Students:** ~ 400
- **Number of Development Blocks:** 9
- **Stationery to Students** (focus on **writing** 🖋️) ~ 4000

S-20 is also designed to encourage and strengthen inter- and intra-school communication, collaboration, and collegiality among teachers. Building a strong parent-teacher relationship and promoting pride (Our School: Our Pride) are equally important objectives.

With unconditional support from the teachers, we are on the way to being a role model for learning and leadership. Call it "Beyond NIPUN" momentum as most S-20 schools are Saksham or nearly Saksham in NIPUN. Vidya Gyan appreciates and expects commitment, collaboration, confidence, care, and compassion for children's learning. Together, as a S-20 family, we build and strengthen trust and take pride in what we do.

Your generosity can educate, shape a better future, and enable every child's exit from the shackles of poverty and ignorance.



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about the culture and manners, to make the students aware of the same. Super-20 teachers include, Pratibha Yadav (U.P.S. Azamgarh), Sanjiv Kumar (U.P.S. Kutubpur Labdaula), Vinodra Goel (U.P.S. Jainpur, Nakur), and Smrity Chaudhary (U.P.S. Jhansi) for their mentoring in Sanskarshala.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ACCOMPLISHED TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Vidya Gyan family is proud of all the schools in its network and an unconditional support of their teachers, students, and parents. We appreciate every one of our teachers in our network. Nonetheless, we would be remiss without special mention and hearty congratulations for the exceptional accomplishments as follows.



Deepa Rani
U.P. State Teacher Awardee



Smrity Choudhary and Dileep Singh
District-level ICT nominees to the State

- Sanjeev Kumar, Ravinder Goel, Smriti Choudhary and Upendra Singh: regional/national awards.
- Anita Sharma (Principal, P.S. Khandlana) and Vishakha Chauhan (Principal U.P.S. Sadholi Hariya): Among the top ten schools in district Saharanpur for 100% results in their Schools.
- Students of U.P.S. Sadholi Hariya, U.P.S. Sabdalpur, U.P.S. Ismailpur, P.S. Dhakadevi, and P.S. Saidpura won Gold and Silver medals in sports competitions at their respective NPRCs.
- U.P. S. Sadholi Hariya students for top award in Math and Science competition at the district level.

Greater Noida based Gurukul and an NGO (Vikas Vishranti): Notebooks' distribution



SUPER 20 SCHOOLS IN THE PHOTO GALLERY

The photos on the following pages capture a range of activities across schools. Students are shown enjoying the Pencil to Power initiative with new stationery, displaying creative projects, and engaging in classroom activities. One photo features students taking a test outdoors, another highlights students with their I-badge and yet another image shows the use of a smart board during a quiz on festivals.

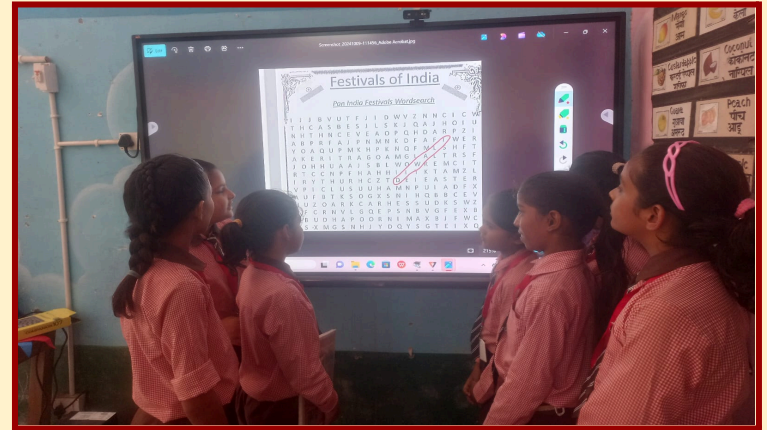


Dhakadevi, Baliakheri, Aakhlor Kheri, Khandlana, and Jainpur



Sadholi Hariya, Ismailpur, Lakhnaur, and Jhadwan

Chauradev, Mahtauli, Saidpura, and Sabdalpur



Firozabad, Kutubpur Labdaula, and Ismailpur

Umahi, Jainpur, Sabdalpur, and Sadholi Hariya

SELECTED ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.



HINDI CLASSES FOR YOUNGSTERS

Families are very interested in having their sons and daughters learn Hindi with sufficient proficiency to hold conversation with the grandparents back home. Vidya Gyan was pleased to have Dr. Vandana Yadav, who volunteered to teach Hindi to youngsters while visiting her daughter in the Minneapolis area.



Two dance performances under Vidya Gyan's banner during Diwali celebration for the Geeta Ashram and Hindu Mandir audience. Volunteer students, families, and the choreographer (our Board member) deserve our gratitude.

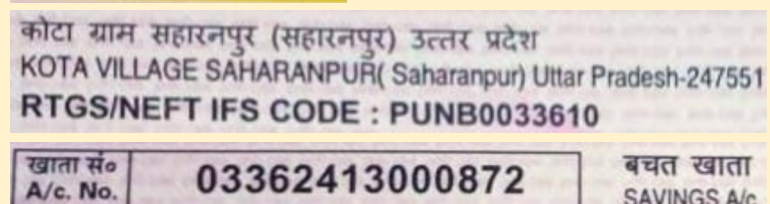
CLOSING THOUGHTS / GRATITUDE

Vidya Gyan is dedicated to empowering future generations in rural government schools through education (Vidya) and knowledge (Gyan). Driven by passionate volunteers in India and the United States, the initiative believes in the mantra "Every Child Matters" and seeks to give back to the community that nurtured them.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, dedicated teachers, volunteers, and supportive schools for their commitment to uplifting children through education. Your contributions and guidance empower young minds and foster a brighter future. Together, we create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for championing education and making a lasting impact. Your tax-deductible contributions can be directed to:

Bank account details for donating INR to Vidya Gyan India



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