

Mr Shiv Nadar was born and raised in southern state of Tamil Nadu (one of the 29 states in India). Studying his way through the Indian schooling and graduate system, a scholastically-gifted student confronted both the harsh realities and the opportunities of a struggling Indian state before he saw his first big town, Chennai, at the age of 21. His story is both a reflection of the times he lived in as well as the future that he always dreamt of shaping.

He was part of the elite DCM management trainee system where he met several of the people with whom he was soon to impact an entire industry as a pioneer of modern computing. In 1976, eight young men left DCM to create HCL in a Delhi Barsati “akin to a garage startup” with a compelling vision – that the microprocessor would change the world.

A visionary, Mr Nadar made HCL an engine of invention turning dreams into reality. HCL, under Nadar’s leadership, revolutionized Indian technology and product innovation with many world firsts to its credit – the first 8-bit microprocessor-based computer in 1978, the first Relational Database Management System in 1983 before some of its global peers, client- server architecture in 1984, world’s first fine-grained multi-processor UNIX installation in 1989, among others. HCL has evolved into a \$7 billion global enterprise with over 110,000 professionals from 102 diverse nationalities, who operate from 70 countries, including over 500 points of presence in India.

After playing a key role in putting India on the global technology map, HCL in 2014 diversified and forayed into healthcare, an area of paramount national importance. HCL Healthcare aspires to be the nation’s leading healthcare company by providing innovative medical services, products and training to meet the growing demand for quality healthcare.

In 1994, Nadar established what he believed was closest to his heart - the philanthropic Shiv Nadar Foundation and created its first initiative in Chennai, the SSN Institutions, that is a top ranked engineering college. Today the Foundation is a significant driver of social change and transformational education through its landmark institutions spanning the entire education spectrum from schools to universities. VidyaGyan, an innovation in school education, reaches out to the ‘top of the bottom of the pyramid’ and creates leaders from across the cross- section of the society. A young and a unique research-led interdisciplinary university, the Shiv Nadar University has been identified as India’s first Ivy League institution.

In 2012, two K-12 campuses commenced, with a third in 2015. Its motto is, “Education for Life.”

Parents are looking towards Shiv Nadar Schools to not just copy the past. They seek the delivery to their children the 4Cs of creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. They expect these correct ingredients to be included and for the school to discard the bad ones needed in our new work force today. Globalisation, automation and flexible working hours, the fact our future students will not just have 1 or 2 jobs in their lifetimes.

Education is an act of hope in the face of an always-uncertain future. I am excited to have connected in their dream of building a reputation for high-quality, challenging programmes of education that develop internationally minded young people who are well prepared for the challenges of life in the 21st century and are able to contribute to creating a better, more peaceful world. This is the Shiv Nadar School way, an “Education for Life.”