

## PRESS RELEASE

# World Summit on Innovation & Entrepreneurship honours Roshni Nadar Malhotra

*Felicitated with the Worlds' Most Innovative People Award in Philanthropic Innovation*

**New Delhi/ New York, September 30, 2014: The World Summit on Innovation & Entrepreneurship**, held in New York awarded the **World's Most Innovative People Award in Philanthropic Innovation** to **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation and CEO HCL Corporation**. The award was conferred for VidyaGyan, a path-breaking initiative in rural leadership development by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. **Manvi Chaudhary, a Standard XI student of VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh** from the first batch of the school, who is currently in the United States on the Kennedy-Lugar AFS Youth Exchange Program, received the award on Roshni's behalf.

**The World Summit on Innovation & Entrepreneurship** was launched in 2006 at the United Nations with the mission to use innovation to improve and transform lives. It was launched under the support of three UN agencies, OECD, in partnership with many multinationals such as PepsiCo, Cisco, Boeing, HP, Microsoft, CNBC and Business Week. **The World Most Innovative People Awards** honor remarkable leaders whose contributions to education, energy, environment, arts, business, technology and health have demonstrably benefitted the prosperity of their families, companies and communities. Past recipients include Bill Gates – Technology Innovation; Stephen Hawking – Science Innovation; Desmond Tutu – Social Innovation; David Jones – Social Business Innovation; Tarja Halonen – Collaborative Innovation among many others.

Accepting the award, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation and CEO HCL Corporation** said, "This is a great honor and I thank the World Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for this recognition and for having created a platform that so seamlessly integrates innovation with economic growth and development. I believe that in today's increasingly fragile socio-economic ecosystem, innovation is a powerful medium for enabling inclusive, transformational and sustainable change. Education is a great leveler and at the Shiv Nadar Foundation, we believe that the best minds, irrespective of their socio-economic background, when given the right opportunity can even excel their privileged counterparts across various fields."

"The World's Most Innovative People Award pays tribute to the most original, creative and effective thinkers in the world today," said **Sam Hamdan, Chairman & Curator, The WSIE 2014**. "I congratulate Roshni Nadar Malhotra and the Foundation for creating a remarkable and truly innovative initiative like VidyaGyan. This Philanthropic Innovation award is a tribute to VidyaGyan's vision and its vast potential to become a high-impact, replicable model of transformation for every developing nation. I strongly believe that the VidyaGyan students will become role models in their country by inspiring their families and communities and society at large."

### **About Shiv Nadar Foundation**

*The Shiv Nadar Foundation ([www.ShivNadarFoundation.org](http://www.ShivNadarFoundation.org)) has been established by Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL - a \$6.5 billion leading technology and healthcare enterprise. 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*

**HCL**

**SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION**

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 Bulandshar 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 multi-disciplinary 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.

#### **About VidyaGyan Leadership Academy**

Established in 2009 by the Shiv Nadar Foundation, VidyaGyan ([www.vidyagyan.in](http://www.vidyagyan.in)) is a radical social experiment in nurturing leadership from among highly gifted rural poor children in Uttar Pradesh. VidyaGyan currently runs two schools in Bulandshahr and Sitapur and houses over 1400 students. A third school is currently being planned. VidyaGyan is not any other school for the underprivileged, but is a state-of-the-art leadership academy that 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 and contribute to leveling the urban-rural divide and inspire others to undertake more such initiatives.