

Lion V.P. Nandakumar PMJF**International Director****Chairman, Manappuram Group of Companies, Thrissur, Kerala**

Lion V.P. Nandakumar PMJF is the Chairman of the Manappuram Group of companies based at Valapad, Thrissur (Kerala). Its flagship, Manappuram Finance Ltd., is one of India's leading NBFCs dominant in gold loans. Founded in 1949 at Valapad by his father, the late V.C. Padmanabhan, Lion Nandakumar took over the reins of this one branch business in 1986 after his father expired. Since then, it has been a story of unprecedented growth and Lion Nandakumar's leadership was instrumental in scripting the story. Today, the Manappuram group is a nationwide presence with over 4,500 branches across 28 Indian states and UTs, more than 26,000 employees, and assets under management (AUM) exceeding Rs.22,000 crore.

Lion V.P. Nandakumar has received numerous recognitions for his contributions to business. Most recently, in December 2019, Manappuram Finance Ltd. was declared the largest wealth creator of the year among ET500 companies with market capitalization of over Rs.5,000 crore by Economic Times.

Besides focus on business, the cause of the wider community is central to his vision. He established the Manappuram Foundation at Valapad in 2009 to drive the corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme of the Manappuram group. Today, the Manappuram Foundation has partnered extensively with Lions Clubs International in implementing a range of service in India.

Lion Nandakumar is a Managing Committee member of leading trade and industry associations such as ASSOCHAM, FICCI and the FIDC. Born in 1954, he holds a post graduate degree in science with additional qualifications in Banking and Foreign Trade. In December 2013, he took part in a Global Strategic Leadership Program at the Wharton Business School, Philadelphia (USA).

Lionism: Lion V.P. Nandakumar was elected to serve as international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 102nd International Convention, held in Milan, in July, 2019. He became a Lion in 1981 after joining the Triprayar Lions Club. Lion Nandakumar has held a number of offices within the association including multiple district council chairperson, board appointee, and member of the LCIF Corporate, Foundation & Government Gifts Committee.

In recognition of his service, Lion Nandakumar has received an International President's Leadership Award, an International President's Award and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Second Century Ambassador.

Family: Lion Nandakumar's wife, Lion Sushama Nandakumar, is a retired headmistress and presently the Managing Director of their retail jewellery venture, Manappuram Jewellers Ltd. They have three children, of whom the eldest is a Gynaecologist based in Kochi, the middle son is based in the UK where he manages his business, while the youngest son works as an Assistant Vice President in Manappuram Finance Ltd.