

T S KALYANARAMAN

Mr. T. S. Kalyanaraman is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kalyan Jewellers. Kalyanaraman was born in Thrissur City to Seetharamaiyer in year 1951. He learned the business from his father when he was 12 by helping his father in his shop. Later he joined Sree Kerala Varma College and studied commerce. His journey as a businessman started at the age of 12 when he was taken to his family owned textile shop to learn the basics from his father. After managing Kalyan Textiles, he set up Kalyan Jewellers on his own in 1993 with an investment of Rs 75 lakh and in a span of less than two decades the company has grown to be India's largest and most trusted jewellery retail company.

The ancestors of the present management of Kalyan Jewellers come from a pious family of saints and priests, called 'Trikkur Madom' in Thrissur district of Kerala. They migrated from Tamil Nadu generations back and lived as saints and advisors to kings. The family entered in business for a noble cause inspired by a senior relative who was a Dewan to the Maharaja of Kochi, Raja Bahadur Ramachandra Iyer. In those days of pre-independence India, the Dewan encouraged Indians to start business and enterprise to create employment and also to become self-sufficient as a country. He realized the social impact of business and therefore had stressed the need to do it in a fair and honest manner. It was this inspiration for nation-building and social commitment that led to the forefathers of the Kalyan family to enter business through one of the first textile mills in Kerala. Subsequently they entered into textile retailing and the present Managing Director Mr. T. S. Kalyanaraman still owns the textile store he inherited called Kalyan Textiles.

T S Kalyanaraman got inducted into business by his father when he was a school going boy of 12. His father would encourage him to watch the business at the textile shop, after he was finished with his lessons and games. He would be assigned small tasks like counting cash and taking stock – which he enjoyed very much. Thus, he learnt the basics very early in life. Over a period of time, the textile business flourished. At some point, customers suggested that they needed a trusted jeweller and that is how this business was born, in 1993.

Kalyan Jewellers has its origins in Kalyan Textiles, a century old firm in Thrissur, engaged in textile retailing. Kalyan Jewellers are presently engaged in retailing of

jewellery in gold, silver, platinum, diamond and pearls. The company was founded in 1993 and is based in, Thrissur, Kerala.

The company is investing around Rs 1300 crore on pan-India expansion. It is also expanding its network in the Gulf region next year. The company operates 52 stores and has ambitious plans to open 80 more showrooms in the next three years. These are being planned in almost all Tier 1 & 2 cities, Middle East, GCC Countries, Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The company has also diversified into real estate development through a separate firm named Kalyan

Mr. T.S. Kalyanaraman was included in the 2013 Forbes List of Billionaires, and is ranked 52 in India and 1342 globally.

His sons, Rajesh Kalyanaraman and Ramesh Kalyanaraman, help in running the business. Rajesh manages Finance and Procurement. Younger brother Ramesh manages Sales and Marketing.