Board of Directors

Capt. C.P. Krishnan Nair (Chairman Emeritus and Founder Chairman)

Capt. Nair pioneered the export of fabrics to the USA in the late 1950s with the “Bleeding Madras” fabric. He was the first in the organized sector to set up a unit to produce cotton laces in India with Scottish Collaboration in Leela Scottish Lace Private Limited. He was also instrumental in organizing the “Small Exporters’ Guild” which helped many small exporters. He promoted The Leela Mumbai in 1986, The Leela Goa in 1990 and The Leela Palace Bangalore in 2001.

Mr. Vivek Nair (Chairman & Managing Director)

Mr. Vivek Nair (B.A. Hons.) Post Graduate in Hotel Management) after graduating from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Mr. Vivek Nair underwent a post graduate program in hotel management from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration in Ithaca, New York, USA and has over 30 years of experience. Mr. Vivek Nair is the Chairperson of the World Travel and Tourism Council, India Initiative (WTTCII) for the year 2011. He is also on the Board of some well-known listed companies like TFCI and VIP. He is also the nominee director of the Government of Kerala on the Board of Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC). He is an executive committee member of the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) of the Government of India and is currently the Vice president of the FHRAI, the apex body representing the hospitality industry which represents more than 3,550 hotels and restaurants in the country and also the President of South Indian Hotels & Restaurants Association (SIHRA).

Mr. Dinesh Nair (Co-Chairman & Managing Director)

Mr. Dinesh Nair (B.Com) took over management of Leela Scottish Lace Private Limited in the early 1980s and focused on the American Juniors Sportswear market. He was instrumental in ensuring rapid growth in sales, transforming Leela Scottish Lace Private Limited into one of the largest manufacturer and exporter of fashion garments from India to the USA. Mr. Nair has been associated with the Company since its inception, and has 32 years' experience in management, administration, exports, marketing, materials and hotel management.

Mrs. Madhu Nair (Non-Executive)

Mrs. Madhu Nair {B.A. (Hons.) Sociology} joined the Board in September, 2001 and has a wide and varied experience in the field of interior design and project coordination spanning a period of approximately eighteen years.

Mrs. Anna Malhotra (Independent)

Mrs. Malhotra is a retired I.A.S. officer who has held positions in the Government of India, including those of Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Education and Chairperson of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, the high-tech port of India based in Mumbai.

Mr. M. Narasimham {Independent)

Mr. Narasimham, (M.A. Economics) was the former Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Finance Secretary to the government of India. He was also the Executive Director on the World Bank and the IMF, besides being the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank.

Mr. Vijay Amritraj {Independent)

Mr. Amritraj, {B.Com, D.Lit (Hons)} is a graduate of the University of Madras and has been India's captain of the Davis Cup team and a renowned international tennis star and, more recently, television entrepreneur. He was also appointed an international peace ambassador by the U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

Mr. Anil Harish (Independent)

Mr. Harish, {B.A., LL.B, LL.M (USA) } is an eminent advocate and non-executive director of several Indian companies.

Dr. K.U. Mada (Independent)

Dr. Mada, (M.A. {Econ), Ph.D Dip. In Fin. Mgt. FICA} has 27 years' experience working for the RBI / Industrial Development Bank of India (where he was appointed Executive Director). Dr. Mada is an experienced development banker, economist and company Director. Dr. Mada has served as a director of various corporate bodies for the past 31 years, and has been a participant and speaker at several international conferences on management, corporate and economic affairs.

Mr. Venu Krishnan (Deputy Managing Director)

Mr. Venu Krishnan has been associated with the Company for over 26 years. He has extensive experience in project implementation, commercial and administrative matters. He led the project team that implemented the Goa Hotel Project in 1991. He is currently responsible for the commercial operations of Leela Scottish Lace Private Limited and is also involved in the commercial and legal issues of the Company.

Mr. A. K.Dasgupta (Independent)

Mr. A. K. Dasgupta is Qualified Civil Engineer with approximately 50 years of experience and has worked in several Engineering Companies in India. Mr. Dasgupta is having extensive experience in setting up projects in Diverse Industries. He was awarded the Shiroman Award in 1990. He has also published several journals. Presently, he is also the independent Directors of several well-known textile companies.

Mr. Krishna Deshika (Director Finance & CFO)

Mr. Krishna Deshika (B.Com, LL.B., F.C.A, F.C.S.), aged 55 years, has nearly thirty one years of extensive experience in the field of finance, accounts, company secretarial, legal and commercial functions. He was with the JSW Group for about 15 years, with Millipore India Limited for 2 years and with HMT Limited for about 14 years. In JSW Group, he was the Director Finance of JSW Energy Limited till March 2007. Subsequently, in his capacity as Joint Group CFO, he was on the Board of JSW Bengal Steel Limited, JSW Energy (Bengal) Limited, JSW Aluminium Limited, JSW Cement Limited and JSW Infrastructure Limited. He is currently responsible for the Accounts, Finance, Taxation and Company Secretarial functions of the Company.

Mr. Indur Kirpalani (Independent)

Mr. Indur Kirpalani (also known as Andrew), a Graduate, aged 63 years, based in USA, has over two decades of industry experience at senior level in reputed companies, (incl. St. Michel Sportswear Ltd.) before becoming an entrepreneur. He is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of Andrew Sports club, Inc. since 1983 which owns several high value brands of apparels having an annual turnover in excess of $100 million. He is also an investor in several ventures globally including IT related Real Estate ventures. He is also the Chairman of the Indian Garments Import Association in the USA and also a noted Philanthropist and recipient of several recognitions/awards for contributing to the well being of communities and local events.

Mr. Madhavan Nambiar (Independent)

Mr. Madhavan Nambiar, (I.A.S., M.B.A.)retired as Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, where he was closely involved in the airport privatization programs, especially in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore.Earlier, he held posts as Secretary in the Ministry of Information Technology, as Chairman and Managing Director of ELCOT and also TIDCO in the State of Tamil Nadu.He is a fellow at the Judge Business School, Cambridge University. At present he is the Chairman of C-DOT Alcatel Lucent Research Centre Pvt. Limited.

Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma (AAI Nominee)

Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma (B.E. (Electrical), M.B.A.) has nearly three decades of rich and varied experience in the field of airport engineering, management and operations, which includes planning, costing, tendering for various projects. He has held various senior positions at Airports Authority of India (AAI) such as Quality Manager in Quality Assurance Cell, Head of Engineering Department of AAI, Western Region, Airport Director at Jammu and Bhopal, OSD to AAI Chairman, etc. At present, he is the Regional Executive Director of AAI, Western Region.

Mr. Tondehal Ravindranath (Nominee of Syndicate Bank)

Mr. Tondehal Ravindranath is holding a Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Science, JAIIB and a Post-graduate Diploma in EDP & Computer Management. As a banker, he has rich exposure in various fields like Rural Development, Marketing & Credit. He is working with Syndicate Bank since last more than 3 decades in various states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the capacities of the Branch Manager heading Corporate Finance Branches, Managing Director of Farmers Service Society and also as Regional Head of the Region. Presently, he is heading the Corporate Credit Department of Syndicate Bank at Corporate Office, Bangalore as General Manager (Credit).