Gen-Next Takes Charge at TVS Sundaram Group

The Chennai based TVS group's succession plan is being smoothly executed and setting an example of how to groom and handover the business reigns to the next generation. As part of the succession plan, Sudarshan Venu, the 22 year old son of Venu Srinivasan, Chairman and managing Director of **Sundaram-Clayton Limited** was appointed as the company's additional director. Sudarshan is a Wharton School graduate. Sudarshan's sister, Lakshmi who joined the firm as a management trainee, now serves the company as director – strategy, export markets and is located in the US. The group also announced the appointment of Krishna Mahesh, the son of K Mahesh, Chairman and Managing Director of **Sundaram Brake Linings** (SBL) as the chief operating officer of SBL. Krishna is a Harvard MBA graduate.

Arathi and Arundathi, daughters of Suresh Krishna, Chairman and Managing Director, *Sundaram Fasteners Limited* are driving the company's future business initiatives. Presently Arathi is the company's joint managing director while Arundathi is a whole time director. Shobana Ramachandran, the daughter of R Ramachandran, who was the chairman of TVS Sundaram Iyengar & Sons, has been serving as the managing director of *TVS Shrichakra*. In June this year, Harsha Viji, son of S Viji, chairman of *Sundaram Finance Limited*, was appointed as the director of Sundaram Finance, the Chennai based non-banking finance company of the group.

Observers close to the group cite TVS as the best example of family leaders grooming professional managers from within the family members. Young family members are professionally trained, inducted at a junior level and work their way up. Now when the next generation has learnt the tricks of the trade, the baton has been smoothly handed over to them.

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