

## Prakash Rao

*Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer –  
Indirect Investments*



Prakash is a seasoned professional with 35 years of rich experience in the financial services sector. His areas of expertise include corporate finance, project finance, infrastructure lending, infrastructure investments, credit risk management, strategy and building new businesses.

He joined NIIF in early 2016 and being one of the first employees of the firm, he has been instrumental in setting the foundation pillars of NIIF. Some of his key contributions include developing the business strategy for NIIF, setting up systems and processes, creating policies, leading the initial fund raise in Middle East and Singapore, building the ESG practice, setting up of the NIIF Fund of Funds to name a few. In the initial stages of NIIF, Prakash led the HR, finance, accounts, compliance and administration functions. He has played a pivotal role in the acquisition of IDFC's IDF arm and setting up of Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited, the NBFC platform of NIIF.

Prior to joining NIIF, Prakash spent over three decades with State Bank of India (SBI) and has led several key positions during his tenure with SBI. He started his career with SBI in 1982 as a Probationary Officer and worked on different roles including as Head of SBI's Western Canada Operations, where he led the Bank's foray into commercial operations in Canada. He was Deputy General Manager of North Bengal and Sikkim, General Manager in charge of the state of Punjab and Chandigarh, Deputy CEO of SBI Macquarie Infrastructure Fund, a USD 1.2 billion fund, a Joint Venture with Macquarie group of Australia. He then rose to become the Head of Private Equity, Infrastructure and Venture Capital Funds in State Bank of India and was instrumental in setting up SBI's own Private Equity arm SBICap Ventures.

In his last position at SBI, Prakash was the Chief General Manager in Charge of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry operations, where he led a team of 20,000 employees managing a balance sheet of USD 30 billion spread across 1100 branches.

Prakash holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Andhra University and is a member of Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India and holds a Diploma in Business Finance. He has participated in many executive education programmes from Harvard Business School, Duke University, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Indian School of Business and Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.