

## Sampath Kumar V.S.

Business Head, Transition Finance Group, Tata Capital

**S**ampath Kumar V.S. is an experienced infrastructure and energy finance professional with over 25 years of experience in project finance and advisory across South Asia. His expertise spans the infrastructure, transportation, power and clean energy sectors. He has worked with both international and domestic financial institutions, including Standard Chartered, IDFC and Tata Capital. He currently serves as business head of the Transition Finance Group at Tata Capital, where he leads financing initiatives for emerging cleantech and infrastructure sectors, which include electric mobility, green warehousing, data centres, smart meters and waste-to-energy.

In his current role, he finds the most fulfilment in being able to contribute to tangible economic, social and environmental outcomes through infrastructure and climate finance. “What excites me the most,” he says, “is the opportunity to finance next-generation climate-aligned businesses that are essential to India’s low-carbon transition.” According to Sampath, although capital is available, unlocking it at scale requires strong risk mitigation frameworks that can bridge the gap between investor expectations and the realities of emerging sectors. Focused on ensuring the flow of capital to sectors and projects where it is most needed, Sampath is committed to supporting the broader transition finance objectives of his team and Tata Capital.

He acknowledges that despite the growing momentum around transition finance, significant challenges remain. These include limited track records in newer sectors, evolving regulatory and contractual frameworks and a scarcity of long-term risk capital. Nevertheless, he views the current period of energy transition as one with tremendous opportunities. In his assessment, cost curve reductions in new technologies will make many projects commercially viable. Additionally, he sees India’s transition finance landscape benefiting from increasing policy clarity, blended finance instruments and rising investor interest in sustainability. He believes that enhanced collaboration across stakeholders will be essential to mainstream green investments and effectively channel financing towards building a vibrant and scalable transition finance ecosystem.



Outside of work, he likes to spend time with family and is an avid traveller, with a strong interest in history and culture. He often explores museums and heritage sites. He also enjoys cinema, theatre and reading, particularly biographies and historical narratives. He believes that these interests offer perspective, foster balance and often serve as sources of insight that inform his professional thinking. ■

## Abhinandan Sethi

Chief Operating Officer, SPML Infra Limited

**A**bhinandan Sethi is chief operating officer at SPML Infra Limited, a leading infrastructure company at the forefront of India’s development journey. With a legacy deeply rooted in ethical business, he has been instrumental in scaling operations, driving innovation and delivering large-scale projects in the water, energy and sanitation sectors.

With a firm belief that infrastructure is not just about engineering but also enabling lives, Sethi combines technical acumen with a strategic, people-centric approach. Under his leadership, SPML Infra has played a key role in executing flagship government initiatives such as the Jal Jeevan Mission. His focus has been on execution excellence, financial discipline and measurable impact, ensuring that projects are not only completed on time and within budget, but also deliver long-term value for the nation. Recognising the importance of future-ready infrastructure, he has led SPML Infra’s diversification into the battery energy storage system sector through a strategic partnership with the global pioneer, the US’s Energy Vault. This move reflects his commitment to advancing India’s clean energy transition and positioning SPML at the cutting edge of sustainable innovation.

Sethi’s leadership is defined by a rare blend of operational precision and visionary thinking. From hands-on project management to long-term strategic expansion, he oversees operations across India and internationally. His role spans business development, cross-sector collaborations and geographic diversification, ensuring SPML Infra remains agile in a rapidly evolving infrastructure landscape. Grounded by early responsibilities and a strong value system, Sethi brings resilience, clarity and emotional intelligence to complex decision-making. His leadership style is collaborative and empowering, rooted in accountability, transparency and data-driven action. He fosters a culture where teams are encouraged to take ownership while staying aligned with a shared vision of excellence and purpose.

Sethi holds a BSc from Boston University and an Executive MBA from the London Business School. Beyond work, he is an avid reader, cricket enthusiast and strong believer in physical wellness as a cornerstone of mental clarity. These practices help him maintain balance in a demanding role and stay centred amidst constant change. As SPML Infra steps into a new phase of growth, Sethi remains committed to building systems that are not only efficient and scalable, but deeply meaningful to the people they serve. ■

