



# All India State Bank of India Employees' Association

(Regn. 3528/87. Affiliated to All India Bank Employees' Association)

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**To All Members/Units**

## **SBI'S REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE:**

### **STEPPING INTO A NEW FINANCIAL YEAR WITH GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND VISION**

As we step into a new financial year after achieving remarkable milestones, it is essential to move forward with a clear vision and defined priorities. SBI's performance is not merely a measure of financial success but a reflection of its enduring responsibility in nation-building. While we take pride in the achievements of the previous year, the coming period demands sharper focus, strategic direction, and strengthened commitment to both business growth and social objectives. The challenge before us is not only to sustain this growth but to build upon it with clarity, inclusiveness, and long-term vision.

#### **1. People's Bank**

The performance of State Bank of India during the first three quarters of FY 2025–26 marks a significant progression over the previous financial year and stands as a testament to the collective strength of its workforce and the strategic direction of its leadership. With total business crossing ₹103 lakh crore, deposits exceeding ₹57 lakh crore, and advances nearing ₹47 lakh crore, the Bank continues to reinforce its position as the backbone of India's banking system. This growth, compared to the previous year, reflects improved credit expansion, stronger deposit mobilisation, and enhanced operational efficiency. Profitability has shown consistent upward momentum, with net profit reaching ₹60,348 crore and operating profit at ₹95,311 crore, while asset quality has further improved with Gross NPA declining to 1.57% and Net NPA to 0.39%, indicating sustained recovery efforts and prudent lending practices.

Serving over 52 crore customers, SBI represents an unparalleled banking outreach, contributing significantly to financial inclusion and literacy across the country. With a network of more than 22,500 branches, the Bank continues to maintain unmatched physical presence even as it rapidly advances in digital transformation. The sharp rise in digital adoption, 98.6% of transactions through alternate channels and over 68% of savings accounts opened through YONO-highlights a decisive structural shift in banking operations. While this transformation strengthens efficiency and accessibility, it also underscores the need to balance technology with human interface to sustain service quality and inclusiveness. Going forward, SBI is well-positioned to achieve higher growth and stronger financial stability; however, sustaining this trajectory will require focused attention on manpower strengthening, deeper engagement in priority sectors, and alignment with its broader social and developmental responsibilities.

#### **2. Leadership beyond Profitability**

While the performance of State Bank of India is not only comparable but clearly superior to leading private sector banks in terms of scale, reach, and inclusiveness, the real challenge ahead is to sustain and expand this growth in a balanced way. While top private banks report quarterly profits of ₹15,000–₹17,000 crore, SBI has surpassed this with ₹21,028 crore in Q3

alone, along with the largest balance sheet in the country. Unlike private banks that mainly focus on high-return urban markets, SBI has achieved strong growth across Retail, Agriculture, MSME, and Corporate sectors, while also improving asset quality.

Crossing ₹100 trillion business as early as Q2 shows not just the Bank's size, but also the strength of public sector banking in ensuring inclusive growth and economic stability. At a time when profit often takes priority over social responsibility, institutions like SBI play a vital role in supporting priority sectors and ensuring fair access to credit. Going forward, the focus must be on sustaining profitability while strengthening inclusive banking. Improving risk management, ensuring responsible lending, and expanding reach in underserved areas will be key to maintaining SBI's leadership and reinforcing the importance of public sector banking in India's development.

### **3. Aligning with Union Budget Priorities**

As India's growth is driven by infrastructure, MSMEs, agriculture, and financial inclusion, the role of State Bank of India becomes even more important in the coming financial year. The Union Budget has clearly highlighted these areas as key drivers of economic growth, and SBI's current performance—especially strong growth in SME and agriculture advances along with steady retail expansion—is well aligned with these priorities.

Going forward, there is good scope to increase credit to MSMEs, support start-ups, expand agri-finance, and improve the delivery of Direct Benefit Transfers and social security schemes. By aligning its business strategies with these national priorities, SBI can sustain its growth and further strengthen its role in supporting inclusive and balanced economic development.

### **4. Strengthening SHG Financing & Grassroots Economy**

Self Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as one of the most effective instruments for women empowerment, livelihood generation, and grassroots economic development. These groups are not just beneficiaries but active contributors to the economy through disciplined savings and responsible credit utilisation. For State Bank of India, strengthening engagement with SHGs offers a strong opportunity to expand priority sector lending while maintaining high-quality assets, as SHG loans are known for their strong repayment culture and low default rates.

In the coming financial year, there is significant scope to deepen this engagement by expanding credit linkage, simplifying procedures, and improving last-mile accessibility. A focused approach in this area can enhance rural livelihoods, support local entrepreneurship, and further strengthen the Bank's social banking role.

### **5. Staff Shortage & Need for Regular Recruitment**

While the Bank's performance is commendable, it has been achieved under conditions of staff shortage, particularly in the clerical cadre, where the existing level of recruitment has not been sufficient to meet the growing operational requirements arising from retirements, promotions, and business expansion. Sustaining and expanding this growth in the coming years will critically depend on strengthening human resources. The increasing shift towards digital transactions cannot be used as a justification to limit recruitment, as customer service, business development, and financial inclusion continue to rely significantly on human interface. The growing reliance on SBOSS engagements and outsourced manpower further reflects the gap between manpower availability and actual operational needs.

Going forward, while regular recruitment is taking place, there is a clear need to increase the scale of recruitment to adequately meet branch-level requirements. Ensuring sufficient permanent staff strength is essential for operational efficiency, accountability, and service quality. Strengthening workforce capacity is not merely an administrative necessity but a strategic requirement for sustaining growth, improving customer experience, and fulfilling the broader responsibility of State Bank of India towards society and employment generation.

As we move into the new financial year with renewed confidence, AISBIEA places on record its appreciation for the entire workforce and acknowledges the leadership for steering the Bank to greater heights. The achievements of the past year must now translate into a stronger, more inclusive, and forward-looking strategy. With clear priorities, strengthened human resources, and collective commitment, SBI will continue to lead not only in performance but also in fulfilling its larger role in India's economic and social transformation. Best wishes to all.

Yours comradely,



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