

The extension, which was expected, comes amid the lender's consolidation with its five associate banks and takeover of Bharatiya Mahila Bank. This move will provide continuity to the process of ongoing consolidation.

### Tamil Nadu govt enhances maternity leave from 6 to 9 months

The merger would make SBI the 45th largest bank in the world with an asset of over Rs 37 trillion with over 500 million customers and 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs.

SBI, which on its own has over 16,500 branches, including 191 foreign offices across 36 countries, is merging its five associates— State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad, apart from BMB.

Bhattacharya had also said that if given a second term, her first priority would be to “properly complete the merger. It would be one of the biggest thing I will do.”

The other two areas, where she would focus are NPA resolution and carrying on the digitisation drive.

Bhattacharya, who spends over 18 hours on the job, had said her second priority would be resolving bad loans issue.

“My second priority would be resolution of stressed assets rather than just NPA management. The outcomes on this front have to be more. We've done a lot of talking and a lot of efforts have gone towards creating these deals but now we need to see the end results of those. So, on the resolution piece, I hope I will be able to do much more,” she had said.

On digitisation, she said, “SBI has been making lots of efforts on digitisation. I hope I will be able to see early gains from it coming during the rest of my term.”