

Date	Headline	Publication	Edition	Page	Source
May 06, 2026	PNB net profit rises 14% in Jan-March	The Times of India	4Editions	21	Bureau

PNB net profit rises 14% in Jan-March

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported a 14% rise in net profit to Rs 5,225 crore in quarter ended March 31, aided by a decline in provisions and better asset quality compared to Rs 4,567 crore in same quarter of last financial year. The bank registered a net profit of Rs 16,904 crore in FY26, up 1.6% as compared to FY25. TNN

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May 06, 2026	PNB Sanctions One in Three Loans Digitally	The Economic Times	5Editions	5	Dheeraj Tiwari

PNB Sanctions One in Three Loans Digitally

Q4 net profit increases 14% YoY to ₹5,225 cr

Dheeraj Tiwari

New Delhi: Delhi-based Punjab National Bank is sanctioning every third loan through the digital mode and on a gross basis has crossed digital sanctions of ₹1 lakh crore.

Digital now account for more than 95% of our transactions, and we aim to have a ₹2 lakh crore book in FY27 through the digital mode, PNB's managing director, Ashok Chandra, told **ET**.

The bank on Tuesday posted a net profit of ₹5,225 crore for the fourth quarter of FY26, a 14% year-on-year (YoY) increase compared with

₹4,567 crore in the year-ago period. The net interest income during the March quarter of FY26, however, declined 3.5% YoY to ₹10,380 crore from ₹10,757 crore in Q4 FY25.

Chandra noted that there has been good growth in commissions, including bank guarantees, recovery through the technical write-off and treasury income. "These are the factors that have given a boost to the bank's profitability for the full year," he said, adding that for FY26 there is almost a 20% growth in the income from the treasury side.

The bank's scrip closed at ₹108, down by 0.68%, on the National Stock Exchange.



PNB MD Ashok Chandra

"We are expecting some good growth to happen in the CASA deposit and have put focus on the retail term deposit," he said, adding that the bank expects a 7% growth in net interest income for FY27.

Chandra said for FY27 the credit growth guidance is 12-13% and deposit guidance is 9-10%. "We will see a lot of traction happening in credit cards, cash management services and supply chain finance."

On recovery and upgradation, PNB has given guidance of ₹13,000 crore, of which ₹1,500 crore is through asset reconstruction companies, including NARCL. PNB's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) stood at 2.95% of gross advances as compared to 3.95% by the end of March 2024. Net NPAs came down to 0.29% from 0.4%. Chandra said the bank has not seen any impact on the balance sheet from the point of view of growth or asset quality due to West Asia crisis.

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May 06, 2026	PNB boosts cyber spend amid rising AI threats	Mint	8Editions	8	Reuters

PNB boosts cyber spend amid rising AI threats

Reuters

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India's Punjab National Bank is stepping up investments in cybersecurity and accelerating procurement of technology to guard against rising digital threats including those from advanced AI models, a senior executive said.

The country's third largest state-run lender by market capitalisation has earmarked about 20% of its technology budget for cybersecurity, or roughly 7 billion to 8 billion rupees (\$73.5 million - \$84 million) for the current financial year, executive director D Surendran told Reuters in an interview, adding that this allocation is more than 50% higher than the previous year.

"We don't want to compromise on this kind of expenditure," Surendran said, adding the bank will increase the spending further if required.

PNB's move comes amid heightened regulatory focus on risks emerging from advanced AI models including Anthropic's Mythos.

Last month India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman met with heads of top banks to gauge preparedness against AI-related cybersecurity risks. India's central bank has also been in talks with global regulators, lenders and government officials to understand the potential risks, Reuters has reported.

PNB is also fast-tracking purchases of security tools, including firewalls and other systems to address vulnerabilities, Surendran said.

"We have increased our frequency of audit... now we have made our audit process 24/7 so that the criticality will be identified fast," Surendran said.

Date	Headline	Publication	Edition	Page	Source
May 07, 2026	'Despite West Asia crisis, credit growth in FY27 may touch 14%	Business Standard	10Editions	1	Asit Ranjan Mishra

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'Despite West Asia crisis, credit growth in FY27 may touch 14%'



A day after the Centre announced the fifth edition of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, Punjab National Bank MD & CEO **Ashok Chandra** spoke to Asit Ranjan Mishra on what lies ahead for the banking sector.

Credit growth in FY27 could touch 14% despite W Asia crisis: PNB MD

Q&A A day after the government announced the fifth edition of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0), Punjab National Bank (PNB) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer **Ashok Chandra** speaks to Asit Ranjan Mishra in a video interview on what lies ahead for the banking sector. Edited Excerpts:

Will ECLGS 5.0 meaningfully help viable firms facing temporary stress due to the West Asia crisis, or will it postpone recognition of stress in the banking system?

■ No, the liquidity injection has happened at an appropriate time. Though I am not seeing any stress in the system as of now, while interacting with my exporters and importers who are dealing with those West Asian countries, I did visualise that, going forward, some challenges will definitely come in the system. Maybe from the month of June, July, when LC (Letters of Credit) repayments start crystallising. We understand our responsibility, and we will definitely facilitate the funds for the required entrepreneurs to ensure that they are not affected by liquidity concerns.

How much of PNB's current Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and aviation portfolio will be eligible for ECLGS 5.0?

■ We will have to calculate that data, but it (the scheme) is for all MSMEs. This time, there is no SMA (Special Mention Account) 0,1, or 2. Everybody will be eligible. As per the requirement, we need to verify, and if we feel that the genuine requirement is there, I think the bank has to take a call on that.

What are the challenges that you foresee from your experience of earlier rollouts?

■ Last time, during the Covid-19 period, it was one of the important factors that saved the MSME sector. Even if NPAs (non-performing assets) in the MSME segment were in the range of around 3-4 per cent, the scheme facilitated the sector to overcome a challenging situation. In this phase, it (ECLGS 5.0) will facilitate MSME entrepreneurs to meet those challenges and come out successfully once this entire challenging period (the West Asia crisis) is over.

Are there any particular lessons from the implementation of



«... THE MORE YOU GO TOWARDS A DEVELOPED ECONOMY, THE MORE DEFINITELY THE TRANSITION WILL HAPPEN FROM THE CORE BANK DEPOSIT TO THE STOCK MARKET... THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALSO SEEING IN OUR SYSTEM»

Ashok Chandra
MD & CEO, Punjab National Bank

previous editions of ECLGS?

■ It becomes very important to ensure that genuine beneficiaries are identified. We have more data points in place today, apart from several digital footprints. So, for all the lenders, including our bank, we have clear visibility of who requires this credit facility and where we need to inject it.

For PSU banks across the

system, including PNB, credit is growing faster than deposits. What are the specific regulatory or policy changes required to fix the structural deposit mobilisation problem?

■ I don't think any structural change is required from the regulatory side. Two things are happening in the system: One, is that the more you move towards (becoming) a developed economy, the more definite will be the transition from core bank deposits to the stock market. These are general things which happen in developed societies and we are witnessing the same in our system. The second aspect is that we need to come out with some new revamped schemes. The plain vanilla product, which used to work some five years back, will not work.

So, the deposit product has to be sector-specific, that is, targeted schemes backed by strong digital footprints. This means we should have a robust mobile banking facility. We should have a very state-of-the-art internet banking facility, and services should be available without any hassle. If you can ensure these two or three important features on the deposit front, I am sure there will be at least good growth in the system.

While we have a plain vanilla

savings product, on April 12 last year, which is our foundation day, we revisited our entire CASA (Current Account Savings Account) product range. And today we have special products for the youth, women, salaried people, farmers, senior citizens and pensioners, etc. We have mobilised 47 lakh accounts under these revamped schemes now. And the amount mobilised is ₹22,000 crore. So, we have seen that if we come up with certain new initiatives, in the current circumstances we will definitely be in a position to achieve 9 to 10 per cent minimum CASA growth.

Do you expect a slowdown in credit growth due to rising costs driven by West Asia crisis? No, not at all. If you see our numbers last year, the guidance we gave was for 11 to 12 per cent credit growth, whereas we have touched 12.7 per cent credit growth. That's the reason why we have given a revised guidance. The new guidance this year is 12 to 13 per cent (for FY27) after factoring in the West Asia crisis. I can tell you with confidence that we will be touching more than 13 to 14 per cent credit growth (in FY27).

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May 06, 2026	'Aiming 12-13% credit growth in FY27'	The Financial Express	10Editions	6	Bureau

● **ASHOK CHANDRA, MD & CEO, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK**

'Aiming 12-13% credit growth in FY27'

Punjab National Bank MD & CEO Ashok Chandra says his bank is targeting a credit growth of 12-13% in FY27. Chandra tells Kshipra Petkar that momentum is building across retail, MSME and corporate segments. Excerpts:

How fast can your assets and liabilities grow this year?

We have guided for 12-13% credit growth in FY27, compared with 11-12% last year. We achieved 12.7% and are confident of crossing 13% this year. Deposit growth guidance remains 9-10%. CASA is expected to be 38%.

Will the bank clock double-digit operating profit growth?

We are targeting about 7% growth in net interest income (NII) and 9-10% growth in operating profit. The NIM is expected at 2.6-2.7%. Gross NPAs should fall below 2.5%, net NPA below 0.3%, with provision coverage ratio above 96%. Slippages will remain under 0.9%, recoveries above ₹13,000 crore, and return on equity above 1%.

Given global uncertainties, what gives you confidence of achieving 13% credit growth?

If we exclude Inter-Bank Participation Certificates (IBPC), which we are consciously reducing, our growth last year was over 15%. MSME grew 20%, retail (excluding IBPC)

18.2%, agriculture 16.2%, and corporate 11.6%. Momentum is strong. We have completed internal postings early and begun aggressive business drives. With this, 14-15% growth is achievable.

Could MSMEs see disruption in Q1 or Q2 due to geo-political tensions?

As of now, we see no stress. Opportunities remain strong in MSME and retail. If the situation prolongs, there could be some impact from Q2 onward, but currently there is no challenge.

Are you cautious about sectors such as textiles?

We are closely engaged with exporters and importers and

have conducted webinars with them. We have assured them support if challenges arise. So far, accounts, including those linked to the Gulf and West Asia, are performing well.

Which corporate segments is the demand coming from?

In FY26, corporate sanctions doubled to ₹4 lakh crore, with ₹1.18 lakh crore pending disbursement. We have sanctioned ₹30,000-40,000 crore in April. Demand is coming from renewables, roads, iron and steel, commercial real estate, cement, chemicals, aviation, textiles, pharma and petroleum infrastructure.

What is the strategy for credit cards?

We have revamped the entire credit card vertical and made it fully digital. We launched a premium metal card, 'Luxura', targeted at affluent and HNI customers, along with platinum and signature variants. We had 650,000 cards as of March 2025 and now have 900,000. We aim to cross 1.5 million cards by March 2027.

How is the Dubai branch operating in current conditions?

The Dubai branch team is temporarily operating from India with regulatory approval. Business continuity has not been affected.



IF WE EXCLUDE IBPC, OUR GROWTH LAST YEAR WAS OVER 15%

