

## Bandhan Bank will enter J&K next year



■ President Pranab Mukherjee in conversation with Bandhan Bank chief Chandra Shekhar Ghosh in Kolkata on Tuesday. SUBHANKAR CHAKRABORTY/HT

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**KOLKATA:** Kolkata-headquartered private commercial bank, Bandhan Bank, is all set to enter Jammu & Kashmir by opening its branches there by next year, according to the bank's founder, managing director and chief executive officer, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh.

"We are now everywhere in India, barring three places, namely Jammu and Kashmir, Goa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We will cover them soon," Ghosh said at the bank's first anniversary programme in Kolkata on Monday.

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, and the Bengal Governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi, were present on the occasion.

Ghosh also said Bandhan Bank plans to increase in branch network to 1,000 across the country by the next year from the current 701.

"We started with 501 branches, 50 ATMs and 6.7 million customers a year back. Today, we

have 701 branches, 250 ATMs and nine million customers," Ghosh said.

He said that 33% of the bank's branches are in unbanked rural areas, as against RBI's stipulation of 25%. "Almost 45% of our branches are in Bengal and 68% in rural and semi-urban areas," he said.

Ghosh added that people has shown faith in Bandhan Bank, and the bank has been able to mop up deposits of Rs 16,000 crore, of which retail deposits are worth over Rs 6,000 crore.

"Our CASA stands at 13%, advances at Rs 16,500 crore, NPA at 0.16%, credit to deposit ratio at 143% and capital at Rs 4,000 crore. We have a dedicated workforce of 21,500 employees," Ghosh said.

President Mukherjee emphasised the need of extension of banking services in rural and unbanked areas, where the necessity is the most for linking people there with banking services.

He complimented Bandhan Bank for doing good work in this aspect.