

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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Circular No. 149/2025

Date: 01.12.2025

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 52/2025 dated 01.12.2025 issued by the Secretary, AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit), the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

Letter No. AIBOC/WBSU/20/2025

Date : 01.12.2025

Smt. Mamata Banerjee,
Honourable Chief Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
"NABANNA"
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road,
Howrah – 711 102.

Respected Madam,

SUB: HOLIDAY UNDER N.I. ACT – 2026
MAGNANIMITY OF GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

To begin with, we, on behalf of the AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit), would like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to you for your empathetic attitude towards our Banking fraternity. Never before has any executive head of this State exhibited more understanding of the pressures and aspirations of Bankers in our state than your Maganimous Authority.

2. The entire banking fraternity are now enjoying holidays on 1st January, Janmashtami, Bhatri Dwitiya and Chhat Puja in a befitting manner only because of your magnanimity. We convey our sincere gratitude to you for positively responding to our requests and declaring holiday under N.I. Act on the afore-mentioned occasion.

3. In this respect, we have noted that in the Notification. No. 4188-F(P2) dated 27/11/2025 issued by the GOWB, you have, inter alia, most kindly included, Shivaratri falling on 15th February, Sunday and Birthday of Birsa Munda falling on 15th November, Sunday as Holidays under N.I. Act. for the calendar year 2026. Declaration of these two occasions as Holidays under N.I. Act manifests your prudence, leadership and awareness of the sentiments of different sects in your State. Birsa Munda, a venerated tribal hero of the Munda community rose against colonial rule of the British was a major symbol of Adivasi resistance. This year we are commemorating his 150th Birth Anniversary and it is apt that his Birthday will henceforth, be celebrated in the State as a Holiday under N.I. Act. This will be a joyous occasion for all in general and our tribal brethren in particular, in our State and the Banking fraternity in the years to come. Similarly, your sagacity in declaring Shiv Ratri as a Holiday under N. I. Act, will be a boon to countless lady officers and employees of the Bank who hitherto had to fast and come to work. In future, they will now be able to perform the religious rituals and fast on Shiv Ratri at home without the undue pressure of joining duty weighing heavy in their minds. Such empathy towards our sisters of the Banking community of our State can only be expected from some who is a Chief Minister and a woman.

4. Madam, in the same vein, please allow us to submit our earnest request to you to declare Diwali (day after Kali Puja) and the day after Chhat Puja as Holidays under N.I. Act as well. It is well known that the auspicious festival "Diwali" is celebrated not only in our country but also all over the world. It is worth mentioning that a large section of people in our state celebrates "Diwali" as their prime religious festival of the year. However, the employees of the financial sectors are not able to celebrate this grand festival in a befitting manner as they have to attend office on that day. Your Honourable Authority is well aware that a large section of the populace in our State hails from the neighbouring states of Bihar and Jharkhand. The rituals of Chhat Puja continue on the day after Chhat and declaration of that day as a holiday under N. I. Act will be a godsend to Bankers hailing from neighbouring states and settled in West Bengal.

5. We, therefore, request you to kindly consider our appeal empathetically and issue necessary advisory to declare **Diwali** (day after Kali Puja) falling on 9th November, 2026 and the day after Chhat Puja (16th November, 2026) as Holidays under Section 25 of the N.I. Act, 1881 so as to enable all the citizenry of our State including Bank employees to celebrate these festivals with profound happiness and enthusiasm. This will immensely boost the morale of the bankers in rendering banking services with zeal and zest. At the same time, we once again reaffirm our fullest co-operation in taking the State forward under your guidance and leadership. Thanking you in anticipation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-

(Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay)
Secretary
AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit)
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General Secretary
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