

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)



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

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Circular No. 30/2026

Date: 21.01.2026

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 09/2026 dated 21.01.2026 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/01/2026

Date : 21.01.2026

Smt. Mamata Banerjee,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of West Bengal,
Nabanna,
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah - 711102.

Respected Madam,

CALL FOR STRIKE ACTION BY UFBU ON 27.01.2026 OUR LEGITIMATE DEMAND FOR 5-DAY WORK-WEEK REQUESTING YOUR MORAL SUPPORT TO OUR AGITATION

On behalf of AIBOC, the largest constituent union for Bank officers in our nation, we humbly and most respectfully seek your moral support in our ongoing agitation for implementation of a 5-day banking week, a demand that has been repeatedly assured at various stages by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and is presently pending with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, Government of India.

2. To put matters into perspective, the issue of 5-day banking was formally taken up during the 10th Bipartite Settlement, when two Saturdays were declared holidays and it was explicitly recorded in the 9th Joint Note that the issue of full 5-day banking would be reviewed thereafter. In the subsequent 11th Bipartite negotiations, the Memorandum of Understanding dated 17.06.2022 contained a clear assurance that introduction of 5-day banking would be pursued and finalised before the conclusion of the settlement. This assurance was reiterated in the course of the 12th Bipartite Settlement and the 9th Joint Note signed on 08.03.2024, where the IBA formally recommended to the Government of India for implementation of 5-day banking. However, in spite of repeated bipartite and CLC mediated tripartite discussions involving the IBA, UFBU and DFS, the Central Government is sitting on the proposal and renegeing on the agreement arrived at between IBA and UFBU regarding implementation of 5-day work week in the Banking sector. All formal processes at the level of bilateral negotiations have already concluded, and the only step remaining is issuance of the notification by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, which is pending for almost two years causing deep frustration and resentment among bank employees across the country. Please be informed that there will be no loss of man-hours as UFBU has agreed to extend banking hours by 40 minutes every day from Monday to Friday to compensate for the two additional Saturdays that are proposed to be declared as Holidays.

3. Madam, you will kindly appreciate and acknowledge that Bankers have consistently discharged their duties under extreme pressure and stress, especially during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, handling increased workloads, mass-scale public schemes, and digital transition, often without commensurate staffing or infrastructure. While many sectors, including Central and State Government offices, public sector undertakings, and private corporate entities, have moved to a 5-day week, bank employees continue to work under an inequitable regime. This delay now amounts to discrimination vis-à-vis other sections of organized workforce and is inconsistent with emerging international practices and modern labour standards. The agitation and strike action called by UFBU is therefore not only an expression of long-standing grievance but also a legitimate attempt to secure implementation of written commitments repeatedly given by the IBA and placed before the Government of India. The demand is reasonable, long pending, and fully in line with the objectives of improving work-life balance, safeguarding employee health, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of banking services through a more sustainable work schedule. You are kindly aware that strike action is the weapon of the last resort available to Trade Unions when all other forms of bilateral negotiations and agitation programme prove futile in securing the rights of our members. We now feel that the Central Government is mistaking our patience as our weakness and hence, we are being forced to strike action throughout the country in the Banking sector.

4. In the above backdrop, we earnestly request your good office to extend your moral support to the just and legitimate demand of Bankers for implementation of 5-day banking week. Your supportive stand will greatly encourage lakhs of bank employees in your State, who continuously serve the common people, small borrowers, farmers, Self-Help groups, and various flagship development programmes of the State Government. We assure you that we will pull out all stops to assist the GOWB under your leadership, in improving the lot of the people of our State. We assure you our agitation is entirely peaceful and in protest of the apathy of the Central Government to our long-standing legitimate demand. We are confident of your empathetic consideration and principled support in this matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay)

Secretary

AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit)

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

General Secretary

Mobile : 9434551152