

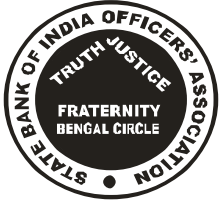
STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 89/2026

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 50/2026 dated 01.05.2026 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

CELEBRATING MAY DAY - 2026

A Salute to the Unwavering Determination of Working People Who Made Dreams a Reality

It was a hundred and forty years ago, on a murky morning in Chicago, a number of brave hearts, collected in Hay Market Square sparking off a massive nationwide strike in the United States of America demanding an eight-hour work day, a demand which at the time was thought to be unthinkable, let alone achievable. Thus, was sown the seed of a labour movement which remained undaunted by the seemingly insurmountable odds it faced, indefatigable in its spirit and iron willed in achieving the unachievable. May Day, therefore, is not only a celebration of a landmark labour movement, but also a constant reminder to us that howsoever humongous the challenges that confront us, it will always be dwarfed by our unity and solidarity. As a progressive, Trade Union representing the supervisory cadre of the State Bank of India, like all other Trade Unions, we draw succour and sustenance from the martyrs of Hay Market Square.

2. It has become a matter of practice on the part of the regime to bulldoze its way in matters involving national interest without a semblance of effort towards building a consensus by taking all the stake holders on board. A nationwide general strike (Bharat Bandh) was held on February 12, 2026 at the call of 10 central trade unions and supported by farmers' groups. The strike, protesting against four new labour codes and privatisation policies, saw widespread participation across the boards including the unorganised sectors. We have registered our unequivocal moral and fraternal support to this strike. The four new labour codes, weaken worker protections, legalise "hire-and-fire" practices, and diminish collective bargaining rights. We vouch to extend our solidarity and unqualified support to all such trade union organisations who take up cudgels against such nefarious policies to exploit the labour fraternity.

3. The banking industry, more specifically, the Public Sector Banks are at crossroads. The protagonists have embarked on an unholy mission of destroying the very fabric of the PSBs. It is the Holy Grail of crony capitalists to usurp these crown jewels of the nation by hook or by crook. Hence, the scheme of including the inductees from the Private Sector in the top most echelons of PSBs. The intractable stance of the Department of Financial Services to forcibly introduce the 'Divide and Rule' scheme of PLI for SMGS -IV officials and above, with scant regard to bilateral agreements and established conciliation processes is all part of the bigger picture of surreptitious privatisation, keeping the door ajar to boot out officers purportedly in 'public interest'. The renege on the promise of delivering a five-day work-week which finds mention in the 9th Joint Note and 12th Bipartite Settlement is a matter of shameful concern. The concerned authority at the helm of financial affairs is deviously trying to drive a wedge in our unity and solidarity. The ultimate aim is de-unionisation, so that the strong and vibrant PSBs can be served up in a platter to those who are driving national policy and discourse.

4. We have responded in a befitting manner. Be it the stupendous success of the pan-India Bank Strike on 27th January 2026, or our ongoing agitation to force the Government to roll back its Draconian scheme of PLI, under the aegis of AIBOC and UFBU, we have been steadfast in our commitment to the cause of not only our members but also the nation. The struggle may

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State Bank of India Officers' Association

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be a long drawn one but our success lies in our commitment to our cause. No matter what sacrifices, our agitation demands, we will not flinch. Our unity and solidarity will help us surmount the insurmountable odds. We owe it to the nation. We owe it to posterity.

5. Trade union density in India is extremely low, with only about 7% of the workforce unionised, largely because over 80% of workers operate in the informal sector. The gig workforce is projected to grow from 1 crore in 2024–25 to 2.35 crore by 2029–30. Just as the dispensation is pulling out all stops to de-unionise the organised labour sector and make trade union coverage extremely difficult to obtain in the informal sector, we have to strategically bring as much of the informal labour force under the ambit of Trade Unions as possible. The only way to fight against the autocratic policies by a Trade Union Organisation, is to increase the resistance in terms of absolute numbers. On the momentous occasion of May Day, let us all take the pledge to augment Trade Union Density in India and in the process unionise the Gig workers and the informal labour sector. That is the way forward for all of us! Let us agitate together. Struggle we must. Win we will.

March on Comrades!

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely Yours,

Sd/-

(Rupam Roy)

General Secretary

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