

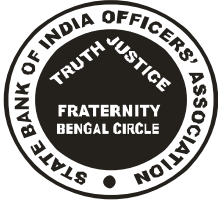
STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

"Samridhi Bhavan", E-Block, 6th Floor, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata – 700 001

Phone: (033) 2210 2210



e-mail: sbioabengalcircle@gmail.com
www.sbioabengal.com

Circular No. 163/2026

Date : 24.09.2026

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 88/2026 dated 23.09.2026 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)

Re: Serious concern over handing over of charge of Currency Chest Branches to Senior Management Grade Scale IV/V officers during the proposed strike on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 2026

We have sent a communication to the Deputy Managing Director (HR) & Corporate Development Officer, State Bank of India, Corporate Centre, Mumbai-400021, on the captioned subject.

The content of the communication is reproduced below.

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

Sd/-

(Rupam Roy)
General Secretary

Letter No. 6466/21/2026

Date: 23.09.2026

The Deputy Managing Director (HR) & CDO,
State Bank of India,
Corporate Centre,
Mumbai – 400 021.

Dear Sir,

Re: Serious concern over handing over of charge of Currency Chest Branches to Senior Management Grade Scale IV/V officers during the proposed strike on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 2026

We wish to bring to your kind notice a matter of serious concern that has come up from several Circles regarding the manner in which Joint Custodians of Currency Chest branches are proposed to be replaced during the ensuing strike called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 2026, in support of our long-pending demand for implementation of the Five Day Banking Week, a settlement that was mutually agreed upon and recorded in the Joint Note/Bipartite Settlement signed between the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and UFBU on 08.03.2024.

It has been given to understand that Circles have been instructed to arrange for handing over of charge of Joint Custodians of Currency Chest to officers in Senior Management Grade Scale IV/V, ostensibly to keep currency chest functional during the strike period. We wish to place on record our serious concern to this arrangement, for the reasons set out below.

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

General Secretary
Mobile : 9434551152

State Bank of India Officers' Association
(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 2 :

1. Officers in Scale IV and Scale V are very much members of our Federation and, like every other officer of the Bank, enjoy the legitimate right to participate in the strike. The decision to press them into currency chest duty during the strike, without regard to this fact, effectively denies them this right and amounts to coercing them into strike-breaking duties.

2. It has been reported from many Circles that these officers are being compelled to undergo short, hurriedly organised training sessions and thereafter take over charge of Currency Chest operations. We are sure the Bank will appreciate that currency chest management is a highly specialised, procedure-intensive function, and cannot possibly be learnt through an online training session of one or two hours' duration.

3. Most of the officers so nominated have no prior exposure to currency chest operations. Placing them in charge of such a sensitive and high-risk function, without adequate training or experience, exposes the Bank to serious operational risk and potential financial loss, apart from being grossly unfair to the officers concerned.

4. This arrangement is deeply demoralising and demotivating for our Senior Management cadre officers, several of whom feel intimidated into compliance. It sends the unfortunate message that officers who are otherwise treated as part of the Bank's leadership are being used as a tool to blunt a legitimate, jointly-recognised trade union action.

We would also like to draw your attention to the Bank's own Circular No. R&DB/BOD-BOD/9/2025-26 dated 28.05.2025 issued by the Banking Operations Department on "Handing Over / Taking Over Certificates – Revision of Formats", which itself underscores the seriousness and rigour with which handing over and taking over of charge – including of Currency Chests – is meant to be conducted. The Annexures to this very Circular prescribe, among other things, that the incoming and outgoing officials must verify and certify, at the minimum:

- Verification of the balances and physical contents of the Currency Chest and Small Coin Depot;
- Verification of Gun Licence and Vault Fitness Certificate;
- Perusal of the previous RBI audit report, Bi-Monthly/Half Yearly Controllers' Visit Report, Security Officer's Visit Report, Fire Audit Report, etc.;
- Tallying of keys (Cash, Gold, Documents safe, if any) with the Key Register, and changing of combination keys and passwords at ATM/CDM/ADWM;
- Physical verification of Gold Loan bags and contents, Gold Loan Ledger, Loan Balance/CC-OD balance file and connected documents;
- Verification of Branch Cash Balance, safe custody articles/documents and inventories/securities held under joint custody.

The Circular itself prescribes a timeline of two days for a Cash In-charge to complete and submit the handing over/taking over certificate under normal circumstances, precisely because these are high-risk, critical-category items that require careful, unhurried verification. It is therefore self-evident that an untrained Scale IV/V officer, drafted at short notice to break the strike, cannot be expected to discharge this responsibility in a manner consistent with the Bank's own prescribed safeguards – which places both the officer concerned and the Bank's interests at avoidable risk.

We, therefore, request you to kindly intervene in the matter and issue suitable instructions to all Circles to:

- Withdraw any instructions already issued in this regard; and
- Ensure that any relief arrangement, if at all required, is made strictly in accordance with the Bank's own laid-down procedure for handing over/taking over of Currency Chest charge.

We trust the Bank's management will appreciate the genuine concerns raised above and accord this matter the urgent attention it deserves.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Rupam Roy)
General Secretary

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
General Secretary
Mobile : 9434551152