

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 174/2026

Date: 29.09.2026

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 81/2026 dated 29.09.2026 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/14/2026

Date : 28.09.2026

To
The Honourable Chief Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
Nabanna, Howrah,
West Bengal – 711102.

Respected Sir,

OBSERVANCE OF MAHA SAPTAMI PUJA ON 17TH OCTOBER 2026
HUMBLE REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF HOLIDAY UNDER N.I. ACT

The undersigned as the representative of the entire fraternity of Bank officers in the state of West Bengal with most humbleness would like to bring to your kind and gracious attention to a singular situation arising out of the unique timings of the Durga Puja Schedule in 2026.

2. This year holidays under N. I Act has been declared from 18th October to 21st October 2026 for Durga Puja. You are kindly aware that religious occasions / Pujas such as Durga Puja are observed according to the date and time arrived at by Hindu religious scholars / pundits published in Almanacs (Panjikas). As per Schedule published in widely circulated Benimadhab Sil & Gupta Press Panjika, the *Maha Sashthi Tithi* will commence on the intervening night of 15th October (Thursday) and 16th October Friday. The *Maha Saptami Tithi* commences on the intervening night of 16th October (Friday) and 17th October (Saturday) and will continue till the wee hours of Sunday, the 18th October 2026. Thus effectively, Maha Saptami Tithi will witness two sunrises and will continue for the whole day of 17th October and will end on 18th October 2026.

3. Your prudent authority will kindly appreciate that since Maha Saptami is continuing for two days on the trot, 17th October 2026 must also be kindly declared as a holiday under N.I. Act, otherwise the entire Banking fraternity and those serving in other Financial Institutions in our state will not be able to worship Maa Durga on Saptami which will continue for the whole day on Saturday, 17th October 2026.

4. Sir, you are kindly aware that the Durga Puja Festival, is the premier religious festival for the entire Bengali community and is observed with fasting, worship and observance of religious rituals which are time bound. If a holiday under N. I. Act, is not declared on 17th October 2026, it will preclude the entire community working in the Banking and other Financial Services sector in our State from celebrating this joyous festival marking the arrival of Maa Durga with religious fervour.

5. It will not be out of place to mention that there have been instances of declaring 5 holidays as well as 3 holidays in some years on Durga Puja depending on the falling of *Tithi* and hence declaration of holiday on 17th October will neither be illogical nor unprecedented. Moreover, 17th October, 2026 has been declared as a holiday for the State Government. You will most certainly appreciate the emotions involved with Durga Puja for all Bengalis and so, if Bankers and workers in other Financial Institutions are forced to work on Maha Saptami, they will feel left out of the celebrations marking the arrival of Maa Durga which will be extremely demotivating to them.

6. Sir, you will no doubt acknowledge that the Banking fraternity has always been in the forefront while implementing and executing all beneficial programmes of the Central Government and State Government and will in future also be toiling hard to improve the lot of the people of our state, shoulder to shoulder with both the Central and State Government functionaries.

7. We are expectantly confident that your Magnanimous Authority will bestow your kind and empathetic consideration to our rational plea and will be pleased to additionally declare the 17th October 2026 as a Holiday under N.I. Act to ensure that the Banking fraternity is not denied the opportunity to celebrate the greatest religious festival of West Bengal.

8. Thanking you in advance for your time and benevolent consideration and assuring you of our utmost co-operation as always.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay)

Secretary

AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit)

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

General Secretary

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