

UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS

(AIBEA-AIBOC-NCBE-AIBOA-BEFI-INBEF-INBOC)

164, Linghi Chetty Street, Chennai-600001

4th September, 2026

To
The Chief Executive
Indian Banks' Association
Mumbai

Subject: National Lok Adalat on 12 September 2026 – attendance of bank officers on a declared bank holiday

Dear Sir,

The United Forum of Bank Unions wishes to draw your immediate attention to the National Lok Adalat scheduled on 12 September 2026, which falls on the second Saturday and is a declared bank holiday.

UFBU and its constituents have always respected and supported the institution of Lok Adalat, and bank officers across the country have consistently contributed towards its successful conduct. The present situation, however, arises in exceptional circumstances.

Officers and employees of Public Sector Banks are presently in the midst of a nationwide agitation on long-pending issues, including five-day banking, discriminatory Performance Linked Incentive mechanisms, and the growing practice of compelling officers to work beyond prescribed working hours and even on declared holidays.

As part of the ongoing agitation, our members have been advised to work strictly within prescribed rules and working hours and to withdraw all extra and voluntary cooperation. Calling upon officers to attend Lok Adalats on 12 September would therefore amount to requiring them to perform official duties on a declared holiday at a time when the banking workforce is specifically agitating against such practices.

We wish to make it clear that our position is in no manner directed against the judiciary, NALSA or the institution of Lok Adalat. We are placing the matter before IBA well in advance so that avoidable complications and inconvenience to the Legal Services Authorities, litigants and individual officers can be prevented.

We therefore call upon IBA to advise all member banks not to compel or depute officers for attendance at the National Lok Adalat on 12 September 2026 and to suitably coordinate with the concerned Legal Services Authorities for rescheduling or making alternative arrangements in respect of bank-related matters requiring the presence of bank officials.

At a time when the issue of five-day banking remains unresolved, compelling officers to work even on an existing second-Saturday holiday would only aggravate the prevailing industrial-relations situation and would be wholly inconsistent with the spirit of the ongoing discussions.

We expect IBA to appreciate the seriousness of the matter and issue appropriate instructions to all member banks without delay.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



C.H. VENKATACHALAM
AIBEA



RUPAM ROY
AIBOC



L. CHANDRASEKHAR
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SANJAY KHAN
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DEBASISH BASU CHOUDHARY
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