ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

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C/o State Bank of India Officers' Association (North-Eastern Circle)

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To All Affiliates/ State Units (Please Circulate)

Observance of Bank Nationalisation Day, 19th July 2026 — Reaffirming Our Resolve to Defend Public Sector Banking

RENEWING THE LEGACY OF 57 YEARS, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Every year, July 19th serves as a powerful reminder that bank nationalisation was not just an economic policy decision; it was a pivotal moment in India's developmental journey. It reaffirmed that banking should serve the broader interests of society, balancing commercial viability with social responsibility. The philosophy of public sector banking remains even relevant today, as financial institutions are expected to promote both economic growth and financial inclusion in an increasingly complex global environment.

Over the past five and a half decades, public sector banks have evolved into resilient institutions that consistently support the nation's developmental priorities while adapting to changing economic and regulatory landscapes. Their strength comes not only from capital and technology but also from the professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment of generations of bank officers and employees and the most importantly from the citizens of the country. This enduring legacy serves as the foundation for the future of Indian banking.

The banking industry is now entering another significant phase of transformation. Advancements such as artificial intelligence, digital banking, platform-based financial services, increasing competition from fintech, cyber security threats, data governance, and shifting customer expectations are fundamentally reshaping banking operations. At the same time, bank officers are facing increasing compliance burdens, shrinking manpower, expanding responsibilities, heightened regulatory scrutiny, and growing workplace stress. Our challenge is not merely to adapt to these changes but to ensure that this evolution remains humane, equitable, and professionally sustainable.

The increasing focus on measuring banking solely through short-term financial indicators, aggressive business targets, and technology-driven efficiency risks undermining the very values that have made public sector banking a trusted institution. Human judgment, ethical conduct, institutional memory, and customer confidence cannot be replaced by algorithms alone. Although modernization is essential, it must strengthen—not weaken—the human foundations of banking.

AIBOC has always played the leading role to save the banking industry and its public sector character. At this critical juncture, AIBOC's responsibility extends beyond safeguarding the service conditions of bank officers. As the leading organization representing the 300,000 plus leadership cadre of public sector banking, AIBOC must also serve as a thought leader in shaping future discussions on banking reforms. Our engagement should encompass not only industrial relations but also broader issues such as responsible AI adoption, ethical digital transformation, human-centric technological innovation, robust cyber security resilience, sustainable human resource policies, financial inclusion, governance standards, and the preservation of the developmental role of public sector banks. The Confederation will provide policymakers, regulators, and bank management with constructive, research-based, and forward-looking perspectives that balance efficiency with equity, innovation with inclusion, and growth with social responsibility.

The future of Indian banking will be shaped not only by technological advances but also by the quality of its institutions, the competence of its people, and the wisdom of its policies. Inspired by the ideas of bank nationalisation and strengthened by decades of collective struggle, AIBOC will remain vigilant, proactive, and intellectually engaged in addressing every emerging challenge facing the banking sector. On this 58th Bank Nationalisation Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to organizational unity, professional excellence, and public service, as we prepare to lead the conversations that will shape the next generation of Indian banking. Together, let us ensure that the values that inspired the nationalisation of banks continue to guide banking reforms for decades to come.

On this momentous occasion, AIBOC reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the ideas of bank nationalisation, which transformed class banking into mass banking. The current state of the nation’s development trajectory strongly demands market expansion, which can only be achieved by providing scarce credit resources to identified priority sectors instead of supporting crony capitalists. The reintroduction of a democratic autonomous culture, a continuation of time-tested policies regarding bilateralism and industrial relations, and a return to the core business philosophy enshrined in the ideas of nationalisation will ensure the survival of public sector banking and the spirit of July 19th.

AIBOC extends warm greetings to all stakeholders and calls upon all our affiliates, state units, and district units to observe the bank nationalisation fortnight with due gravity and solemnity.

With revolutionary greetings,

Rupam Roy
General Secretary