



**STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION  
CHANDIGARH CIRCLE**

C/O State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Sector 17, Chandigarh

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**Circular No. 2022/04**

**Date: 08.01.2022**

**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:**

**Misleading news regarding Bank Holidays resulting into inconvenience for the Banks' customers and employees**

We have sent a communication to the Press Council of India on the captioned subject. A copy is enclosed for information.

With revolutionary greetings,

**(Deepak K Sharma)**  
**General Secretary**

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**Letter No. 2022/21/02**

**Date: 07.01.2022**

The Secretary  
Press Council of India, 8, CGO  
Complex, Soochna Bhavan  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

Dear Sir,

**Misleading news regarding Bank Holidays resulting into inconvenience for the Banks' customers and employees**

As a responsible body representing 9000+ State Bank Officers' in the northern part of the country, we have huge respect for the free & independent press in our country. But we are pained to bring into your kind notice some misleading news items recently published in national dailies and leading news portals resulting into inconvenience for Bank's customer and employees. A list of some of the news items is appended herewith for your information.

Many leading news portals have published a news item that Banks will be closed for 16 days in January 2022. This news item is completely false, fabricated and unsubstantiated. In most of the states the Banks will have only one holiday i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> January (Republic Day) apart from the usual weekend holidays i.e. Sundays & two Saturdays (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>).

Such misinformation impacts the general public in particular and Banks' customers and employees in particular. Due to the panic created by these misleading news items, the customers of the Bank rush towards Bank branches leading to overcrowding of the branches in this pandemic period.

Also, the Banks' services get affected due to huge rush in the branches, sometimes leading to human errors and omissions due to unnecessary pressure & urgency during working hours.

These misleading news items also tarnish the image of Banks as they are looked down upon by general public for having huge number of holidays, whereas the truth is that Banking industry come

under essential services category and thus has the least number of holidays.

Such news items are repeatedly being published by some of the national dailies and leading news portals. The only source that we could gather for such news appears to be the list of holidays for the Banks. It is important to note here that Banks' holidays are declared under Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and are declared by respective UT/ State governments for their respective UTs/states.

Thus, the Bank's holidays vary from state to state across the country. It appears that most of these news items are published in haste without verifying the facts, wherein the Bank holidays across the country are clubbed together to falsely exaggerate the number of holidays and to sensationalise the news headlines. We would also like to appreciate news portals like Economic Times and NDTV for true reporting of the Bank Holidays on their respective websites.

We request your good office to take necessary action against these news portals, as in the annexure, who have published such misleading news items. Also, we request you to counsel the editors of leading dailies and other news portals to avoid any such spread of misinformation in future.

Looking forward to a favourable and early response from your end.

Thanking you,

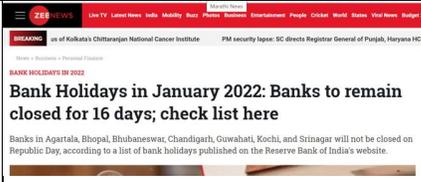
Yours faithfully,



**(Deepak K Sharma)**  
General Secretary



**Some of the misleading news headlines / news items regarding Bank Holidays:**

S.No.	Name of the News portal	Web Address/ Photo
1	News 18	 <p><a href="https://www.news18.com/news/business/bank-holidays-in-january-lenders-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-next-month-dates-here-4607165.html">https://www.news18.com/news/business/bank-holidays-in-january-lenders-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-next-month-dates-here-4607165.html</a></p>
2	Zee News	 <p><a href="https://zeenews.india.com/personal-finance/bank-holidays-in-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-check-list-here-2423147.html">https://zeenews.india.com/personal-finance/bank-holidays-in-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-check-list-here-2423147.html</a></p>
3	Times of India	 <p><a href="https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/article/bank-holidays-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-check-list-here/845338">https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/article/bank-holidays-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-check-list-here/845338</a></p>
4	News 18	 <p><a href="https://www.news18.com/news/business/banks-holidays-banks-to-be-shut-for-6-days-out-of-last-10-days-of-december-full-list-4572371.html">https://www.news18.com/news/business/banks-holidays-banks-to-be-shut-for-6-days-out-of-last-10-days-of-december-full-list-4572371.html</a></p>
5	Live Mint	<p><a href="https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/bank-holidays-in-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-on-these-days-check-full-list-here-11640752732950.html">https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/bank-holidays-in-january-2022-banks-to-remain-closed-on-these-days-check-full-list-here-11640752732950.html</a></p>
6	ABP News	 <p><a href="https://www.abplive.com/business/bank-holidays-jan-2022-india-1-january-2022-bank-holidays-2022-delhi-2029456">https://www.abplive.com/business/bank-holidays-jan-2022-india-1-january-2022-bank-holidays-2022-delhi-2029456</a></p>
7	Republic World	<p><a href="https://www.republicworld.com/business-news/india-business/bank-holidays-in-january-banks-remain-closed-for-16-days-next-month-check-dates-here-articleshow.html">https://www.republicworld.com/business-news/india-business/bank-holidays-in-january-banks-remain-closed-for-16-days-next-month-check-dates-here-articleshow.html</a></p>
8	Dainik Jagran	<p><a href="https://english.jagran.com/business/bank-holiday-2022-all-private-govt-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-in-january-2022-check-full-list-here-10037254">https://english.jagran.com/business/bank-holiday-2022-all-private-govt-banks-to-remain-closed-for-16-days-in-january-2022-check-full-list-here-10037254</a></p>

**Declaration:**

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief we have placed all the relevant facts before the Council and that no proceedings are pending in any court of law in respect of any matter reported in the letter.

  
**(Deepak K Sharma)**

