UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE

STATE BANK OF INDIA, LEAD BANK OFFICE, PORT BLAIR

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE (UTLBC) MEETING FOR JUNE 2026 QUARTER OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS HELD ON 12-08-2026 AT CONFERENCE HALL, HOTEL LEMON TREE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM AT 4.00 PM.

Proceedings of Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) Meeting

List of Attendees:

S No	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta	General Manager & UTLBC Convener	State Bank of India
2.	Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS	Secretary Finance	A&N Administration
3.	Shri K Vijayapandian	General Manager	NABARD
4.	Shri Pravin Narayan Bhavsar	Deputy General Manager	Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata
5.	Shri Santosh Sahu	Regional Manager	State Bank of India
6.	Other Attendees	Senior officials	All Bank and Govt Departments

The UTLBC meeting for Andaman & Nicobar Islands for June 2026 quarter was held on 12.08.2026 at the Conference Hall, Lemon Tree Hotel, Sri Vijaya Puram. The meeting was chaired by Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI. Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by Shri K Vijayapandian, General Manager, NABARD, Shri Pravin Narayan Bhavsar, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata, Shri Santosh Sahu, Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Regional Office, Port Blair, Regional Heads from banks, senior officials from the Administration, representatives from Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industries, development agencies, other Government officials, Chief Managers and Senior Managers from the various banks in A&N Islands.

At the outset, Shri Santosh Sahu, Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, Port Blair welcomed all the dignitaries on behalf of UTLBC (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). He welcomed Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS, Secretary Finance, A&N Administration, Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, SBI, Shri K Vijayapandian, General Manager, NABARD, Shri Pravin Narayan Bhavsar, Deputy General Manager, RBI, Kolkata, fellow bankers and all other functionaries and representatives. He stated that the review covered progress in banking as per the Annual Credit Plan 2026-27 for the quarter ending June 2026.

Shri Santosh Sahu, Regional Manager, SBI:

Shri Santosh Sahu informed the house that the Steering Committee meeting had been held on 07.08.2026 for finalization of the agenda for the UTLBC meeting. He also highlighted the continuous coordination being maintained with the A&N Administration for implementation of Government schemes and various banking initiatives in the Islands.

Thereafter, Shri Santosh Sahu requested Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta, General Manager and UTLBC Convener, to deliver his keynote address.

Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta, General Manager & UTLBC Convener:

Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta welcomed all the participants and highlighted the important role being played by the UTLBC platform in strengthening banking penetration in the Union Territory, improving credit flow to productive sectors, promoting financial inclusion and monitoring Government-sponsored schemes.

The Convener informed the house that the Union Territory presently has 115 bank branches, 161 ATMs and 72 Customer Service Points (CSPs), providing banking facilities across the Islands. He further informed that India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) had engaged 66 new Banking Correspondents (BCs) during the quarter across the Islands. As a result, 25 out of the 39 identified unbanked villages had been provided with basic banking facilities, leaving 15 villages still to be covered.

CD Ratio of the Union Territory stood at 58.82% as on June 2026. Deposits increased by approximately 3.89% during the quarter, while advances grew by approximately 2.70%. Banks having CD Ratio below the prescribed 40% level were advised to take concrete measures to improve credit deployment.

With regard to NPAs, the Convener stated that the overall NPA of the UT had marginally declined by 0.14 percentage points but remained high at approximately 10.31%. The Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank was particularly advised to intensify recovery efforts and realize available collateral securities so as to bring down its high NPA level.

Overall Priority Sector Lending stood at 40.37%, which was above the prescribed threshold of 40%. Accordingly, the UT did not presently face a shortfall requiring contribution to RIDF on account of overall PSL achievement. However, banks were advised to improve agricultural lending in view of the relatively low achievement under agriculture.

The house was informed that approximately 2,199 accounts were pending for Re-KYC, comprising both operative and inoperative accounts. Banks were advised to contact customers whose Re-KYC was due by 30 June 2026 and complete the process expeditiously.

The Convener further informed that approximately ₹53 crore was pending under unclaimed deposits transferred to RBI. Banks were advised to make concerted efforts to contact customers and legal heirs so that eligible claims could be settled and the deposits brought back into the banking system.

During the quarter, 196 Financial Literacy Camps were conducted against a target of 252. Banks which had either not conducted or not reported the camps were advised to take immediate corrective action. Particular attention was drawn to Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank regarding timely conduct and reporting of financial literacy activities.

Shri K Vijayapandian, General Manager, NABARD:

Shri K Vijayapandian, General Manager, NABARD, briefed the house on several recent initiatives and guidelines of relevance to the banking sector in the Union Territory.

The revised KCC guidelines issued by RBI on 19 June 2026 were discussed. The revised framework would become applicable from 1 January 2027. Shri Vijayapandian highlighted that the revised framework provides for extension of the KCC tenure, standardization of crop seasons for short- and long-duration crops, and linking of credit limits with the Scale of Finance.

He further informed that the revised framework includes expenditure relating to soil testing, weather advisory services, organic certification and farm technology interventions. It also provides for enhancement of collateral-free agricultural loans up to ₹2 lakh, introduction of Flexi KCC facilities for marginal farmers in the

range of ₹10,000–₹50,000, and greater emphasis on UPI-enabled transactions, debit cards and digital channels, including CBDC. Banks were advised to familiarize themselves with the revised guidelines and prepare for implementation from January 2027.

The house was informed that the notification relating to the current crop season under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) had been issued on 24 July 2026, with the enrolment deadline stated as 31 August 2026. The Government of India is undertaking a saturation campaign to cover eligible farmers, including those who may not presently have KCC facilities. Banks, particularly the major banks, were requested to submit the required data to the Lead Bank/UTLBC authorities in the prescribed format.

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and the Government support available under the scheme were discussed. Banks were advised to explore eligible opportunities and extend credit under the scheme. Banks were also advised to make use of NABARD-supported credit guarantee facilities for financing Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

NABARD informed the house that grant support is available under its Financial and Digital Inclusion Programme and requested banks to submit proposals for eligible programmes during the current year. It was informed that more than 150 programmes had been conducted during the previous year across the UT.

The house was informed that all three districts of the UT figured among the bottom 250 districts in the country in respect of CD Ratio. South Andaman had a CD Ratio of approximately 65%, whereas North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar were at approximately 28% and 30%, respectively. Banks were advised to take focused measures to improve the CD Ratio in districts where it is below 40%.

The recent RBI clarification dated 6 August 2026 relating to classification of NPA in Self-Help Groups was also brought to the notice of the house. Banks were advised to refer to the relevant RBI circular for proper understanding and implementation.

Shri Pravin Narayan Bhavsar, Deputy General Manager, RBI:

Shri Pravin Narayan Bhavsar, Deputy General Manager, RBI, highlighted a number of important issues requiring focused attention. He stated that although the overall PSL achievement was satisfactory, agricultural credit achievement under the Annual Credit Plan was only approximately 16% for the quarter and advised banks to substantially improve credit flow to agriculture.

He specifically identified North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar as districts requiring focused monitoring because their CD Ratios were below 40%. Banks were advised to identify the reasons for the low CD Ratio, prepare suitable action plans, increase credit deployment in these districts and monitor progress regularly.

On Re-KYC, Shri Bhavsar observed that despite improvement in performance, substantial pendency remained and instructed banks to complete the pending cases at the earliest. He also identified the appointment of Financial Literacy Counsellors in North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar as an area requiring immediate attention and advised banks/nodal agencies to resolve the issue and ensure appointment at the earliest.

With regard to the revised Lead Bank Scheme framework, he informed the house that DCC meetings are required to be conducted within 60 days. He advised the concerned authorities to ensure compliance with the prescribed timeline. He also stated that the revised framework envisages a structured agenda for BLBC meetings and places greater emphasis on the role and responsibilities of Lead District Managers, and advised all concerned to study and implement the revised guidelines.

The house was also apprised of the revised regulatory framework concerning MSME lending and other recent RBI directions. Banks were advised to explore opportunities for increased MSME lending, particularly in developing areas of the UT. Banks were further advised to work towards the milestones under the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion in a structured and time-bound manner.

Shri Bhavsar informed the house that out of 358 Unbanked Rural Centres (URCs) in the Islands, approximately 226 had been covered, leaving 132 URCs yet to be covered. The concerned stakeholders were advised to examine the reasons for the pendency and take appropriate measures for providing banking services to the remaining URCs.

Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS, Secretary (Finance), A&N Administration:

Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS, Secretary (Finance), welcomed the participants and appreciated the efforts of UTLBC and the banking fraternity. He drew specific attention to the low CD Ratio, particularly in North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar, and emphasized the need to address structural issues affecting the banking sector. Banks were advised to take appropriate measures to improve the CD Ratio.

He advised banks to take necessary steps for identification, tracing and settlement of unclaimed deposits and placed greater emphasis on strengthening efforts for timely recovery of NPAs. He also advised banks to enhance financial literacy initiatives, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and stressed the importance of timely and accurate submission of all required data and returns.

The Secretary (Finance) further advised banks to strengthen their focus on Kisan Credit Card coverage and agricultural lending, improve the implementation and coverage of Government-sponsored schemes, and increase awareness, enrolment and effective implementation of social-security insurance schemes among eligible beneficiaries.

He stated that the issues raised by the UTLBC Convener, NABARD and RBI should be examined agenda-wise and concrete measures should be taken to improve the banking and credit ecosystem in the UT.

Review of Action Points of Previous UTLBC Meeting

The Chief Manager, UTLBC presented the status of action points of the previous meeting. It was informed that Re-KYC pendency had improved substantially, with the number of pending accounts reducing from approximately 3,330 to 2,199. Banks were advised to continue the drive and ensure early completion of all pending cases.

Unclaimed Deposits

During the quarter, claims relating to approximately ₹30 lakh were settled, including settlements by SBI and Canara Bank. The meeting discussed the difficulties in tracing depositors due to incomplete addresses. It was informed that letters had been issued wherever addresses were available, awareness camps had been conducted, and Gram Panchayats had been provided lists of unclaimed depositors so that local acquaintances could assist in tracing them. The Secretary (Finance) directed that efforts to trace depositors and settle unclaimed deposits should be intensified.

Review of NPA

The meeting reviewed bank-wise NPA performance. The Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank reported that its high NPA was primarily attributable to certain high-value/sticky loans and that recovery proceedings, including auctions and legal/DRT proceedings, were underway. The Bank informed the house that substantial recovery efforts were being made and expressed the expectation of reducing NPA significantly in the coming quarters.

UCO Bank reported improvement in its NPA position, supported by recovery efforts. The Secretary (Finance) appreciated the recovery initiatives and advised banks to continue vigorous recovery action.

Review of CD Ratio

The meeting reviewed the banks having CD Ratio below the prescribed 40% level. Bandhan Bank and Axis Bank reported improvement of approximately four percentage points during the quarter and informed the house that advances in Port Blair had been increased through products such as home loans and other retail/credit products.

HDFC Bank informed the house that technical/legal onboarding issues had affected its performance and stated that legal professionals, valuers and advocates had been identified and would be onboarded to improve credit disbursement. Banks having low CD Ratio were advised to take concrete steps to improve their performance in subsequent quarters.

Financial Literacy Camps

The meeting reviewed the conduct and reporting of Financial Literacy Camps. It was noted that some banks had either reported low numbers or had not reported their activities within the prescribed timeline. The RBI advised banks that timely reporting is essential because non-reporting within the prescribed cut-off may result in the activity being treated as nil.

Banks were directed to ensure regular conduct of financial literacy camps, coverage of rural and unbanked areas, timely reporting of activities and greater awareness regarding Government-sponsored insurance and financial inclusion schemes. Canara Bank specifically assured the house that the matter would be examined, including whether the shortfall was attributable to reporting issues.

Unbanked Villages

The house reviewed the status of unbanked villages. Out of the earlier 39 unbanked villages, IPPB had appointed 66 BCs, resulting in coverage of 25 villages, with only 15 villages remaining uncovered. It was noted that these remaining villages have relatively low population, approximately 1,530 persons in total based on the 2011 Census. The meeting appreciated the role of IPPB/postal personnel in providing banking services to remote areas.

Deposits and Advances

The total deposits of the banking sector in the UT were reported at approximately ₹10,845 crore, registering growth of about 3.9% during the quarter. Aggregate advances stood at approximately ₹6,379 crore, with growth of approximately 2.79%, resulting in an overall CD Ratio of around 58.82%.

The Secretary (Finance) observed that while the overall UT position was comparatively comfortable, district-level disparities, particularly in North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar, required focused attention.

Priority Sector Lending and Agriculture

The meeting discussed the overall PSL position and the comparatively low agricultural credit achievement. It was reiterated that overall PSL was above the prescribed 40% benchmark, while agriculture has a prescribed sub-target of 18%. Agricultural lending therefore needs to be enhanced through KCC, crop loans, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and other eligible activities.

The Secretary (Finance) advised banks to increase KCC and agricultural lending and ensure that the credit needs of farmers are adequately addressed. The house also discussed crop loans, interest subvention and the applicability of concessional interest rates within prescribed limits.

Kisan Credit Card and Agricultural Lending

The meeting discussed the KCC saturation campaign and the need to extend KCC coverage to eligible farmers. It was informed that approximately 12,000 farmers were being targeted under the saturation exercise.

The meeting also discussed the issue of preventing multiple lending against the same land. The RBI representative explained the proposed/ongoing use of digital systems integrating KYC and land records so that existing loans against particular land parcels can be identified before sanctioning further loans. Banks were advised to actively participate in KCC saturation and ensure responsible lending.

MSME Lending

The MSME sector was identified as a major area of potential for improving credit flow, particularly in North & Middle Andaman and other developing areas. It was observed that MSME lending contributes significantly to the relatively higher CD Ratio in South Andaman.

Banks were advised to explore viable MSME proposals and increase credit deployment to eligible enterprises. The meeting also discussed credit guarantee support available for MSMEs, and the Secretary (Finance) emphasized that MSME lending should receive greater attention in the UT.

ACP Performance

The meeting reviewed the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) performance. It was observed that while overall performance in certain sectors was satisfactory, agriculture had achieved only around 16% of the quarterly target. The Secretary (Finance) questioned the wide variation in performance among banks and advised banks to examine the reasons and improve credit disbursement. Banks were also advised to ensure that ACP targets are realistic and achievable based on local potential.

PM SVANidhi / PM Vishwakarma and Other Government Schemes

The meeting reviewed implementation of various Government-sponsored schemes. The reasons for rejection of applications under certain schemes were discussed, and it was informed that major reasons included existing civil/default issues and customers declining to avail the loans after training. Banks were advised to improve outreach and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are properly guided.

PMJJBY and PMSBY

The Secretary (Finance) emphasized the importance of expanding enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Banks were advised to approach their existing customers and educate them about the low premium and insurance benefits available under these schemes.

The Secretary (Finance) appreciated the claim settlement performance and suggested that successful beneficiaries could be highlighted during financial literacy programmes to increase public awareness.

Health of Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank

The financial health of the Cooperative Bank was discussed. The Bank reported growth in deposits but stated that certain high-value sticky loans continued to affect its NPA position. Recovery proceedings, including auction, DRT and legal proceedings, were being undertaken.

The Bank also informed the house about measures taken under the RBI Fraud Risk Management framework, including constitution of a special Board-level committee and appointment of a forensic auditor. The Bank requested capacity-building and training support for its rural staff, particularly in areas such as NPA recovery and NPA management. The meeting welcomed the proposal and advised that appropriate training support be coordinated through the banking training institutions.

Preparation of Potential Linked Plan / ACP for 2027-28

NABARD informed the house that preparation of the Potential Linked Plan (PLP) for 2027-28 had commenced. It was stated that the targets would be prepared after considering past performance, potential available in each district, ground realities, priorities of the UT Administration, Government of India priorities, and sector-specific potential in agriculture, fisheries and other sectors.

NABARD requested the cooperation of the Administration and concerned departments in providing realistic inputs. The Secretary (Finance) directed the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries to coordinate with NABARD and provide realistic inputs based on ground realities. It was specifically directed that the concerned departments should cooperate with NABARD teams during their field visits so that the targets are practical and achievable.

Action Points that Emerged out of the Meeting

Sl No	Action points	Implementing agency
1	Re-KYC of all eligible Accounts	All banks
2	Reduction of NPA	Andaman & Nicobar State Co-op Bank Ltd, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India & UCO Bank
3	Financial Literacy Camps	Private Sector Banks and all Rural Branches and Financial Literacy Centers
4	Increase CD Ratio	Bandhan Bank, AXIS Bank and HDFC Bank
5	ANSCB should strive for speedy recovery of NPA by disposing the collateral security available	ANSCB
6	Improve CD Ratio in districts below 40%	All Banks
7	Imparting necessary training and handholding to ANSCB staff for knowledge enrichment and skill improvement	Reserve Bank of India

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Shri C Raj, Chief Manager, RSETI, State Bank of India.

Naveen Kumar

Convener,
UTLBC, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE UNION TERRITORY LEVEL BANKER'S COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12-08-2026 AT HOTEL LEMON TREE AT 4:00 PM

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants	Designation/Department
1	Shri Naveen Kumar Gupta	General Manager & Convener (UTLBC), A& N Islands
2	Shri Hemant Kumar, IAS	Secretary Finance, A & N Administration
3	Shri K Vijayapandian	General Manager, NABARD
4	Shri Pravin Narayan Bhasvar	Deputy General Manager, RBI, Kolkata
5	Shri Rakesh Pangat	Deputy General Manager, NABARD
6	Shri Santosh Sahu	Regional Manager, RBO, SBI, Srivijaya Puram
7	Shri Divesh Dinkar	General Manager, Bank of Maharashtra
8	Shri Manir Ansari	Deputy Regional Head, Union Bank of India
9	Shri P K Ummer Farooq	Chief Manager, UTLBC
10	Shri C Raj	Director, RSETI
11	Shri Alok N Pushpak	AGM, NABARD
12	Shri Debasish Panda	Senior Regional Manager, CRISIL foundation
13	Shri Abhinav Pal	Managing Director, A & N SCB
14	Ms Shruti Singh	Branch Manager, Union Bank of India
15	Shri Mohammed Zubair	Senior Manager, HDFC Bank
16	Shri Rakesh Maraiya	Branch Manager, Indian Bank
17	Shri Deepak Pal	Branch Manager, Central Bank of India
18	Shri Ranjit Das	Senior Manager, Axis Bank
19	Shri K Yogi	Operational Head, Axis Bank
20	Shri Daxesh Parmar	Senior Manager, UCO Bank
21	Shri A Naga Arun	Branch Manager, IDBI Bank
22	Shri CH Hari Prasad	Senior Manager, Canara Bank
23	Shri Bhulan Oraon	Branch Manager, Bank of Maharashtra
24	Ms Prajna Pradhan	Senior Manager, Indian Overseas Bank
25	Shri Ashwini Kumar	Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda
26	Shri Ramesh	Senior Manager, IDBI Bank
27	Shri P Pratheep	Manager, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
28	Shri Anand Priyadarshi	Branch Manager, Punjab National Bank
29	Shri Venu Gopal	Branch Manager, ICICI Bank
30	Shri Thomson M Pookkathu	Branch Manager, Bandhan Bank
31	Shri Sanjib Bepari	Chief Manager, Bank of India
32	Shri Sumit Kumar Gain	DBM, IndusInd Bank
33	Shri Omkar Nath	Senior Manager (Dev), ANSCB
34	Dr Sunita Roy	SVO, AH & VS
35	Shri Tarun Patre	Branch Manager, LIC of India
36	Shri Aravindh R	Branch Manager, New India Assurance
37	Shri Ravichandra Sutherdhar	Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Dept

38	Shri Elizah	Tribal Officer, Tribal Welfare Dept
39	Shri Jiju Kumar	ARCS, Co-operative Dept
40	Shri Rakesh Kumar	Executive Officer, A & N KVIB
41	Shri Ariyanayagam	CAO, Zilla Parishad
42	Shri Suresh Kujur	EO, Rural Development
43	Shri Tonju	Professional, MSME DFO
44	Shri Dweependu Halder	Extension Officer, RD
45	Shri Debashis Som	DPM, RD
46	Ms Nazea Begum	Senior Associate, Lead Bank
47	Ms Pooja Pandey	Centre Manager, Crisil Foundation
48	Ms Tripti Sarkar	Centre Manager, CRISIL Foundation
49	MS Taki Rani Roy	FC, CRISIL Foundation
50	Smti Reeti Nandi	Asst Area Manager, CRISIL Foundation