



CENTRAL BOARD OF OPEN SCHOOLING AND EXAMINATION

“Serving under the national framework for open schooling and vocational education, in alignment with the guiding principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) –

Government of India.”

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Press Release

General Festival & Institutional Holiday Guidelines for March–April 2023

It is hereby notified for the information of all affiliated study centres, regional coordination units, district academic cells, examination superintendents, institutional administrative bodies, and all concerned stakeholders functioning under the Central Board of Open Schooling & Examination (CBOSE), that the months of **March and April 2023** shall include several nationally and culturally significant festivals, namely **Holi (08 March 2023)**, **Ram Navami (30 March 2023)**, and **Good Friday (07 April 2023)**. In accordance with the general directives followed by national academic bodies and in the interest of maintaining uniformity across the country, the Board issues this comprehensive Notification outlining the holidays, operational expectations, examination continuity, institutional responsibilities, and mandatory compliance procedures for the above-mentioned period.

These months have a strategic significance in the academic workflow of the Board, as they coincide with the conduct of the **Theory Examinations for Stream 1 (Block 1)**, scheduled from 10 March 2023 to 05 April 2023. Therefore, while academic institutions shall observe the holidays as declared, they must simultaneously ensure uninterrupted progression of scheduled examinations, adherence to procedural norms, and maintenance of administrative readiness during the period.

The festival of **Holi**, celebrated on 08 March 2023, holds immense cultural importance across India. It is a festival associated with social harmony and celebration, particularly in northern states. In view of this, all affiliated study centres shall remain closed on 08 March 2023. However, the closure of the institution does not absolve the centre of responsibility toward urgent communication or examination-related instructions issued by the Board. Centres must ensure that at least one authorised staff member remains accessible through approved official communication channels for receiving urgent instructions, especially relating to the Theory Examinations which commence shortly thereafter.

Following Holi, the next major observance in the said period is **Ram Navami**, scheduled on **30 March 2023**. This festival holds religious and cultural significance across various regions. Centres shall remain closed on this day as well. However, institutions designated as examination centres must ensure that the closure does not affect the confidentiality or security of examination materials. Locking mechanisms, fire-safety measures, CCTV systems, and secure storage facilities for question papers must remain fully operational even during closure hours.

The third holiday within this period is **Good Friday**, to be observed on **07 April 2023**. This day marks an important occasion for Christian communities across the country. While

centres shall remain closed for regular academic activities, the Board instructs all institutions to ensure that any pending post-examination duties, such as the sealing and dispatching of answer books, uploading of daily attendance records, scanning of examination documents (where applicable), and submission of the Superintendent's Daily Report, must be completed well before closure on the preceding working day.

The Board once again reiterates that **examination schedules shall remain unaffected** by these holidays unless a specific order is issued due to unavoidable national or state circumstances. Learners, parents, and institutions must remain aware that holidays do not imply the postponement, cancellation, or rescheduling of examination papers. The examination timetable approved by the Board shall remain final and binding. Any rumour or misinformation circulated through unofficial sources regarding changes in examination schedules shall be treated as misleading and may attract disciplinary action where applicable.

The period of March and April marks the peak of the academic cycle for learners appearing in Class X and XII examinations. Institutions are therefore instructed to ensure that beyond the days officially declared as holidays, no undue academic inactivity or disruption occurs. Administrative readiness must be maintained at all times. This includes maintaining an adequate supply of answer sheets, verification registers, attendance sheets, seating plans, supplementary sheets, black/white boards for instructions, and functional CCTV systems covering all examination rooms.

Centres must also ensure that prior to each holiday, the following activities are completed:

1. The seating plan for the next examination day is prepared and displayed.
2. All question paper packets scheduled for the next working day are checked for accuracy of subject codes and stored securely.
3. Invigilators and support staff are briefed on the examination duties scheduled after the holiday.
4. Learners are informed clearly through SMS/Notice Boards/WhatsApp groups about reporting time, examination dates, and mandatory instructions.

Institutions hosting examination centres must ensure that the school building remains secure during the holiday period. The security staff must be instructed to patrol sensitive areas, including laboratories, record rooms, strong rooms where question papers are kept, and digital data rooms. Any incident of tampering, suspicion, or unauthorised access must be reported immediately to the Board.

In the interest of learner welfare, centres are advised to ensure that the days preceding the holidays are utilised effectively to clarify last-minute academic doubts of students, resolve issues related to Admit Cards, and guide learners regarding examination etiquette. Centres may conduct short-duration doubt-clearing sessions, provided they are optional and do not impose attendance obligations.

The Board further advises that learners must be reminded of the following points:

- Avoid any form of misconduct during examination days.
- Ensure physical and mental readiness for upcoming examinations.
- Organise their study materials and maintain a revision schedule even around festival days.
- Report to the centre well on time and avoid last-minute rush.
- Carry Admit Cards and necessary stationery without fail.

Parents and guardians must ensure that learners' participation in festival activities does not disrupt their examination preparation. The Board encourages families to maintain an environment of academic discipline during the critical examination window.

From an administrative standpoint, the Board also emphasises:

- No holiday shall be used for conducting delayed practical's or internal assessments.
- Institutions must not utilise holidays for unauthorised academic gatherings.
- Examination-related material must remain under restricted access only.
- The Superintendent and designated custodians must maintain keys and security protocols.

This Notification shall be displayed prominently:

- On all institutional Notice Boards
- On the official website of centres
- In all digital communication groups used for disseminating updates to learners

Institutions failing to implement instructions contained in this Notification shall be subject to scrutiny by the Board's Monitoring & Inspection Wing.

This Notification supersedes all earlier circulars issued regarding holidays for March and April 2023.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. All Regional Directors/Regional Officers of CBOSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions
2. All Joint Directors/Deputy Directors/Assistant Directors, CBOSE
3. In charge IT Unit with the request to put this circular on the CBOSE websites
4. The Assistant Librarian, CBOSE
5. The Public Relations Officer, CBOSE
6. PS to Chairperson, CBOSE
7. SPS to Secretary, CBOSE
8. Guard File



Organization Secretary
Central Board of Open Schooling and
Examination, New Delhi

