



# 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 Circular & Institutional Holiday Guidelines for August to October 2023

It is hereby notified for the information of all affiliated study centres, regional coordination offices, district academic coordination cells, institutional administrators, examination heads, and all stakeholders functioning under the Central Board of Open Schooling & Examination (CBOSE) that the period extending from **August 2023 to October 2023** comprises several nationally significant festivals, cultural events, religious observances, and constitutional commemorations. These include **Independence Day (15 August 2023)**, **Raksha Bandhan (30 August 2023)**, **Janmashtami (07 September 2023)**, **Gandhi Jayanti (02 October 2023)**, and **Dussehra (24 October 2023)**. The Board issues this comprehensive Notification to ensure uniformity, predictability, operational clarity, and stability across all affiliated institutions during this multi-festival period.

The months of August, September, and October hold administrative significance because they constitute the preparatory cycle for the upcoming **Theory Examinations of Stream 2 (2023)** scheduled for October and November. During this period, centres are required to balance holiday observances with academic functions, answer script readiness, TMA verification, preparatory classes, and pre-examination documentation. The Board therefore directs that all institutions observe the holidays mentioned herein but must simultaneously ensure continuity of administrative processes essential to examination management.

The observance of **Independence Day on 15 August 2023** is of national importance. All institutions shall remain closed for regular classes. However, study centres are authorised to conduct short, optional ceremonial programs such as flag hoisting or constitutional pledge sessions, provided participation is voluntary and does not involve academic tasks. The Board discourages the use of this day for administrative or academic meetings unrelated to the occasion. Examination centres must ensure that all confidential materials, digital rooms, and storage facilities remain secure during the closure.

Following Independence Day, the festival of **Raksha Bandhan** shall be observed on **30 August 2023**. Institutions shall remain closed for normal activities. However, centres must ensure that any urgent communications issued by the Board through the Institutional Dashboard, such as updates regarding practical mark reconciliations or internal assessment verifications, are attended to by at least one authorised staff member designated to monitor digital notifications. The Board emphasises that holiday status does not exempt institutions from responsibility towards urgent communications.

The festival of **Janmashtami**, scheduled on **07 September 2023**, shall also be observed as an institutional holiday. Centres must ensure that practical laboratories, digital facilities, and examination storage rooms remain secure during this period. Since this festival falls close to pre-examination deadlines for Stream 2, institutions must complete all necessary preparatory tasks, including printing of seating charts, verification of admit card data, and updating of examination centre preferences, well before the holiday.

As the academic cycle progresses into October, the nation observes **Gandhi Jayanti** on **02 October 2023**. Jurisdictional rules prescribe closure of all educational institutions on this day. Institutions may organise optional activities that promote Gandhian values such as cleanliness awareness, non-violence, truth, and civic responsibility. However, under no circumstances shall mandatory academic work be scheduled. Since the Theory Examinations of Stream 2 commence shortly after this period, institutions must ensure that all pre-examination protocols are completed on the preceding working day. These include verification of exam rooms, checking CCTV surveillance systems, and confirming the arrival of sealed question paper packets (where applicable).

The festival of **Dussehra**, falling on **24 October 2023**, marks another significant observance during this period. All centres shall remain closed. However, given that the Theory Examinations for Stream 2 may be ongoing or about to commence during the same month, institutions must ensure that the festival observance does not cause delays in the examination process. The Board may require centres to complete certain administrative actions immediately before or after the holiday. Institutions must therefore maintain readiness and ensure that designated examination personnel remain reachable through official channels if required.

Throughout this multi-festival cycle, institutions must maintain discipline in regard to examination readiness. While holidays shall be observed in accordance with this Notification, centres must ensure that essential preparatory activities are completed beforehand. Administrators, invigilators, and examination staff must coordinate workloads effectively to avoid last-minute disruptions. Centres must refrain from using festival days to conduct internal exams, assessments, or last-minute classes.

The Board emphasises that holidays do not imply a pause in institutional responsibility toward digital workflows. The Institutional Dashboard shall remain the primary channel for communication between the Board and the institutions. The Board may release notifications regarding TMA verification, practical mark audits, date sheet updates, centre allotment decisions, or other time-bound activities during the holiday period. Institutions must ensure that an authorised representative monitors the dashboard regularly.

Institutions must verify that the holiday observance does not compromise the security of sensitive materials, particularly answer scripts remaining in storage or question papers yet to be distributed. CCTV installations, access control mechanisms, and digital monitoring equipment must remain fully operational. The Board shall conduct random audits during this period, and institutions must cooperate fully with inspection teams.

Learners must be informed well in advance regarding the operational schedule of their study centres during these festivals. Centres must clearly communicate which days are holidays and which days are active for academic support, doubt-clearing sessions, or pre-exam guidance. While the Board encourages festivals to be celebrated with cultural reverence, it also reminds learners to continue academic preparation diligently for the upcoming examination cycle.

Parents and guardians must ensure that household celebrations do not cause extended interruption in the learner's study routine. The festival period often coincides with crucial

revision timelines. The Board encourages families to create a balanced atmosphere where cultural participation coexists harmoniously with academic responsibility.

Institutions must also ensure that staff handling question papers, dispatch logs, practical evaluation reports, and attendance sheets do not take extended leaves during the festival period without arranging for approved substitutes. The Board has observed in previous cycles that festival seasons often lead to staff shortages, which affects exam readiness. To prevent such disruptions, institutional heads must prepare duty rosters in advance.

During this multi-festival cycle, weather conditions in various regions of the country may also become unpredictable, including heavy rainfall, flooding, or localised disruptions. Centres must remain prepared for such contingencies and must inform the Board immediately in case of any situation that threatens the security of materials or the conduct of examinations.

This Notification must be displayed on the notice boards of all study centres, circulated through institutional WhatsApp groups, and published on the official website of each affiliated centre. Learners, parents, faculty, and administrative staff must be made fully aware of the holiday schedule and operational expectations.

This Notification supersedes all previous circulars issued regarding holidays for the months of August, September, and October 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



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**Organization Secretary**  
**Central Board of Open Schooling and**  
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