



On 07.12.2024, we celebrated Christmas with our students, graced by the presence of our esteemed chief guest, Sr. Jancy Kurian SJC, Principal of St. Joseph's Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Gugai, Salem. The occasion was even more special as we also celebrated our OBA day with the Holy Cross Old Boys Association. Sr. Jancy was honored by our school management and OBA, and she delivered a heartwarming Christmas message to the students. She also awarded prizes to our meritorious students. The celebration featured Christmas carols sung by our higher secondary and primary school boys, an excellent nativity play by the primary children, and a superb dance performance by the high school boys. The event concluded with a fun-filled and fast-paced social cricket match between OBA members and the teachers of Holy Cross, followed by a delightful OBA lunch for all members of the Holy Cross family. Quizzes enhance general knowledge, sharpen critical thinking, and improve memory retention. They encourage curiosity, keep us informed, and boost decision-making in everyday life. Regular engagement with quizzes helps us stay updated on important topics and fosters continuous learning. Ultimately, they contribute to personal growth and professional development by broadening our understanding of the world.

QUIZ CLUB

#### **Questions:**

- 1) Who is the new president-elect of The United States of America?
- 2) Who won the World Chess Championship 2024?
- 3) What is the full form of ONGC?
- 4) What is the name of India's manned spaceflight mission?
- 5) Which element is represented by the symbol 'W'?
- 6) 'Starship' is an interplanetary spacecraft designed and planned to be launched by?
- 7) Who is the Minister of Commerce and Industry?
- 8) Which tragedy is associated with the Union Carbide plant?
- 9) Which Indian company manufactured the 2024 Olympic Torches?
- 10) Where is the 2026 FIFA World Cup being held?

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- 3. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
  - 2. Gukesh Dommaraju
    - ۲. Donald Trump

## PHILATELY CLUB

**Philately** is the study of revenue and postage stamps which may include their design, production and uses after they are authorized for issue by postal authorities. Often it includes stamp collecting too.

Some philatelists may study rare stamps without trying to own their copies, for such stamps will be found only in museums. Also, they are very costly. The word 'Philately' comes from the French language, **"Philatélie"**. Coinage of the word has been attributed to Georges Herpin who introduced it in a publication in November 1864.

Philately owes its origin to the observation that though stamps may appear the same at first glance, a closer examination reveals variations like the use of different kinds of paper, different watermarks embedded in the paper, variations in colour shades, etc.

Stamps have even been forged over the years and some of them have proved almost indistinguishable from the original. Special stamps may be issued to commemorate specific events. Such stamps are usually limited editions.

Topical or thematic philately is the study of what is depicted on the stamps. For instance, birds, insects, faces of famous people, flowers, sports, maps etc., may be featured on various stamps. One interesting topic of study in this branch focuses on design mistakes like wrong pictures (for example, a US stamp meant to honour Bill Pickett), design alterations (e.g. the editing out of cigarettes from the pictures used for US stamps) and the accounts of how certain images came to be used on a particular stamp.



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## PHILATELY CLUB

Philately, the study and collection of postage stamps, has seen several exciting advancements in recent years, blending technology, design innovation, and new collecting trends. Here are some key advancements in the field of philately:

#### **1.** Digital and Blockchain Integration:

*Digital Stamps:* As technology has advanced, digital stamps and online stamp collections have emerged. Some postal systems have begun to issue digital versions of traditional stamps, allowing collectors to purchase, store, and trade them virtually.

*Blockchain and NFTs:* Some philatelists and postal services have explored blockchain technology and NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) to create verifiable, limited-edition digital stamps. This allows for new forms of collecting where each stamp can be traced and authenticated digitally.

#### 2. Augmented Reality (AR) Stamps:

*Interactive Stamps:* Some modern stamps feature AR technology. When scanned with a smartphone or AR-enabled device, these stamps can display interactive content, such as animations or videos. This brings a new layer of engagement for collectors and enhances the stamp's educational value.

#### 3. Environmental Sustainability in Stamp Production:

*Eco-Friendly Materials:* The production of stamps is gradually moving towards sustainability. Some postal services have started using eco-friendly materials, such as biodegradable paper and ink, in response to environmental concerns.

*Recycled Materials:* Some countries have also adopted the use of recycled materials for producing stamps, promoting a greener approach to philately.

#### 4. 3D Printing and Innovative Stamp Designs:

**3D-Printed Stamps:** 3D printing technology is being used to create stamps with raised textures and intricate details. This offers a new dimension to stamp design, allowing for more creative and tactile designs.

*Innovative Designs:* Advanced printing techniques allow for more detailed, complex designs, including holographic effects, which attract both traditional and new collectors.

#### 5. Postal Systems and Technology:

*Smart Stamps:* Many modern stamps now incorporate embedded technology, such as QR codes, that can be scanned for additional information. These stamps might link to historical facts, social media campaigns, or charitable causes, further enhancing their appeal to younger generations.

**Personalized Stamps:** Advances in printing technology also enable collectors to design and print their own personalized stamps with unique images or messages, often used for special occasions or events.

#### 6. Focus on Specialization and Themes:

*Thematic Collections:* A growing trend is the collection of stamps based on specific themes, such as space exploration, endangered species, or historical events. This shift towards thematic collections allows for deeper exploration of particular interests, making philately more appealing to niche audiences.

# **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION @ SCHOOL**

### Date: 23.12.2024

Our Christmas celebration for teachers and all supporting staff from high school, primary, and CBSE was a memorable event, filled with joy and unity. Here's a recap of the festivities: *Holy Mass :* At 8:50 am, we began with a Holy Eucharistic Celebration at Bathija Hall, led

by the Most Reverend Dr.S Singaroyan D.D, Bishop Emeritus of Salem diocese. Following the mass, the crib was blessed, adding a sacred touch to our celebrations.

*Celebration and Fun Games :* The open stage was the heart of the celebration, where we enjoyed a variety of fun games and activities. The joyful atmosphere was infectious, bringing smiles and laughter to everyone present.

*Gift Exchange* : One of the highlights of the day was the exchange of gifts for Chrisma and Chrispa, fostering a spirit of giving and togetherness among all participants.

*Splendid Meal* : We concluded the celebration with a splendid meal, a perfect end to a day filled with happiness and camaraderie.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





INDIA.

02.01.2025 - Schools reopen & I- Revision exam starts for 10 , 11 & 12 Standard.

04.01.2025 - Career guidance seminar - Ashwin & PTA meeting

11.01.2025 - Pongal Celebration

- 18.01.2025 Academic Excellence Exam
- 20.01.2025 II- Revision exam starts for 10 , 11 & 12 Standard.
- 26.01.2025 Republic Day
- 01.02.2025 Annual Day 2024-2025

HOLY CROSS MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, AMMAPET, SALEM 636014, TAMIL NADU,



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