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Few South Mumbai Money Changers Involved in Coin Melting: Alert Coin Collectors Report ICCG News

दक्षिण मुंबई मुद्रा बाजार के कुछ व्यापारी सिक्के पिघालने में लिप्त: सतर्क मुद्रा संग्राहक द्वारा ICCG न्यूज़ को दी गयी जानकारी



People have been melting coins to profit from the jump in metals prices and as a result, faced jail and ended up paying thousands of rupees in fines. But more disturbing part here is that the practice of melting coins still continues. If alert reports shared by coin collectors with the ICCG News are to be believed, then few money changers in Masjid Bunder area of South Mumbai are known to having been involved in this. Surprisingly, these money changers operate their business from a place which is hardly a couple of kilometers away from the RBI, the Crime Branch Unit and Mumbai Police Commissioner's Office.

Soaring metals prices mean that the value of the metal exceeds the face value of the coins. That has piqued concern among government officials as people start melting the coins to sell the metal, thus leading to potential shortages of coins.

The nation needs its coinage for commerce, and it really hurts to see our coins melted down so a few individuals can take advantage of the taxpayers as replacing these coins would be an enormous cost to taxpayers. Moreover, such practices also badly hurts numismatics as collectors would hardly get coins for collection if coins continue to get melted in such a manner to serve greedy needs.

In the past too, there had been reports of people melting coins for the metal. On January 5, 2011 Delhi police busted two illegal factories and arrested 5 people involved in melting old Indian coins and converting them to metal slabs for sale in the open market for making artificial jewellery and antiques worth a couple of crores of rupees. Nearly 1,550 kg metal slabs, huge quantity of coins, dyes, air pumps, motors, weighing machines, tools and other gadgets were recovered.

Similarly, a gang was busted in Kanpur in 2013, which illegally melted coins to make blades and artificial jewellery which were sent to Jaipur and Indore. Few more such incidents of melting coins have been reported from Gujarat and Punjab but the offenders just don't care about the law as they get easy bails even if they get caught in the act.

A rough estimate revealed that 1 kg of coins comprised 150 coins valued at an average of Rs 150 per kg. The melting of coins weighing one kilo yields the metal quantity, which further gets sold at Rs 400 per kg. This means the offenders make a profit of Rs 250 per kg.

Metals prices have skyrocketed worldwide in recent years in response to rising demand, particularly in rapidly growing China and India.

ICCG News has been recently getting reports of few money changers from South Mumbai who are very much into coin melting and the news team would soon expose if any of those are found involved.

Minted With History: A Coin Collection to beget a glimpse of the past

From coins of Mughals to the ones used during the British Empire in the Indian sub-continent, Mr. Mohit Kapoor from Mumbai has a wide range of coin collection. The history that these coins depict is fascinating as history books may leave out facts but coins don't. Today, Mr. Kapoor's hobby is in itself a living history of civilizations of thousands of years and the invaluable coins have now become a part of his life. Excerpts from the interview:

Please let us know about your collection and how long have you been collecting?

For past 16 years, I have been collecting Indian coins, mostly of Mughal and Post-Mughal period.

What exactly inspired you and from which coins did you start your hobby?

My father Mr. Rameet Kapoor was my inspiration who himself loved collecting coins and I followed him. I started from British India coins.



Mr. Mohit Kapoor

Subject to Mumbai jurisdiction

Cont on 4th Page....

Commemorative coin on 475th birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap released

महाराणा प्रताप की ४७५ वि जन्मतिथि के अवसर पर स्मारक सिक्के जारी

New Delhi: In celebration of the 475th birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap, Union Culture and Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma released a commemorative coin of Rs.100 and a circulation coin of Rs.10 on 09th May, 2016.

As a mark of tribute, the Culture and Tourism Ministry in association with the Rajasthan Government has been observing the birth anniversary of the heroic figure, who fearlessly fought the Mughals and protected his people until his death.

A conference and special lecture on Maharana Pratap was organized by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) in the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on March 4, 2016. This was fully financed by the Culture Ministry.

The Central and the state governments have decided to create a multi-purpose indoor stadium at Khel Gaon, Udaipur in his memory. The Culture has also agreed to give a sum of Rs. 9.50 crore to the state government for this purpose.



Pune GPO's Philatelic Bureau Keeps Alive the Passion

पुणे डाकघर के फिलाटेलिक विभाग ने संग्राहक के उत्साह को जीवित रखा

Pune: The postal department is trying hard to keep up appearances at the philatelic bureau in the General Post Office. The bureau, a room with high ceilings, has a fresh coat of paint in recent times. A computer is now used for cataloguing and billing.

The department still proudly displays the most iconic stamps and first-day covers it has ever printed - those of the Asian Games in 1982, various jubilees of public sector undertakings, and those issued at the birth anniversaries of iconic litterateurs.

All of them are pinned up on display boards; some also try to educate visitors about the significance of first-day covers, and the postal department's "innovations" in increasing public interest in philately. The only issue is that the philatelists' base at the postal department seems to be a little thin.

"We have around 3,500 account holders with us in the Philatelic Bureau. Some are active accounts. While it is true that sales have dropped a bit over the years, we are still able to sell a substantial number of first-day covers and sheets," an attendant arranging a new set of first-day covers, inspired by the Emma Watson driven He-For-She campaign for the UN, said.

Tools required to preserve stamps are however not available. "Earlier the postal department used to have things like special adhesives and stamp mounts, which are essential to keep the stamps neat and in place in the album. We also used to get good albums there. Now, the bureau doesn't stock any of it. I have to go to great lengths to find them," stamp collector Deep Banerjee said as per the reports with the ICCG News.

"It may be something to do with my age (79), but I still enjoy collecting stamps, India Post and foreign stamps. My passion has also ensured that my children and my grandchildren are stamp collectors. The foreign ones are harder to get as people don't send letters across countries any more. But I still check with the head post office every month to see if they have any new mini sheets (a sheet of 8-12 stamps) or first-day covers," says an avid stamp collector Rajath S. He is buying the newest issues of commemorative postal stamps at the philatelic bureau at the Pune Head Post Office.

The postal department has opted for quirky measures to arouse people's interest in philately. The department started the personalized stamps scheme a few years ago called 'My Stamp', individuals or companies can design and have legitimate stamps issued for gifting and on occasions.

A sign of desperation is also evident when one sees neatly arranged cupboards of stationery and other decorative items - of various rates - in a corner of the Philatelic Bureau, for sale.

Perhaps the Pune bureau can learn from the Philatelic Bureau at the Mumbai General Post Office, which has stood out by promotes itself through merchandise.

Since 2013, the Mumbai bureau has reproduced some of its most popular stamps onto mugs and T-shirts, and has raked in lakhs of rupees in sales. Some stamps include ones issued by the postal department on Sachin Tendulkar's retirement, India's Commonwealth and Olympic Games' exploits, as well as its accompanying first-day covers.

And the postal department says the response has been surprising. "We weren't sure how the merchandising project will work out. But youngsters soon caught the bug and word-of-mouth helped us sell a lot of these mugs and T-shirts, especially the Tendulkar issues. We also managed to attract people to gain interest in philately. The rate of new accounts being created has obviously lessened over time, but when we started, we managed to add over 20,000 new accounts in a six-month period," a spokesman for the postal department in Mumbai said as known by ICCG News.

The Ageless Allure of Stamp Collecting: Shri Dhirubhai Mehta

Stamp collecting, known as Philately, is one of the world's most popular hobbies and could be a store of value for the meticulous collector. "Philately is a hobby of kings and king of hobbies," believes 91 year old Shri Dhirubhai M. Mehta, President of the Mumbai-based Philatelic Society of India. Excerpts from the interview:

How did you fell in love with stamps?

It was in the spar the moment that I took up stamp collecting when I met a stamp dealer in Ghatkopar named Chandulal Sutarwala (Earn Enjoy Stamp Co.) His motto was gold from dust (Dhul Matte Sonu).

How long have you been collecting stamps and is it everything related to stamps?

I am collecting stamps since childhood and I collect postal stamps and related items such as Postal stationary, Air mail, Indian Native states- specially Soruth, Morbi, Idar, Indore and convention states. Also collect a short period of Imperial Russia-interesting correspondence between dry fruit / merchants in Peshawar and importer in Moscow / Russia, etc.

How was the support from your elders in younger days?

In my early days, I had the full support of my parents, my teachers, at school and later of course very important dedication of my wife who was herself attracted to hobby of stamp collecting and collected, during the Nagpur Stamp Exhibition Mahapex 2004. The local newspaper "LOKMAT" gave a very interesting interview "DAAK TICKETON NE JODI UNKI JINDAGI". My family members - my son, daughter in law, and grand children, supported me in my hobby and enjoyed my work. I also had full support of my dedicated staff in my profession.

What comes to you when you see your collectibles today as this hobby has been a part of your life?

My entire stamp collection means to me the lifeline. If I have survived so long it is due to my hobby of collecting Stamps, Coins, related items and other collectable – Bronze items.

Anything particular that has been more close to you among your huge collections?

The collections that I value more and give top priority are the ones of Indian Air Mail and Native State as well as Russia. My Philatelic friends have been helpful and appreciate. I have made my lifelong friends at home and abroad.

What kind of stamps should one start with? Should one start with a particular theme?

The collection of stamps is a kind, which in any form is welcome as long as it serves Postal Services and they need and attracts the collector..... It is an interesting question. Stamp can be good source of enjoyment and investments as well as brings many friends with reference to caste, craved or religion which is the best part of it.

And how can one grow with it?

Firstly, it's necessary to start collecting, only then you would approach to various problems which would further help you to grow.

Your collection would have been a part of many exhibitions, isn't it?

I have been participating in various exhibitions in my life, beginning with the small exhibition arranged by 'Ghatkopar Yuvak Samaj'. It was held in 'Rashtriya Shala' in Ghatkopar. They were exhibited in plain sheets. This was the beginning of exhibition. My first participation in competitive exhibition was in 1954 at the India Stamp Center Exhibition held by India Post. Thereafter I had exhibited at various exhibitions state level, National & International and received awards for my collection of Indian Air Mail, the Indian State and Imperial Russia.

We know that you also collect coins, so how did you develop interest in numismatics?

In coins, I collect only modern coins. I visit coin exhibitions with my many friends who have always helped me and I enjoyed learning the various issues involved with the current of coins. My interest in numismatic was develop mainly because of interest in stamps. I had a good guidance from my friends Mr. Toddywala, Kishorilal Jain and few others from far and near.

How do you see young kids getting involved with this hobby?

I think young kids are getting involved slowly and surely there would be more. I would advice young numismatists to carefully study the history behind each of their collectibles and share their collection with follow collectors. This would further help them staying connected and passionate towards the hobby.

What would you advice to young Philatelists?

My message to new collectors is they should study every stamp – tiny bit of paper. Each stamp has a story to tell, it tells the nations' past, the present and future aspirations.

Any message for ICCG News?

The ICCG news provides most valuable news to India and information over the world numismatic events I read this magazine regularly. It is very useful must be well received in all quotas.



Shri Dhirubhai Mehta

And finally, we thanked Shri Dhirubhai Mehta for his valuable time, thoughts and collectibles shared. We believe his thoughts and collection is sure to inspire the young generation in a very positive way.

Cont of 1st Page...

Please tell us a little bit about how you developed interest in Numismatics. Was there someone or something of significance that played a role?

My interest in Numismatics developed completely because of my father. I used to accompany him whenever he went to coin dealers to collect coins and that is what sparked my interest. Seeing coins and meeting so many like-minded people helped me immensely in my journey.

Tell us a little bit about your own coin collection. What are your areas of interest?

My main focus is coins of India and more specifically the coins of the Mughal and Post-Mughal. Apart from this I do collect coins of the Vijayanagar Empire as well. From what I collect and pursue Mughals(1550-1750), Independent Kingdoms(1730-1818) and Indian Princely States(1790-1900)

What does collections means to you?

A great way to pass my time, increase my knowledge about history and meet new friends.

Any collection can be any kind?

Yes, one can collect anything which catches ones fancy. From coins to post cards to Picture Posters to matchboxes, there is something that is waiting to be collected by someone.

How do you feel sharing your collection with friends and family and how has the journey been?

It gives lots of pleasure sharing collection with friends and family and surely its been one fun-filled journey wherein I have received immense support from all the people connected with this field.

Would you like to exhibit your collections in any of the exhibition?

Surely. If the theme of exhibitions calls for something which I do collect then I would love to put up coins as well.

Which are your most valuable collections?

Coinage of the Marathas, British India coinage, Medals issued by the Princely States of India.

What has been your most momentous experience in your numismatic career?

There have been many such incidents but notable amongst them were when I managed to bag gems like the 1879 2 Annas of Bombay from a bag of common coins and also buying coins like the 1841 Mohur from a jeweler in the UK whilst I was completing my Management Training program right after graduation.

How do you see the change in numismatic industry?

The Numismatic scene has undergone a complete upheaval in the past 10 years. The collectors have become more informed and platforms such as Facebook have helped them get in touch with scholars who otherwise were just not reachable. Also the advent and development of Auction companies has been a major force in increasing the collector base.

And how do you see Indian Numismatics evolving over the next 10 years?

There already is immense International interest in Indian numismatics and I see the trend continuing with the interest just keeping going up and up.

As per you, how does ones hobby help a person grow in life?

Collections can help people make new friends, learn new things, keep one busy and in the process make a legacy which can be cherished by future generations. A collector can grow in life by sharing the knowledge that he has amassed during his many years spent collecting. He could also offer guidance and support to budding new collectors and act like a god father to many.

Do you think that there aren't more young kids involved with the hobby? What do you think could be done to get more kids involved with numismatics?

It indeed is true that there aren't many young kids involved with the hobby but that is majorly because they have not been exposed to the field as yet. They need to be guided and made aware of what is out there that can be collected. Maybe if the government plans on introducing a systematic teaching module in the curriculum which focuses on coins then we could see more young faces getting involved in the hobby.

Do you think by seeing the British coins young generation will be interested to do the collections?

Definitely, since they are so much simpler to understand and also are still available. British coins could ignite the passion for collecting coins in the younger generations as they are catalogued pretty well thereby offering the collector with a wide array of catalogues which would be an excellent aid.

What would you advice a young collector looking to prosper in the industry?

The only advice is to read, study and then enter into the fascinating world of coin collecting. Pick up a specific field and try to excel in the same by extensively researching the same. Also to interact with people who have spent considerable years in the same field and thereby receive all the guidance that they offer.

Any message for ICCG NEWS?

The venture started by Siddharth Bhai (ICCG News) is an excellent initiative and I feel that it surely will go a long way. Keep up the fantastic work that you'll are doing of spreading awareness and knowledge.

The team ICCG News thanked Mr. Mohit Kapoor for his time and thoughts which he shared with us and also wished him lots of success in future.



Mr & Mrs Kapoor



INDIAN MUSEUM KOLKATA

The Indian Museum is the largest and oldest museum in India and has rare collections of antiques, armour and ornaments, fossils, skeletons, mummies, and Mughal paintings. It was founded by the Asiatic society of Bengal in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, in 1814. The founder curator was Dr Nathaniel Wallich a Danish botanist.




Museum is Dr. B. Venugopal. The museum was closed to visitors due to massive restoration and upgrades from 1 September 2013 to 3 February 2014. This great museum is relentlessly exploring the sea of knowledge seeking a new configuration of the vast meeting ground of the people coming from various cultural and social backgrounds.

The Indian Museum originated from the Asiatic society of Bengal which was created by Sir William Jones in 1784. The concept of having a museum arose in 1796 from members of the Asiatic Society as a place where man-made and natural objects could be collected, cared for and displayed. The objective began to look achievable in 1808 when the Society was offered suitable accommodation by the Government of India in the Chowringhee-Park Street area.

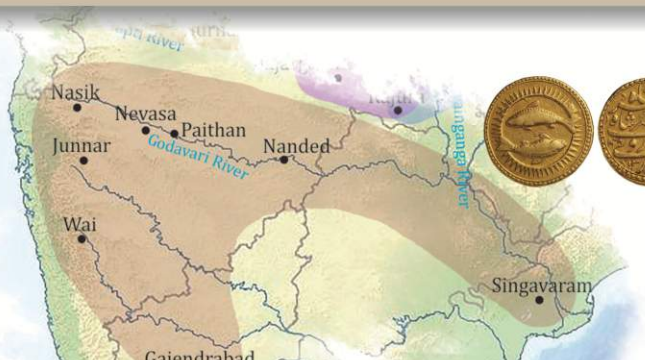
भारतीय संग्रहालय कोलकता


It has six sections comprising thirty five galleries of cultural and scientific artifacts namely Art Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Economic Botany. At present, it includes six cultural and scientific sections, viz. Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, geology, zoology and economic botany, with a number of galleries under each section. Many rare and unique specimens, both Indian and trans-Indian, relating to humanities and natural sciences, are preserved and displayed in the galleries of these sections. The administrative control of the Cultural sections, viz. Art, Archaeology and Anthropology rests with the Board of Trustees under its Directorate, and that of the three other science sections is with the geological survey of India, the zoological survey of India and the Botanical survey of India. The museum Directorate has eight coordinating service units: Education, Preservation, publication, presentation, photography, medical, modeling and library. This multipurpose Institution with multidisciplinary activities is being included as an Institute of national importance in the seventh schedule of the Constitution of India. It is one of oldest museums in the world. This is an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The present Director of the Indian



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In February 2, 1814, Dr Nathaniel Wallich a Danish botanist, who had been captured in the siege of Serampore but later released, wrote a letter supporting the formation of a museum in Calcutta which he said should have two sections - an archaeological, ethnological and technical section and a geological and zoological one. The Museum was created, with Wallich named the Honorary Curator and then Superintendent of the Oriental Museum of the Asiatic society. Wallich also donated a number of botanical specimens to the museum from his personal collection.

After the resignation of Dr Wallich, curators were paid salaries ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 200 a month. Until 1836 this salary was paid by the Asiatic society but in that year its bankers, Palmer and Company became insolvent and the Government began to pay from its public funds. A temporary grant of Rs 200 per month was sanctioned for maintenance of the museum and library, and Dr J. T. Pearson of the Bengal Medical Service was appointed curator followed shortly by Dr John McClelland and after his resignation by Edward Blyth. In 1840, the Government took a keen interest in the geology and mineral resources and this led to an additional grant of Rs 250 per month for the geological section alone. A new building became a need and this was designed by Walter R. Granville and completed in 1875 for the cost of Rs 1,40,000. In 1879 it received a portion of the collection from the India Museum (South Kensington) when that collection was dispersed.

The Zoological and Anthropological sections of the museum gave rise to the Zoological survey of India in 1916, which in turn gave rise to the Anthropological Survey of India in 1945.

Collections:

It currently (2009) occupies a resplendent mansion, and exhibits among others: an Egyptian mummy, The organs are taken out of the mummy's body through nostrils, except heart. The heart is placed in special chambers. The body was then massaged with salt and oil. The covering was done by thin cotton cloth the Buddhist stupa from Bharhut, the Buddha's ashes, the Ashoka pillar, whose four-lion symbol became the official emblem of the Republic of India, fossil skeletons of prehistoric animals, an art collection, rare antiques, and a collection of meteorites.

ANNOUNCING

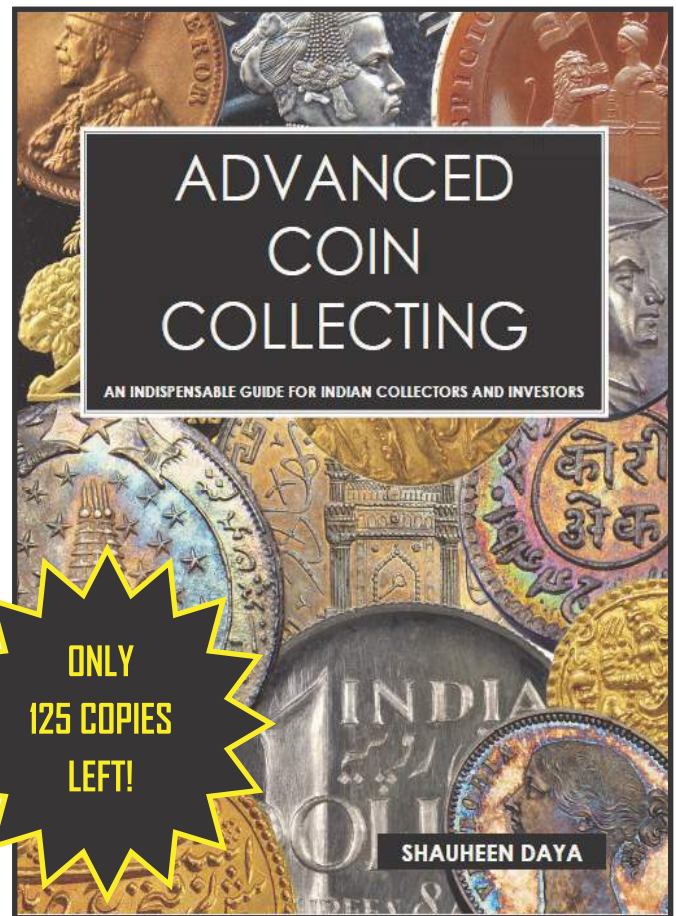
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This book will open a new era of collecting/investing in coins. I strongly suggest all serious coin collectors to buy this book before it goes out of print.

- **Girish Veera, Oswal Auctions**

This book will change the future of Indian numismatics.!

- **Amit Surana, Surana Arts**

Very well done. Will really increase awareness of proper grading in India. Good job.!

- **Joseph Lang, Stephen Album rare coins**

This book will go down as a pioneering effort in understanding the art and science behind numismatic connoisseurship.

- **Shailendra Bhandare, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford**

Many auctioneers are writing higher grades than the actual grades. They should read Shauheen's book before writing the grade.

- **Shatrugan Saravagi, Classical Numismatic gallery**

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BRITISH IMPERIAL INDIA,
VICTORIA, RUPEE

EF-45: Except for the protected areas which still show some lustre, almost the entire coin shows wear and has taken on a greyish colour (green and yellow areas). The braids are beginning to show slight flatness and loss of detail and the lettering also shows some wear. Wear is also very apparent on the cheek and trunk (green areas). However, as much as 95% of the original major details still remain.

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अंतरराष्ट्रीय समाचार

ANS loans museums in Chicago with ancient coins

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An archer and an elephant are depicted on a Greek tetradrachm from Alexander III.



A silver Greek decadrachm from the ANS Collection is included in a new exhibit in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



A Roman Provincial bronze coin of Antinous dating from 138 to 161 A.D. from the Ancyra Mint is on display in Chicago. The obverse depicts a bare bust of Antinous and the reverse shows a man holding an anchor and scepter.

New York: At the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Pergamon and the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Ancient World is enhanced with loans from the American Numismatic Society (ANS). Included in the exhibit is a Poros silver decadrachm struck in Babylon in relation to Alexander the Great's Indian campaign. The large silver coin, dating from 323 to 322 B.C., depicts Alexander on horseback, attacking Porus and mahout (riders) on elephant while the reverse shows Alexander holding fulmen (lightning) and spear and about to be crowned by Nike.

Also included is a silver tetradrachm of Alexander III, struck in Babylon around the same time, depicting an archer standing with his bow drawn, while the reverse has an expressive depiction of an elephant.

The ANS coins are exhibited in the first gallery, in a case with other small objects from the Louvre and the Harvard University Museum that speak to Alexander's prominence as a military leader and royal patron of the arts.

Other museums contributed coins to the exhibit, including the Epigraphic and Numismatic Museum in Athens, Greece, which lent a gold stater of Mithridates VI Eupator Dionysus, dating from the late Hellenistic period, 86 to 85 B.C.

The Pergamon Museum houses one of the world's greatest collection of antiquities and the museum is currently undergoing renovations.

Ancients in Chicago

ANS coins also feature in the Art Institute of Chicago's new exhibit 'A Portrait of Antinous', in Two Parts, which includes four bronze coins from the ANS.

As the Chicago museum explains: "An exceptionally beautiful Greek youth, Antinous was a favorite of Roman Emperor Hadrian. Following the young man's mysterious death by drowning in the Nile River, Antinous was proclaimed a god, and portraits of him appeared across the Roman Empire."

The exhibit reunites two pieces of marble sculpture depicting Antinous, that were long thought to have been from different artworks but that were recently identified as being from the same work. The Art Institute of Chicago's fragment was originally identified as the face of another bust, one in the collection of the Palazzo Altemps Museum in Rome.

The ANS contributions include two drachms, both minted in Alexandria, a coin minted in Mantinea, and a coin from a mint in Ancyra as well as a book from the Society's Rare Book Collection. The exhibit continues through August 28.

Note of the Month



Denomination: 50 Rupees

Governors: I G Patel, K R Puri, S Jagannathan & M Narasimham

Years of issue: 1975 - 1977

Error: Without Flag on Parliament building on its back

The Rs. 50 note was first introduced in 1975 and had the Parliament building on its back as the design. Though there was one error in the design, the Parliament building has the National Flag. But some plates missed the flag and as a result many notes were printed without the National Flag on the top of the Parliament building. The error was noticed quite late. Vide a classification the RBI mentioned all these notes to be valid. Before the error in the design could get rectified, quite a few thousands of notes got printed.

ICCG News feels proud to announce that it's now an official media partner of PAWA.

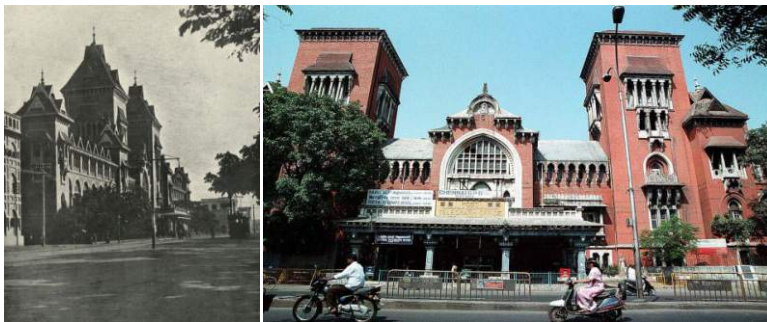


Peace for Animals Welfare Association (PAWA) is a registered NGO that continuously works against any cruelty towards animals. Its main objective is to spread awareness through sensitization and prevention of cruelty using the law.

ICCG clearly lauds against any cruelty towards animals and with PAWA we take a step forward.

General Post Office Chennai

बड़ा डाकघर चेन्नई



Chennai General Post Office (GPO) is located on Rajaji Salai at Parry's Corner Chennai. It functions in a building built in 1884. It is located opposite to the Chennai Beach suburban railway station. Chennai GPO serves a population of around 220,000. It has no sub or branch offices.

History:

In 1712, Governor Harrison (1711-1717) first started a Company Postal Service in Madras to carry mail to Bengal by dak runner. By 1736, a postal system of sorts was in place with a somewhat greater vision. In 1774, a system of charging postage on private letters began. In 1785 and 1786, civilians John Philip Burlton and Thomas Lewin of the East India Company, respectively, suggested to the Governor of Madras that it was necessary to lay down postal rules, draw up a postal network and establish a postal authority.

Chennai General Post Office was initially opened in Fort St. George Square, just outside the Sea Gate, on 1 June 1786. The first Postmaster-General was Sir Archibald's secretary, A. M. Campbell. Robert Mitford was appointed the Deputy Postmaster-General.

The postal service grew when railway connections were established with the other Presidencies in 1871. By 1874, there were nine post offices in the city. The internal carriage of mail in Madras was by horse cart (jutkas) till 1918, though a beginning with motorized transport was made in 1915. The telegraph came to Madras in 1853 but was made available to the public only from 1 February 1855, when 41 offices covering a distance of 3,000 miles could be reached.

These expansions warranted a large central post office for receipt of mail and distribution. In 1868, the Madras Chamber of Commerce urged the Governments of India and Madras to build a large General Post Office in a central place. However, owing to the construction of GOPs in Calcutta and Bombay, both Government of India and Government of Madras were able to sanction only 200,000 for this purpose. In 1873, the present site, where the Abercrombie Battery had once stood, was selected and the construction started in 1874, but there was a lack of funds to proceed with the work till 1880. The site was initially intended to be divided between the Bank of Madras and the Post Office. However, the Chamber urged that both the post and telegraph departments be housed in one building, which necessitated an even bigger building, and the governments decided not to divide the land and allotted the whole to the new post office.

With the completion of the new building in the Indo-Saracenic style, the Madras Post Office moved into the present building in April 1884, which is its own, designed by British architect Robert Chisholm. The Postmaster-General shifted on 1 March 1884 from the place he was occupying in the Mercantile Bank building further down the road, and the Broadway staff shifted on 26 April, the same year. The new building had cost 680,000 against an estimated 692,000, a considerable part of it contributed by the Madras Chamber of Commerce. The Presidency Postmaster was given residential accommodation on the second floor.

By the early 1990s, the post office was filled to capacity and the search for a new building started. However, the idea was abandoned due to opposition from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, and the post office continued to function from the old building.

CM Launches Online Museum On

The 25th Anniversary of Shukla Day

शुक्ल डे की २५वि सालगिरह के अवसर पर

मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा ऑनलाइन संग्राहलय का उद्घाटन



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently launched the world's first online museum for vintage and current coins, stamps and currency note. The portal www.mintageworld.com was launched on the 25th anniversary of Shukla Day, India's largest display of numismatics, philately and notaphily. This exhibition was held at the World Trade Centre in Cuffe Parade from April 22-24.

This portal is new initiative launched by Ultra Media with an objective to impart and share knowledge and create interest in the general public, students, scholars, collectors, buyers and sellers. The portal provides information on all national and international events, similar and forums. It also facilitates online storage for rare coin, stamp and note images in order to be showcased to friends.

Mr. Sushilkumar Agrawal, CEO of Ultra India said, "We live in an age where the younger generation spends all its time before a cell phone or computer, mainly on social networking sites. This online museum will reintroduce them to hobbies like stamp and coin collection by giving information like where and why a certain coin was minted, its historicity, the material that was used-whether gold or silver-as well as its size and shape and the inscription engraved upon it. A separate section will provide information about new releases in various parts of the world while another section will provide details of coin auctions."

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- * Information given to our members by SMS, E-mail / What's App.
- * Information on booking of UNC & Proof Sets.
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- * A Financial Year Planner.
- * ICCG Monthly Newspaper

Slab of Membership	For Membership Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000/- For 3 years • 4000/- For 5 years • 5000/- For 7 years • 7000/- For 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identity proof: * Passport * Voter ID Card * * PanCard * Aadhaar Card * Address Proof: * Passport * ElectricityBill * * TelephoneBill * Aadhaar Card * 4 Photographs

Contact :- Mary Singh - 9699264973

Event's Time 10.00 Am - 7.00 Pm

Month	Date	Event's Name	Venue
July	1, 2, 3	Salem Coin Expo	Vasavi Mahal, Salem Town First Agraharam, Salem, Tamil Nadu.
July	8, 9, 10	Travancore Expo	Bhagamala Auditorium, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram.
July	15, 16, 17	Nayana Darshani 2016	Shikara Sadan, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G. Road, Majestic, Bangalore.
July	22, 23, 24	Bikaner Bikaner Trade Coins & Currency Fair	Suraj Bhavan, Near Rampuria Haveli, Bikaner, Rajasthan.
August	5, 6, 7	8th Annual Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair	The President Hotel, C. G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
September	23, 24, 25	14th Annual Coin & Stamp Exhibition	World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
October	22, 23, 24	C.G.Gandhipex	City Mall 36, Telibandra, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
October	21, 22, 23	Jabalpur Puratatva Mudra Utsav	Jalsa Hall, 4th Floor, Hotel Grend Samdariya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
December	8, 9, 10, 11	Pune Coinex	Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune, Maharashtra.
December	10, 11, 12	Jharkhand Jam Coin	Tulsi Bhavan, Inner Cir Rd, Bistupur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
December	23, 24, 25	Kolkata Mudra Utsav	Haldiram Banquet Hall, Ballygunj, Kolkata.
2017 January	5, 6, 7, 8	Numismatic Expo	Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400058.

1000 Rupee Indian Currency Note – Thanjavur Brihadeeswarar Temple

On 1 April 1954, the Reserve Bank of India released a 1000 rupees currency note featuring a panoramic view of the Brihadeeswarar Temple marking its cultural heritage and significance. In 1975, the then government led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi demonetized all INR 1,000 currency notes in an effort to curtail black money. These notes are now popular among collectors.

Brihadeeswarar Temple - INR 1000 currency note released by Reserve Bank of India on 1 April 1954 to honor the historic Brihadeeswarar Temple, a UNESCO World heritage site.

Design: Brihadeeswarar Temple on the back with value written in seven languages.

Issued: Calcutta (Kolkata) & Bombay (Mumbai)

This note was first issued with wrong Hindi and later corrected from 'Ek Hazar Rupyaa' to 'Ek Hazar Rupyee'.

1000 rupees coin to commemorate Brihadeeswarar Temple

Recently, to mark the 1000 years of Brihadeeswarar Temple the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued Rs. 1000 coins. Released by the Mumbai mint in commemoration to '1000 years of Brihadeshwara Temple in Thanjavur' the coin weighs 35 grams and is made of 80 per cent silver and the rest of copper.



RAISE YOUR VOICE AGAINST FAKES, FRAUDS AND COUNTERFEITS.

It is unfortunate that alert like this have to be written, but where there is money trading hands, there will always be fakes, frauds, and counterfeits.

But we can keep the hobby clean ONLY by raising our voices. Please feel free to share with us, any information on counterfeit coins or currency notes or any fake numismatic item or any type of information about dealers/online portals/auctions which may be involved in doing such activities. ICCG News is committed to keep the hobby clean and would surely assist any help required for solutions in this regards from ASI (Archeological Survey of India) or Cyber Crime Department. Further, we assure to expose and blacklist such fraudsters and see that strict action be taken against the guilty. Name and details of the informer may be kept secret if requested. matics.

So please, come and join hands with us in the betterment of Indian numis

You may share your views and reports with us through our mail id info@iccgnews.com or you may also contact us at our office address.



Massive Fire Destroys Delhi's National Museum Of Natural History

दिल्ली के प्राकृतिक इतिहास के राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय में भीषण आग :

कई प्राचीन व दुर्लभ वस्तुएं नष्ट

A massive fire overnight has completely destroyed the iconic National Museum of Natural History in Delhi, destroying rare specimen of flora and fauna.

35 fire fighters battled the flames for hours; seven were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation.

The fire broke out on 26th April at around 1.45 am on the top floor of the building that houses the museum, and quickly spread to all six floors.

A part of it also spread to another building in the complex - the FICCI Auditorium - which has not been damaged much.

The sprinklers and water pumps in the building failed to work; the fire was finally extinguished this morning at 5 am.

The museum functions under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Environment Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar visited the site the same morning and said, "This is tragic, the museum is a national treasure. The loss cannot be quantified." He has ordered a fire audit of all 34 museums across the country as known by the ICCG News.

A popular site for school visits, the National Museum of Natural History was set up in 1978 and contained preserved specimens of butterflies, frogs, snakes, lizards as well as mounted specimens of tigers and leopards.

Mr Javadekar said some collections have been destroyed, but a thorough assessment of the damage will take some time.



“Major Theft at Mumbai's Numismatic Shop” “मुंबई की नुमिस्मतिक दूकान में बड़ी लूट”

Recently in April, a major theft had been reported in one of Mumbai's most popular and famous numismatic shop 'International Stamps and Coins' situated on D N Road in South Mumbai near CST railway station.

The robbery is believed to be planned as only the selective valuable items were stolen. Complaint of the theft has been filed with the local police station.

List of the stolen items are as follows:

- 1.) Complete Proof & UNC Sets, 2.) Gold & Silver Coins - Emperor Akbar, 3.) Gold Coin - Jehangir,
- 4.) Zodiac Sign - 6 Pieces, 5.) Gold & Silver Coins - Shah Jahan,
- 6.) Gold & Silver Coins - Farrukh Siyyar - 10 Pieces,
- 7.) Gold Coins - Mohammed Shah - 20 Pieces, diff Mints, 8.) Gold Coins - Aurazzeb - 20 Diff Mints,
- 9.) Shaqat Noorani Silver - 2 Pieces,
- 10.) Hyderabad Notes Sets, 11.) Persian Gulf Issue Set, 12.) Rs 50 British India Banknote - Lahore Circle,
- 13.) Rs 100 - Bombay & Calcutta mints, 14.) Rs 1000 - George V (X9 - 352933),
- 15.) Rs 1000 - George VI.



ICCG News requests its readers to please report any of these items, if offered.

Its advised to be cautious while making purchases or dealings.

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Commemorative Coins of Modern India: Year wise & mint wise journey with ICCG News आधुनिक भारत के स्मरणीय सिक्के: वर्षवार, टक्साल्वार यात्रा ICCG न्यूज़ के साथ

Commemorative coins of India are usually issued to celebrate some special occasion or to mark a special event. They also have been issued as a mark of respect towards some distinguished individuals or monument. Indian commemorative coins were issued from the 1964 onwards.

Such coins have a distinct design with reference to the occasion on which they were issued. Few coins of this category serve as collector's items only, although most commemorative coins are issued for regular circulation. Modern and Commemorative Indian Coins are very interesting to discuss as they cover various topics like Indian Independence Struggle, War, Peace, Wildlife, Vegetation, Great Personalities, Various Events and Organizations.

The highest valued coin is INR 1000 that was issued on the occasion of 1000 years of Brihadeeswarar Temple. In 1 set, there may be 2 to 9 coins of different denominations.

MINTS: Commemorative coins are made at various mints across India including the ones at (Bombay) Mumbai, Noida, (Calcutta) Kolkata & Hyderabad.

10 paise coin with the theme 'Planned Families – Food For All' was issued for general circulation. The other two coins on the same theme are the 10 rupees and 50 rupees coins, issued only as uncirculated and Proof specimens.

Date of Issue 16th August, 1974 **Obverse:** Ashoka Lion Capital, denomination below

Reverse: Family within a triangle, grain stalks on both sides, date below. Legend Planned Families – Food For All.



PLANNED FAMILIES

Specification:

Denomination: 10 paise

Metal: Aluminum

Weight: 2.3 gm

Diameter: 26 mm

Mints: Bombay (Mumbai),

Calcutta (Kolkata) & Hyderabad

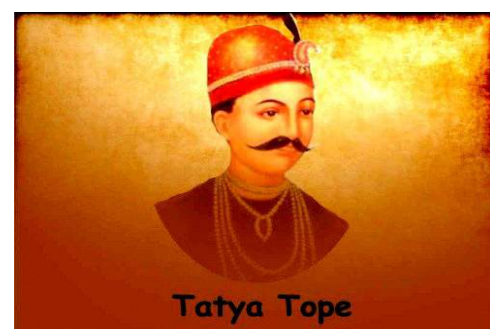
Shape: Scalloped

Union Government releases commemorative coin to mark Tatya Tope martyrdom day

तात्या टोपे के शहादत दिवस पर केंद्र सरकार द्वारा जारी किये गए स्मारक सिक्के

New Delhi: The NDA Government recently released **Rs.200 commemorative coin** and a Rs.10 circulation coin on the occasion of the Martyrdom day of Tatya Tope, one of the outstanding Indian leaders of the 1857 revolt against the British on 18th April, 2016. Union Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mahesh Sharma issued the coins.

"He fought during 1857 revolt along with Jhansi ki Rani and Nana Sahib, and gave his important contribution in the independence of India. Today the Government of India along with 125 crore people of India salutes him with pride," Sharma told as per reports gathered by the ICCG News.



Ramachandra Pandurang Tope (1814 - 18 April 1859) was one of its notable generals of the 1857 revolt. He is better known by his nickname Tatya Tope, which is also transliterated as Tantya Tope or Tantia Topi.

A personal adherent of Nana Sahib of Bithur, he progressed with the Gwalior contingent after the British reoccupied Cawnpore and forced General Windham to retreat from the city. Later on, he came to the relief of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and with her seized the city of Gwalior.

However, he was defeated by General Napier's British Indian troops at Ranod and after a further defeat at Sikar abandoned the campaign. He was executed by the British Government at Shivpuri on April 18 1859.

