

ICCG News

Numismatic News

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Monthly Newspaper for Coins, Currencies, Collectibles & Events

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Numismatic Journey of a Scholar:

Thousands of Histories, Hundreds of Articles & Unmatchable Collection



Shri Prashant Kulkarni

Founder Trustee of the Indian Coin Society and the editor of one of its journal named Nidhi, Shri Prashant Kulkarni is also the co-editor of the Journal of Numismatic Society of India from 1992-1994. He has been the Vice Chairman of the Indian Coin Society, Nagpur and Vice President of the South Indian Numismatic Society in 1991-92. He has written about one hundred articles, two monographs and two books on numismatics. His book entitled Coinage of the Bhonsla Rajas of Nagpur has received the Nelson Wright Medal of the Numismatic Society of India, Varanasi. Prashantji is also a popular speaker and has spoken various times at the, British Museum, UK; Oriental Numismatic Society, Tubingen, Germany; Oriental Numismatic Society, America, New York; National Museum of Sri Lanka; The India International Centre, New Delhi; The Prince of Wales Museum Bombay and the Asiatic Society of Bombay.

Born in 1961 at Amravati, he is a businessman and Chartered Accountant. He reached the highest level of achievement in the Amway Corporation business and is known as a Diamond distributor. He has been pioneer in export of Oranges to Singapore, Sharjah, and London. He is a member of the Vidarbha Economic Development Council. He owns the company called Kulkarni Plantations Private Limited which deals in agricultural properties. His wife Janki and three children Juhi, Navinchandra and Roohi support him whole heartedly in his scholarly pursuits says Shri Kulkarni to ICCG News. Excerpts from the interview:

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

I started at the age of 17 when I was at the General Post Office looking at stamps and coin-sellers. The Victoria 2 Annas of silver attracted me so much that I decided to buy it. It took me 3 months to save that much money to buy the tiny coin. The collection grew thereafter and so did the knowledge

How you developed interest in Numismatics. Was there someone or something of significance that played a role?

It was the love for glittering silver that made me collect the British India silver coins first. Soon found dump silver rupees floating in the market or Sarafa bazaar and my inquisitiveness wanted to know what was written on it. The real thrust came when I saw a cartful of copper coins being thrown in to furnace at Bhandara metal factory to make brass vessels. This was alarming as I saw not only coins but beautiful hands and legs of a broken Chola period statue being put in the furnace. Something told me this is not right and I helped form an organization to prevent this loss. Thus was the Indian Coin Society formed under the Chairmanship of Prof Ajay Mitra Shastri in 1990.

And how about your own coin collection. What are your areas of interest?

Initially I collected all India coins but at some point discovered that one need to specialize in one of the dynasties or periods. Hence exchanged whatever I had to build good Ancient collection. But the love for Mughal calligraphy never ended. So I joined classes called learn Urdu in 30 days by Mansha ur Rahman Mansha at Nagpur. As a result built a small collection of the mohurs of Mughal Emperors also. . . **Cont on 2nd Page....**

ICCG News Felicitate Readers

Recently ICCG News marked its successful year as being a part of Indian Numismatics. On this occasion, ICCG News would like to felicitate everyone for their articles and all those who shared their most valuable thoughts, collectibles and precious time in our interview section. The felicitation will be held during the Bangalore exhibition.

The ICCG News team, hereby thank everyone for their support and readership.

List of our readers who shared their articles in our first year:

List of interviewees from our twelve issues:

Mr. Farokh S. Todywalla
Mr. Rajesh Mulchandani
Mr. Nitin Vyas
Mr. Rahul G. Keshwani
Mr. Kuhol Yeptho
Mr. Shatrughan Saravagi
Mr. Rezwan Razack
Mrs. Rajni Tulsian

Mr. Manoranjan Mahapatra
Mr. Arpit Gupta
Mr. Nilesh Gala
Mr. Bobin Mannalal
Mr. Ashish Parui
Mr. Mukesh Dalal
Mr. Irappa Paramshetti
Mr. Mohit Kapoor

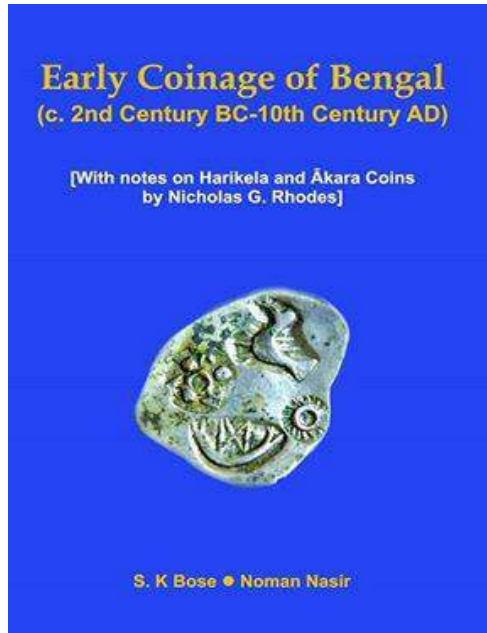
Mr. Dhiren Shah
Dr. Sunil S. Harlalkaa
Mr. Satpal Sahni
Mr. Mahavir Mehta
Mr. Deepak Sharma
Mr. Mitesh Dave
Mr. Girish Sharmaji
Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta



Subject to Mumbai jurisdiction

BOOK RELEASE

The book explicitly documenting the early coinage of Bengal was released recently. A Book release ceremony was organized jointly by The Asiatic Society Kolkata and The Numismatic Society of Calcutta. The book titled "Early Coinage of Bengal" (2nd Century BC – 10th Century AD) has been jointly written by Mr.S.K.Bose and Mr. Noman Nasir. Mrs Rina Bhaduri, Grand daughter of Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee was present to grace the occasion.



Cont of 1st Page...

What has been your source of knowledge towards your subject?

Books, living scholars, and coins themselves.

Your views on the Shivaji gold Hoans: Gold Hoans of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj has seen few controversies, your thoughts on the same:

There is no controversy. Hoans were struck for quite some time during Shivaji's period hence various varieties are bound to exist.

Considering various varieties of the Shivaji Gold Hoans, is it justified to auction any hoan terming it as an actual 'coronation issue'?

Yes. There are notable scholars like Shailendra Bhandare working on this aspect; if they trust that a particular variety was struck during the coronation for certain specific reasons then we have to respect that opinion.

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

Very nice when the family likes it. But sometimes they can be indifferent to coins and more interested in their own pursuits. (including shopping)

Which are your most valuable collections?

Coins of Prabhavati Gupta, the sister of Kumaragupta and daughter of Chandragupta. She was married to Vakataka king near Nagpur but lost her husband at early age. Her coins with legend Siddhi and Riddhi are the epitome of classical coinages of Central India.

What has been your most momentous experience in your numismatic career? Yet to arrive.

How do you see the change in numismatic industry?

We have come long way from dis-associated collectors to organized net-savvy wizards who can point out any flaw in an auction house listing or a description given by a scholar.

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

More professionalism, more knowledge and more connection of coins to Indian History is in the womb of the future. Mere reckless collecting will vanish and passion for our heritage will increase.

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

It will uplift one from wherever he is in life. It teaches how to be patient, how to overcome envy and ultimately how to handle your most loved thing at the fag end of life.

ICCG News thanked Shri Prashant Kulkarniji for his precious time that he spared for us in sharing his positive thoughts which are sure to beget a lot of motivation.

City Museum to have a Gallery in memory of Biju Patnaik ओडिशा संग्राहलय में बीजू पटनायक को समर्पित की जायेगी एक गैलरी

Bhubaneswar: Odisha state museum will have a separate gallery on the legendary leader Biju Patnaik on the occasion of his birth centenary year. Called 'Biju Corner', the gallery will display various memorabilia including rare photographs, objects and items used by him besides books and articles written on him.

"This will be the first gallery on any person to be developed in the museum, which will throw light on many interesting aspects of the life of Biju Patnaik. We are hopeful of completing the gallery by the next year. We have started collecting exhibits for it," said culture minister Ashok Chandra Panda on 18th May as known by ICCG News. The museum is also setting up new galleries, including one dedicated to the freedom fighters of the state, human evolution and traditional patachitra (cloth painting).

"The facilities at the museum are pending upgradation for a long time. There are several rare coins and jewellery, which we cannot exhibit due to the lack of adequate security measures. CCTV surveillance and fire safety arrangements have to be done in a priority basis" said museum superintendent, Jayanti Rath. Two renovated galleries, including the one on archaeology and another on natural history, were opened for public with some additional exhibits. The museum also displays a guide on wildlife sanctuaries and national parks of the state.

A photo exhibition showcasing the lifestyle of six primitive tribal communities has become a major attraction where paintings, lifestyles, dwellings, agricultural and cultural practices put up. "The exhibition aimed at giving an idea about the tribal traditions of our state. It will continue for a month," Rath informed as per the reports with ICCG News.

It's a Stamp of Passion and Dedication



Shri Ajay Mittal

Philately is a hobby of kings – they say, and for Shri Ajay Mittal, it is his passion as collecting what he loves is not a mere hobby, it is much more than that – it has come to define their very being. His recent exhibit was awarded at the World Stamp Show in New York. Shri Mittal's boyhood interest in Philately began after he got inspired by his friend's stamp collection is how he shares with us....

How did you fell in love with stamps?

During my childhood one of my friends, in the neighborhood, was a stamp collector. I used to meet him quite often and got inspired with his collection. Since his uncle was serving in foreign ministry, he used to get different stamps from all parts of the world. My father was a businessman and we use to receive letters regularly. I started collecting stamps from his letters. And eventually started exchanging stamps with my friends... and that is how I started making my collection and got fascinated towards philately.

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

I started collecting stamps when I was in school in 6th standard in 1968. My first visit to a stamp exhibition was in 1970 in Delhi. I found stamp collection as a very colorful and enjoyable hobby. Initially I used to collect almost all types of stamps because of my limited knowledge on the subject. But my hobby got a direction when I visited Delhi State Stamp Exhibition in 1978 and then I joined a philatelic society 'We Philatelists'. I started discussing philately with other collectors. They guided me and taught me how to collect stamps. Thereafter, I started collecting stamps subject wise. Many senior philatelists use to visit the society meetings and they taught us about

do's and don'ts of stamp collecting. This augmented my interest towards philately. Now after completing almost 45 years in philately, I consider myself to be one of the finest philatelists in the country.

How was the support from your elders in earlier days?

In the beginning it was fine but when I started collecting stamps seriously and was spending lot of time on this they started objecting. But later when I started getting rewards for my hobby they also recognized it and accepted my hobby.

How it feels to you see your collectibles today as this hobby has been a part of your life?

Stamp collecting is not just a hobby for me now it is my passion. I am always ready to take out time for the hobby. It is a routine for me to study the articles and various books on philately. Internet has made it more convenient. Whenever I am not able to get time for my hobby for few days due to my other commitments towards my business and family I start missing my hobby.

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

I love my collections like my baby. I am collecting on many subjects but few of them are more near to my heart e.g. my maximaphily collection, my collection of an Indian Princely State Indore State Postal System, Indore State Fiscals (a collection of Indore state court fee stamps, documentary stamps, stamp papers, receipt stamps, municipality tax stamps, motor vehicle fee stamps etc.) and KishanGarh State Fiscals. These collections have given me worldwide recognition.

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

For a beginner I will suggest to start with a thematic collection. Thematic collection I explain is like comics where a story is told with the help of pictures. In thematic Stamp Collection we tell a story/about the theme with the help of pictures and designs on stamps. The collector should choose a theme which is more close to his/her heart.

How can one grow with his hobby?

It sometimes happens that some older member of the family has an old stamp collection which he is willing to pass over to the next generation. In that case the new collector is in a happy position to make a flying start. But most people have to begin by picking up odd stamps here and there. In that way a small but interesting collection can be gradually formed. For growing with the hobby it is required to be little passionate about the hobby. It is more important to give some time to your hobby. The collector should study regularly, some non-philatelic literature also to master his chosen subject of his collection of stamps.

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

Yes, I feel I am lucky enough to get chance to be a part of 16 International Exhibitions from 1989 to 2016 with 21 medals which include 2 Gold Medals and 5 Large Vermeil medals.

Recently you have been awarded during the World Stamp Show in NY: How was the experience?

What collection of yours got recognized?

In World Stamp Show NY-2016 in New York I got a vermeil medal on my Fiscal collection of Indian Princely State Kishangarh. Here I missed my large Vermeil Medal by just one mark. I got 84 marks on this exhibit. This is the highest marks awarded exhibit till date on the Kishangarh State Fiscals.

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

Philatelic Societies at local level can organize some workshops in schools to involve them at an early age. But in the present age of computer and smart phones it is really difficult to get kids to involved in this hobby. But as the common phrase 'Diamonds cut diamonds', we can use computer, internet etc to attract more and more collectors to this hobby. Use of social media like facebook, Whatsapp can play an important role in this. Blogs and mobile applications can be of big use. In my view with the help of all above measure we can achieve our aim to involve young kids with this hobby.

What would you advice to young Philatelists?

Whenever we meet someone in our society and tell about our passion with philately we hear repetitive standard phrase 'Once upon a time I was also a stamp Collector.' This is because they started collecting just out of fascination in a haphazard manner and the result is that they soon leave this hobby due to lack of further guidance. If they get a certain direction at that stage this hobby can go a long way.

Any message for ICCG News?

Media can play an important role in promotion of philately. If news magazines like ICCG News regularly spread the information of achievements and credentials received by

ICCG News hereby thank Shri Ajay Mittal 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.



HeForShe stamps marks a record sale at Pune

HeForShe डाक टिकट का पुणे में कीर्तिमान

Within a fortnight, nearly 1,24,200 postage stamps and 29,850 miniature sheets have already been sold in Pune

In its mission to engage men and boys as agents of change for gender equality, the HeForShe campaign has reached Pune. The HeForShe postage stamps promoting solidarity are available in the city.

The Department of Post along with the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has released a set of postage stamps and a miniature sheet to promote the cause.

The images on stamps portray girls and women as half of humanity and exactly equal to the other — male — half. Together, they make a whole world.

Rupesh Sonawal, officer from the postal department in Mumbai, said, "Release of this innovative stamp with the theme of gender equality is happening for the first time. The stamps are being distributed across the country"

It may be recalled that a special event was held to kick-start the HeForShe campaign on September 20, 2014, at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The initiative has gained momentum since then.

Talking about the unique campaign that vows to take action against inequalities faced by women and girls, R K Sharma, UN's officer for India, informed, "HeForShe solidarity movement provides a systematic approach and targeted platform on which men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality. The aim of this movement is to mobilize one billion men to accelerate the achievement of gender equality. Under the HeForShe campaign, we are doing different innovative programmes, globally and issuing a postal stamp is a part of it. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Post and UNPA in February 2016 for this purpose."

The stamps are available for sale at the General Post Office (GPO), the Shivajinagar Post Office and the City Post Office in Pune, as per the reports gathered by the ICCG News. L D Kumbhar, officer of the GPO, explained, "GPO has received 1,000 stamps worth Rs 3,00,000 and 200 miniatures from the central government. It's a brilliant initiative." To this, Rajashree Pujari, stamp distributor at the GPO, added, "The demand for the postage stamps is ever increasing. We have, so far, sold 1,24,200 stamps and 29,850 miniature sheets in Pune."

Punekars are thronging government offices to collect the stamps.

Sharad Bora, a city-based philatelist, shared, "I love collecting different kinds of stamps but this one is going to be special. The mission to promote gender equality through these postage stamps is something I haven't heard of before. So, I am very excited."



Thanks to shree Yogesh Sagar (MLA) for appreciating ICCG NEWS on completing 1st year.



योगेश सागर
आमदार

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Date: 13/06/2016

To,
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Shop No. 08, 2nd floor,
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Respected Sir,

Congratulations on completing the first year of being the voice of Indian numismatics. We would like to heartily appreciate and thank Shri Siddharth N. Shah for his contribution to Indian numismatics and coming up with ICCG News.

We expect same continuation and support in days to come.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,

Yogesh Sagar

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India Post Goes Hi-tech With Geo-portal, App

New Delhi: As emails and SMSs become the order of the day, the good old Postal Department is going hi-tech by geo-tagging the post offices and has begun monitoring timely clearance of the letter boxes through a mobile app.

In collaboration with the Department of Space, India Post has geo-tagged over 1.5 lakh post offices on the indigenous geo-portal Bhuvan, developed by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), to help people search the nearest post office and know about services and timings.

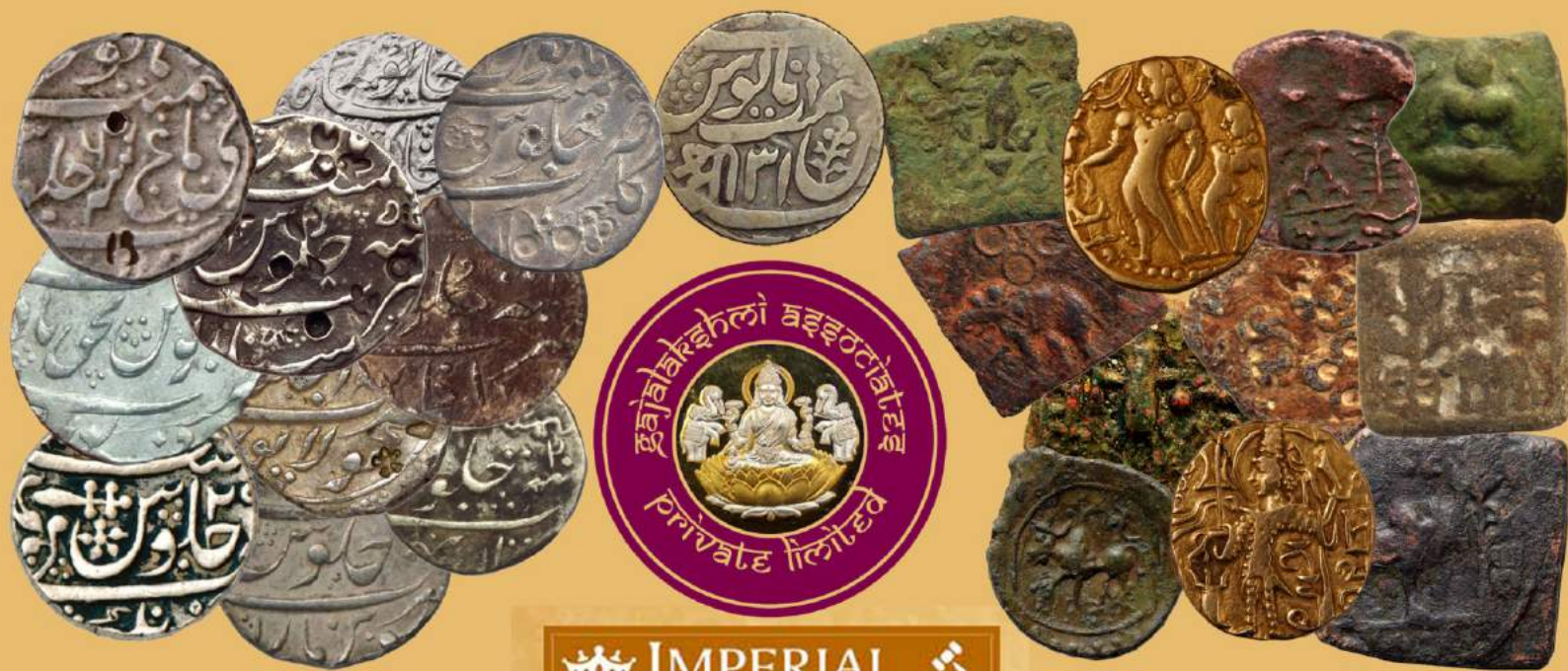
India Post has over 1.55 lakh post offices of which more than 1.39 lakh are in the rural areas. An official in Communications and IT Ministry said the remaining post offices would also be geo-tagged soon on Bhuvan (a Hindi word for 'universe') as known by ICCG News. The initiative is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to use space technology by various departments of the government, he added.

"More than 1.5 lakh post offices have been geo-tagged and their exact location on a GIS satellite imagery map along with photograph, services and office timings, etc, have been made available on the portal," he further added.



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Highlights from the 1st year of ICCG News

Our gratitude goes out to those who have helped us build and maintain the ICCG network: our contributors, advertisers, few volunteers and all of you who have given guidance and support. And lastly, of course we thank our readers, who will be the ultimate judge of our success.

There always had been numismatic events, news, articles for us to share which came through for us month after month.

Our first issue highlighted the negative approach of local media in Rajkot (Gujarat) due to which Indian Numismatists were forced to bear a loss of more than 50 Lakhs. Entire numismatic exhibition had to be called off after false rumors were spread in local newspapers in regards of the exhibition. Our first issue also covered the interview of Shri Farokh Todywalla who himself is the pioneer in the field and very much a prominent part of the global Indian numismatic scenario.

Second issue once again highlighted a misleading report on Indian numismatics that was published in 'The Times of India', which displayed a very wrong image of Indian numismatics. One of the important articles that this issue covered was on the Fake coins. The issue also covered the controversial PIL filed in the MP High Court against the selling of Indian circulatory currency notes for their fancy numbers.

Third & fourth issue covered the story of 'Shivaji Gold Hoan' that got auctioned for 33 Lakhs in Ahmedabad which was withdrawn from Mumbai auction @ 4 Lakhs just six years ago. News on Gupta coin, articles on fake notes, Ahmedabad exhibition and interviews of Shri Nitin Vyas and Shri Nilesh Gala just added up to the numismatic reading.

Our fifth issue showed how the 'clean note policy' was rubbished by RBI Governors themselves (if few senior numismatists are to be believed). The issue covered an article on Indian circulatory currency notes which were defaced by few RBI Governors by signing autographs on the watermark area thus disobeying the 'clean note policy' which is being appealed to general public for years by the RBI. Few other articles on error coins, Mumbai and Kannur coin exhibitions were featured. In this issue we once again highlighted a 'Fake news' on Indian numismatics which was published in 'Divya Bhaskar', which showed how negative Indian media is towards numismatics.

Sixth issue was Diwali special where we shared that there is a tradition of buying and gifting gold and silver coins on Diwali as it is believed that in this way people bring Goddess Lakshmi which means wealth in their house. And with time, numismatic collectibles have become more popular choices during the festival. Other articles were on fake coins that were selling on e bay, interviews and few numismatic news were all added up to complete reading experience.

Seventh and eight issues saw more numismatic articles and news with interviews. ICCG also started sharing year wise details of commemorative coins of republic India, starting from 1964.

Ninth issue came up with the disappointing views of collectors as two numismatic exhibitions clashed each other on same dates. The issue saw added articles on Mumbai GPO and Kolkata mint with interviews of Shri Shatrughan Saravagi, Shri Mukesh Dalal and Shri Mitesh Dave.

Our tenth issue shared a message from RBI Governor Shri Raghuram Rajan in which he dismissed rumors that surfaced throughout social media after the ICCG News showed concern on the RBIs 'Clean Note Policy'. Keeping in concern the clean note policy, ICCG News covered this story in its October (fifth issue) issue post which the rumors of scribbled notes surfaced throughout the social media. It is believed that such rumors were spread with an intention to make it clear that Governor's autographed notes continue to be legal.

Eleventh and twelfth issues continued with numismatic articles and news and interviews. And every issue covered announcements of upcoming numismatic events, puzzles, coin/note of the month and awareness posts.

ICCG News enjoyed sharing year full of numismatic moments with every of our readers and we look forward to another year of being the progressive voice of Indian Numismatics.



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NEWS

Note of the Month



In the initial years, the Government of Pakistan used super inscribed Indian notes as its Paper Money until they were gradually replaced by Pakistani currency by 1949. The notes were in the denominations of Rs. 1, 2, 5, 10 and 100. On 1 April 1948, provisional notes were issued by the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, for use exclusively within Pakistan, without the possibility of redemption in India. Printed by the India Security Press in Nasik, these notes consist of Indian note plates engraved (not overprinted) with the words GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN in English and "Hukumat-e-Pakistan" in Urdu added at the top and bottom, respectively, of the watermark area on the front only; the signatures on these notes remain those of Indian banking and finance officials.

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Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad सलर जंग संग्रहालय - हैदराबाद

The Salar Jung Museum is an art museum located at Darushifa, on the southern bank of the Musi river in the city of Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It is one of the three National Museums of India. It has a collection of sculptures, paintings, carvings, textiles, manuscripts, ceramics, metallic artefacts, carpets, clocks, and furniture from Japan, China, Burma, Nepal, India, Persia, Egypt, Europe, and North America. The museum's collection was sourced from the property of the Salar Jung family. It is one of the Largest museums in the world. The Salar Jung Museum houses the largest one-man collection of antiques in the world. It is well known throughout India for its prized collections belonging to different civilizations dating back to the 1st century. Nawab Mir Yusuf Ali Khan Salar Jung III (1889–1949), former Prime Minister of the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, spent a substantial amount of his income over thirty five years to make this priceless collection, his life's passion. The collections left behind in his ancestral palace, 'Diwan Deodi', were formerly exhibited there as a private museum which was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951. Old timers believe that the present collection constitutes only half of the original art wealth collected by Salar Jung III. His employees siphoned off part of it, since Salar Jung was unmarried and depended upon his staff to keep a vigil. Some more art pieces were lost or stolen during the shifting of the museum from Diwan Deodi to the present site. Later in 1968, the museum shifted to its present location at Afzal Gunj and is administered by a Board of Trustees with the Governor of Telangana as ex officio chairperson under the Salar Jung Museum Act of 1961.



The museum building, semicircular in shape with 37 galleries, spread on two floors, displays only a part of the original collection. The ground floor has 20 galleries and the first floor has 18 galleries. The exhibits on different subjects are displayed in separate galleries. Each gallery is huge and has many artifacts on display including ones dating back to the 4th century.

Important Exhibits: There are Aurangzeb's daggers belonging to empress Noor Jehan, emperors Jehangir and Shah Jehan, the turbans and chair of Tipu sultan, furniture from Egypt, paintings on display. Among the sculptures stands out the world famous statue of veiled Rebecca by G.B. Benzoni, an Italian sculptor, in 1876. Her beautiful face hazily is visible through a marble but gossamer veil. Equally captivating is a double-figure wood sculpture. It stands before a mirror and shows the facade of a nonchalant Mephistopheles and the image of a demure Margareta in the mirror. The eastern section is of equal importance with its wide variety of silk weaving and different art forms, including layer wood cutting paintings, porcelain works and many more, dating back to almost 2nd century. The Museum has a famous Quran Collection from around the World in different fonts and designs. The Quran written with Gold and Silver. There are many more collections of religious books, as well as Arabic Quran.

The Clock: A bewildering variety and array of clocks greets the visitor in the clock room. There are ancient sundials in the form of obelisks to huge and modern clocks of the twentieth century. Others in the range vary from miniature clocks which need a magnifying glass to imbibe their beauty and complexity to stately grandfather clocks from as far away as France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Britain. A visual delight is the musical clock Salar Jung bought from Cook and Kelvey of England. Every hour, a timekeeper emerges from the upper deck of the clock to strike a gong as many times as it is the hours of the day. It is an antique.

The Salar Jung Museum possesses a good number of clocks collected from different European countries such as France, England, Switzerland, Germany, Holland etc. The variety includes the Bird cage clocks, Bracket clocks, Grandfather clocks, Skeleton clocks, etc. The museum is also having some good examples of the clocks of the contemporary period of Louis XV, Louis XVI, and Napoleon 1st of France. The most important clock which attracts the greatest number of visitors everyday is however, a British Bracket clock. It has got a mechanical device by which a miniature toy figure comes out of an enclosure and strikes the gong and then returns to the enclosure at each hour.

The Indian parliament has declared the museum an Institution of National Importance.

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Issues faced by museums discussed on the International Museum Day वार्षिक संग्रहालय दिवस के अवसर पर संग्रहालय की अनेक समस्याओं / दिक्कतों पर चर्चा

Difficulties faced by museums in the state were widely discussed at a seminar organized by Symbiosis Society's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum and Memorial to mark the International Museum Day on May 18. Directors and representatives of museums from Pune and other parts of Maharashtra participated in the seminar. Padma Bhushan Dr SB Mujumdar was the chief guest of the event.

Dr Mujumdar said that museums are classrooms which help in receiving information and education. "Museums encourage and motivate people and every city should have museums as they help in creating an identity," he said, while emphasizing on digitization and use of technology for museums to overcome various issues faced by them these days. Dr Mujumdar also threw light on the importance of funds for museums and stressed on funds from municipal corporations and industries in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The seminar concluded with a decision to form a forum of museums in Pune to discuss the future and issues concerning museums, as per the reports with ICCG News.



Indian Heritage Hub: Kolkata GPO

कोल्कता डाक घर



The General Post Office, Calcutta was commissioned by the British Government of Bengal to ease the administration of the postal & telegraph network of the province of Bengal; it has since then served as the chief post office of Bengal.

The GPO, a magnificent white building, with a huge dome gracing its front end & Corinthian columns (slender columns, topped by decorative leaves & scrolls) along its sides, is a brilliant example of the simplistic Edwardian architecture that was prevalent in Britain from 1901-14.

The GPO has gory history associated with it – it is built at the site of Fort William, the British outpost at Calcutta, that was the site of the "Black Hole Tragedy" of 1756 AD – a singular event where several British men & women were imprisoned in a small dungeon by then Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah, leading to several deaths by asphyxiation & panic. Along one of the staircases of the GPO, brass plates have been embedded in the floor to mark the dungeon where the "Black Hole" incident took place. Postage stamps worth 40 paise depicting the GPO were also issued by the postal department on its centenary celebrations in 1967 & 68.

The building was designed by Walter L. B. Granville (1819-1874), the same architect who also designed the Indian Museum, Calcutta High Court & the University of Calcutta (later destroyed). The construction of the GPO started in 1864 & it was handed over to the postal department in 1868. A Postal Museum was added to the GPO in 1884 & has on display a collection of stamps and postal artifacts such as letter boxes & seals. The GPO also boasts of a Philatelic Bureau which is a stamp collector's delight.

Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for protection & maintenance of this heritage building.

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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.



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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.

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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.



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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.

1975 Equality, Development, Peace

The India Government Mint of Bombay issued this Coin Set promoting Equality (in terms of Gender and Respecting the Women of India), Development, Peace. **Date of Issue** 15th August, 1975. **Obverse:** Ashoka Lion Capital, denomination below

Reverse: Bust of woman on left side and grain stalks on right. Date spread on both sides and Legend Equality, Development, Peace.

Proof Sets:

10 Coin Set – 50 Rupees, 10 Rupees, & 10 Paise (D.O.C), 1 Rupee, 50 Paise, 25 Paise, 5 Paise, 3 Paise, 2 Paise, & 1 Paise (Regular)

UNC Sets:

2 Coin Set – 50 Rupees & 10 Rupees, Single Coin – 50 Rupees, Single Coin – 10 Rupees



1975 - Equality, Development, Peace

Specification:

Denomination: 10 paise

Metal: Aluminum

Weight: 2.3 gm

Diameter: 26 mm

Mints: Bombay (Mumbai),

Calcutta (Kolkata)

Shape: Scalloped

Banaras Hindu University – 2016 Centenary Coins बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय - २०१६ शत वार्षिकी सिक्के



May 12: Expressing deep concern over lack of quality education in the country, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee today said that education system of the country must be in highest order. Delivering centenary speech at Banaras Hindu University today, Shri Mukherjee called upon all governments and private bodies to include education as Gross National Priority. While lauding the role and vision of BHU founder late Madan Mohan Malviya for his vision to establish a university with excellence, Shri Mukherjee underlined his concern for quality education in Indian universities and colleges, as per the reports with the ICCG News.

Earlier, President was welcomed by state Governor Ram Naik, state government Minister B S Tripathi; Chancellor Dr Karan Singh at the Swatantrata Bhawan Auditorium. Governor Ram Naik also released a set of commemorative coin of 100 Rupees and 10 Rupees to mark the centenary year of BHU. He gifted first set of coins to the President. In his speech, Governor Ram Naik said that BHU is example of vision and commitment of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya.

Obverse: Ashoka Lion Capital, denomination below with rupee symbol & Bharat / India on sides.

Reverse: Logo of University. Date 1916 – 2016 split on both sides and Legend Banaras Hindu University Centenary Year in English and Hindi.

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			Proof Coin Set	Uncirculated Coin Set
1	125 th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF Dr. S. RADHAKRISHNAN (2015)	2 Coin Set (₹ 125 & ₹ 10)	₹ 3013	₹ 2557
2	3RD INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT (2015)	2 Coin Set (₹ 500 & ₹ 10)	₹ 3013	₹ 2557
3	150 th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LALA LAJPAT RAI (1865 -2015)	2 Coin Set (₹ 150 & ₹ 5)	₹ 3013	₹ 2557
4	BIRTH CENTENARY OF RANI GAIDINLIU (1915 -2015)	2 Coin Set (₹ 100 & ₹ 5)	₹ 3012	₹ 2556

Members of public are invited to book their orders for above Commemorative Coins between 13-06-2016 to 13-08-2016 by visiting our website : <http://igmkolkata.spmcil.com> online or by submitting filled in prescribed application form (available on website) along with Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque in favour of "India Government Mint, Kolkata-A Unit of SPMCIL", payable at Kolkata.

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