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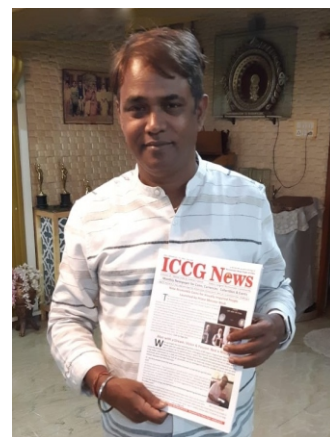
Commemorative Coin Sale Counter Inaugurated in Delhi

New Delhi: A Commemorative Coin Sale Counter had recently been inaugurated which is to benefit the north east collectors. Till now the collectors had to wait for months for their coin sets booked. This sale counter would make it very easy for coin collectors to purchase their coin sets directly from the counter. The sale counter was inaugurated on 20th January 2020 by Tripti Patra Ghosh, CMD, SPMCIL, in presence of Ajai Kumar Srivastav, Director (Technical), SK Sinha, Director (HR), Ajay Agarwal, Director (Finance), Mamta Singh, CVO, BJ Gupta, General Manager (HR) at SPMCIL, 1st Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi. The inaugural function witnessed a sizable number of customers for purchase of Commemorative Coins on the first day of opening of Sale Counter.



Bringing History Back to Life - Reliving History with Jodha Akbar

Ranjan Kumar Singh is an Indian TV and film director. A graduate from the National School of Drama, Mr. Singh is currently working with Balaji Telefilms. He started his career with an Indian epic television series Jai Hanuman which was produced by Sanjay Khan. His tv serial list is indeed long which includes many hits like CID, Balika Vadhu, Vivah, Meri Ashiqui Tumse hi, Mata ki Chowki, Naagin series, Kalash, Tere Mere Sapne, Chandrakanta, Maharana Pratap and Jodha Akbar. Five times winner for the best director award for tv serials and two times best director award for films Mr. Ranjan Singh, who is an inspiration for many youngsters today, shared his thoughts and experiences exclusively with ICCG News recently. Excerpts from the interview:



Mr. Ranjan Singh

You are a graduate from national school of drama. Please let us know about your journey.

Actually, I was a science student. I have done honors in Physics from Patna University and M.Sc in electronics. But as it's said that destiny decides our future, I ended up in this part of the world.

We have heard that you were also determined to join the army....

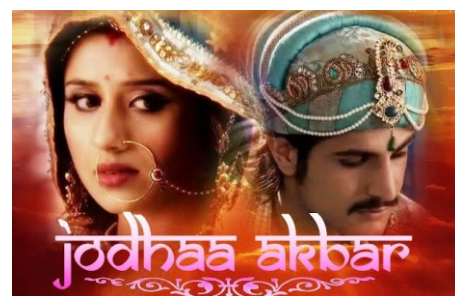
Yes, as a youth like many of us I too had patriotic feelings within myself. My friends and myself were very much determined to join the Indian army. I was almost selected but as I had two thumb toes in one of my foot with an abnormal growth, I was suggested to get it amputated. But I refused to this suggestion and was thus declared unfit for the army. My destiny had written something else for me and today I am here.

What was your first break?

My first ever break was with director Shekhar Kapur during Bandit Queen. But my first individual break was from Sanjay Khan sir's Jai Hanuman. **Cont on Page 3rd..**



Jalal al-Din Muhammad Akbar Coin with Rama & Sita Figures



Paper Money King Rezwan Razack to Open New Museum

Bengaluru: Even as hard currency is slowly being taken over by digital modes, a soon-to-be launched Rezwan Razack's Museum of Indian Paper Money is an attempt to keep alive what could be unseen, unfelt in the cloud-driven future. Rezwan Razack, co-founder and joint MD of the Prestige Group, will, on February 15, open to public South India's first museum on currency, a culmination of a 50-year hobby which has required Razack to devote several man hours. "It started as curiosity, then went on to become a hobby and passion, and is now an obsession. I have been devoting six hours a day researching this subject," says Razack when we meet him at the museum on Brunton Road where preparation are going on in full-swing. The museum will be inaugurated by Dr C Rangarajan, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India.



The museum comprises notes dating back to the 1800s. Early private and presidency banks, including the uniface or one-sided notes attributed to the colonial Government of India. The portrait notes of British monarchs such as Queen Victoria, King George V and VI while India's colonial history has been documented in the notes from French India, Portuguese India—all of which are placed prominently in the museum. The latest addition is a Re 1 note of 2020. Often, Razack finds himself travelling the world to pursue his hobby. "All holidays are planned around this interest. If the vacation doesn't have anything to do with my hobby, then I just don't go," Razack says with a laugh.

While much of his research was done during the writing of his books, The Revised Standard Reference Guide to Indian Paper Money (2012) and One Rupee - One Hundred Years 1917-2017 (2017), he continues to visit libraries, especially the British Council in London, to dig further. "Learning never stops," he says, adding that he is pursuing a niche hobby, with almost everybody turning to him in case of queries, with even grading companies using his book, and his knowledge, as a provenance. At this point he recalls a lunch meet with an official from the RBI, who, over the course of the conversation, mentioned that some notes continued to be printed in foreign countries, including Germany, post Independence. While Razack was initially sceptical about this, he later came to understand that the official was present when the printing plate was destroyed by dipping it in acid. This lead took Razack on a research trail, and he soon found out that one lakh crore worth of notes were indeed printed outside India.

While he admits it's a hard hobby to pursue, with information hard to come by, that often has to be inferred through research, logic and documents, he also points out that unlike metal, paper currency doesn't have an intrinsic value and depreciates over time. "And further more when it ceases to be a legal tender," says Razack, who with a book and museum in tow, is hoping to make history fun by holding classes for children.



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SaveCoins Heritage By ICCG

Cont of Page 1st...

Is it possible to stay away from getting into controversies especially when you have directed historical as well as mythological serials?

Any historical and mythological film or serial is always on cards for some controversy at any level. I remember that we were sued for showing Valmiki as a dacoit in our serial. Now that's a known fact that Valmiki was a dacoit and we have been learning this since our school days. Though we won the court case but we had to face a lot of harassment by appearing in court on every date and travelling to Delhi for every hearing.

How important it is for any country to commemorate its national heroes and personalities with historical importance?

It's very important for any country to commemorate and pay tribute to all men and women who sacrificed their lives for its freedom. Every nation's identity is achieved through its national heroes and freedom fighters. Today our nation is commemorating its national heroes and freedom fighters on various coins and stamps as it is very important for us to remind us of their sacrifices, actions and thoughts. They were not only believers, but they were also those great personalities who laid down their lives for their belief.

You have worked a lot with child actors. How challenging is it while directing child actors?

Working with kids is one of the great challenges. For kids it's more like a school play or fancy dress. When my child actor arrives on set, I make sure to get him comfortable, set up, and energized. Yes it is an experience that I truly enjoyed as I have directed several serials with children as lead actors.

Actors like Rajat Tokas and Paridhi Sharma belong to the younger generation, so how excited did you find these actors when they were suggested such historical characters?

Rajat (Tokas) has acted with me even as a child artist. When we approached him with the role of Akbar, he was not very sure as he is not very tall. But I convinced him anyhow as I was sure that could be able to do justice with the role. I really feel nice to see these young actors coming forward for such Historical roles and also learning a lot from them.

Paridhi Sharma is an Indian television actress. She began her acting career in 2010 with the Indian soap opera Tere Mere Sapne on Star Plus. She is best known for the role of Jodha Bai in the historical drama Jodha Akbar and also as Babita in Patiala Babes. In 2013 she won the Zee Rishtey Awards for the best Nayee Jodi (along with Rajat Tokas). In 2014 she won the best Fresh New Face award for Jodha Akbar in both Zee Gold Awards and Indian Telly Awards. In 2015 she was awarded with the Style Icon of the Year award. On our request Paridhi Sharma happily agreed to be a part of this interview and shared her views along with Ranjan Singh Sir, on the importance of Indian heritage, Indian history and historical personalities. Excerpts from the interview:

As a child were you ever fascinated towards coins, stamps or any other hobby?

Paridhi Sharma: I don't think I was very much fascinated towards coins or stamps in particular but yes I do have many other hobbies. Especially all my hobbies are closely related to the world of art. So anything which is close to art be it music, dancing, books, literature all these things fascinate me and so these are my hobbies.

Ranjan Singh: Yes, as most children even I was quite attracted towards coins and stamps and also collected them and in fact even today my nephew makes me struggle for old coins as he is also a very serious coin collector. Recently my nephew saw a coin which I had used in one of my serial and asked me for that particular coin which I gifted him after the shoot. But my main attraction was towards music. I was an instrumentalist and was more connected with lok sangeet and lok nritya.

You have directed serials like Maharana Pratap and Jodha Akbar - These are our great historical characters and RBI has also issued a commemorative coin of Maharana Pratap in the past and also recently. How important do you feel it is for the younger generation to know, learn and get connected with our history and our historical personalities?

Ranjan Singh: Its indeed very important for our younger generation to be acquainted with our history, culture and heritage. Efforts should be made to nourish the young talent by providing them research facilities, financial support and also by platforms to publish their articles and research papers on ancient Indian traditions, culture.



Paridhi Sharma



Cont on Page 4th..

Cont of Page 3rd..

Paridhi Sharma: I think for long we Indians haven't given lot of credit to our history and our historical personalities. It was very much on a periphery level because of the deep impact of the colonisation but now recently few years the entire scenario has changed where we again want to reconnect with our history, want to go back to our roots and want to understand the value of our history and historical personalities. So yes, it is very important for the development of any nation because it develops people, it develops the value system, it develops the sense of pride for our country and any nation where its people have lot of sense of pride for their nation will always flourish. So I think it is very important to be connected with our history and historical personalities.

Ranjan Sir, your directed Jodha Akbar has also been quite a great success. Coins from the Akbar period are of great importance as its one of the most valuable part of Indian History. You are already contributing in one of the best way to keep the younger generation in staying connected with our history. How do you see these efforts in a positive way?

Ranjan Singh: I take it as a very positive sign as serials and even historical movies are getting healthy viewership from the youth. Younger generation is showing good interest and respect for our culture and heritage. Yes, though I agree that question of heritage in children's lives and education is becoming increasingly important. A more direct experience of history can also help to bring history to life where numismatics and philately play a vital role. A visit to a heritage site, such as a museum, can also provide an alternative learning experience.

Paridhi Sharma belongs to the younger generation. How excited were you and what inspired you to play the role of Jodha?

Paridhi Sharma: I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of portraying Jodha's character on screen. Even the day I got to know that I was selected for the role, I literally wanted to dig deeper into the character and wanted to know more about her (Jodha) as a person but unfortunately I couldn't find much stuff written on her. So I developed my own understanding on it. Through living this character I also developed very good command on my language Hindi. And

I suppose that apart of the emotional portraying it is my Hindi language that has helped me in my success because when we portray any historical character then their language, style, costume everything gets reflected which has so much of beauty and purity in itself that keeps vanishing from generations to generations. And yes, it's very inspiring and exciting to portray the same purity of the historical character again on screen. Yes, it (Jodha Akbar) became a big hit and I am very thankful to Balaji Telefilms because of which I got to portray such a wonderful character.

As per you what more steps can be taken to keep the interest alive among our younger generation where they could relate with our great history in more interesting way?

Paridhi Sharma: I think it is very good time when lot of historical serials and films are coming up which will definitely play very prominent role in engaging younger generation into our history and apart of that I feel it is very important to introduce lot many historical personalities of India be it from Vedic times, many famous Rishi-Munis and likes of Sushrut and Arya Bhatt into the curriculum of our books and make that a part of our education. It should all be a mutual effort from the society, from the art world and the education system. It is very important to inculcate this sense of pride in our history which will surely and definitely help to build a better nation.

Any advise that you would like you give to our students on respecting our national heritage....

Ranjan Singh: Heritage Sites are a symbol of history and every historical site has a very important story to tell. We should always respect our heritage because these living monuments are our only connection with the past.

ICCG News team thanked Ranjan Singh Sir and Paridhi Sharma for sharing their views which we hope would inspire many to give more respect to our heritage, history and historical personalities. ICCG News team wished them lots of success in future.



Mr. Ranjan Singh

Gujarat Coin Society		
Coinex- 2020, Ahmedabad 7 th , 8 th , 9 th February-2020 (10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.)		
:VENUE:		
Sardar Patel Seva Samaj Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ahmedabad		
:AUCTIONS :		
Todywalla Auctions 7 th February, Friday 5.30 p.m. onwards	Virasat Auctions 8 th February, Saturday 2.30 p.m. onwards	Oswal Auctions 8 th February, Saturday 5.30 p.m. onwards

Numismatists Make a Beeline at Rare Fair 2020

Nashik: "Rare Fair-2020," a three-day exhibition of rare coins, bank notes and stamps was organized in the city from 10th of January till 12th of January 2020. It was being organised by Collector's Society of Numismatic & Rare Items, Nashik.

Over 75 coin collectors from various parts of the country participated in the exhibition. The collection included various rare and unique items collected by the participants over the years.

Commissioner of police Vishwas Nangre-Patil formally inaugurated the event and appreciated the efforts of the organisation. He also honoured the exceptional work of the organisation in the field of Numismatics.

Ramavtar Jain, a stamp collector from Ahmedabad, who showcased his rarest collection — the first stamp ticket from 1852 worth Rs 1.5 lakh — said, "People spend so much of money in watching movies and it's like a hobby for them. But, my interests are different. I like to collect rare and unique stamps. I do not have a count of the number of stamps I have."

Among the note collectors, one participant displayed his collection of misprinted notes. Nitin Jain from Balod, Chhattisgarh, said "I got some misprinted notes from my friends and then I started looking for more of them. I, now have a catalogue of real misprinted notes. It has become a hobby for me, but nothing comes for free."

One of the collectors also had some unique silver items. Suraj Pasari from Vadodara has displayed an 80-year old lipstick holder which he had bought from a friend.

"It is made up of 68 gm pure silver. It is a unique item which no makes any more. The British must have got it made from a goldsmith," shared Pasari.

The last fair was organised in 2018 which had attracted over 50,000 people over a period of three days. This year too, the organisers were looking forward to a good response from people.

"People like to display their rare collection during such events. The members of our organisation also evaluate the coins of the public on the basis of condition, name and variety, and tell them the price of them which they can sell off to the collectors," vice president of the organisation Rajesh Junnare said.

As part of the event, an auction of rare coins was also organized on 11th January at Indraprasth Hall, Gangapur Road Nashik..



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PM Releases Postage Stamp to Commemorate 100 Years of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a postage stamp to commemorate 100 years of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd (KBL) in New Delhi on 06th January 2020.

He also unveiled the Hindi version of the biography of Late Laxmanrao Kirloskar, founder of Kirloskar Brothers, titled 'Yantrikki Yatra – The man who made machines.'

Congratulating Kirloskar Brothers Ltd for their centenary celebrations, Prime Minister said that this sense of taking risks, expanding into new areas, is still the identity of every Indian entrepreneur. India's entrepreneur is impatient for the development of the country and to expand his capabilities and successes.

"Today, when we are entering a new year, we are entering a new decade, I have no hesitation in saying that this decade will be for Indian entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs of India," PM added.

PM stated that the true power of the people of the country can come to the fore only when the government stands not as a hindrance to India, Indian and Industries, but as their partner.

"Reform with Intent, Perform with integrity, Transform with intensity has been our approach in the last few years. We have tried for a governance that is professional and process driven. In the last five years, there is an environment in the country to work with integrity and complete transparency. This has given the country the courage to set big goals and achieve them on time" he said.



Uncovering Postal Heritage

Three days and 300 enthusiasts — the South India Philatelists' Association is set to host the country's first covers-only exhibition

Chennai: At a time when whole generations have had little need to keep up with the postal system, the South India Philatelists' Association has quietly been nurturing the interest of hobbyists in stamps and postal paraphernalia. Since 1956, the association has played a significant role in preserving the country's philatelic heritage, besides inducting more and more enthusiasts to this part

of life and history. While it has celebrated the craft through exhibitions, special covers and grandiose collections through the decades, it now has another milestone to mark its work — the country's first covers-only exhibition.

A postal cover is the face of an envelope or package with a stamp affixed. It's usually released to commemorate special stamps, people or events and valid for a limited period of time. At his office in Periamet, association treasurer CG Bhaskar lays out some of the significant covers they are preparing for display. There's a first flight cover released by Air India when it was still owned by JRD Tata. Tata himself had flown the flight, notes Bhaskar. The stamp issued for the event had been valid only for that single day. There's a cricket cover with Sachin Tendulkar's face in the stamp.

There are a few themed around Gandhi. Pointing to the one featuring Gopala Krishna Gokhale, Bhaskar talks about how Gandhi had seen the man as a mentor and upon his advice decided to travel across the country before picking up a fight in its name. It is pointing to snippets like these, B Mahesh Parekh, association secretary, says, that the stamps are a great way to gather knowledge about the world. And it is a great stress-buster, he adds. Perhaps that's why his association has members from 14 to 96 years of age. Bhaskar says that they see many people return to the hobby in their later years after having given it up for life's many demands.

Naturally, the exhibitors at today's event are also from this large pool of talent. Besides active collectors from across the country, many schools and children are also set to participate — displaying their individual and collective work. The association takes particular care in ensuring that they keep the children informed about the world of philately. They hold programmes and awareness sessions in schools every week. Children are even given free stamps to get them started on their journey. With India Posts lending ample support for the event, the exhibition will also host a My Stamp counter. It gives people the rare privilege to get stamps made with their pictures.



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Hobbyists Meet at Rajasthan Mudra Parishad

Jaipur: Recently few senior coin collectors had a meet at Rajasthan Mudra Parishad monthly meeting and shared their views on various topics like trading of coins and promoting the hobby.

The meeting took place 12th January 2020 at Shri Rajesh Kothari's residence at Jaipur. Shri. Rajesh Kothari is the secretary of the Rajasthan Mudra Parishad. The meet was attended by Shri. Arun Mehta, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Dixit, Shri. Kedar Soni, Shri. Asutosh Singhal, Shri. Alok Verma and Shri. Prakash Kothari.



Shri. Prakash Kothari, a pioneer in the field, is very much a prominent part of the global Indian numismatic scenario. Having contributed to Indian Numismatics for many years he was recently awarded with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his lifelong dedication in preserving and collecting coins of Jaipur state.

Shri. Kedar Soni recently exhibited his collections of various bottles and coins at schools and believes in promoting the hobby among the youth.

Shri. Arun Mehta has a huge collection of 786 number notes which he recently displayed during the Jaipur Coinex. Shri. Alok Verma also shared his views on promoting the hobby with ICCG News.

The Rajasthan Mudra Parishad also gifted ICCG News with the special calendar released by the Government of Rajasthan to mark the 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi. The biographical calendar in Hindi is filled with colourful pictures of Gandhiji and shares lot of information on Gandhiji's life and his views. ICCG News heartily thanked Rajasthan Mudra Parishad for this calendar and for making ICCG News a part of their meet.

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Siliguri Numismatic Holds World Paper Money and Coin Exhibition

Siliguri: World Paper Money and Coin Exhibition was launched by Siliguri Numismatic. The exhibition was held on 10th and 11th January 2020 at the Baghajatin Club Hall in College Para.

The currencies of 165 countries were displayed in the exhibition. Apart from the coins and currency notes from different countries, ancient Indian, Mughal, Tughlaq and East India Company currencies were displayed in the exhibition.

On behalf of the organizers, Udyanshu Basak and Devarshi Basak stated that they have been collecting currencies from different countries, since childhood. They further stated that they were not associated with any organization. They have collected the currencies by exchanging them with tourists from different places. They also collected ancient and rare coins from fairs in foreign countries.

The exhibition attracted many people across the city to witness the showcasing of rare coins and notes.

Shobu Banerjee a coin collector who visited the exhibition said, "There are many reasons why one collects coins. There are collectors who collect on the basis of the coin's future perceived value, some collect coins coming from just one particular period, some on metal type and some for a coins historical value. The hobby of coin collecting can give pleasure and fun to an individual of any age. Many coin collectors began their collection when they were young children, collecting annas or paise and many of them have made coin collection a lifetime hobby."



Special Postal Covers Released on Kotaiah Kaja, Uppada Silks

The juicy Kotaiah Kaja, with nearly 119 years of history, has won a rare distinction. The Department of Posts has released a special cover with the photographs of the sweet variety.

The department has also released covers on Uppada Jamdani Weaving Works and 'Gana Kala' Carnatic music monthly magazine, which has been doing a great service to the art since 1962, and also running Sri Rama Samajam School to promote Carnatic music.

Agriculture Minister Kurasala Kanna Babu, Member of Parliament Vanga Geeta Viswanath, Kakinada Mayor Sunkara Pavani, MLAs Dwarampudi Chandrashekar Reddy and Pendem Dora Babu, Visakhapatnam Region Post Master General M. Venkateswarlu and Kakinada Postal Divisional Superintendent Alluvada Eshwara Rao released the special covers at separate functions held in the town.

"Kotaiah Kaja, also known as Kakinada Kaja, is popular across the country and abroad. Kotaiah's family has been preparing the mouthwatering delicacy for more than 100 years. It finds a place in almost every function in coastal districts," the MP said.



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Jalal al-Din Muhammad Akbar Coin with Rama & Sita Figures

This reverse, with its legend, Rama Siya (Siya being the vernacular for Sita in North India, where even today the goddess is still addressed thus) is the only known type of Akbar to feature human figures. All known examples of this type, including the Friedberg specimen in gold, and those in silver, including this coin, are all without mint name, but must have been struck at Akbar's capital, Agra. This is one of the most rare coin of the Mughal Era.

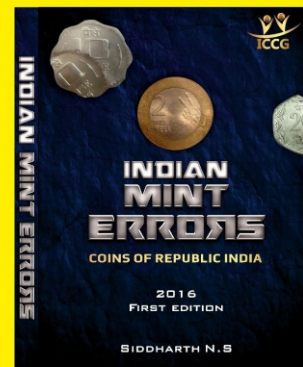


Rama and Sita are portrayed in the various kandas. or books of the Ramayana, one of the longest and most important of the ancient Hindu epics. Written by the poet Valmiki, it tells the story of Prince Rama, the seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu and the eldest and favorite son of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya. Rama, along with his wife Sita, an incarnation of the goddess Lakshmi and the epitome of female purity and virtue, was forced through the wicked machinations of Kaikeyi, one of Dashratha's wives, to relinquish his right to the throne for fourteen years and go into exile. Although the pair live peacefully in the forest for several years, Sita eventually attracts the attention of Ravana the demon king of the island of Lanka, who, abducting her, imprisons her on the island. Assisted by the monkey-god Hanuman, Rama locates Sita and, after an extensive battle, told in the Yuddha Kanda and involving many of Hanuman's animal allies, Rama slays Ravana and rescues Sita. Initially dubious about his wife's chastity during her imprisonment, Rama is convinced of her innocence when Sita passes through the agni Pariksha, or test of fire, unharmed; subsequently, the flames are transformed into lotuses. After twelve years in the forest the pair return to their kingdom with great celebrations. Most likely, the reverse of this coin depicts the triumphal return of Rama and Sita, an event commemorated annually in the Hindu festival of Diwali, or festival of light and victory over darkness. This is evidenced by Rama's holding of the bow, his traditional weapon and symbol of his military prowess against Ravana, as well as the presence of the crown (his eventual accession as king). Similarly, Sita is depicted holding the flowers which symbolize her successful passage through the fire and proclaim her purity. The couple has been a popular subject of art for centuries, including depictions on ramatanka, or special Hindu temple tokens. Under Akbar, the Ramayana and another ancient Hindu epic, the Mahabharata were translated into Persian and distributed as presentation copies among his nobles. A contemporary series of paintings of episodes from the Ramayana was also made during this period (For further information on this, see the British Museum exhibition catalog, The Ramayana: Love and Valour in India's Great Epic [2008]).

That a Hindu legend should appear on a coin of a Muslim emperor is not surprising in the case of Jalal al-Din Muhammad Akbar ("the Great"). He adopted a policy of religious toleration to foster communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims His acts included the repeal of the jizya, the tax which all non-Muslims were required to pay. He also married a Rajput Princess of Hindu origin who bore the next emperor, Jahangir. His own interest in religious and philosophical issues, including Sufi mysticism, led him in 1575 to begin discussions with various religious leaders at his palace in Fatehpur Sikri at the Ibadat Khana (House of Worship), a building constructed at the palace specifically designed for holding these discussions. Although they ended in 1582 with little success, these discussions fostered in Akbar the belief that all religions contained some several good practices that he then combined into a single new syncretic religious movement. Known as the Din-i-ilahi, it combined elements of many different faiths, including Sufism and Hinduism. To commemorate the inauguration of this new movement, Akbar, beginning in 1584, proceeded to use the Ilahi dating system (calculated back to his accession to the throne) and dated the remainder of his reign by this system. Following Akbar's death in 1605, this system came to an end.

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Coins of Akbar

The Moguls started their reign in India in the year 1526 CE. Babur, the founder of the Mogul rule defeated the reigning Sultan of Delhi and established his rule. From 1526 to 1857, the Mogul emperor was the sole source of legitimate rule in the whole of South Asia. However, after Babur's death his son Humayun faced crushing defeat at the hands of a Pathan lord, Sher Shah Suri in 1540. Humayun left India and took refuge in Persia. But his son Jalal ud-din Akbar was of extraordinary talent. After the death of Sher Shah Suri in 1545, the Pathans were in a weak position. Humayun took the advantage and returned to India. His son Akbar finally crushed the power of the Pathans and established the Mogul rule on a strong footing.



Akbar's reign saw the all round development of India. The people of India prospered in every sphere of life. Trade and commerce flourished, arts and aesthetics attained new heights, and religious syncretism of the Moguls became the example of the day. The all round development can also be traced in the coins issued during the rule of Akbar Shah.

The monetary system of Akbar was inspired largely by the innovations of Sher Shah Suri. Sher Shah Suri was an able administrator. Akbar, though from a rival house, adopted several of the administrative measures innovated by Sher Shah Suri. Sher Shah first introduced Rupya. It was a silver currency weighed 178 grains. Akbar continued to issue the Rupya with his own name inscribed. Interestingly, the money is still known by the name of Rupya in India.

Akbar not only copied the measures introduced by Sher Shah, he also reflected innovation and originality. He issued coins in all the three principal metals used for coinage worldwide. The gold coin was known as Mohur. Mohurs weighed about 170 grains. It was mainly used by the traders for large business deals. It was also used by the princes of royal blood, the landlords and the regional governors for large amount of payment. Apart from the continuing usage of Rupya, Akbar also issued a different variety of silver coin known as Shahrukhi. It was of much lighter weight than the Rupya. A typical Shahrukhi weighed about 72 grains. The copper coins of Akbar Padshah were known as Dam. Dam weighed about 330 grains. The Shahrukhi and Dam were circulated in large numbers and used extensively by the common folks. The exchange rate of converting a particular variety of coin into another variety was also clearly defined. The Akbari system of coinage is significant because of their minute details. A detailed description of the issuing year and the location of the mint were inscribed on the coins. The coins also carried the full title of the emperor. This practice was followed by all the subsequent Mogul emperors. Even the English East India Company who started their career in India as a subordinate power to the Moguls struck the coins in the name of the reigning Mogul emperor. This practice was discontinued by the English only in the year 1837 when the Moguls were in a politically debilitating state.

However, you won't find a single coin carrying the image of any of the Mogul emperor. Moguls were known for their religious syncretism but they remained Muslim throughout the period. As is well known, idolatry is prohibited in Islam. Thus, the Moguls refrained from inscribing their image on their coins. But they compensated this with beautiful calligraphy. The Mogul coins remained as some of the most excellent examples of aesthetics and artistic excellence in Indian coinage.

Legendary Indian Footballer Chuni Goswami Honoured by Indian Postal Department with a Postal Stamp

New Delhi: Legendary Indian footballer Chuni Goswami, who led the Indian gold medal winning team in the 1962 Asian Games, has been honoured with a postal stamp issued on his 82nd birthday by the Indian Postal Department.

Goswami, who turned 82 on 15th January 2020, became only the third Indian footballer after Gostho Paul (1998) and Talimeren Ao (2018) on whose name a commemorative stamp has been issued by the largest postal network in the world.

"It was a completely unexpected gesture. I'm really humbled with this honour shown to me. It will further inspire me to live a longer life," Goswami said after the commemorative stamp was issued in his residence in Kolkata on 15th January 2020.

"Over the years, I have received many laurels during my sporting career. But this one at the fag-end of my life will surely be right up there," he added.

Goswami, who played in more than 40 matches for India between 1956 and 1964, was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 1963 and Padma Shri in 1983.

He was a member of the Indian team which finished second behind Israel in the 1964 AFC Asian Cup. He scored India's third goal in the 3-1 win against Hong Kong en route to the final in that tournament.



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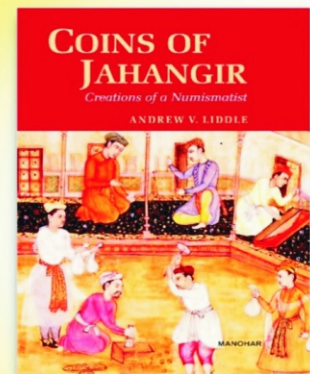
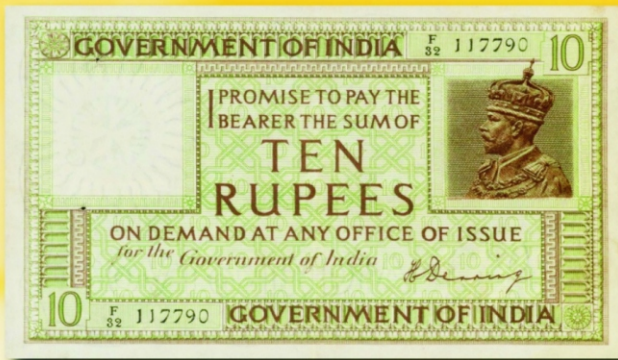
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