

# ICCG News

Numismatic News Paper of India

A Division of :- INDIAN COINS &amp; CURRENCY GROUP

India's Largest Numismatic Community

## Monthly Newspaper for Coins, Currencies, Collectibles & Events

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### Basketball Hall of Fame Launches Commemorative Coin Collection

**S**pringfield, Mass: The Basketball Hall of Fame launched their first commemorative coin series 04th June, 2020 morning.

The Hall of Fame partnered with the U.S. Mint to produce a series of gold, silver and clad coins.

United State Mint Director David Ryder was in attendance for Thursday's launch along with Hall of Fame President & CEO John Doleva and Congressman Richard Neal. A small amount will be able to be purchased at the Hall of Fame but the majority of purchases will be made online.

"This is a way to reward coin collectors and engage new collectors to think about basketball and how young people might want to get into the coin collecting world with a Basketball Hall of Fame coin," said Doleva.



### Passion Energy Art & Hobby – Child Prodigy Zara Warsi

**W**hen Moon Comes to Life with the Hands of Young Star: With hobbies like dancing & drawing Zara Warsi has already started scripting her success journey which has a long way to go....

One may start up with any hobby as it's a fun thing to do. But with time it turns into a lot of passion. Young Zara Warsi from Bareilly (UP) has few hobbies like dancing and acting which has won her many Gold Medals & trophies from the age of 5 years. Today she is 10 years old and is playing the cutest face of 'Chamchi' in the show 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan'. Our 'Chamchi' was in full smiles and filled with the most pleasant nature as she shared her hobbies and experiences during this lockdown period with ICCG News. Our first question to her was....

**Who is the real life 'Chamchi'?**

I am Zara Warsi from Bareilly, staying in Mumbai and my wish is to bring pride to my Bareilly and my family.... she smiles

**In which class do you study?**

I study in class four and the name of my school is Seven Square Academy.

Most students have their favourite teachers and group of friends.

**Are there any favourites of yours?**

All teachers are really good in our school but my favourite teacher's name is Mansi Sakre. She was my last year's class teacher and I really love the way of her teaching and also her way of addressing her students.

**And your friends?**

Yes I have many friends but three of my best friends are Natalea, Maira & Akshita. After my mummy and papa these are the sweetest persons I have met.

**Cont on Page 3rd..**



## Editor's Note:



**Mr. Siddharth N S**

**A**s I write this column, my thoughts are filled with two subjects: the beginning of our 5th anniversary coverage and a worsening world situation as we all find ourselves adjusting to a new pandemic that has killed so many.

With this issue, your news monthly ICCG News completes five years. Purely in terms of age, these are still early days. However, we have displayed maturity throughout and have, over the years, presented to you a wide range of information-packed content to help you better reading not only on the subjects of numismatics, notaphily, philately but everything related to hobby world.

Hello, I am Siddharth NS, editor of ICCG News and have been associated with Indian Numismatics for almost two decades. It has been a remarkable five years and ICCG News has been in the forefront of reporting on the numismatic community since its first issue. Our main objective is to provide truthful and objective information to our readers, which at times may result painful to some. And so, not always we get positive reactions for our cover stories. But then, we heartily accept all the reactions and continue as we believe these emotions were always a part of our monthly.

Physically, ICCG News has not changed much over the years. But this would not have been possible if not for the contributions of the dozens of freelance contributors, designers, other supporting staff members and especially for you - our readers. Our success is your success as well.

The months ahead will be challenging in ways I did not imagine when I began thinking about our 5th anniversary coverage. I am working from home because of the pandemic; I expect to for at least a few months if not longer.

**I want to thank every one of you who is part of the ICCG News' extended family. You made our five years possible. Here is looking to years more of service to you.**

## Spain - Personalized Postage Stamps to Thank COVID-19 Warriors

**A**n interesting activity - that could be implemented in other countries as well - is the issue of personalized postage stamps in Spain.

### Health Tribute Appreciation

The philatelic association Asfinca in Calahorra has asked the Spanish Post to issue a depicted personalized stamp with the aim to "thank the work people who do health in these difficult days for all".

This personalized postage stamp (symbolic value A) depicts the hospital building in Calahorra and the text: "HOMENAJE SANITARIOS AGRADECIMIENTO POR VUESTRA PROFESIONALIDAD".

In Cadiz has asked the Spanish Post to issue a depicted personalized stamp with the aim to "thank the work people who do health in these difficult days for all".

This personalized postage stamp (symbolic value A) depicts the medical workers, symbolic clapping hands and the text: "GRACIAS / CORONAVIRUS CÁDIZ 2020".



## Cont of Page 1st...

### What are your favourite things to do in school?

There are many activities in our school like Yoga, music, dance, cricket, basketball, football, chess, drama, skating, art & craft etc. But I mostly like to keep myself involved in studying, dance, music and skating.

### What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are dancing, singing, drawing/painting & acting. I would like to dance a lot during my free time. My mom has also helped me a lot with my dance. There are many varieties of dances. Dance is also a kind of an exercise and it gives me pleasure & peace. As dance is my hobby I have participated in many dance competitions and got many prizes and also awarded as a best dancer.

**Like many 10-year-olds, Zara Warsi loves dancing. Unlike most kids her age, however, Zara has already made a name for herself as an artist, with her hard work winning her many medals and trophies in various competitions.**

**Her father Mr. Jahangir Warsi says:** Zara was just five years old when she first participated in a dance competition in her school. I must say that Zara has a lot of energy and her mother helped Zara practise her steps on one song and trained her for four days. She won her first Gold Medal as she won this competition and then it was never looking back. From then she has participated in many competitions and has always won medals and trophies.

**Her mother Mrs. Gulshan Parveen says:** Zara is indeed very talented and hard working. Dancing, singing & acting being her hobby is just an add-on. From such a young age she was so attached to her subjects that her dedication even encouraged me to motivate her further. At the age of five, a redeeming feature she appeared to have was that her body was very flexible, and when I saw her dancing in front of the television as a child, I decided that it might be good if she studied dance. I myself helped her with her dancing. Never thought that she would perform so well among all her seniors but she surprised us all by winning her first Gold Medal. "Jaisa woh hamesha kehti hai ke apni family kaa aur apne Bareilly kaa naam roshan karegi, thik waisa hi use karte dekh rahe hain".

### Back to Zara: Is Happu Ki Ultan Paltan your first show?

No, this is not my first show. I had played a small role in 'Jijaji Chhat Par Hain', but yes, this is the first time I got a permanent role and for this I am so thankful to almighty Allah and my parents who have really sacrificed a lot for me.

### Do you see yourself any close to the character of Chamchi in real life?

No, I am no way close to the character of 'Chamchi'.

Cont on Page 4th..



With her parents

## Invest in Indian Numismatics



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Cont of Page 3rd...

**What do you love the most from the role of Chamchi?**

'Mujhe sabse achchi lagti hai Chamchi ki chugliyan'.... she laughs

**Who's the funniest person on the sets in real life?**

All are quite funny on the sets but most of them is only our 'Happu Singh' "arri Dada".....

**You should be getting enough time for your hobbies during this lockdown?**

Hmmmm not really. There are online classes and also we do get home work. But yes I love drawing because drawing is always fun. Drawing is also my favorite hobby. I cannot imagine a colorful life without drawing. Whenever I get any free time, I just think that what would be my topic for drawing. I have a huge collection of my sketches and whenever I look at them my mood and heart fills both immense joy and happiness. **After a pause Zara smiles and continues...** "I would like to share my drawings with you and my friends." **She gifted us with two of her sketches.**

**At such young age Zara has tremendous sense of patterns and with so much of freedom she portrays the story she wants to say with her art in very simple and innocent drawings.**

**Most of her drawings are on the theme of 'Moon' & 'Sun', on which she says,** "Drawing a picture requires you to think about things and I easily get attracted to 'Moon' and 'Sun' which reflects in my drawings". **She further continues,** "There's something magical about taking a scene in your head and placing it onto a blank sheet"

**Apart from drawing, what do you do when you are not doing the show?**

Nothing much, but yes sometimes I play Ludo or watch youTube or at times I also do dancing, she laughs.....

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I wish to become an actress.

**If you had a magic wand, what show would you do next?**

If I would have had a magic wand then leave aside any shows, I would have directly done a movie with our one & only Salman Khan.

**As we thanked Zara she continued,** "Last but not the least I would like to say all my friends and children: "Never give up. Thank you very much".

**ICCG News thanked Zara Warsi for her valuable time, thoughts and hobbies shared. Her success story is sure to inspire many in very positive way. We also thank her for gifting her drawings to us and wished her to stay safe and all the very best for future.**



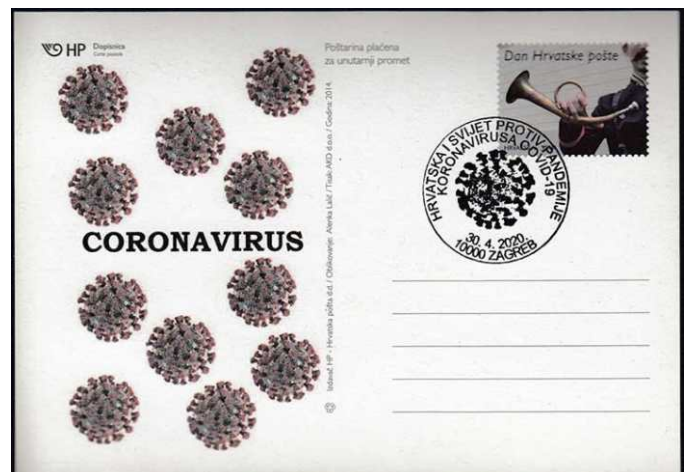
**Zara's Art Work**

## Croatia - Commemorative cancellation

**C**roatia and the world against the corona virus pandemic COVID-19

Commemorative cancellation calling for a Croatian and global fight against the COVID-19 corona virus pandemic with the text: "HRVATSKA I SVIJET PROTIV PANDEMIJE / KORONAVIRUSA COVID-19" (= Croatia and the world against the corona virus pandemic COVID-19).

The cancel appeared on several standard "Dan Hrvatske pošte" (= Day of the Croatia Post) postal cards, most likely with private imprints (at least 6 different ones), so they cannot be considered a proper full-featured philatelic material.



## Special Postal Cover Unveiled as part of Kerala's Break the Chain Campaign

In a bid to create awareness against the spread of Covid-19, the health department and postal department of Kerala jointly unveiled a special postal cover in Thiruvananthapuram on 16 June 2020.

The launch was part of the state's aggressive 'Break the Chain' campaign, which was launched by the Kerala government on 16 March to educate the people about the importance of public and personal hygiene. Health minister of the state KK Shailaja officially unveiled the "The fight against coronavirus the support of the public. A launched as part of this initiative aims at reaching out to people with the 'Break the Chain' campaign. The special cover is printed with slogan – SMS, which stands for social distancing. The slogan highlights soap or sanitiser, wear masks



Another slogan in the cover states, "Let us continue this care." Top health and postal department officials attended the launch event. Under the campaign, the Kerala government has installed water taps at public spots such as at the entry and exit gates of the railway stations with bottles of hand-washes. In May, the minister also launched a cartoon campaign in association with Kerala Cartoon Academy as part of the 'Break the Chain' campaign.

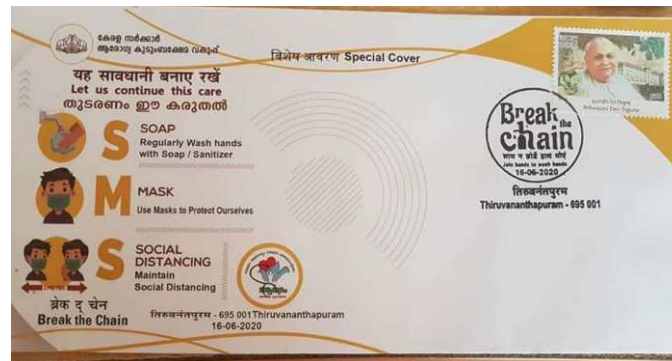
cover.

can be strengthened only with special post cover has been objective," Shailaja said. The the maximum number of Chain' campaign.

the campaign logo and its soap, mask and social the need to wash hands using and maintain social distancing.

### India's first philately material for Corona warriors

The Kerala circle of the Department of Posts had earlier brought out the country's first philately material to honour the 'Corona warriors' in April 2020. The special cover paid tribute to the thousands of 'Corona warriors' who have risked their lives to keep people safe postal workers, and services and trains that keep the Covid-19 threat. On the back of pandemic, its impact on the for their selfless service. The by the Kerala postal circle. The philately material on Covid-19 China was the first country to warriors.



from the virus. The special personnel, police personnel, such as ATMs, petrol pumps, country running despite the the cover is a note on the people, and India Post's salute design of the cover was decided special cover is the first released by India Post. Earlier, bring out a stamp on the Corona

### Special cover on 1,000 India Post ATMs

The Department of Posts has released a special cover to commemorate the milestone of 1,000 ATMs of India Post. The department stated that under the IT modernisation project, the Department of Posts commissioned its first ATM at Thyagarayanagar in Chennai on 25 February 2014, and the 1,000th ATM will be commissioned at Lunglei, Mizoram, on 17 June. During the lockdown period, (between 31 March and 31 May 2020) India Post ATMs supported 14,46,419 transactions for a total value of Rs 404.26 crores. The special cover will be released in Bengaluru by Sharda Sampath, chief postmaster general, Karnataka Circle, and simultaneously at Shillong by Amitabh Kharkwal, CPMG, North East Circle.



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## 162 Coins Believed to be 200 Years Old Found in Dharan's Bijayapurdanda

**K**athmandu: As many as 162 coins believed to have been minted around 200 years ago were recovered while digging the foundation for a commercial building in Bijayapurdanda of Dharan sub-metropolis-14.

Workers recovered the ancient coins while digging pits for the building's foundation in front of Pindeshwor Temple recently. The land where the old coins were found belongs to Pindeshwor Nepal Sanskrit University. "Some of the coins were minted during the rule of Surendra Shah. Nine copper coins do not have any particular imprints. They could be even of the Pindeshwor Babadham the East India Company was also found. On one side of the coin is marked 1863 AD while a picture of Queen Victoria is on the other side.

A bracelet was also recovered along with the coins from the site. According to Banepali, there was a Dharmashala many years ago where remnants of the building and broken bricks have also been uncovered.

Pindeshwor Babadham in Bijayapur is considered as a historically and archaeologically important place. "There were human settlements for a very old temple. History says that hundreds of years. Pindeshwor is also a Gajur [steeple] and a bell during the reign of Surendra Shah. It is believed that Junga Bahadur Rana had also visited the temple and offered a bell," said Sanjay Koirala, assistant professor of culture at the Dharan-based Mahendra Multiple Campus. "The recovered coins might have been offered by those rulers then."

The stakeholders on Thursday informed the Department of Archeology in Kathmandu and its branch office in Dhankuta about the coins. "All works at the building construction site have been halted following the Department of Archeology's instruction," said Krishna Bhattarai, ward 14 chairman of the Dharan Sub-metropolitan City.



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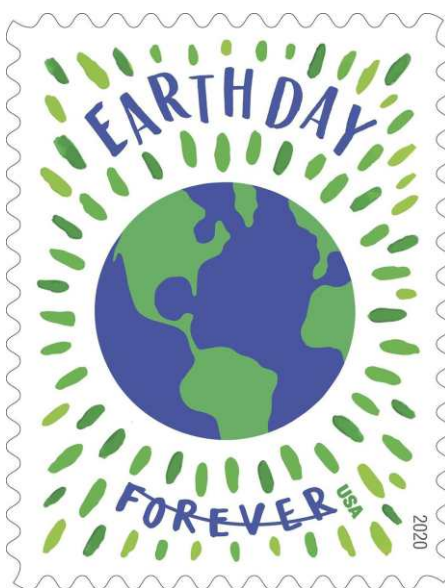
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## Celebrate Earth Day with a New Forever Stamp

**W**ashington: The U.S. Postal Service honors the 50th anniversary of Earth Day by putting its own stamp on raising awareness of our environment and the communities in which we live and serve. The new Earth Day Forever stamp marks five decades of Americans coming together to celebrate the importance of protecting the environment. The stamp was available for sale nationwide from April 18, 2020. The Postal Service had cancelled the Earth Day stamp due to social distancing shared using the hashtag #EarthDayStamps. On the first Earth Day in 1970, millions of people across America joined to rally against pollution. The event quickly developed into an annual tradition. As time passed, educating children about the environment became a priority, with the annual celebration also providing an opportunity for businesses to showcase new goods and services that are mindful of the environment. Today, Earth Day remains a high-profile day for people around the world to recognize the importance of the planet and the impact of their environmental footprint. The Earth Day Forever stamp is a reminder for both senders and recipients that we share the atmosphere on our planet.



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The Earth Day Forever stamp is being issued in booklets of 20 stamps. Art director Antonio Alcalá created the painting of Earth, using gouache on water color paper. The design features small green lines surrounding the blue planet. The title of the stamp runs across the top, and the words "Forever" and "USA" appear along the bottom. Ricky Altizer was the typographer. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

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## Baroda Museum And Picture Gallery

The Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery located at Sayajibaug was founded in 1887 by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. Created for the welfare and education his subjects, his foresight and taste were responsible for the museum's unique and varied collection. He procured the priceless items himself or specially entrusted the work to connoisseurs. Thanks to Baroda museum today exhibits and enjoys an for being one of the best The foundation stone of was laid in 1887 and the in 1894. The construction building started in 1908 1914, but the gallery 1921 as the World War the collection of India to Baroda.

The museum and the separate two-storied Indo-Saracenic style of

designed by two English architects, R.F. Chisholm – the then Consulting State Architect – and Major R.N. Ment. The general outline of the museum building is in conformity with the traditional local Maratha architecture of wooden framework filled with brick walls. But the ground floor has the pure European style, including a cornice decorated with a plaster copy of a Parthenon frieze. The south porch rising on a vast flight of steps is decorated with early and later Mughal forms. The pure gallery building is somewhat smaller and designed in a simple European brick style, but it has Indian columns and open pavilions on the roof. The two building are connected by a covered bridge passage. The total floor area of both the buildings is about 40,000 sq. ft. The second-phase extension of the museum building is presently in progress.

Every year it has about 700,000 visitors from all parts of the world. For the benefit of visitors and the general public the museum periodically organizes cultural and educational exhibitions on various topics. Illustrated lectures are arranged in the museum's lecture theatre and experts on different subjects are specially invited for this purpose and educational films are shown regularly for the benefit of school children and visitors. Also the services of guides are provided. 'Gallery-talks' are also arranged for school children and illiterate students.

Facilities for drawing and study of exhibits at close quarters are provided. Necessary permission to take photographs of exhibits and to make use of the library for research work can be obtained by making a written application. The museum also publishes its research bulletins annually. Plaster-cast models of some selected objects of the museum are prepared by skilled artists in the modeling studio and sold to interested persons.



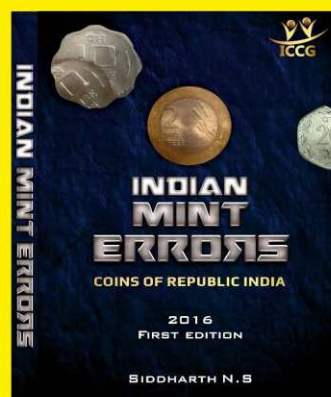
various scholars and art his dedication the possesses some very rare international reputation in the East.

the museum building building was completed of the picture gallery and was completed in could be opened only in delayed the transport of European paintings to

picture gallery are two buildings built in the architecture. They were

### Indian Mint Errors

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### North Macedonia Stamp Withdrawn Because of Map Mistake

**A** map shown on a new stamp from North Macedonia caused international controversy, and the Post of North Macedonia withdrew the stamp from sale May 9, a day after it was issued on 08th May 2020.

The post office also apologized for the mistake in a press release dated May 9 and posted on its website.

According to this press release, the 72-denar stamp was issued May 8 to commemorate Croatia's presidency of the Council of the European Union. The controversial part of the design is the map shown in red, white and blue behind Croatia's coat of arms.

According to a report on the English-language Total Croatia News website, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina made official complaints about the stamp. Ivica Dacic, Serbia's minister of the stamp be withdrawn from reports.

Euractiv, a media network that specializes in European Union policies, quoted the note from Affairs sees the decision to publish Victory Day, as a hostile provocative integrity and sovereignty of Serbia people, as hundreds of thousands of concentration camps in that same The Post of North Macedonia withdrawing the stamp.

The press release said, "The postage the Republic of Croatia and other therefore the brand is immediately means annulment of the total thousand) copies."

Also, according to the press release, philately was dismissed as was the which selects the designs and artists

In its apology, the post office expressed regret for the unintentional mistake, adding that the purpose of the stamp "was to express our gratitude to the Croatian EU Presidency for the assistance and support that the Republic of Croatia gives to our country."

As is often the case, it is probable that some of the stamps were sold before the issue was withdrawn, and examples may their way into the marketplace.



foreign affairs, also demanded circulation, according to news

specializes in European Union Dacic: "The Ministry of Foreign such a stamp, precisely on act aimed against the territorial and as an insult to the Serbian Serbs were killed in Independent State of Croatia." responded quickly by

stamp shows a wrong map of countries in the region, and withdrawn from use, which issued circulation of 6000 (six

the head of the bureau of Council for Postage Stamps, for postage stamps.



COMMOMERATIVE COINS



INDIAN MINT COIN SET  
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## Collectors Club, APS and Other Groups Offer Free Online Stamp Seminars

A number of philatelic organizations around the world have taken innovative steps in recent weeks to keep the hobby accessible to those obliged to stay at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Collectors Club in New York City and the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa., have been at the forefront of this trend. Groups in the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy have also gotten in on the act.

Since late March, it has been a webinar, or web-based seminar, several times a week, single day.

Typically these involve a well-informal chat and presentation for the safety and comfort of the living online platform such as Zoom. The talk is often followed by a question-and-answer session, allowing attendees to interact with the presenter in real time.

The webinars generally last about an hour. After they end a lightly edited video of the event is often posted to a platform such as Vimeo or YouTube, allowing it to be watched later.

Many organizations post links to their videos on their websites and allow them to be freely viewed even by nonmembers for a limited time.

The combination of intimacy and erudition afforded by these novel philatelic events has made them an instant hit.

Larry Haber, president of the Collectors Club, said that more than 270 people joined the club's webinar on June 10, at which Wade Saadi showed and discussed one of his favorite topics, United States fancy cancels of the 19th century struck on the 5¢ Franklin and 10¢ Washington stamps of 1847.

By comparison an in-person presentation at the club's Manhattan townhouse would normally attract a maximum of about 50 people.

The Collectors Club has been hosting a new webinar every other Wednesday at 6 p.m., leaving each video up for two weeks until the next webinar.

Club members can log in to view previous videos, as well as to access the extensive video archive of pre-pandemic presentations.

The virtual program is scheduled to run through the fall and seems likely to become a permanent feature of the club's offerings in the future, Haber said.

The APS, for its part, has been hosting virtual club meetings for a number of affiliated societies, including the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club and Nevada Stamp Study Society.

The Royal Philatelic Society London, which has been running its own series of webinars, has a page on its website listing a variety of stamp and postal history webinars from around the world.



## Collectors Club

possible to find a free philatelic seminar, happening online sometimes two or more on a

known collector giving an on a favorite subject from the room or stamp den, via an WebEx or Google Chat.

moderated question-and-attendees to interact with the

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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.

### 1996 – Sardar Patel Commemorative Issue

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (October 31, 1875- December 15, 1950) was popularly known as Iron Man of India. He successfully led Kheda Satyagraha and Bardoli revolt against British government. He was elected Congress President in 1931. He played a leading role in the Indian freedom struggle and became the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India. He is credited with achieving political integration of India. He was posthumously conferred Bharat Ratna in 1991.



This 2 rupees coin was issued in his commemoration for general circulation. The other 3 coins were issued, in the denomination of 10 rupees, 50 rupees and the 100 rupees, as uncirculated / proof specimens.

**Obverse:** The obverse of this coin shows the Ashokan lion, 'Satyameva Jayate' in Hindi and the value '2' in International numerals under it. In English "INDIA" and "RUPEES" appear on the right periphery and in Hindi "Bharat" and "Rupaye" appear on the left.

**Reverse:** The reverse of this coin shows the effigy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the center and the year of issue '1996' just below it. The legend "SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL" in English and Hindi appears on the periphery.

### Specifications:

**Year of issue:** 1995

**Weight:** 8 grams

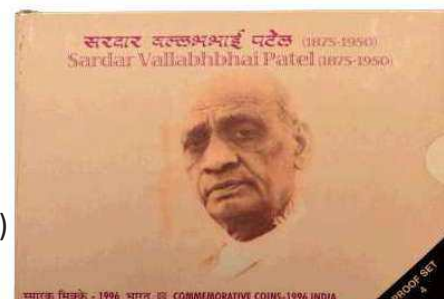
**Edge:** Security

**Shape:** Circular

**Diameter:** 28 mm

**Mint:** Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad & Noida

**Metal composition:** Cupro Nickel Alloy (75% Copper & 25% Nickel)



## U. S. Mint Schedules

### Release of Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coins

The United States Mint updated their product schedule to include release dates with prices for several numismatic issues, like the dome-shaped commemorative coins celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The U.S. Mint was set to introduce the commemoratives in early April but events supporting their launch were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in their delayed release. Their new on sale date is June 4.

Authorized under Public Law 15-343, Basketball coin products include 50c clad, silver dollar and \$5 gold options in collector qualities of proof and uncirculated. There is also an enhanced uncirculated Basketball half dollar that is exclusive to a kids set.

Introductory prices for all but the Basketball gold coins are established. They range from \$37 to \$69. Eventual regular prices will be \$5 higher. Prices for the gold coins will be announced on the Wednesday before their release (June 3) and based on the Mint's gold coin pricing matrix.

The Mint will also sell their first-ever colored coins as part of their Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Program. There will be a proof Basketball 50c with a colored obverse and a proof Basketball silver dollar with a colored reverse. Their release date and prices have yet to be announced.

Rolls and bags of quarters commemorating Connecticut's Weir Farm National Historic Site were also delayed because of coronavirus. Originally meant to launch April 6, the new schedule released them on May 18. The companion five-ounce Weir Farm silver uncirculated coin was also available on the 18th.



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## Syrian Gold Coin with Arabic Inscription Unearthed in Madurai, Tamil Nadu

**N**ew Delhi: Syrians gold coin inscribed "There is no God, but GOD", in Arabic has been unearthed at Elandhakarai near Kalaiyar Koil in Sivagangai district where excavations are being carried out by the Tamil Nadu archaeology department.

According to the leading Tamil weekly magazine, 'Anantha Vikatan', the gold coin found during the excavation seems to be 6th century AH coins. In Keezhadi, the outskirts of Madurai and border of Sivagangai district, now the 6th phase of excavation in going on, this was inaugurated by the state Chief Minister

Edapadi Palanisami before lock down on February 19, 2020. During the lockdown period the excavation work was halted which has been now started again. Archeological activist Gemini Ramesh told the Tamil weekly that 6th Century Syrian Gold Coin was found under the earth at Elandhakarai near Kalaiyar Koil, Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu. The unearthing of the gold coin shows the advent of Islam very early in Madurai area.

The Keeladi findings have led academics to describe the site as part of the Vaigai Valley Civilization. Evidences of civilization before 2300 years have been found here in Keezhadi few years back. That is why the excavation has been going on since 2015.

Mohamed Yusuff, Madurai resident who is lawyer by profession, told Muslim Mirror that Islam arrived in Madurai even before Malik Kafur's invasion of Madurai in the 14th century. Quoting History professor R Venkataraman, Yusuff said even before the advent of Islam, Arabs maintained trade links with South India, especially for the pearls Madurai Pandya Kingdom was famous for.

"Sufis, Muslim saints, started coming to Tamil Nadu by 900 AD. The entry of Islam to the region was peaceful as Sufis conceived God as love," he said.

According to Venkataraman, the short-lived Madurai Sultanate and Islamic influence did have their impact on the city, especially on warfare and town planning.

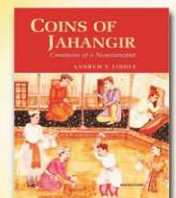
"Muslim rulers introduced arch construction they learnt from the Romans. It changed the style of architecture here in a significant way."

Yusuff further said that his home is situated at the river bank of Vaigai and the excavation sites his not far away from his locality. Meanwhile, the excavation work has been revived after the lockdown was lifted in the area. He hoped that many things related to Islam's early presence would be uncovered during the excavation.



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