

# ICCG News

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

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### PM Modi Launches Postal Stamp on Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir After Bhoomipujan Ceremony



**A**fter the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony to begin the construction work for Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched a commemorative postal stamp on the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir. Earlier a struggle of 492 years today (5th August 2020) came to fruition for millions of Ram Bhakts across the world as Prime Minister Modi fulfilled the Ram Mandir's Bhoomi Pujan at 12:44pm. Prime Minister Modi performed a Mantra Pushpanjali and a Pradakshina before the Bhoomi

Pujan concluded. This puja marks start of the construction of a magnificent Mandir at the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya. Prime Minister Modi first took darshan of the Hanuman Garhi temple and of Ram Lalla virajman before taking part in the Bhoomi Pujan. It had been earlier reported that the PM would launch a postage stamp on a symbolic model of the Ram temple during his Ayodhya visit to lay the foundation stone for the temple. Director of Ayodhya Research Institute Y P Singh had said the stamps would be released on the

bhoomi puja day. "If things go as planned, then postal stamps will also be launched on August 5. One of these stamps is likely to be on a symbolic model of Ram Temple and another on scenes depicting the significance of Ram in other countries," he had been quoted as saying. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel were among the dignitaries who too part in the Bhoomi Pujan.

### A Portal for Your Philatelic Passions

**C**hennai: It's been a little over six months since the novel coronavirus waged a war on the lives and livelihoods across the globe. Although its impact has been severe, people have, over time, found ways to keep their spirits high and engaged; ventured into reacquainting themselves with long

lost interests and hobbies. Owing to the time many had in hand during the lockdown, hobbies like philately seem to have found more takers, creating a profound effect on the stamp market. Tapping on this spike, city-based philatelist Ramesh Ethiraj recently launched Worldwide Mint, an online

platform, for enthusiasts to browse and buy philatelic products from the comfort of their homes. "Though I started a basic version of the e-commerce platform a few years ago, regular stalls, exhibitions and physical shows were when we used to meet dealers, collectors and attendees

Cont on Page 2nd..

Cont from Page 1st..

to share our love for stamps. With the pandemic scare, all that came to a halt.

But, in the last few months, I noticed that several people took a liking to this hobby. Since most were stuck at home, learning about stamps, their history and other nuances garnered attention and awareness. So in an attempt to fuel this interest and make use of time effectively, I relaunched the website last month," shares Ramesh, a former IT-employee, who left his cushy job to take up his family business in philately. "My grandfather started collecting stamps as a hobby at a young age. My father, who grew up observing him took it up a notch and turned a hobby into a trade.

He's been in the industry for over four decades now. After a few years of working in a conventional set-up, I too decided to take up the trade. It was my calling," shares the philatelist, who is also a stamp agent for over six countries. Known for his innovative ideas and his eye for unique stamps, two years ago, Ramesh was also in the news for designing a stamp bearing the image of Mahatma Gandhi for North Korea. The stamp was designed and released by the Korea Postal Corporation to commemorate the centenary of the Khadi movement



(1918). Unlike the usual rectangle paper stamps, Ramesh's stamp was designed on cloth. "I had an idea to create a one-stop destination for all the philately needs.

So the portal was carefully curated keeping the diverse group of collectors and their interests in mind," he shares. Worldwide Mint currently features around 5,000 products ranging from India single stamps (Mint never-hinged), post and pre-independence stamps, postal stationery, booklet and panes, foreign stamps, postal history, joint issues to sheetlets. "Our online collection is perhaps the only place where one can find stamps issued from 1947 to 2020," he shares.

The Ashoka Lion (1947), Beethoven MNH (1970), Quit India Movement

(1967), Thiruvalluvar MNH (1960), Srinivasa Ramanujan MNH (1962), 250th session of Rajya Sabha MHN (2019), 100 years of Indian cinema stamps (2013), Dr BR Ambedkar MNH (1966), East India postcard Queen Victoria (Mint) and King George V - Censor Cover - from Ramnad District to Singapore are some of the products available on the online portal. "These stamps are not just collectibles, but are also educative in nature. One can understand and preserve history and heritage through these accessories too. On average, the age group of most collectors is above 30. We need to encourage such hobbies in the younger generation too. It has to be introduced to children at the school level," he explains.

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World Notes



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## University of Mysore

The University of Mysore is a public state university in Mysore, Karnataka, India. The university was founded during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the Maharaja of Mysore. It opened on 27 July 1916. Its first chancellor was the Maharaja of Mysore; the first Vice-Chancellor was H. V. Nanjundaiah. The university became the first outside the British administration in India, the sixth in India as a whole, and the first in Karnataka. It is a state university of the affiliating type, and became autonomous on 3 March 1956, when it gained recognition from the University Grants Commission.

The university encompasses 180 affiliated colleges and four constituent colleges (forming an aggregate of 60,000 students). In addition, the university has 37 postgraduate departments, eight specialised research and training centres, and two postgraduate centres that together offer a total of about 55 regular academic programs to 3,500 students. It also runs a number of employment-oriented diploma courses and certificate programs.

The Mysore University Library comprises over 800,000 books, 2,400 journal titles, and 100,000 volumes of journals. The main campus features an amphitheater, an auditorium, a swimming pool, and hostel accommodations for men and women. As of July 2013, the University of Mysore was accredited "Grade A" by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Mysore University has a dedicated Prasaranga, in the lines of Oxford University Press, formally established by Dr. Kuvempu on 6th July 1960. **History:**

The University of Mysore is the 6th



oldest university in India and the oldest in the state of Karnataka. It was established in 1916 by then Maharaja of Mysore, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, after two of his educational experts (C. R. Reddy and Thomas Denham) undertook a five-year study of higher education around the world. They structured the new school to encompass elements from universities that promote original research (University of Chicago), those that emphasise extending knowledge among the people (University of Wisconsin), and those that combine intellectualism with an educational system calculated to train students for political and social life (University of Oxford and Cambridge). H. V. Nanjundaiah, who played a key role in establishing the university, was elected by the Maharaja of Mysore to run the University as the first Vice-Chancellor, and he held the post until his death in 1920. Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya, then Dewan of Mysore, also played a major role in its promotion. The university was inaugurated on 27 July 1916. Maharaja College of Mysore and the Central College of Bangalore, both

previously affiliated with Madras University, became part of the new university. The Act was amended in 1933 and 1939 to make the senate representative of public life and to establish the academic council responsible for the academic affairs of the university.

During the reorganisation of Mysore state in 1956, the Mysore University Act passed, which made the university an autonomous body (this has since been superseded by the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000). In 1960, the university's graduate centre was set up in the picturesque environs of Kukkarahalli lake. The national poet and Jnanpith Award winner, K. V. Puttappa (Kuvempu), a former Vice-Chancellor of the University, christened this campus 'Manasagangotri', meaning: 'the fountainhead of the Ganges of the Mind' or 'the eternal spring of the mind'. Bangalore University was carved out in 1964 starting with Central College, Bangalore, and the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering. Mangalore University was formed out of the colleges in Dakshina Kannada in 1980.

Cont on Page 4th..

## Cont from Page 3rd...

5 Rupees Coin Commemorating the University of Mysore:

In 2016, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah released the centenary commemorative coins of the University of Mysore. The coins, in Rs. 100 and Rs. 5 denominations, were minted at the India Government Mint, Mumbai.

On the occasion, Mr. Siddaramaiah also released a coffee-table book — One Hundred Years-University of Mysore 1916-2016 — that chronicles the journey of the university, and Karnataka Encyclopedia:

English Volume I, besides a volume on the speeches delivered during the year-long centenary celebrations of the university.

Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled his days as a former student of the varsity and urged for greater emphasis on basic sciences as youngsters taking up a

career in science had declined. He said as India is way behind countries such as South Korea, Finland, and the U.S. in higher education, universities can play a major role in pushing students to pursue higher studies.

In his welcome address, Vice-



Chancellor K.S. Rangappa thanked the State government for its support for the centenary celebrations. He urged the government to retain the Kannada Classical Language Centre in Mysuru and offered land in Manasagangotri for establishing a

permanent centre.

Scholar Ham Pa Nagarajaiah said the coffee-table book captures the essence of the university's journey and has a collection of rare pictures. Earlier, Mr. Siddaramaiah felicitated officers Goraknath Yadav and Pankaj Chachadi from the Mumbai mint

and Sanjay Kansal for their efforts in realising the university's wish of bringing out the commemorative coins. The Chief Minister also honoured nonagenarian Janaki Ram Chetty for his family's contribution in building the iconic Crawford Hall, and academics D.A. Shankar, Ha Thi Krishnegowda and media consultant Nelson Stanley Satish.

Only the Rs. 5 commemorative coins will be made available for circulation in the market, said varsity authorities.

## 800-year-old copper coins to be exhibited

**P**alanpur: Heritage enthusiasts from the state will for the first time get a glimpse of some rare copper coins dating back to the Sultanate period in the country.

The Patan administration has decided to put about eight centuries old copper coins on exhibition this year. These coins will be put on display at an exhibition that will also be held for the first time at the historic Rani ki Vaav — a step well built in the 11th century.

District collector Anand Patel, who is a heritage enthusiast, said, "We have some 1,800 copper coins that will be put on exhibition for the first time. Prima facie, these coins seem to be of the Sultanate period in the country."

District officials said that these coins were found from different places in Patan over the last two decades. While some of the coins were

recovered from the fields, others were found during excavation work near Mahakali Temple. The authorities said that some of the coins had inscriptions in Urdu and Persian referring to Sultan rule that could date to as early as 1,200 AD. "Our plan is to organize an exhibition at the Rani ki Vaav every year. These coins that will be a part of the exhibition would

remind the youngsters of our ancient era," Patel added. Patel remained present during the counting of the coins, cleaning and segregation of the coins that have been stored in

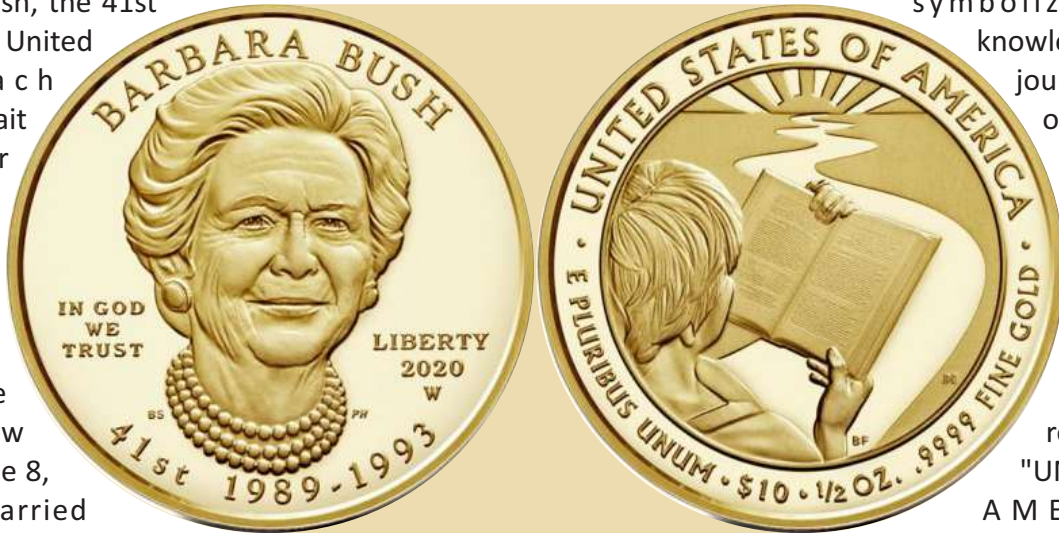


separate boxes with proper labels and numbers. After being discovered, they were kept in the district treasury for years.

## 2020 Barbara Bush First Spouse Gold Coins Launch

The United States Mint released 2020-W \$10 Barbara Bush First Spouse Gold Coins in collector qualities of proof and uncirculated. An extension of a series last seen from the U.S. Mint four years ago, the coins honor Barbara Bush, wife of George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States. Each features a portrait of the former first lady and is struck from one-half ounce of 24-karat gold. Barbara Pierce was born in New York City on June 8, 1925. She married George H.W. Bush on Jan. 6, 1945 while he was on leave from his wartime deployment as a Navy pilot. As first lady, she promoted volunteerism to support such causes as homeless, HIV/AIDS patients, and the elderly, but she was best known for her efforts in family literacy. Barbara passed away on April 17,

2018, at the age of 92. Barbara Bush Gold Coin Designs Appearing on the coins' obverse (heads side) is a portrait of the first lady. The image was created by AIP artist Benjamin Sowards and sculpted by Mint Medallist John P. McGraw. Reverses (tails side) feature a design emblematic of Barbara's advocacy for family literacy. The image, created by AIP artist Barbara Fox and sculpted by Mint Medallist John P. McGraw, shows a person reading a book with an open road before them, symbolizing literacy, knowledge, and life's journey. A depiction of the sun appears above, representing the promise of a brighter future. Inscribed around the reverse design are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "\$10 1/2 oz., " and ".9999 FINE GOLD."



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## A Coin to Celebrate Agathe Christie's 100 Years of Mystery

The Royal Mint in collaboration with Agatha Christie Limited is celebrating '100 years of Mystery' with a new commemorative £2 coin in recognition of Agatha Christie's vast body of work which is widely renowned for shaping the modern mystery genre. Since that first book, the Queen of Crime went on to be published in more than 50 languages and her works were distributed in more than 100 countries.

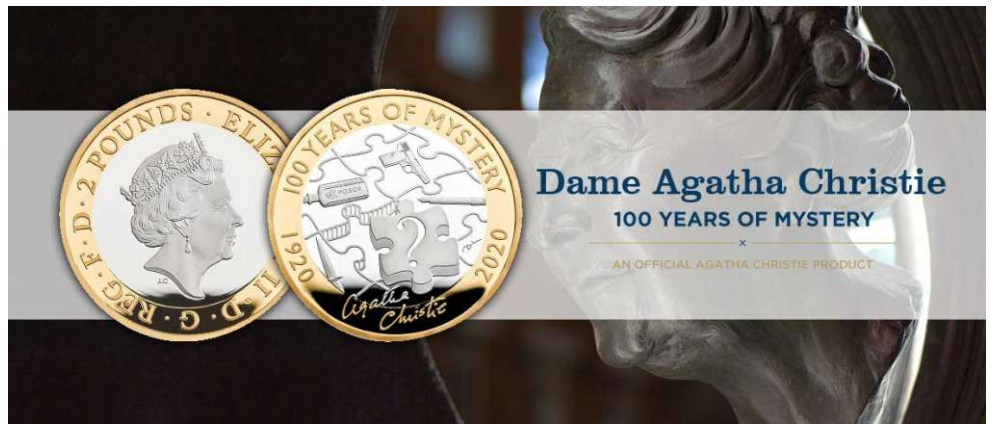
The coin coincides with the centenary of the writer's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair At Styles* which introduced detective Hercule Poirot to the world in October 1920.

It features a jigsaw design, comes in various metals, and is available on the Royal Mint's website, priced from £10 to £1,115.

David Lawrence, coin's designer says, "the jigsaw turned out to be the best metaphor for an Agatha Christie mystery: It is not until the final missing piece is dropped into a place that the whole picture can be seen." According to the Royal Mint, the coin featuring jigsaw pieces and replication of Christie's signature, will not be released into general circulation. The coin's edge is inscribed with the phrase 'Little Grey Cells', first used by her famous Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, in the debut novel.

Clare Maclennan, divisional director of commemorative coins at the Royal Mint, said, "the coin's design is adorned with all the hallmarks of an Agatha Christie novel, with the jigsaw pieces representing ingenious plot twists that we are all familiar with when reading her mystery novels."

Her first novel ushered in a golden age of mystery novels in its time and



her subsequent works have built a huge collection of celebrated spin-offs from TV shows to films for generations. Many well-known actors have featured in them, from Benedict Cumberbatch and Penélope Cruz to Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench and Johny Depp.

Meanwhile, the popularity of Christie's work continues unabated.

Watch out for the star-studded film version of another Poirot tale, *Death On The Nile*, which is set to be released by November 2020. This will be the second Christie film (after *Murder On The Orient Express*) where Kenneth Branagh plays the eccentric detective with the egg-shaped head and waxed moustache.



## American Eagle Palladium Uncirculated Coin on Sale

**O**n 24th September 2020, The United States Mint will begin accepting orders for the 2020 American Eagle One Ounce Palladium Uncirculated Coin.

The coin contains one ounce of 99.95 percent palladium and is the collector version of the official United States Mint American Eagle One Ounce Palladium Bullion Coin, which launched in 2017. Finishes on collector coins in this program may alternate each year. In 2018, the Mint issued a proof finish palladium coin followed by a reverse proof finish coin in 2019.

Palladium coin designs are based on those by famed American coin designer and medallic artist Adolph A. Weinman. The obverse (heads) features a high-relief likeness of "Winged Liberty" from the "Mercury dime" obverse. In keeping with the original coin, inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," "2020," and Weinman's distinct

initials. The coin's reverse (tails) features a high-relief version of Weinman's 1907 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal



reverse design, which includes an eagle and a branch. Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "\$25," "1 OZ. Pd .9995 FINE," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

Each coin is encapsulated and packaged in a satin-lined gray leatherette presentation case with a certificate of authenticity. Pricing for the American Eagle One Ounce Palladium Uncirculated Coin will be determined according to the range in which it appears on the Mint's "Pricing of Numismatic Gold, Commemorative Gold, Platinum, and Palladium Products" table. Click here for the most current pricing information. The Mint is currently accepting orders for this product only on its website. Information about shipping options is available at [catalog.usmint.gov/customer-service/shipping.html](http://catalog.usmint.gov/customer-service/shipping.html).

Orders are limited to one coin per household for the first 24 hours of sales, after which the Mint will remove the limit. This coin will not be available for purchase through the bulk program. The mintage and product limits are set at 10,000 units.

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## Australia Celebrates Stamp Collecting Month, Princes Highway, Fossils

**A**ustralia highlights wildlife, a highway and fossils on stamps issued in August.

The first issue of the month, on 4th August 2020, was a set of six for Stamp Collecting Month.

In announcing the stamps, Australia Post said: "Every August, Australia Post runs Stamp Collecting Month (SCM) to promote the hobby of stamp collecting, while simultaneously engaging middle to upper primary school students with themes aligned to a curriculum area, such as history, geography, science and the environment."

The theme for this year's Stamp Collecting Month is wildlife recovery. Each stamp is denominated \$1.10, the domestic letter rate in Australia, and shows an animal that was "recently identified by the federal



is featured on one stamp. Much of the koala's habitat was lost during the 2019-20 bushfires. Australia Post said: "Koalas were rescued and evacuated to triage centres and shelters, and as they have been

the regent honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), Bathurst copper butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*), Davies' tree frog (*Litoria daviesae*), Blue Mountains water skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*), and the Kangaroo Island dunnart



government's Wildlife and Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel as in need of immediate conservation management," according to Australia Post.

The koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), a tree-dwelling marsupial that lives in the eucalyptus forests of southeastern and eastern Australia,



rehabilitated they've been released back into suitable habitat with plentiful eucalypt trees."

The other stamps in the set picture

(*Sminthopsis griseoventer Aitkeni*). A dunnart, a marsupial, is about the size of a mouse.

Jo Mure designed the stamps. EGO printed them by offset lithography in various formats, including sheets of 50, booklets of 10 and a souvenir sheet with all six of the stamps.

**Cont on Page 9th..**



Cont from Page 8th...

## Princes Highway

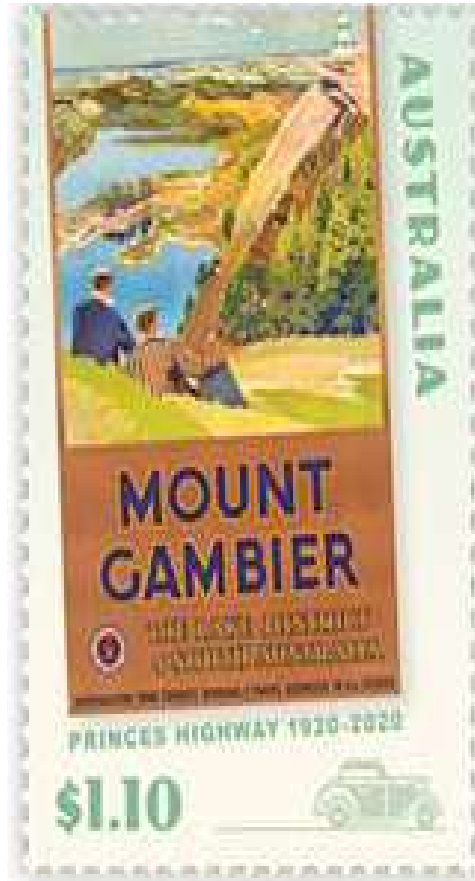
A set of four stamps issued Aug. 11 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Princes Highway.

This coastal highway connecting Sydney and Melbourne is named in honor of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), who visited Australia in 1920.

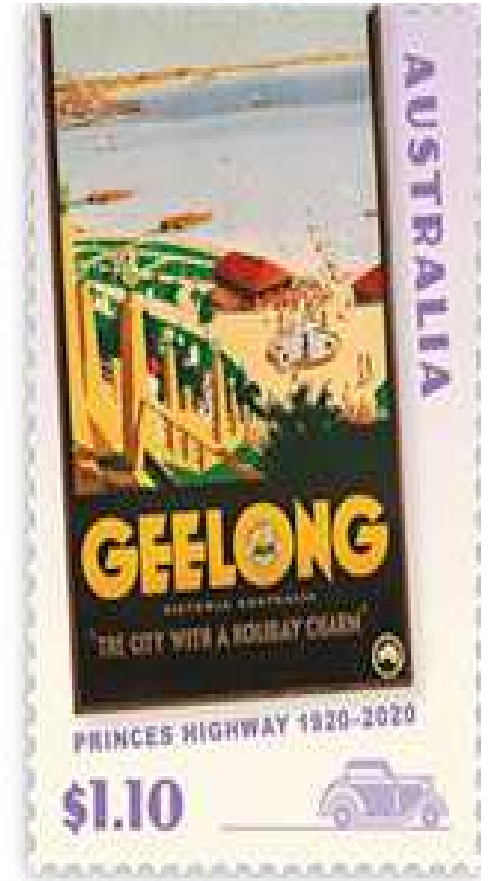
The first section of the highway from Melbourne opened Aug. 10, 1920, in Warragul, Victoria. Another opening was held Oct. 19 in Bulli, New South Wales.

A 1920 Sydney Morning Herald report about the Bulli opening said: "Mr. Mutch [Thomas Davis Mutch, the minister of local government], in naming the road, said he had travelled over practically the whole of New South Wales by train, on foot, and by cycle, but he knew of no road more beautiful in the whole of his Australian travels than the Prince's Highway."

Vintage travel posters that capture some of this beauty are pictured on the four \$1.10 stamps.



Artist John Charles Goodchild (1898-1980) created this poster, circa 1930, for the Government Publicity and Tourist Bureau of South Australia. The next stamp shows a poster



commissioned by the Victorian Railways and Geelong Publicity Council. Inscribed "The City With A Holiday Charm," it shows an illustration by Isaac James Northfield (1887-1973) of Eastern Beach in Geelong.

The other two stamps depict posters of the 1940s promoting travel to cities. Designed by Percy Trompf (1902-1964), the Melbourne poster was also commissioned by Victorian Railways.

Richard Ashton (1913-2001) created the poster showing Sydney Harbor while working as the art and publicity officer of the New South Wales Department of Tourism and Immigration.

Each stamp includes the inscription "Princes Highway 1920-2020" underneath the poster and an image of a vintage automobile in the lower right corner. Designed by Mure, they were printed by EGO in sheets of 50.



Cont on Page 10th..

## Cont from Page 9th...

Opalized Fossils Four stamps issued Aug. 17 feature fossils made of opal, Australia's national gemstone.

The Australian Opal Centre in Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, houses a collection of opalized fossils and calls them "precious relics from the age of dinosaurs." That museum also explains how such fossils are created: "Opal forms in cavities within rocks. If the cavity is there because part of a living thing — for example a bone, shell or pinecone —

was buried in the sand or clay before it turned to stone, then the opal can form a fossil replica of the object that was buried.

"A fossil is simply 'the remains or traces of an ancient animal or plant preserved in rock.' Opalised fossils form in ways similar to other fossils, except that here they are preserved in silica. Elsewhere, fossils are preserved in minerals such as agate, pyrite or limestone."

Three of the new stamps show

opalized fossils from the museum's collection: a pine cone, the tooth of the theropod dinosaur and wood.

The fourth stamp features a moon snail fossil found in Coober Pedy, South Australia. This fossil is in the collection of the South Australian Museum.

All four of the fossils date from the Cretaceous period (145.5 to 66 million years ago), and "Cretaceous Period" is inscribed on the left side of each design.



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## Commemorative Coins of Modern India:

### Year wise & mint wise journey with ICCG News

## आधुनिक भारत के स्मारणीय सिक्के: वर्षवार, टक्साल्वर

### यात्रा ICCG न्यूज 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.

## 1998 – Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das Commemorative

Chittaranjan Das, was born on November 5, 1870, in Bikrampur, Dhaka (now in Bangladesh). He was an eminent Bengali lawyer and a leading figure in the Indian independence movement. He was popularly called "Deshbandhu" (Friend of the country), for the sacrifices he made for the freedom struggle. He breathed his last on 16 June 1925.

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 DESHBANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS, at the center with the legend 'DESHBANDHU

CHITTARANJAN DAS' in both Hindi and English, '1870-1925' – his year of birth and death and '1998', -- the year of issue, around the periphery.

### Specifications:

**Year of issue:** 1998

**Weight:** 8 grams

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

**Shape:** Circular

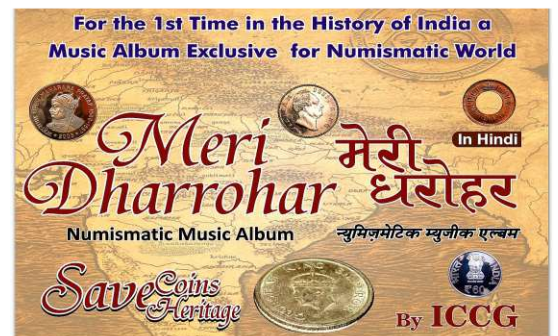
**Diameter:** 28 mm

**Edge:** Security

**Mint:** Kolkata & Noida



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## New Hobby Podcast Available

Illustrated on the cover page of the Utah Numismatic Society's monthly "The Mint Master" newsletter for March 2020 is an interesting and fascinating scrip issue of the Iosepa Agricultural and Stock Company. The note dates from Aug. 1, 1901, being just one of two examples believed to exist, and was issued in a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints desert colony in Utah's Skull Valley, populated by settlers of Hawaiian descent, located in Tooele County about 75 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. "Iosepa" is Joseph in Hawaiian, the colony being named for the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, and for Joseph F. Smith, who conducted a mission to the Hawaiian Islands in 1854. The value is 50-cents, or Hapalua Kala – 50-cents in Hawaiian – with the back of the note displaying the Hawaiian monarch's arms shield. The first 46 Polynesian settlers arrived in the colony on Aug. 28, 1889; by 1901 the

population was about 80; the population peaked at 228 in 1915; the community lasted until 1917, when the residents returned to

Hawaii and the properties were sold to a livestock company. Only a cemetery remains today.



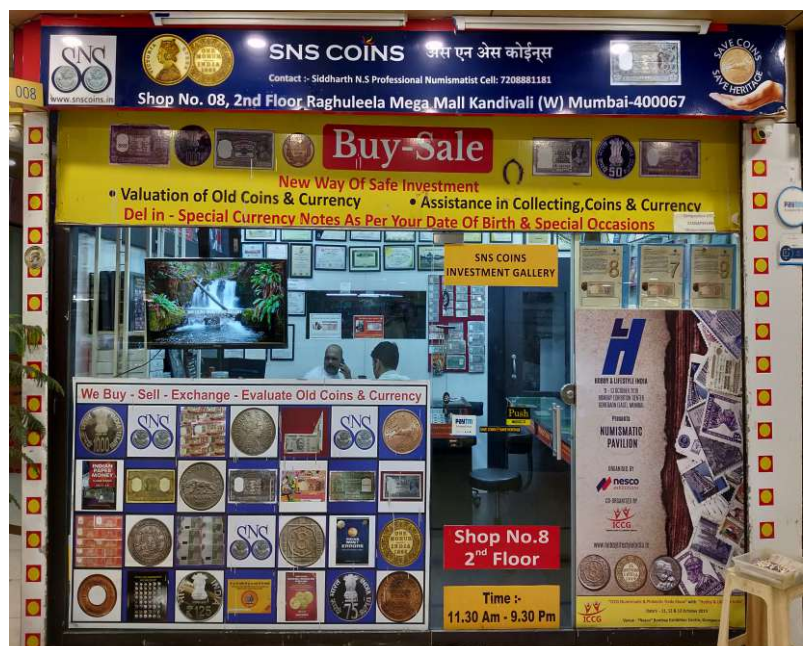
## Beware of Frauds Posing as Coin Dealers

We, SNS Coins hereby bring to the notice of the public at large as well as all concerned that some unscrupulous and fraudulent persons are using our shop images and also with few fake accounts of well known numismatists and auction services like with misleading information and for cheating purpose. We hereby clearly state that if any person receives any such communication offering to buy your old coins, currency notes, any collectible in our name against payment of any money or otherwise, we strongly advise not to respond to the same. If you have a social media account like facebook, Whatsapp or Instagram, chances are you would have been offered huge amount for your old notes and coins by collectors. Does it sound too good to be true? Let us warn you that

you may end up losing your money as it could be another scam.

Though we are taking appropriate legal recourse and steps against such fraudulent and unscrupulous persons, we request that if anyone may come across such fraudsters then please report the matter to the legal authorities.

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