

# ICCG News

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## Mahatma Gandhi's Image to Appear on British Coins

London: Chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak's office confirmed recently that Mahatma Gandhi's image on a coin is being considered as part of efforts to celebrate achievements of non-white individuals such as Indian-



origin British spy Noor Inayat Khan and Jamaican British nurse Mary Seacole. Sunak has written to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) that recommends themes and designs of coins, supporting a campaign called "We Too Built Britain," which seeks representation of non-white icons on British currency.

The proposal to put Gandhi's image on a British coin was made by former chancellor Sajid Javid in October 2019. If the proposal now becomes reality, it would make the Indian independence hero the first non-White person to feature on a British coin.

Cont on Page 3rd..

## Villagers Find 2000 Year Old Coins and Utensils While Digging Earth in UP

In a surprising discovery, villagers of Uttar Pradesh's Mohammadabad Gohna tehsil on December 12, 2020 ended up discovering valuable coins dating back to 2,000 years ago, while digging earth.

A total of 128 old coins and remains of statues and utensils were recovered by the villagers. According to District Magistrate Amit Kumar Bansal, the coins appear to be 1500 to 2000 years old.

On being informed by the villagers, all the things were taken into custody by the administration, the DM said.

The archaeological directorate has been informed and the administration has taken control of the area from where these things have been found.

This is not the first time that ancient artifacts have been

found in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The discovery comes days after findings from Indus-era vessels excavated from present-day Uttar Pradesh indicated residual fat deposits on pots, indicating that our ancestors had a meat-heavy diet.

The study, published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, involved the extraction and identification of fats and oils that have been absorbed into ancient ceramic vessels during their use in the past.

Based on the analysis, the scientists, including those from the University of Cambridge in the UK, unraveled how these ancient vessels were used and what was being cooked in them.

Cont on Page 3rd..



## Special Cover on Plasma Therapy

**P**anaji: Goa Postal Division released a Special Cover and Special Cancellation on the occasion of "Convalescent Plasma Therapy" at Conference Hall, Tapal Bhavan Panaji to create the awareness among the public to donate convalescent plasma

Cancellation were released by Chief Guest Dr. N. Vinodkumar, Postmaster General, Goa Region, Panaji and Guest of Honour Dr. Rajeshwar V Naik, Consultant Physician & Cardiologist of Goa. Mr. M.R.Ramesh Kumar, President and Mr. Aslesh Kamat,

Goa Division, Panaji in his introductory address highlighted the importance of Convalescent Plasma and the need of voluntary donation from the recently recovered patients. The Special Cover and Special Cancellation highlights the need to eliminate COVID-19 by donating convalescent Plasma from fully recovered COVID-19 patient during this pandemic.

The Special cancellation will be available in Golden Cancellation. The Special cover will be highlighting the message as "Donate Plasma-Save Lives". The sale price of the Special Cover is Rs.25/-. The Special cover with cancellation will be for sale at the Panaji Head Post Office.

We hope that this Special Cover and Special Cancellation will increase public awareness among the fully recovered COVID-19 patient to donate convalescent plasma against ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



against ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The proponent of this Special Cover and Special Cancellation is Goa Philatelic & Numismatic Society. The Special Cover and Special

Secretary, Goa Philatelic and Numismatic Society [GPNS] Goa with other members of the Society were present at the release function. Dr. Sudhir G. Jakhere, Sr. Supdt of Post offices,

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### Commemorative Coin sets



## Cont from Page 1st..

In a letter to Zehra Zahidi, who has led the campaign, Sunak said: "Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities have made a profound contribution to the shared history of the United Kingdom".

"For generations, ethnic minority groups have fought and died for this country we have built together; taught our children, nursed the sick, cared for the elderly; and through their enterprising spirit have started some of our most exciting and

dynamic businesses, creating jobs and driving growth".

"I am writing today to the Chair of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC), Lord Waldegrave...asking the RMAC Sub-Committee on Themes to consider recognising this very great contribution on our nation's coinage," he wrote.

The chancellor's office confirmed that the RMAC is currently considering a coin to commemorate Gandhi, adding that Sunak is keen that British



coins commemorate the work of the previous generations who have served the UK and nations that form the Commonwealth.

Campaigners previously sought Noor Inayat Khan's image on a new £50 note, but the Bank of England announced that the new series to enter circulation in 2021 will have the image of computer pioneer and code-breaker Alan Turing.

## Cont from Page 1st..

In 2019, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) added a feather to its cap after a team of ASI personnel and archaeologists found 4,000-years-old burial sites in UP's Sinauli. Located in

Baghpat district, the burial site reportedly contained "legged coffins" with skeletons inside and furnaces. The team also unearthed a helmet, chariot, shield, and other

valuable items that suggest an elaborate Bronze Age burial ritual.

The 2019 discovery marked the first such Bronze Age excavations in the Indian subcontinent.

## Special Postcards on Pancharamas Released

**Vijayawada:** Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao on Wednesday released five postcards on 'Pancharamas' of Andhra Pradesh on the occasion of Karthika month.

Addressing the media here, Srinivasa Rao appreciated the postal department for printing cards on the five famous Saiva Kshetras known as Pancharamas -- Amararama (Amaravati), Somarama (Bhimavaram), Ksheerarama (Palakollu), Draksharama (Draksharamam) and Kumararama (Samarlakota). He said the endowments department has been working in tandem with the postal department.

"It's a good sign that the postal department is releasing posters on great personalities, historic places and special events," the minister said.

Simultaneously, these five postcards were released at the five respective



temples by the postal and endowments department. The postal department printed the postcards for the promotion of culture and heritage of the State.

Chief Postmaster General, AP Circle, M Venkateswarlu said during the Karthika month, many devotees make it a point to visit all the five temples in a day. He further said that the postal department respected great personalities by releasing stamps and postcards in their memory. "We are going to release a

special cover on Alluri Sitarama Raju and the department is planning to document historical and prominent places," said Venkateswarlu.

Postmaster General TM Sreelatha asserted that philately is a vibrant art and a hobby for many. "Every card/cover has a story to tell and special cards has the potential to bring out the real stories," she said.

Director of Postal Services S Ranganathan and others participated in the event.

## Royal Mint Launches 'Diversity Built Britain' Coin

**T**he Royal Mint has launched a new 50 pence celebrating diversity. This is the first U.K. coin to recognize and honor the power of the country's diverse ethnic minorities to build a modern, prosperous Britain. This little coin takes a big step and as the Mint says, "marks a new era for British coinage, with more designs celebrating diversity and inclusivity set to follow."

The Royal Mint is sparing no effort for this coin; "To support this landmark coin, The Royal Mint is working in partnership with the West India Committee to offer a school program exploring the diversity that built Britain, and marking Black History Month. The educational pack will be issued to every primary school in England and Wales, and explores stories of significant black figures in British history as well as including a 'Diversity Built Britain' 50p."

That's the kind of commitment to a program that we can all admire and strive to achieve in our business and personal lives. But the Royal Mint goes even further with an additional level of support. "A second education pack will encourage children to explore their own thoughts and feelings about diversity and to express themselves creatively, with links back to the coinage of Britain. Both education packs are available to download for free from [royalmint.com/diversity](http://royalmint.com/diversity)"

As Anne Jessopp, CEO of the Royal Mint expressed it, "Britain's history is rich and diverse. For more than 1,100 years, the nation's story has been told through coins struck by The Royal Mint, a narrative carried in the pockets and purses of all its people. The contribution of ethnic minority communities has been such an

important part of that story but has often gone unrecognised. This coin has been created to celebrate all the people who have made Britain what

Dominique Evans who has created a number of high profile coins for the Mint, including the recent 75th anniversary of VE Day bimetallic 2-pound we reviewed in the June 2020 issue of World Coin News. As one of Britain's foremost coin designers, Evans has brought great personality and grace into the creation of many of the Royal Mint's recent products and now takes a major role in this new initiative.

Evans described her process in developing the new 50 pence, "When designing this coin, I began by thinking about the people who inspire me and what diversity has meant in my life. I believe that no matter where you are born, we all belong under the same sky and this was the starting point of the design."

it is today. This is a very exciting development for us and the launch of this important coin coincides with Black History Month, signaling a change in U.K. coinage, one that I am personally delighted to pioneer."

The Diversity Built Britain 50 pence was designed by The Royal Mint's



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## New Coin to Commemorate Queen's 95th Birthday

**L**ondon: A new 5-pound coin to commemorate the 95th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II in April will be among a set of new commemorative coinage to be issued in 2021, the UK's Royal Mint said on 02nd January, 2021.

The release of a 5-pound coin is reserved for significant royal events and the latest one will depict the royal cypher "EIR", above the words "My Heart and My Devotion", an ode to part of the monarch's 1957 Christmas Day broadcast which became the very first to be televised.

"The commemorative coins we make provide a special opportunity to celebrate the people and events that have made a hugely important contribution to the UK and beyond," the Royal Mint said.

"For 2021, a collection of coins celebrates and explores the stories behind Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott, who made history come to life, John Logie Baird and the making of television, and HG Wells, the man who made science fiction reality. Interwoven with the Royal Mint's history, we also celebrate how we were the change makers in 1971 as we mark the 50th anniversary of decimal day, and wish Her Majesty The Queen a happy 95th birthday as she continues to make a nation proud," it said.

On April 21 this year, the Queen will become the first British monarch to reach the age of 95.

As her image already appears on one side of all coins in circulation in Britain, the new set of commemorative coinage will each offer a different depiction from the various stages of her reign.

The quote for the 5 pound coin is taken from her speech 64 years ago, when she said: "In the old days the

monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal.

"Today things are very different. I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of



nations.

"The new coins will be available in precious metal editions or struck in regular circulating alloys, available to purchase from the Royal Mint's website.

The anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, who wrote novels such as 'Waverley' and 'Ivanhoe', will be celebrated with a 2 pound coin.

The 75th anniversary of the death of science fiction author H.G. Wells, who penned works such as 'The Time Machine' and 'The War Of The Worlds', will also be marked on a 2 pound coin, with a depiction of images from his novels.

Two sets of 50-pence coins will mark the 50th anniversary of decimalisation, when Britain's modern coins came into force, and the 75th anniversary of the death of the inventor John Logie Baird, famous for his early prototypes of the television.

"This year's annual set is particularly special for The Royal Mint as we celebrate one of the biggest milestones in our 1,100-year history, the anniversary of decimalisation, said Clare MacLennan, of the consumer division at the Royal Mint. "This was one of the largest and most intensive public awareness campaigns ever staged by the

government and introduced the coins that we know today.

Decimalisation was the birth of modern coin collecting and it is fitting that the anniversary has been celebrated on a 50 pence, which is Britain's most loved coin," she said.

The Royal Mint said that each of the new sets of coinage capture and tell a story in miniature form on the tiny surface of a coin by skilled artists passionate about their craft.



## St. Helena — East India Company: The Stately Peacock, the national bird of India, features on second gold and silver coins in Treasures of India collection

The government and treasury of St. Helena, in partnership with the East India Company, have recently released their latest gold and silver coins struck in Brilliant Uncirculated quality, which is part of the series entitled "Treasures of India." The new gold and silver coins feature India's national bird, the stately peacock. Respected in religious scriptures and protected by the Indian Parliament, the peacock is considered sacred in India, occupying a special position in the country's culture. This majestic animal is a symbol of prosperity, compassion, soul, and peace, thought to convey good luck and eternal love. Its feathers represent "a thousand eyes" and are believed to bring harmony, serenity, peace of mind, and good fortune. This beautiful bird has a special place in the stories and historical folklore of many different countries and peoples. According to Greek mythology, for instance, the peacock was Hera's sacred animal, whose tail contains the one hundred eyes of Argos, which Hera moved to its tail before his death. In Hindu Culture, the peacock is associated with the deity Lakshmi and symbolises patience, kindness, compassion, and good luck. Of particular rarity and symbolism is the white peacock. Breathtakingly beautiful, they are very rare and are seen as a sign of good luck. The white peacock is thought to represent Jesus Christ and stands for resurrection, renewal, and immortality. The coins are designed by renowned

animal artist Veronica Mackinnon, who has captured the stunning beauty and mystique of India's



national bird featured on many religious buildings and artefacts, including the magnificent Peacock Throne of Shah Jahan, fifth Mughal Emperor, who ruled from 1628 to 1658. Displayed on a patterned background, the peacock is seen in repose, the feathers of its tail cascading down in a beautiful pattern of natural shimmering iridescent colours. The text ONE OUNCE CASH and 999.9 GOLD or .999 SILVER is placed around the design. The East India Company's distinctive mintmark is

placed to the lower left.

The obverse side includes the Commonwealth effigy of HM Queen Elizabeth II created by Engraver Jody Clark and introduced onto the coinage of St. Helena in 2019. The denomination of £100 (gold) or ONE POUND (silver) is seen under the Queen's likeness which also includes the year of issue, 2020.

Both gold and silver coins are exclusively distributed through U.S. based precious metal retailer, APMEX Inc. Exceptionally limited, the 2019 Tiger and 2020 Peacock coins will be followed by further releases of silver and gold coins celebrating India's vast animal kingdom.

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## 50 Archaeological Sites Found in Prayagraj

The survey stretched for 70 km on the ground surface and 3 to 5 km (in width) on both sides of the river.

Nearly 50 archaeological sites have been found in Prayagraj by a team from the department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology in the Ishwar Saran PG College.

The team conducted an archaeological village-to-village survey on foot in the vicinity of the confluence of the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers of Prayagraj, from Jhansi to Shringverpur and from Daraganj to Kali Paltan in Kaushambhi district on both sides of the Ganga river.

The survey stretched for 70 km on the ground surface and 3 to 5 km (in width) on both sides of the river.

It was carried out under the direction of principal of the college and head of the department and project director, Professor Anand Shankar Singh and the project deputy director and Assistant Professor Jamil Ahmad, along with his team.

This was, perhaps, the first time that an archaeological survey was taken up in this area on such a large scale.

Professor Singh said: "The survey was conducted in more than 80 villages on both the shores of the river Ganga which fall under the Phoolpur, Sadar and Soraon tehsils of Prayagraj district and the Chail tehsil of Kaushambhi district.

Nearly 50 sites of archaeological importance have been marked and documented, from where, a large number of archaeological remains from Chalcolithic period (around 3,000 to 2,000 BC when copper was the dominant metal) to the Mughal period and later, have been found."

These remains consist of various



types of potteries, terracotta and semi-precious stones, microlith (1cm to 8cm long stone tools), beads and tools of stone and iron and materials made of bone and ivory are important.

A detailed report of the survey has recently been sent to Indian Archaeological Survey, New Delhi for publication in their annual journal, 'Indian Archaeology - a Review'.

The college is working on sending a proposal for further excavation of selected archaeological sites near Kaurihar to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), New Delhi.

These antiquities obtained from the Gangetic area have been kept for study by the researchers in the newly built Archaeological Centre of the College.

The vast majority of cultural materials excavated from this region clearly indicates the continuous and rich habitats of this region from the distant past.


The availability of antiquarian and artistic

antiquities comes from almost all the antiquarian sites and provides valuable and useful information about the artistic tastes and everyday use of life and cultural stock of the people here.

It is noteworthy that the ASI, New Delhi, has licensed Ishwar Saran P.G. College for archaeological survey in this area.

## Indian Mint Errors

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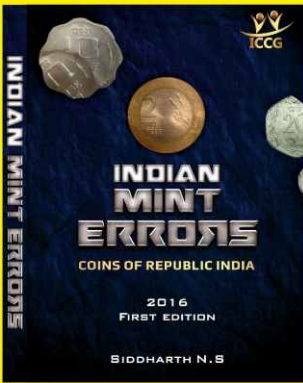
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## 8 Postal Covers Released to Mark 66th 'Wildlife Week' in Karnataka

The Indian postal department released 8 special covers to mark the 66th 'Wildlife Week' and concluded across Karnataka.

"Karnataka circle's acting chief postmaster general Sheuli Burman released 6 special covers at a function in the state forest department, marking the wildlife week here," said the department of posts in a statement.

The first special cover is on Rajiv Gandhi National Park, depicting the Indian elephant, which is an inhabitant of the sanctuary at



Nagarhole in the state's Mysuru-Kodagu districts.

The second cover is on Bannerghatta National Park on the southern outskirts of Bengaluru, displaying Honey Badger in its sanctuary.

The third cover is on Kudremukh National Park in the state's Chikkamagaluru district, showing its Lion Tailed Macque, a primate, found mostly in the rich bio-diverse Western Ghats across the southern state.

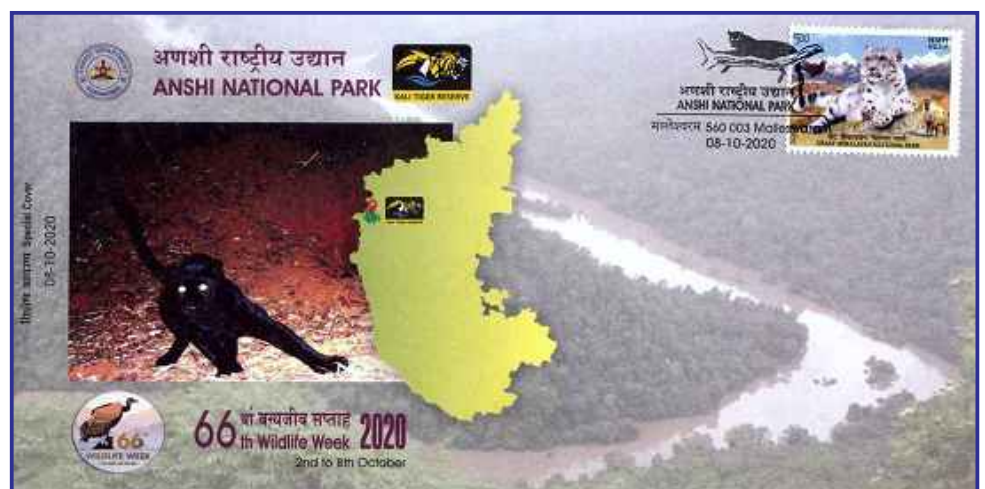
The fourth cover is on Anshi National Park in the state's Uttara Kannada district with its black panther.

The fifth cover is on Bandipur

National Park in the state's Chamarajanagar district, with the famous Indian tiger in its sprawling sanctuary.

birds' bar-headed geese.

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State's forest department additional chief secretary Sandeep Dave, state's principal chief conservator of forests Sanjai Mohan, and principal chief conservator of forests for wildlife Ajai Misra were present on the occasion.

At Dharwad, about 430 km northwest of Bengaluru, Gadag superintendent of the post, H.B. Hasabi released the seventh and eighth covers in the presence of Dharwad circle chief conservator of forests Manjunath Chavan, Dharwad deputy commissioner M. Sundaresh Babu and deputy conservator of forests A.V. Surya Sen.



is, however, low-key this year due to the coronavirus impact and guidelines to maintain social distancing.

Karnataka is the sixth-largest state in

Karnataka's ecosystem supports different kinds of forests, ranging from the wet evergreen forests of the Western Ghats to deciduous forests of the Mysuru district to thorn scrub forests and rocky outcrops of Ramanagara and Daroji, extending to the riverine and marine ecosystems.

As the theme of this year's wildlife awareness week is "Vultures for Future", Kannada film actor and former ambassador for the state's forest life Ramesh Arvind said, "as scavengers, vultures are vital contributors in maintaining the ecological balance."

The country's only vulture sanctuary is atop the Ramadevarabhata in Ramanagara district, 55 km southwest of Bengaluru on the way to Mysuru.



The special covers will be available for sale at philatelic bureaus of the main post offices in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi across the southern state.

The wildlife week was celebrated across the state, with a series of programmes and events to create awareness and care for its rich flora and fauna.

"The 66th Wildlife Week was celebrated with events like cyclethon, walkathon and webinars to commemorate wildlife conservation," Karnataka Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shiva Raj Singh told IANS here.

Unlike in the past, the wildlife week

the country with 38,720 sq.km of forest area, which covers around 20 per cent of the southern state.

Being a part of the southern peninsula in the Deccan region,





## UAE Based Indian Expat Amasses Collection of 1 Dirham Coins

**A**bu Dhabi: An Indian expat in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has amassed a collection of 39 different issues of the 1 dirham coin, turning down lucrative offers to sell the collection, a media report said on 24th December 2020.

Petrol pump attendant, Shaibal Kelettil from Calicut, Kerala, took nine years to complete his collection, said the Gulf News report.

He has turned down offers of up to 2,000 dirhams to sell his collection, saying it was "priceless to me because of my love for the UAE".

Kelettil has even paid

50 dirhams to buy just one 1 dirham coin."

I love the 'I love the UAE' coin and also the 1990-issue celebrating UAE's participation in the football World Cup. If I see a coin that is different or special in some way, I ask the bearer

to exchange it with me or sell it to me.

"I love collecting coins and I love the UAE, so that's why I do it," Gulf News quoted the expat as saying.

He also has coins from Saudi Arabia where he worked previously, and coins from India.



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## Commemorative Coins of Modern India: Year wise & mint wise journey with ICCG News आधुनिक भारत के स्मारणीय सिक्के: वर्षवार, टक्सात्वर

### 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.

### 2001 – Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Centenary Commemorative

Syama Prasad Mookerjee (July 6, 1901 - June 23, 1953) was a nationalist political leader of India, and is considered the godfather of modern Hindutva and Hindu Nationalism. He was the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta from 1934-38. In Nehru's Cabinet, he was a minister for Industry and Supply. After the differences with Pandit Nehru, Mookerjee left Congress and founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh,

the first Hindu nationalist political party of its kind. He was also the leader of the Hindu Mahasabha and closely associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

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 Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, with '2001' – the year of issue below it. The legend 'DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE CENTENARY', in both English and

#### Specifications:

Year of issue: 2001

Weight: 8 grams

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

Shape: Circular

Diameter: 28 mm

Edge: Security

Mint: Kolkata, Hyderabad & Noida



## 180 Years of Post: Special Cover, Six Maxim Cards Released

**P**anaji: On the World Post Day which also marks the 180th year of expansion of postal services in India, Goa Post released a special cover and six maxim cards at the Tapal Bhawan premises in Panaji.

Postmaster general N Vinodkumar said the postal services have seen a transformation over the past 180 years. "Today, we have a total of 1,56,600 post offices but the postal staff has reduced to 4.5 lakh people due to computerisation and the number of services has increased," he said.

A permanent pictorial cancellation of Bom Jesus Basilica was also released. This is the second permanent pictorial cancellation after the stamp based on the sculpture of Sant



Mirabai at the Big Foot Loutolim, launched on October 12, 2018. A set of six maxim cards on the Basilica of Bom Jesus are available at the cost of Rs 180 per set.

"A maxim card is made up of three elements: the postcard, the stamp and the postmark. The object of maximaphily is to obtain a card

where the stamp and picture are in close concordance, ideally with an appropriate cancellation," president of the Goa Philately and Numismatics Society M R Ramesh Kumar said.

## Beware of Frauds Posing as Coin Dealers

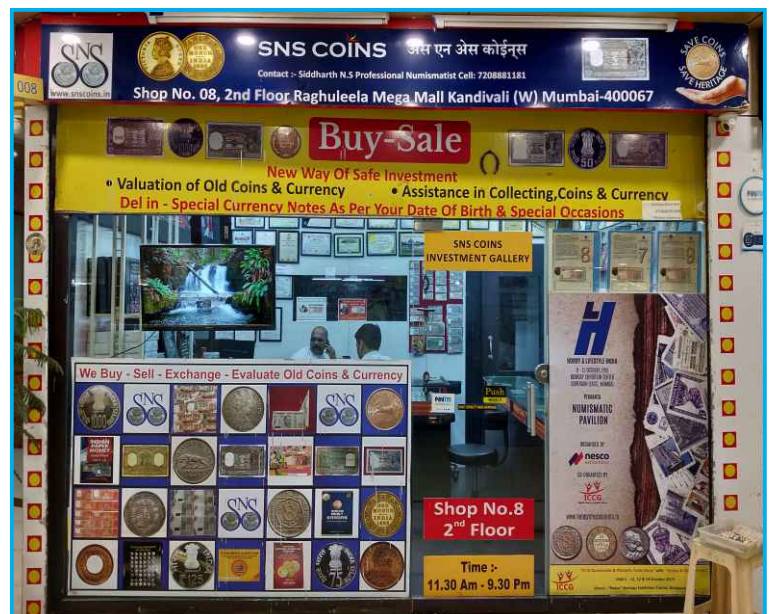
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