

ICCG News

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Standard Numismatic's Benazir Bhutto Commemorative Coin Prices Soar, Proving Concept For the Rise of Alternative Investments

Manchester, England, March 22, 2021: Throughout the course of history, few individuals have left behind an impact that spans generations, continents, and history itself. Those who have achieved such high stature deserve a tangible means of respect to quantify their numerous contributions to society. Standard Numismatic, a private minting company in England, released a commemorative coin celebrating Benazir Bhutto, the Daughter of the East. Within 9 days, the entire collection was sold out and now due to the excess demand,

prices of the coin have soared in the resale market. In the modern age, unique, high-ticket items continue to grow in value, reaching unprecedented heights. As demand for the Benazir Bhutto coin continues to rise, so does its value. From silver to gold, and limited edition First Strike coins; the Benazir



Bhutto coin took the bullion world by storm. At the launch, Standard Edition silver coins were priced at \$70, and Gold coins at \$2,100. Now, the same coins are being resold at \$112 for silver and \$2,890 for gold. Exclusive first strike gold and silver coins have topped returns of over 100% the original value. Originally released at \$2,390, the Benazir Bhutto gold coin is now at a resale value of over \$5,150; while the first strike silver coin, originally \$105, has doubled in resale value at \$210.

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A Collectors Perspective on World Banknotes

The hobby of collecting banknotes is known as Notaphily.

Many people collect coins, stamps, antique items and maps as hobby, but did you know some might even have the hobby of collecting currency notes from different countries? Yes, there is. Meet Dr N Chandrashekar from Bangalore who has been collecting world banknotes since 1989.

Please let us know something about yourself and your collection. My name is Dr N Chandrashekar fondly known as GEM CHANDRU from Bangalore and I am collecting coins and currencies as hobby, as micro investment and also because I have "collectors instincts" because a good and constructive



hobby like Numismatics will give a balanced mind to the collector like me which I picked up about the year 1989 ...I was bored of regular collections in the beginning....later on it occurred to me go for THEME COLLECTIONS like I have attached here which gives me a very good.....

[Cont on Page 5th..](#)

Delhi to get its First Partition Museum, set to open on August 15

It is only fitting that the capital is now set to get a museum to solemnly mark that moment in its history, which opens to the public on August 15 this year.

It was the Partition of 1947 that changed the face of Delhi forever. As thousands of its residents fled, Delhi also took in nearly half a million refugees from Pakistan in the months pre and post August 1947. It is only fitting that the capital is now set to get a museum to solemnly mark that moment in its history, which opens to the public on August 15 this year.

The museum — an extension of Amritsar's Partition Museum — will come up at the Dara Shikoh Library building in Old Delhi's Mori Gate. Built in 1643 and named after Shah Jahan's eldest son, Dara Shikoh, the building currently stands in the Ambedkar University Delhi campus. In the later years, it served as the residence of Mughal viceroy of Punjab, Ali Mardan Khan, and then of David Ochterlony, a British officer in the Mughal court.

The museum — an extension of Amritsar's Partition Museum — will come up at the Dara Shikoh Library building in Old Delhi's Mori Gate. Built in 1643 and named after Shah Jahan's eldest son, Dara Shikoh, the building currently stands in the Ambedkar University Delhi campus. In the later years, it served as the residence of Mughal viceroy of Punjab, Ali Mardan Khan, and then of David Ochterlony, a British officer in the Mughal court.

Three museums are coming up at the building. Besides the Partition Museum, for which the Delhi government's Department of Archaeology has joined hands with The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust (TAACHT), there will be a museum dedicated to the life of Dara Shikoh,

and one to display antiquities and artefacts in its possession, a representative of the Department of Archaeology said as per the reports with ICCG News.

Kishwar Desai, Chair, TAACHT, says, "The entire project is tentatively called 'Daastaan-e-Dilli', and is aimed at creating a cultural hub at the historic and beautiful Dara Shikoh

entering its 75th year of independence. The other two museums, indoor and outdoor performance spaces, and gardens will be undertaken subsequently.

Desai adds that oral histories and displays at the Partition Museum in Delhi will be different to those in Amritsar as these will be about Delhi, and the changes in the city — the



Library. It will be a unique space in which we can consider the impact of divisions (the Partition of India) and unification (as through the Sufism of Dara Shikoh) side by side." The first to be completed will be the Partition Museum, with a special focus on how Partition impacted and changed Delhi. This will be ready by August 15, in time to commemorate India

people, refugee camps, new colonies that came up. There will also be narratives of the individuals who were impacted and involved apart from memorabilia and material memory. It will also have displays on what Delhi looked like before and after the Partition.

News Courtesy: The Indian Express / Miss. Shikha Upadhyay

Coin with Message Against Untouchability to be Donated for New Parliament Building

A human rights organisation in Gujarat has initiated a campaign to donate a coin with a message against untouchability to the Parliament through the President. The coin would be used for laying the foundation of the new Parliament building in New Delhi.

These coins will be made from the brass utensils and articles collected from the people of Gujarat. The initiative was launched by Ahmedabad-based voluntary organisation, Navsarjan Trust, from its campus at Nani Devati village near Sanand on 20th March 2020.

On the first day, the organisation received over 500 kg of brass utensils and articles from people. It is planning to collect around 2000 kg brass to be converted into a 1,111-milligram diameter coin with the question – Will the 1947 dream of untouchability-free India be a reality in 2047? – engraved on it along with the images of Dr B R Ambedkar-led Mahad Satyagrah.

Then, it is planned; the coin will be given to be laid in the foundation of the new Parliament building. Apart from the big coin, the organisers are also planning to have small coins to

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“What once was traditionally a collector's item is now a lucrative investment, and the overwhelming demand for these exclusive commemorative coins is redefining the numismatic and bullion industry as we know it. Day after day, the demand and value of these coins continues to skyrocket with no sign of decreased momentum on the horizon. Due to this massive increase in enquiries, our dealers will be going to auction, and are expected to break record prices as demand continues to

be given to various persons including the members of the parliament. Martin Macwan from Navsarjan Trust said, “New Parliament building is coming up. We must have a beautiful new building... But what is important is what will happen after having a new Parliament building? Because, even after 75 years of Independence, untouchability is still prevailing. So, the message is if it is one country,



then there should be only one nation. Because of untouchability, it is like two nations in every village...”

“We are having a cultural tradition that when we build a new house, we put a brass article in its foundation for peace and prosperity. Similarly, we want to give this 2000-kg brass coin to be laid in the foundation of the new Parliament building,” he added. In a connected initiative,

rise. Due to its extremely low supply worldwide, I expect prices of the standard silver coins to rise up to at least \$ 2,000 within the next month — Steph Petty, President of the Central Ohio Numismatic Association. “We could not have imagined a better response to the launch of our



Navsarjan Trust has also launched a campaign to collect total of Rs 1 crore from the people of the country as a contribution towards the construction of the new Parliament building. As part of the initiative, a Re 1 coin will be collected from the people voluntarily.

“People will also contribute 1 rupee coin for the upcoming Parliament house. After all, the Parliament is the only political and moral temple of all the citizens, which is mandated to protect the rights of all its citizens as enshrined in India’s Constitution,” Macwan said.

According to Macwan, the 2000-kg coin is expected to be ready by three months and it will be taken to Delhi in a march by August 15, 2022, along with the Re 1 coins worth total of Rs 1 crore.

Macwan said a similar initiative will also be launched by some other voluntary organisations in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Representatives from these states were present at the event on March 20 of Navsarjan Trust.

Benazir Bhutto and Abdul Sattar Edhi commemorative coins. Standard Numismatic is overwhelmed by the commitment, support, and respect displayed by fans of both Benazir Bhutto and Abdul Sattar Edhi. Our vision has always been to create a means for fans to honor the lives of these remarkable people. The ability of our coins to turn into lucrative investments that produce high yields for years to come is a bonus”. — Issa Masroor, Managing Director, Standard Numismatic.

Apollo 11 Coin Lands Top COTY Honors

"The Eagle has landed." The now-famous phrase spoken by United States astronaut Neil Armstrong was a victory cry heard across the globe when he and Buzz Aldrin were the first humans to land on the moon on July 20, 1969.

The monumental feat was celebrated worldwide, and now the international coin community is celebrating the United States as its 2019-dated silver coin commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing is named the winner of the 2021 Coin of the Year awards.

The Coin of the Year program, now in its 38th year, is an internationally conducted competition presented by World Coin News to recognize outstanding coin design and innovation worldwide. The 2021 program – sponsored by The Journal of East Asian Numismatics, NumisCollect and China Gold Coin Incorporation – honors coins dated 2019 in 10 categories of competition as decided by an international panel of judges. The 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing coin is a 5-ounce, 3-inch-diameter proof silver dollar with a curved shape. It won two COTY category awards.

"In the first round of COTY voting by category, the United States Mint 5-

ounce Apollo 11 dollar received twice as many votes in Best Contemporary Event as its closest competitor," said Tom Michael, COTY coordinator, World Coin News contributor and market analyst. "It was nominated again in the Best Silver Coin category, where the voting was much more competitive, so I think the event itself was the most significant factor in early voting. However, I am sure that theme, design and challenging production must all have factored

into the judges'

decision

on the

final vote for

overall Coin of the Year, where voting was quite competitive."

The obverse, concave side of the coin depicts a footprint on the lunar surface. Inscriptions "MERCURY," "GEMINI" and "APOLLO" are separated by phases of the moon. Together, these design elements represent the efforts of the United States space program leading up to the first manned moon landing.

The Mint invited American artists to design a common obverse image that

is emblematic of the United States Space Program leading up to the first manned moon landing. The Secretary of the Treasury selected the design from a juried competition. Gary Cooper of Belfast, Maine, created the winning design that adapts the well-known photograph of an astronaut's boot-print taken by Aldrin. Cooper's concept was adapted by Joseph F. Menna, who is now chief engraver at the U.S. Mint.

The reverse, convex design features a representation of a close-up of the famous "Buzz Aldrin on the Moon" photograph taken July 20, 1969, that shows just the visor and part of the helmet of Aldrin. The reflection in the helmet includes Armstrong, the United States flag and the lunar lander, "Eagle." It was created by Phebe Hemphill, U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver.

"Our team was proud to be a part of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon by NASA's Apollo 11 crew," the U.S. Mint said in an acceptance statement for the two category awards. "Produced in 2019, the [coin] was the United States Mint's first curved 5 ounce silver coin and represented a special achievement in the Mint's technical capabilities."



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A Collectors Perspective on World Banknotes

satisfactions as a collector and as well as an Indian. With most of the country being asked to shelter in place, it has afforded me the opportunity to connect with some collectors and dealers who are excited to talk about numismatics. I personally collect world banknotes and am always looking to acquire new specimens. During my pursuit, I have had the privilege of getting to know other individuals who have a great passion for world banknotes. Are there specific countries that you collect?

I primarily collect any world banknotes. So it ranges about 40 different countries from Asia to the West African States. Some of my more sophisticated holdings are for Nepal, Bangladesh, Ceylon, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Singapore and East African notes. What advice would you give to anyone looking to collect

world banknotes? Think about your method of how you want to collect,

GEMCHANDRU COLLECTION-2006 to 2019
Indian Languages On Foreign Currencies



CEYLON - Tamil SRILANKA - Tamil
NEPAL - Hindi BANGLADESH-Bengali
MAURITIUS-Tamil SINGAPORE-Tamil
EAST AFRICA-Gujarati

and then stick to that approach. I went nuts when I started initially collecting and tried to collect too much at one time, and I found as my

collecting methods matured that I got so much more satisfaction by collecting fewer countries, but more in depth with signatures and date varieties. You do not have to spend a retirement fund to have an impressive, high-quality collection with a satisfying and exciting experience.

There are so many methods of collecting world banknotes that I am confident that I can collect literally the rest of my life and will not run out of notes to buy. I can say that, hands down, I have had more fun collecting world banknotes than any other thing in my 30 years of numismatics. ICCG News hereby thank Dr. N Chandrashekar for his valuable time, thoughts and collectibles shared. We believe his thoughts and collection is sure to inspire the young generation in a very positive way.

Coin Market Best It's Been in Years

The prestigious auction house Stack's Bowers Galleries is opening an office in Philadelphia and is looking to hire numismatic specialists. Certified Collectibles Group is expanding its Sarasota, Fla., offices by 21,000 square feet, the company now employing more than 400 people internationally, about 330 of them being situated in Sarasota. The German Historical Museum in Berlin is seeking a museologist for its coins, medals, plaques, bank notes and securities collection. Heritage auctions recently announced their 2020 numismatic sales totaled about \$278.9 million, almost 79 percent of this coming from internet sales. The U.S. Mint continues to struggle to keep up with the demand for

business strike, collector and bullion coins. The spot price of bullion gold and silver continues to decline



due to a weak dollar on the international market. Despite

this, gold American Eagle coin sales increased by 416 percent from sales during the first two months of this year when compared to the same period one year earlier. Silver American eagle sales increased by 77 percent when compared to the same period a year earlier. American Buffalo gold bullion coins are up 252 percent for the first two months of 2021. Important very rare coins that haven't been offered in years are now appearing for sale. The prices of many collectible coins continue to increase due to renewed demand. Coin shows and club meetings are cautiously re-opening as the coronavirus pandemic appears to be slowing. All this points to one conclusion: the coin market is at its best point in years.

Great American Stamp Show will take place live in Chicago

The American Philatelic Society has confirmed that the 2021 Great American Stamp Show will take place in an open public venue this summer.

The stamp show, which brings together the annual conventions of the APS, the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society, will take place Aug. 12-15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Ill.

"We've waited patiently for some good news out of Illinois and Governor J.B. Pritzker delivered it last week," said Scott English, the APS executive director, "Illinois is moving very quickly toward easing restrictions and likely safely removing them by August."

The APS explained that under the Illinois Recovery Plan, the state relaxed the Phase 4 restrictions for indoor dining and other events. When 70 percent of all Illinoisians aged 65 and older are vaccinated, Illinois enters the "Bridge Phase," further lifting restrictions and allowing the Stephens Convention Center to open.

"Based on current projections, Illinois will enter the Bridge Phase within weeks," according to the

society's March 25 news release. "Once 50 percent of all residents aged 16 and older receive at least the first dose of the vaccine, the state will enter Phase 5."

English added: "Every week, more Americans are receiving vaccinations and taking the proper precautions to stay safe. If we continue moving in this direction, the Great American Stamp Show will be the perfect way

of the American Philatelic Research Library board of trustees, English described several factors that needed to be resolved before a commitment to the show could be made, including safety for visitors and dealers, and the prospect of enough show visitors attending to make it financially viable for dealers to participate.

It appears that projections for improving COVID-19 conditions have allowed the society to move forward with plans for a show attended by the public.

The APS has said that as a benchmark to moving ahead with the show, the society needs commitments from 75 dealers and 25 societies, and at least 500 exhibit frames reserved.

"These benchmarks will provide a strong show for dealers and attendees without substantial financial risk to the APS," according to the society's press release.

"This will be the biggest show held in the past two years," English said. "We need everyone in the hobby to come together. We need our dealers, societies, and exhibitors to rally and show the world the pandemic has made the hobby stronger. We can't wait to see you in Chicago!"



to bring the hobby together."

The status of the show has been in limbo since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down public gatherings across the United States and around the world.

During the March 18 online meeting

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Post and Philatelic Museum Inaugurated in Iran

Yazd: A selection of 50 historical envelopes, 4,000 stamps, 100 letters, 50 postal cards, and 100 historical documents dating back to the Qajar-era (1789-1925) have been put on the museum, according to Ali-Asghar Samadiani, the deputy tourism chief of Yazd province.

Research projects are set to be implemented by the participation of scholars and experts on the history of communications and post in the province, he explained.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the CEO of the National Post Company, Ramezan-Ali Sobhanifar who also doubles as the deputy minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and several cultural officials and cultural heritage experts.

It was only in 1851 when the government of Iran started to produce its own stamps, thus the creation of a unique mailing and communication arrangement. It was through the reign of Nasser al-Din



Shah Qajar (1848-1896) that the national postal system began developing.

The monarch was inspired by the reported successes of a postal system in many regions, so he decided to send a group to France to study the system and launch it in Iran.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir

and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

With its winding lanes, forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

PhilPost Introduces First Easter Sunday Mass Stamp

A postal stamp to commemorate the celebration of the first Easter Mass in the country 500 years ago has been issued by the Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost).

The design is part of efforts to commemorate the 500 years of Christianity in the country, according to a post on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website.

The commemorative stamp was released before the celebration that took place in Limasawa Island in Southern Leyte on March 31.

The stamps show a photo of Limasawa island and another one is that of a priest holding up a communion host and chalice that has

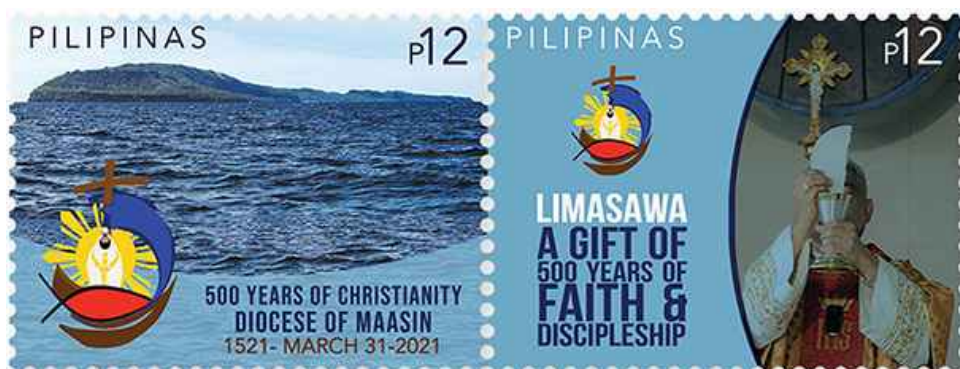
the inscription "Limasawa – A Gift of 500 Years of Faith & Discipleship."

On the official first day cover, the logo is set on a retablo of the First Easter Mass at the Shrine of the Holy Cross and First Mass in Limasawa's Triana village.

The commemorative stamps and official first day covers were available at the Philatelic Counter, Manila

Central Post Office, and all Manila Post Offices.

They can also be purchased at the Postal Area 1 in Tuguegarao, Postal Area 2 in San Fernando, La Union, Postal Area 4 in San Pablo, Postal Area 5 in Mandaue, Postal Area 6 in Iloilo, Postal Area 7 in Davao, Postal Area 8 in Cagayan de Oro, and Postal Area 9 in Zamboanga.



Evolution of Arms: Red Fort Plays to Gallery

New Delhi: In August 2021, a new museum at Red Fort will give you a glimpse of India's weapons through the ages. The National Museum has decided to shift its arms and armour section to one of the barracks of the 17th century fortress as part of the India@75 programme and over 600 artefacts, including weapons from pre-history and armament from the 16th to 19th centuries will be put on display.

The National Museum also plans to set up two other repositories in the barracks — one on the history of Jammu & Kashmir and another on India's Independence struggle from 1857 to 1947.

A museum source revealed that the staff was busy identifying, tagging, cleaning them in the laboratory and packing the precious objects for the shift to the fort. There are other collections showcased in the barracks and the National Museum's three new installations will be added attractions there. "We have a good

collection for the arms and armour section," the source said. "However, for the Jammu & Kashmir and Independence galleries, we will have to collect meaningful artefacts from across the country."

Since 2019, the renovated barracks at Red Fort have housed several museums, including the Archaeological Museum, the Indian War Memorial Museum and one commemorating the life of Subhas Chandra Bose. The double-storeyed barracks had been built by the British after razing hundreds of structures in the fort following the exile of the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar to Burma.

The World Heritage Site monument has been shut since January 19 after reports of bird deaths on the complex and the scare of bird flu in the air. The work on the three new museums, however, hadn't been impacted by the closure.

Asked when Red Fort could reopen, an Archaeological Survey of India official said, "The local authorities

closed the fort due to rising cases of bird flu. We will reopen the monument for the public when we get permission from the local authorities." Kamlesh Kumar Sharma, former curator (public relations) and currently a consultant to the National Museum, has been assisting in the establishment of the arms and armour museum, mostly on the selection of exhibits and the setup of the gallery. He reiterated, "The gallery will showcase the evolution of Indian weaponry and arms, starting from prehistoric stone weapons, proto-historic implements and then through the medieval ages." He felt that Red Fort was ideal for a museum on arms because "this is where Indian history played out". He said, "This Mughal structure is iconic and we have a suitably huge collection of Mughal armament, for instance, the bow of Bahadur Shah Zafar and the inscribed body armour of Aurangzeb. It is only fitting these items find a home in the fort."

NATIONAL TREASURE

New Museums To Come Up At Red Fort Barracks

- > Museum on India's Freedom struggle – 1857 to 1947
- > Museum on Jammu & Kashmir
- > Arms and Armour museum







Moving From National Museum To Red Fort

- > Objects identified to be sent to Red Fort
- > Sent to conservation laboratory for cleaning
- > Metallic items cleaned with ammonia water, ethanol and Paraloid B-72, which adds a protective layer that protects from rust, moisture and dust
- > Wooden items cleaned separately



About Arms & Armour Museum

- > The museum will be on two floors of CMP Barrack, spread over 50,000 sq ft
- > To have over 600 objects from National Museum's arms and armour gallery
- > Will cover the 3,000 years of evolution of arms in India
- > Displays to include pre-historic, protohistoric weapons and items, such as shield, spears, headgears, etc, from the 16th to the 19th century, including those of the Mughals and the Rajputs, and as well as the famed sword of Tipu Sultan







India's First Museum of Illusion comes up in Delhi's CP

India just got a Museum of Illusions in Delhi. As per the records, Museum of Illusions started out with Croatia and has 30 more locations across the world, whereas the one in Delhi is the first one in India.

It's a spot where visitors enter the fascinating world of mental deception. Situated in Connaught Place, New Delhi, this is the 30th location for the rapidly expanding Museum of Illusions. The museum features more than 50 intriguing exhibits, and offers amazing fun opportunities, than any other museums in New Delhi.

Reportedly, the Museum of Illusion is home to a collection of immersive, interactive, and distinctly incomprehensible exhibits that are based on science, math, and



psychology. Once you visit this spot, you will be prompted to learn more about the tricks of perception, and the manner in which the human brain works as you progress through each exhibit.

With mind-boggling backdrops, along with the ones that only feature

in New Delhi, you also get the opportunity to click unique photos that seem like an illusion. There are Reverse Rooms that defy the law of gravity, Ames Room that shrink to a miniature size, and much more, and all of this can be captured on camera. Then, there is a Clone Table if you ever wanted to see how your clone would look like. With uniquely mind-boggling backdrops, including several designed just for the New Delhi location, the museum offers photo opportunities that visitors will not find anywhere else in the area.

Apart from all these, this one-of-a-kind museum creates illusions of different sorts through Holograms, Turntables, Infinity Room, Tricky Stick, Optical Illusions, along with other such amazing illusions.

Man Cheated Of Rs 65 Lakh In Gold Coin Sale, Case Filed: Police

Thane: A case was against he had gold coins to sell. After three siblings for getting convinced about the cheating a man in Thane purity of the gold, the victim to the tune of Rs 65 lakh in the sale of gold coins, police said on 13th March 2021.

The victim owns a software development firm and met one of the accused during a boat ride from Alibag on February 27, said a police official told official news agency Press Trust of India. "The accused told him

he had gold coins to sell. After three siblings for getting convinced about the cheating a man in Thane purity of the gold, the victim to the tune of Rs 65 lakh in the sale of gold coins, police said on 13th March 2021.

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Putting the Spotlight on Philately and Postal Heritage

Chennai: The postal history of the city can be traced back to a little over three centuries ago when in 1712, Governor Harrison started a Company Postal Service to carry mails to Bengal. During the colonial era, the mails used to be carried by dak runners, who brought important news from places far and wide. With time, they were replaced by other messengers; soon several receiving post offices were set up and the city's postal service not only expanded into a systemic structure — with postal rules, laws and authority in place — but also became closely tied to the city's complex political history and cultural fabric.

On 20th March 2021, around 20 philatelists, students, post crossers and heritage enthusiasts gathered at the General Post Office (GPO) on Beach Road, to trace, understand and initiate themselves with the city's postal history through a Living Heritage Experience Trail curated by Nam Veedu Nam Oor Nam Kadhai (NVNONK). The walk was led by architect-artist Srishti Prabhakar and architect-heritage enthusiast Aafreen.

As we stood under the shade of the 130-year-old, red-painted Indo-Saracenic building, we couldn't help but notice the majestic 125-foot edifice glisten under the morning sun rays. Constructed by British architect Robert Chisholm, the structure formatively featured Kerala roof-influenced crowns that were primarily influenced by his building assignments in Travancore, noted Aafreen, as we were guided into the sprawling post office, following protocols.

Seated in a corner at the age-old site, a staff member, who has been making visitors cognisant of the importance of its services said,

"Despite the advent of tech-based applications, letters and postcards and usage of these services haven't seen a decline and they never will. However, with children becoming more inclined towards instant gratification and the virtual world, it's in our hands to preserve our postal heritage and inculcate the habit of writing and sending letters and postcards."

But, over the past few years and especially during the pandemic, she pointed out that many have started coming forward to send handwritten postcards. "Senior citizens continue to use these services to stay in touch with their kin. With postal services also adapting to changing times and

first cinema house of south India, was bought by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the 1900s.

"When we talk about preservation and conservation of heritage buildings, a main aspect is to not put them into disuse. So, after the electric theatre was shut down, and later when there was a petition to raze it down. There were agitations among the heritage community and historian Theodore Baskaran was vital in developing and restoring it into the now thriving philately bureau," shared Srishti.

The trail was laced with tidbits on cancellations, special postal covers, stamps and swaps by post crosser and professor T Jaisakthivel from the



improving their trackability, the process has only become more seamless," she said.

After a quick tour of the structure, we headed to our next stop the Anna Road Head Post Office-Philatelic Bureau on Anna Salai, located about eight kilometres from the GPO. The quaint, red-white heritage building, formerly an electric theatre and the

University of Madras and Mohana from the Bureau. "It's been our aim to make people more aware of philately and postal services and we have continued our work through the pandemic, through virtual webinars. Once we tide through the pandemic, we hope to conduct more offline sessions," added Mohana.

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.

2007 - Platinum Jubilee of Indian Air Force (1932 – 2007) Commemorative

The Indian Air Force (Bhartiya Vayu Sena) is the air arm of the armed forces of India. It was officially established on October 8, 1932. Since independence, the IAF has been involved in four conflicts with neighboring Pakistan and one with the People's Republic of China. It also takes part in rescue operations during national calamities like flood, cyclone and earth quakes etc.

This 2 rupees coin was issued by India in 2007, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of its establishment. On this occasion another 100 rupees coin was issued, as uncirculated /

proof specimen.

Obverse: The face of the coin is divided by 2 horizontal lines into three portions. The top portion contains words "Bharat" in Hindi and "INDIA" in English, The bottom portion shows "Rupaye" in Hindi and "RUPEES" in English. The center portion bears the "Lion capitol" of Ashok Pillar with the legend "Satyameva Jayate" in Hindi inscribed below, the prominent International numeral "2" indicates the denomination.

Reverse: The reverse of this coin shows the latest multi-role combat aircraft -SU 30 MK I- at the top and the first fighter aircraft – Wapiti -- below it. "1932-2007" – is inscribed below the Wapiti Air craft. The words "PLATINUM JUBILEE" in Hindi appear in the upper periphery

and in English in the lower periphery. In the center left periphery, the words, "INDIAN AIR FORCE" in English and in the centre right periphery, the words "Bharatiya Bayu Sena" in Hindi, are inscribed.

Specifications:

Year of issue: 2007

Weight: 5.62 grams

Metal composition:

Ferritic Stainless Steel Alloy & 17% Chromium)

Shape: Circular

Diameter: 27 mm

Edge: Plain

Mint: Kolkata

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Former Editor of Tamil Daily Dinamalar, Renowned Numismatist R Krishnamurthy no more

Chennai: Former editor of popular Tamil daily "Dinamalar" and renowned numismatist R Krishnamurthy died in Chennai on 04th March 2021. Krishnamurthy, 88, is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters. "He suffered a heart attack and passed away at his residence this morning," Dinamalar Editor K Ramasubbu said.

Known as "RK", R Krishnamurthy became the Dinamalar editor in 1977 after joining the daily in 1956, founded by his father T V Ramasubbier. A post-graduate in geology from the Presidency College here, he introduced the now well known "Periyar" script which has lesser number of Tamil characters in the newspaper's Tiruchirappalli edition in 1977.

Later, the Tamil Nadu government came forward to introduce the script in text books and it is widely followed today. He studied in detail the various inscriptions in "Vattezhuthu" script in different parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and published three books in Tamil on the data collected by him.

"Vattezhuthu is a "circular" script that



evolved out of the Tamil Brahmi script around fifth-sixth century AD. RK did outstanding research in not only deciphering the script, but also studied the paleographical evolution of the Vattezhut script," noted archaeologist S Ramachandran told PTI.

Krishnamurthy's contribution in discovering several Chera, Roman, and Greek coins had a major role in conclusively establishing that the present day Karur was indeed the Vanji of olden times, he said, condoling his death.

During a time when Tamil Nadu historians did not even have an understanding of Tamil coinage during the Sangam period, it was RK who attracted their attention to the state's numismatic study through his pioneering work, he said.

"He was instrumental in bringing out the

famous Karur ring by organising numismatic seminars," Ramachandran said. His stellar work brought to light coins belonging to the Sangam age, be it one on the Pandian king "Peruvaluthi," the Chera silver coins (Maakkothai) or the "Malaiyaman" coins.

To help people outside Tamil Nadu to understand the significance, he published a book "Sangam age Tamil coins" in English. His participation in various conferences, at regional, national and international level and publication of papers in scholarly journals brought him recognition from scholars and academic bodies.

In recognition of his service and contribution to journalism, Tamil script reform, epigraphy and numismatics, the Madurai Kamaraj University conferred him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 2004. He was also a recipient of the "Tholkappiar Award" for his work on Tamil script and numismatics in 2015. The Royal Numismatic Society in London honoured him by electing him as a Fellow and he was president TN Numismatic Society of India since its inception in 1986.

Beware of Frauds Posing as Coin Dealers

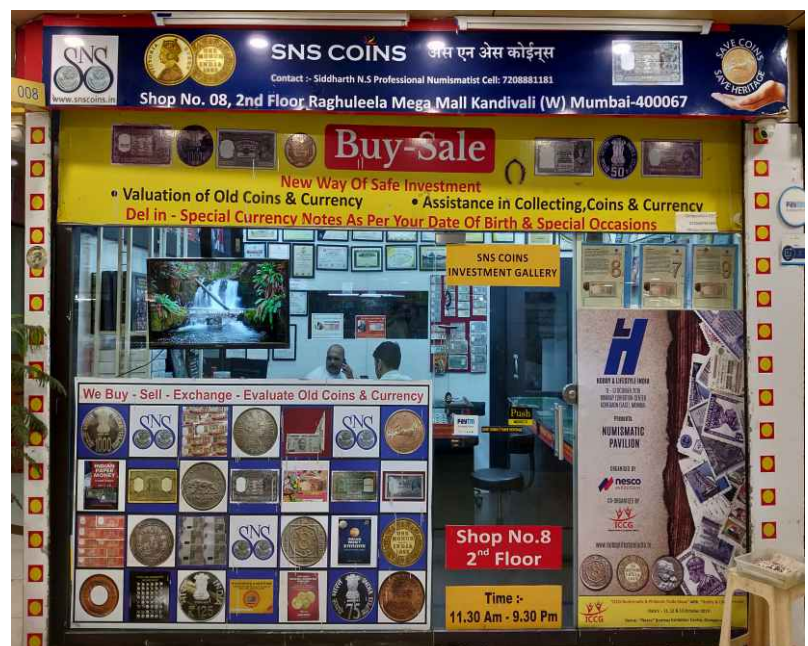
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