

ICCG News

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Gangsters Chhota Rajan, Bajrangi Feature on Postal Stamps

Kanpur: Postal stamps with images of mafia don Chhota Rajan and sharp-shooter Munna Bajrangi, killed in Baghpat jail in 2018, were found to have been issued under the 'My Stamp' scheme from the main post office in the city. The in charge of Kanpur GPO's philately department has been suspended for the irregularity. These stamps could have been used to send letters anywhere in the country. The request for these stamps were made by an anonymous

person who paid Rs 600 for getting pictures of two criminals printed on a postage stamp with the face value of Rs 5. Person manning the 'My Stamp' desk didn't check his identity. One 'My Stamp' sheet containing 12 stamps of Rs 5 costs Rs 300.



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Vivek to feature on Indian Postal Stamp, Central Government plans to pay a tribute to the late actor

Popular south actor Vivek passed away on April 17, 2021 due to a heart attack. The actor, who was expected to return home safe, left us in shock with his death, and his place in the industry is indeed irreplaceable. As per the latest report from an online portal, the central government has planned to release a postal stamp with Vivek's picture. Reportedly, the central government is considering paying a tribute to the late actor. Union Minister Prakash Javdekar and Prime Minister Modi are reportedly planning to release a postal stamp featuring actor Vivek's picture and an announcement will be made soon. Apart from being an actor, Vivek was also a responsible citizen, and he worked hard to make India greener

by following the words of his guru and late Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam. Vivek had planted almost 33 lakh tree saplings across the places in India, and he wished to plant 1 crore saplings. After the sudden demise of Vivek, fans and stars pledged to make his wish come true by planting more tree saplings.

Kollywood celebrities including Silambarasan, Arun Vijay, Aathmika, Gaurav Narayanan, and others have already planted saplings in the memory of the late actor Vivek, while several fans have also joined the exceptional moment.



Mango Museum to Spread Aroma of Knowledge in Lucknow

Lucknow: The king of fruits will soon have a befitting museum dedicated to it on the outskirts of the state capital in the heart of the mango belt here.

Indeed, such a mango museum is coming up at the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) office at Rehmankhara in the Kakori block of Lucknow. It is likely to be ready by the end of the mango season.

CISH is developing the museum so that the visitors can learn about the varieties, medicinal value, products, history and little-known facts about the fruit.

“The museum will have more than 800 varieties as a model or a photograph with interesting descriptions. Not only Indian, but also the varieties dominating the international market will be displayed,” said Shailendra Rajan, CISH director. The institute had one of the largest live collections of mango varieties, but one could not see them after the fruiting season, he said.

“Mango (tree) is considered to provide certain anti-viral, anti-

bacterial, anti-carcinogenic bioactive compounds and a few of them have been found to be reported effective in immunity-boosting against the coronavirus,” he added.

“A database containing details of the medicinal properties of phytochemicals can be accessed in the museum. A description of



important products made from mango and the nutritive value of the king of fruits will also be depicted,” Rajan said.

A large number of recipes are available in which mangoes are used at the raw or ripe stages. One can see the details of these useful recipes in the museum, he said. A portion of the museum will depict the numerous

pests and diseases that attack the mango. Rajan said the museum would help in explaining several unrevealed facts about the mango. This will be of interest not only to children but also to the farmers, he said.

National Mango Database will be connected to one of the panels of the museum. The museum was supposed to have become functional during the current mango season but got delayed due to the Covid-19 situation.

The CISH director also said, “More than a hundred stamps depicting the mangoes have been issued by about 80 countries. A corner with these stamps and details will be an attraction for the visitors, mainly people interested in philately.” Considered a heritage tree of India, a lot of history, mythology culture, religion, and other social aspects are associated with the mango. The major mango-producing areas of the country and the world, statistics, and other interesting facts will be depicted with various audiovisuals explaining their economic importance.

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World Notes



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Postmaster General, Kanpur, V K Verma, said a probe has been started into the irregularity and lapses. "Prima-facie, Rajneesh Kumar, in charge of philately department, has been found guilty and has been suspended with immediate effect. We have also issued show cause notice to some other employees in this regard. We are making all efforts

to zero in on the person who got photographs of criminals printed under the 'My stamp' scheme. We will take measures to ensure such errors are not repeated ever."



First Philatelic Club for all Ages Opens

The country's first circle-level philatelic club, to be run by the West Bengal circle of the department of posts, was inaugurated at the General Post Office recently.

"We started school philatelic clubs across the country last year before Covid to spread the hobby among students. This would be the first for philatelists across age groups," said secretary, department of posts, P.K. Bisoi after inaugurating the club.

"Our idea is to create a meeting ground which can be used for training and exchange of ideas. The members will include nominated representatives of government institutions like libraries, museums and universities other than young philatelists and winners of our philatelic contests. We will encourage members to suggest subjects for commemorative stamps which we will forward to Delhi," said Niraj Kumar, postmaster general, Calcutta. The department plans to hold workshops and talks by eminent philatelists. Membership will cost Rs 500 per month.

A philatelic museum was also opened. "While we have a postal museum next door which chronicles the history of the postal system, this will be a temple of philately," said Kumar. The museum houses a library

of books on stamps that club members can use.

The central exhibits showcase how stamps relate to our lives. Thus, a baluchari sari hangs next to a stamp on baluchari. Next to a stamp on

screen with Netaji stamps plays the Indian National Army marching song Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja.

Debasish Sarkar, a postal employee, has contributed pastel drawings of some of India's earliest stamps that



Lalan Fakir hangs an actual ektara while a sarod, a violin and a shehnai are exhibited with stamps on Ustad Bismillah Khan, Ustad Allauddin Khan and V. Lakshminarayana.

A touchscreen kiosk has information on select stamps. A trumpet is heard if one touches a 1951 stamp on elephants. Similarly a Hemanta Mukherjee stamp issued in 2016 is linked to his song Runner, on the predecessor of postmen. Touching a

look as life-like as photographs.

A gold-plated replica in silver of a stamp from India's earliest series, Jai Hind, dating back to 1947, was released on the occasion.

"We plan to make smaller and affordable versions available soon," Kumar said.

A two-day exhibition on Netaji and the freedom movement is under way at the GPO Rotunda, showcasing the collection of Raunak Dutta.

Bangladesh Bank Releases New 50-Taka Notes for Circulation

The Bangladesh Bank released a pair of circulating commemorative 50-taka bank notes on recently. The new issues are in commemoration of the nation's Golden Jubilee of Independence from Pakistan that was proclaimed at midnight on March 26, 1971. The 130- by 60-millimeter notes will be available at all branches of the bank. One of the two is similar to the regularly circulating issue of Dec. 15,

2019, but with the addition of a Golden Jubilee logo on the face. As on all Bangladeshi currency, it has a bust of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is considered the father of the country, and who issued the independence proclamation at the start of a nine-month war for liberation from Pakistani control. A picture of the National Monument is printed in a light color in the middle. The back is of the painting

“Ploughing” by Zainul Abedin. The other note has the same face but in purple, orange, and gold colors. The back bears the inscriptions “Golden Jubilee of Independence 1971–2021” at the top, and “Commemorative Note” on the right side. The central vignette is called “Freedom Fighters of the Liberation Army.”



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Royal Mint Releases BIGGEST Solid Gold Coin in its History

The Royal Mint has produced the largest coin in its history to celebrate the end of its Queen's Beasts collection.

The 10kg coin has a denomination of £10,000 but is worth a lot more than that - the second largest coin in the gold proof collection is worth £139,200 and has a denomination of £2,000.

The original maker of the UK's coins, The Royal Mint, has produced a ten-kilo gold commemorative coin for the first time in its 1,100-year history. The magnificent coin is the latest 'Masterwork' from The Royal Mint - a new series of larger, 'one of a kind' pieces for collectors made using a combination of traditional skills and innovative technology. The coin marks the conclusion of the Queen's Beasts commemorative coin collection and captures all ten beasts side by side in a single design. The series takes its inspiration from the ten stone statues which lined Her Majesty's route to Westminster Abbey at her Coronation in 1953.

How was the coin made?

The 10kg coin was created by a team of master craftspeople at The Royal Mint, using traditional minting skills alongside innovative technology. Modern techniques are called upon in the beginning with engraving machines being used to carefully cut the design onto the ten-kilo coin. A uniquely titled 'master toolmaker' then hand works the coin, carefully papering and burnishing the surface of the metal to remove any marks made by the cutting process to elevate the finish of the design, before undergoing four days of

polishing. Finally, the 200.00mm wide coin is laser frosted to selectively texture the surface of the coin giving



it a matt finish showcasing the detailed finish of the coin's design - completing 400 hours of work.

What is the Queen's Beasts collection?

Starting with the Lion of England in 2017, The Queen's Beasts Collection has showcased the history and symbolism of each of these creatures in turn. The Royal Mint's line-up of coronation beasts on commemorative coins is now complete and the celebrations continue with a special coin reuniting all ten beasts in one design. Presented together on one coin, these magnificent royal guardians - lions, a griffin, a falcon, a bull, a yale, a greyhound, a dragon, a unicorn and a horse - surround the effigy of Her Majesty The Queen.

Clare Maclennan, Divisional Director of Commemorative Coin at The Royal Mint said: "We are delighted to unveil a

Royal Mint first with the creation of the UK's largest coin to celebrate the conclusion of our Queen's Beasts commemorative coin collection. It is the latest in our 'Masterworks' series which offer unique works of art for collectors, exclusively from The Royal Mint. The Royal Mint's Queen's Beasts commemorative coin collection has grown in popularity since the first beast was introduced in 2017 and has become a firm favourite amongst coin collectors across the globe.

This coin sets a new standard for minting - combining centuries old techniques with innovative technology to create a unique and beautiful work of art. It is the largest coin ever created by The Royal Mint, and is testament to the expertise, craftsmanship and skill of its team.

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Specialist Stamp Collection Documenting Rare Errors Under the Hammer

Richard Winterton Auctioneers' online-only antiques and home sale features an array of Great Britain decimal stamp booklets estimated to realise £15,000.

Meticulously catalogued by a collector from the Cannock area over a number of years, the archive covers variations in how stamps were printed or perforated.

It includes sets of folded and counter booklets with rare variations of selvedge – the excess area of a printed or perforated sheet of material, such as the white border of a sheet of stamps – and other errors such as missing phosphor.

The collection continues with machine vended booklets bearing similar variations in type including cylinder numbers, markers and miscuts.

There is also a superb array of red 'window' booklets – which superseded pictorial counter booklets – with different tab types, phosphor types, including phosphor omitted in error, rare cylinder numbers and some 'error of contents' booklets.

Stamp specialist Phil Ives said: "This large collection has been a real labour of love for this enthusiast.

"It has been meticulously assembled over many years at considerable effort and sourced from numerous specialist Machin dealers."

The Machin series of postage stamps is the main definitive stamp series in the UK, used since June 5 1967 and the second series to figure the image of Queen Elizabeth II.

Designed by Arnold Machin, they consist simply of the sculpted profile of the Queen and the denomination and are usually in a single colour.



The series has encompassed almost all changes and innovations in British stamp printing, which has triggered a buoyant market for specialist philatelic collectors.

Mr Ives added: "This particular collection of modern booklets is the most in-depth that I have ever seen. "As such, this opportunity presents a

wonderful chance for the Machin booklet specialist dealer or collector." These include a large, mainly mint condition collection of Great Britain stamps dating from 1948 to the present day across five albums alongside first day covers plus numerous collections of modern GB and international stamps.



SingPost, MOE Launch Superhero-Themed Stamp Set in Tribute to Teachers

Singapore: SingPost, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has launched a new stamp set featuring a superhero squad that educates students on how they can protect themselves against Covid-19.

The set of six stamps was launched recently as a tribute to members of the education fraternity for their hard work in ensuring that students can continue to learn in a safe environment amid the pandemic.

The ministry will give all teachers an envelope each with the set of stamps from Monday onwards as a token of gratitude for their efforts.

The stamp set features five superheroes - Virus Screener Varun, who reminds students to check their temperature daily; Mask Up Mei Mei, who champions wearing a mask; Super Soaper Soffy, the mascot for washing hands; Hands Down Hana, who reminds students not to touch their faces with their hands; and Wipe Up Wilson, who encourages students to keep surfaces clean. The sixth stamp features all the superheroes.

Mrs Tan Wai Lan, coordinating divisional director for MOE's communications and engagement group, said: "Our teachers and our staff have been at the front lines in



keeping students safe and engaged in learning even as we fight the pandemic. They are the real superheroes and we are happy to partner SingPost in recognising their immense contributions this Teachers' Day."

Ms Marjorie Ooi, SingPost's senior vice-president for post office network, financial services and philately, said: "These stamps will become part of Singapore's collective history for future generations to

remember how we as a nation battled this pandemic and lived through this unprecedented crisis, and then emerged stronger as a country."

The stamps are priced at between 30 cents and 70 cents each. Pre-cancelled first-day covers are at \$4.45 each and presentation packs at \$5.55 each. The stamp set can be bought at all post offices and philatelic stores across the city.

Teenage Metal Detectorists Discover Rare Coins in Fields

Topcroft: Catering apprentice Reece Pickering, 17, from Great Yarmouth, found a Saxon coin in Topcroft, Norfolk, in August. Walter Taylor, 16, from Essex, dug up a silver penny dating back to 1106 while scanning a farmer's



field in the county recently.

The coins are expected to fetch between £2,500 and £3,500 at auction recently. The finds will be auctioned as part of a two-day online event by Derbyshire-based Hansons' Auctioneers. Reece was in a farmer's field with his father

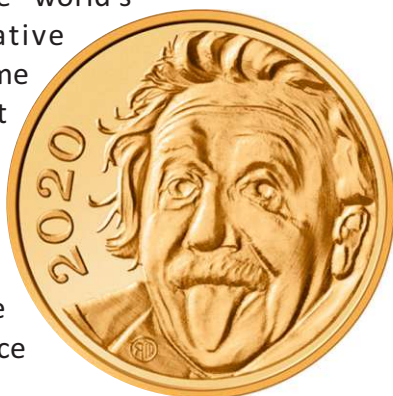
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Two Numismatic World Records: The World's Smallest Coin and the Oldest Coin Still in Circulation

The Federal Mint Swissmint has been awarded two numismatic world records. Guinness World Records™ has recognized the 1/4-franc gold coin issued in 2020 as the world's smallest commemorative coin, and the 10-centime coin as the oldest unaltered coin still in circulation. Apart from the year date, the obverse and reverse of the 10-centime coin have remained the same since 1879.

The world's smallest commemorative coin: Pushing the boundaries, stretching the limits of technology, achieving something unique – with this vision in mind, Swissmint designed a gold coin with a diameter of only 2.96mm and weighing 0.063g. Based on these dimensions, Guinness World Records™ has recognized the 1/4-franc gold coin issued in 2020 as the world's smallest commemorative coin. Despite its diminutive size, the coin's obverse and reverse are machine-minted, each with a different design. For the obverse, inspiration was drawn from Albert

Einstein's determination and patience. It features the famous image of Albert Einstein sticking out his tongue, along with the year 2020. The reverse shows the nominal value



of 1/4 franc together with the inscription "HELVETIA" and the Swiss cross. The world's smallest commemorative coin is decorated with images that cannot be discerned with the naked eye. Swissmint



therefore designed special packaging, complete with

magnifying lenses and light. Only 999 examples of the coin were produced, and it sold out in no time.

10-centime coin in circulation and unaltered since 1879

In 1853, five years after the Swiss Federal Constitution was introduced, the first Swiss coins were minted in the Federal Mint in Bern. The first 10-centime coins bore the image of a Swiss cross on a shield in front of oak leaves, with the inscription "HELVETIA". It was not until 1879 that the

motif was replaced with a woman's head in profile, looking to the right and bearing a diadem, and the inscriptions "LIBERTAS" and the transcription "CONFOEDERATIO HELVETICA". The image was designed by Karl Schwenzer and is still used

unaltered on the 2/4 10-centime coin to this day. Moreover, 10-centime coins minted in 1879 and still in circulation continue to be valid as legal tender. The unaltered 10-centime coin has thus been in use for over 140 years and has now been recognized by Guinness World Records™ as the world's oldest coin still in circulation.

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Jonny Crowe when he found the Harold II silver penny dating back to 1066. Mr Crowe said the coin was recorded with The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and only two others were known to exist. He said he and his son had "only come across rubbish" until his son discovered the penny.

"I heard Reece shouting and waving

from the other side of the field," he said.

"He kicked the dirt away, picked up the coin and gave it a wipe. We knew it was special." Reece said: "I wasn't expecting to come across such a scarce and remarkable coin, "I can't imagine finding something as special as this again."

Walter had been metal detecting

with his father and uncle for four hours when he found a Henry I silver penny. "I was constantly digging hot rock but finding nothing," he said. "Then the register on my detector rose from 26 to 76."

The GSCE student, who has been metal detecting since the age of four, sent a photo of the coin to an expert who said it was "really rare".

Stop Judging Others for What They Collect

This world is full of things to collect, whether it be coins, currency notes, postal stamps, handbags, makeup lines or action figures. Each and every one of these hobbies is valid and awesome, and we need to start acting like it by showing support for each other and ending the cycle of judgment for what we have on our shelves or in our closets.

Time and time again people are told their hobbies are weird. On the other end of the spectrum, these very same people who are asking for their action figures to be accepted are the same ones mocking women who buy handbags or many shoes.

It is a two way street, and frankly, for your hobbies to be accepted you need to respect the hobbies that others have. No one hobby is better than another, whether you collect anime figurines and statues, or car memorabilia and sports gear. The biggest issue people have is their

belief that because their hobbies are put down, they can do the same to others. This topic is not a complex or hard to grasp and the solution seems straightforward.

We are all humans, and all collectors, plain and simple. It doesn't matter if it's a pair of shoes or a bag for every occasion, or figure for every iconic superhero you grew up with, these things have value to someone, and you gain nothing from putting down a hobby or interest that brings joy to someone. It's time to accept that while something may be unappealing to you, finding that one shade to complete their kit or finding that one action figure that completes their Justice League lights up somebody's world.

Showing your support is not difficult. Even if you don't like what they're into, take some time to appreciate the work and dedication that went into creating that collection. Sometimes a simple "That's

awesome" or "Wow, that must've taken a long time" is enough to make someone's day.

On that same note, stop judging people for having 50 lipsticks, because I can guarantee you they are not the same shade of red.

We have our 50 different forms of weapons or perfume bottles, let the make-up lovers have their 50 different shades of various cosmetics. Just let people love what they do, and even if you don't understand it, take the time to acknowledge the passion they have.

This world is already bad as it is, with COVID-19 running around. Don't add more toxicity to a world riddled with disease. Just look at your shelf or closet, take pride in what you have, and realize that everyone else has their own little shelf or closet that means just as much to them.

This topic is merely a human one but one that can we start to solve with a little encouragement.



MoS Shri Sanjay Dhotre Releases Commemorative Postage Stamp on 100 Years of First Visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha

Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology digitally released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 100 Years of First Visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha. Public Function in this regard was organised at Swaraj Ashram, Cuttack, Odisha. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament, Cuttack, Odisha, Shri Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Minister, Odia Language, Tourism & Culture, Government of Odisha and Senior Officers of Department of Posts attended the function.

This Commemorative Postage Stamp celebrates an important event of Indian History which is the first visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha on 23rd March, 1921. It energized the Non-Cooperation movement and strengthened the cause of freedom struggle. During the visit of Mahatma Gandhi, large section of youth participated in the movement and women folk regularly spun Charkha and propagated the use of Khadi. Clothes of foreign origin were abandoned. Such was the magical presence of Mahatma Gandhi that Odisha woke up from slumber and plunged itself in the national movement.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology while addressing the gathering said that today India is celebrating "Ázaadi ka Amrut Mahotsava". A Postage Stamp to commemorate the important event of celebrating 100 Years of first Visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha is a part of this celebration. In days to



come, Department of Posts will commemorate more such significant events of India's freedom struggle.

Shri Dhotre also spoke about the significance of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative which was launched under visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that through this initiative, various states and UTs are paired with each other like Maharashtra & Odisha, Goa & Jharkhand, Delhi & Sikkim and so on. This is done so that they can exchange, learn and appreciate each other's culture, language, literature, dance art and many other aspects. This will ultimately strengthen the

bond of India as a nation. And today's function will definitely a step in this direction.

The stamp issued today is an inspiration to youth, women, intelligentsia and common folk. The society of today may not be able to comprehend the challenges that the society had faced a hundred years ago in the colonial rule.

The First Day Cover of the Commemorative Postage Stamp portrays the Swaraj Ashram at Cuttack, where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his first visit to Odisha on 23rd March, 1921.



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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.

2009 – Birth Bi-Centenary of Louis Braille (1809 – 2009) Commemorative

Louis Braille was born in 1809, in France. Due to an accident he lost his eye sight at the age of three. He invented the Braille script using 6 dots, in which the position of the different dots represent the different letters of the alphabet and this script enabled thousands of blind people around the world to read and write, India issued this coin in commemoration of bi-centenary of his birth.

This 2 rupees coin was issued on 4.1.2009 in his commemoration for general circulation. Another 100 rupees coin was issued on this

occasion, 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 effigy of LOUIS BRAILLE. The dots below his figure, in Braille script reads: "L.BRL", short for Louis Braille. The legend 'LOUIS BRAILLE' in both English and Hindi

appear in the top half of the periphery. The year '1809' is inscribed to the left side and '2009' to the right side of his effigy.

Specifications:

Year of issue: 2009

Weight: 5.62 grams

Metal composition:

Ferritic Stainless Steel Alloy (83% Iron & 17% Chromium)

Shape: Circular

Diameter: 27 mm

Edge: Plain

Mint: Kolkata, Mumbai & Hyderabad



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Special Coin to Mark Guru Tegh Bahadur's 400th Parkash Utsav

Ludhiana: To mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, two Sikh entrepreneurs, Harjinder Singh Kukreja and Jasmeet Singh Saib collaborated to make 1,000 limited edition coins which were bought online. "The coin has a diameter of

1.7 inches and will be made of 30% silver and 70% copper," says Harjinder Singh Kukreja.

"On the one side of the coin is an artistic logo designed by me featuring 400 years of Guru Tegh Bahadur along with a kirpan", says Jasmeet Singh Saib, of JSAIB productions.

"The other side of the coin features an outline map of undivided India and with an embossed image of the guru," says Harjinder Singh Kukreja. The state government celebrated the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur by organising special programmes from April 28 to May 1.



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could be another scam. Though we are taking appropriate legal recourse and steps against such fraudulent and unscrupulous persons, we further request that if anyone may come across such fraudsters then please report the matter to the legal authorities. If you receive any unauthorized, suspicious or fraudulent offers you may also write an email to us at : info@iccg.in



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