

# गुल्लक Gullak



Your Complete Monthly Newspaper for Coins, Paper Money, Antiques and Collectibles

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Editor: **Dr. Dilip Rajgor**

**Editorial Office:** Reesha Books International  
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Mumbai - 400 080 INDIA | Telefax: 022-2561 4360  
Cell: 0 98692 82585 | [info@reeshabooks.com](mailto:info@reeshabooks.com)

## Release Function of Gullak



Mr. Dineshbhai Mody releasing the first issue of Gullak.



Mr. R. T. Somaiya launching the website [www.gullak.in](http://www.gullak.in), while Mr. Dineshbhai Mody, Mr. Praful Thakkar, Dr. Dilip Rajgor and Mr. Farokh Todywalla observe the historic moment.

The inaugural function of Gullak took place on **11<sup>th</sup> September 2009**, just before the beginning of the 38th Todywalla Auction at Sunderbai Hall, Mumbai on the occasion of the 7th Annual Coin Exhibition of Mumbai Coin Society. The first issue was released at the hands of **Shri Dineshbhai Mody** (*Chairman, University of Mumbai, Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum*). **Shri R. T. Somaiya** (*the senior-most numismatist and scholar of coins of Kashmir and Kutch*) launched the Website, [www.gullak.in](http://www.gullak.in). **Shri Praful Thakkar** (*the famous author of books on Tokens and Badges*) expressed his views on the need of numismatic Newspaper and summarized the numismatic happenings in the present decade. **Mr. Kaizad Todywalla** was the Master of Ceremony and offered vote of thanks.

## RBI to Introduce Plastic Notes of Rs. 10

Soiled notes may soon be a thing of past with the Reserve Bank of India planning to introduce **Rs. 10 Polymer Banknotes** whose life span would be four times the normal currency notes and would be difficult to imitate.


The apex bank has initially decided to introduce 100 Crore pieces of Rs 10 polymer notes, for which it has floated a global tender, a senior RBI Official said.

Explaining the rationale for introduction of polymer notes, the official said, these notes would have an average life span of 5

years compared to one year of the present currency notes. Besides, the official said, these notes are cleaner than paper notes and it would be difficult to counterfeit the currency.

The polymer notes were first introduced in Australia to safeguard against counterfeiting of currency. Besides Australia, other countries which have introduced plastic notes include New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Bermuda, Brunei, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

- Ravi Shankar Sharma



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## Finance Minister Advices Prime Minister to Invest in Coins

By Ravi Shankar Sharma



Union Minister for Finance, Pranab Mukherjee presented a set of coins on Homi Bhabha to IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei watched by the Hon. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Anil Kakodkar, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India at the International Conference on 'Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy-2009' in New Delhi, on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009.

When the Finance Minister Mukherjee handed over the coins to the Hon. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he wondered if these coins could be used in the market. But the Finance Minister was apparently quick to add that the Prime Minister could keep the coins safely and sell it later. "After a few years, if you hand over these coins to a collector, you will definitely fetch good money," Mukherjee said.

It is not known if the Prime Minister had decided to keep the coins and try his luck but the conversation has echoed the general belief among coin collectors that investment in coins is safe. Moreover, a person none other than the Finance Minister publicly endorses the safe investment in coins! So guys, Cheers. Happy collecting and keep investing in coins...

## Two Interesting Copper Coins from Tāmilnādu

By Amol N. Bankar

Last year, I bought some copper coins from a Chennai based dealer. Although the exact find-spot of this coin is not known, but these are found from the state of Tamilnadu. The reverse of first coin have a dagger flanked by Nāgari legends *Rākā* (for *Rāma*), it suggest, this coin belong to a category which was earlier attributed to 'Rāma/Rāyā' by Mitchiner, a *de-facto* ruler during the reign of Vijayanagara king Sadāshivarāyā<sup>1</sup>. But Ganesh had noted that, "I had inspected several coins and have not encountered the legend 'Rāyā' on any of the coins. In the types shown, the legend that is always visible is 'Rāma' suggesting that the legend should have been 'Rāma/Rāma' also typologically the coins under consideration appear to be the later issues and hence these have been attributed to the Gingee Maratha because of the presence of the legend *Rāma/Rāma* (possibly issue of Rājārāma) and since the coins are found areas which were in the dominion of the rule of Gingee Marathas"<sup>2</sup>. The coin in my collection has a Kumbha (Sacred Vase) on obverse and I did not find similar coin in published varieties by Mitchiner or Ganesh. The coin is published hereunder:



Copper, 2.75 g, 12 x11 mm

**Obv:** *Kumbha* (Sacred Vase) with garlands in dotted border.

**Rev:** Dagger flanked by Nāgari legends *Rākā* (or *Rāma*).

I would also like to add another coin which is bought from same dealer and also hails from Tamilnadu. This coin has a crude figure of a seated goddess with ladder-like object in her left hand on obverse and Nāgari legend 'Mahā/rāja' in two lines on reverse, which it is similar to a variety published by Ganesh<sup>3</sup> (3.20 g) and Maheshwari and Wiggins<sup>4</sup> (3.00 g & 3.50 g). But my coin is lighter in weight and the crude image with slight deviation in the portrayal of goddess suggests it as different variety.



Copper, 1.65 g, 12x11 mm

**Obv:** Seated goddess with ladder-like object in her left hand.

**Rev:** Nāgari legends '*maha/raj*' in two lines.

Ganesh had done a wonderful job of documentation of a variety of local issues from Gingee and Thanjavur. But he had added a billon coin<sup>5</sup> in the list of Marāthā coins from Thanjavur and attributed it as a, "silver coin with deity standing on obverse and Nāgari legends 'Shri ./Mahādeva' on reverse". But the coin actually is an unpublished early mediaeval Gadhैया-type with degraded bust on obverse (Ganesh had printed the obverse upside down) and Nāgari legends which are reconstructed as 'Sri Jaitavrammaa Deva' by Bhandare<sup>6</sup>. Also, the typology of this coin much closer to 'Om / Omkar type' and 'horseman type' Gadhैया coins of Malwa region. I had documented a similar coin which was discovered from Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh border in Vidarbha. However, this is a small error and it will not minimize the importance of the great work done by Ganesh.

### References:

1. Michael Mitchiner (1998): *The Coinage and History of Southern India*, Part II, *Tāmilnādu-Kerala*, Hawkins Publications, London, type 627- 644, Pp 187-188.
2. K. Ganesh (2002): *Coins of Tāmilnādu*, published by the author himself, Bangalore, p. 153.
3. *Op. cit.* 2, Type 10.12, p. 147.
4. Maheshwari K. K & Wiggins K. W. (1989): *Maratha Mints and Coinage*, IIRNS Publications, Nasik, Type T15 and T15a, p. 186.
5. *Op. cit.* 2, Type 10.4, p. 145.
6. Comments of Dr. Shailendra Bhandare during a discussion on South Asia Coin Group.
7. I am grateful to Dr. Dilip Rajgor for editing this article.

## Abdul Razak Shaikh



## Coin Gallery

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## IBNS – India Banknote Collector’s Chapter: A New Beginning

By Malcolm F. Todywalla

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009, the first Board meeting of the International Banknote Society (IBNS), India Banknote Collector’s Chapter was convened under the able chairmanship of noted banknote collector Mr. Rezwan Razack of Bangalore.

During the luncheon meeting hosted by Mr. Farokh S. Todywalla in Mumbai, the first Board was formed and the fee structure decided. Mr. Kishore Jhunjhunwalla was nominated as Honorary Director of the Chapter. The structure of the Chapter is topical and not bound by region, hence any collector/dealer/enthusiast associated with Indian Banknotes anywhere in India or the world can become a member. Thus members can interact with like minded people on a global platform.

The IBNS India Chapter has announced its membership details and interested people can contact Chapter Membership Secretary: Mr. Percy Phiroze Siganporia (percysigan@hotmail.com) for membership.



### • Office Bearers (India Chapter) •

Chairman <b>Mr. Rezwan Razack</b>	Vice Chairman <b>Mr. Farokh S. Todywalla</b>	Secretary <b>Mr. Murali Thantry</b>
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Life	Rs. 2500/-	Fee valid until 31-12-2010.	Institutional	Rs. 5000/- p.a.	Financial institutions

## New issues of Banknotes

The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue **Rs. 500/-** denomination banknotes with 'E' inset letter in both numbering panels in the Mahatma Gandhi Series – 2005 bearing the signature of Dr. D. Subbarao, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Except for the change in the inset letter, the design of these notes to be issued now is similar in all respects to the banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi Series – 2005, with additional / new security features issued on October 21, 2005. All banknotes in the denomination of Rs.500/- in Mahatma Gandhi series issued by the Bank from the year 2000 will continue to be legal tender.

Issue of **Rs. 5/-** denomination banknotes with inset letter 'L' in the numbering panel in Mahatma Gandhi Series bearing the signature of Dr.D.Subbarao, Governor Issue of **Rs. 50** Denomination Banknotes **without Inset Letter** in both numbering panels in Mahatma Gandhi Series – 2005 bearing the signature of Dr. D. Subbarao, Governor.

- RBI Currency Press Release

## Ravi Shankar Sharma

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Exhibition at Mumbai: The Success Story Continues

The Mumbai Coin Society organized its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Exhibition in a row from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009 at Sunderbai Hall, Mumbai. The Mumbai Coin Society is successfully organizing their annual shows and every year their shows are scaling new heights. This time the Society arranged professional cubic stalls which gave the exhibition an international touch. In all, 56 coin stalls were nicely arranged with full room for visitors to look, buy and chat.

On the eve of the show, the Oswal Antiques organized its 5<sup>th</sup> Auction at the same venue. On 11<sup>th</sup> Sept., the present newspaper, Gullak was also released at the hands of Mr. Dineshbhai Mody. The Todywalla Auctions held their 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Auctions on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at the same venue. The Todywalla Auctions also started their Interactive Lecture Series on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Hundreds of coin collectors and dealers from all parts of the country visited the show and were happy in either buying or selling their stuff. Thousands of coin enthusiasts also visited the show and became more interested in this interesting hobby of coin collecting. The show was professionally managed by M/s Abdul Razak Shaikh, Sudip Kheria, Suhas Kadam and their team members.



### Anti Forgery Bureau

In order to check on the modern coin forgers and to inform fellow coin collectors and dealers, we are beginning this Anti Forgery Bureau. Readers are invited to contribute any such coins they come across and serve numismatics (DR).



### Modern Forgery of Jahangir's 5 Rupee Coins

By Abdul Razak Shaikh

Recently, a person visited my shop in Mumbai and showed me a "valuable coin". He said that he had acquired the coin from a village many years ago and thinks it to be a very valuable coin. When I show the coin it turned out to be a modern cast forgery of a so-called 5 Tola Rupee of Jahangir, with the mint name Agra, AH 1022/17 and Ilahi Amardad Month. A few years ago similar silver coins had appeared in local markets of western India and a few collectors were cheated by unscrupulous persons.

I publish this silver plated copper for the benefit of all concerned.

## Harish D. Shah

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## Photo Feature



Mr. Joe Cribb releasing *Coin 2008* at the British Museum, London and Mr. Ujjawal Kumar Saha looks on.



Hon. Union Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presents the Commemorative Coin set of the late Shri C. N. Annadura to CM of Tamil Nadu, Shri M. Karunanidhi.

## Coin Exhibition on Wildlife at Kolkata



The Numismatic Society of Calcutta jointly with Wildlife Wing of the Directorate of Forest, the Government of West Bengal has organized a **Coin Exhibition on Wildlife** from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The venue is **Haldiram Banquet Hall**, 24 Ballygunge Park, Kolkata 700019 (from 10 am to 6 pm).

The mission of the Society is to make people aware of scientific value and importance of coins in preserving our cultural heritage. The Society is also bringing out a souvenir on Indian numismatics for arousing consciousness at the national level.

For stall bookings, etc please contact

**Mr. Ravi Shankar Sharma**, the Secretary - 093316 13224 or  
**Mr. Sandip Jain**, the Convener - 98300 09533

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### Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Place	Event
October	23-25	Kolkata	Exhibition of coins, medallions & notes on Wild Life (Numismatic Society of Calcutta)
October	23	Kolkata	Auction No. 6 of Oswal Antiques
October	24	Kolkata	Auction No. 40 of Todywalla Auctions
Oct/ Nov	30-31-1	Pune	StampEx Pune 2009 (International Collectors' Society of Rare Items)
October	30	Pune	Auction No. 7 of Oswal Auctions
October	31	Pune	Auction No. 8 of Oswal Auctions
November	7	Mumbai	Coin Show (Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, Kalina)
December	5	Mumbai	Coin Show (Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, Kalina)
December	25-28	Mumbai	2nd Annual Museum Coin Fair (Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, Kalina)
December	18-20	Baroda	StampMania 2009 1 <sup>st</sup> One-Frame Philatelic Exhibition (Baroda Philatelic Society)
Dec/Jan.	31-1-2	Varanasi	93rd Annual Conference of Numismatic Society of India
January 2010	8-10	Calicut	Coin Fest 2010
January	23-26	Nagpur	NagMoney 2010 (Numismatic Art Gallery)

### Booking of St. Alphonsa Birth Centenary Coin Sets

By Ravi Shankar Sharma

The India Government Mint, Mumbai has started booking of the Commemorative Coin Sets in Proof and Uncirculated sets on the occasion of St. Alphonsa Birth Centenary.



**Denomination** : Rs. 100  
**Metal** : Quaternary alloy: Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5 % & Zinc 5 %  
**Weight** : 35.00 g,  
**Shape & Size** : Circular, 44 mm with serrations

**Denomination** : Rs. 5  
**Metal** : Nickel Brass containing Copper 75%, Zinc 20% & Nickel 5%  
**Weight** : 6.00 g,  
**Shape & Size** : Circular, 23 mm with serrations

**Cost of coin sets (Rs. 100 & Rs. 5):**

	Within India	Abroad
a) Proof Set	Rs. 2000/- per set	US \$ 85 per set
b) UNC Set	Rs. 1400/- per set	US \$ 70 per set

Booking Period: 15.09.2009 to 31.12.2009

Delivery: Approximately 6 months from closer of booking.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Todywalla Auctions Interactive Lecture Series

By Malcolm F. Todywalla

Todywalla Auctions hosted the first of their Interactive Lecture Series during the Mumbai Coin Society's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Fair in Mumbai on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The topic was **British India Paper Money** by **Mr. Rezwan Razack** from Bangalore. The lecture was well attended by senior collectors and novices alike.

Born and brought up in Bangalore, **Mr. Rezwan** started his career in the retail sector and is currently the Joint Managing Director of one of the largest construction houses in South India, the Prestige Group. His passion for collecting banknotes started more than 40 years ago and today he holds one of the most definitive, diverse and complete collection of Indian banknotes in the world. He spends time networking with fellow collectors and visiting various government repositories in search of answers to questions previously unanswered in the realm of Indian paper money. In his own words he is able to do so *"firstly by refusing to take at face value information that is already documented in previous books, like if only a certain prefix in a variety is listed as known, I don't accept it as being fact till I don't research why others are not known, this helps me find answers to other questions as well"*.

His talk revolved around British India banknotes and the accompanying power point presentation made the interactive session even more interesting. Topics covered were early British India "Sea-Sunk" notes, the notes illustrated were recovered from different ship wrecks.

The talk also touched on the indexing method of Unifaced banknotes, explaining why various denominations of Unifaced notes had incused punch cuts at different heights in the right margin. Mr. Razack rightly pointed out that it was to ease the sorting process since all notes were of uniform dimensions.



Mr. Rezwan Razack delivering his talk

He also revealed the mystery of prefixes in the George V, Rupee 1, 1917 series banknotes. There were some prefixes that were printed as per the circles of issue and there were some prefixes that were alternating in pattern with different signatories. The chapter on the popular "2 ½ Rupee" notes was especially interesting and repealed myths of the notes ever coming in form of a booklet.

Mr. Rezwan announced his plans to setup India's first and only private museum and research facility dedicated solely for Indian Paper Money by 2010.

The talk was followed by an interactive power point presentation by **Dr. Dilip Rajgor**, Director of the University of Mumbai Dinesh Mody Institute for Numismatics & Archeology. His presentation covered the salient features of the Institute's M.A. Course in Numismatics program, which is unique and the first of its kind in the country. In addition to the curriculum, he also outlined the various job opportunities for the graduates of this program. Information was also given on the efficient infrastructure of the Institute in addition to an overview of its permanent museum and vast library. Dr. Rajgor also explained the various scholarship, free-ships and sponsor programs run by the Institute. The institute's efforts were appreciated by all and lauded with an ovation.

The morning culminated with a floral presentation to the speakers and a vote of thanks by Mr. Farokh S. Todywalla of Todywalla Auctions.



The august gathering on the occasion of the inaugural Todywalla Lecture Series:  
(from left to right) – Mr. Pervez Patel, Dr. Dilip Rajgor, Mr. Kishore Jhunjhunwalla, Mr. Rezwan Razack, Mr. Farokh S Todywalla and Mr. Kaizad Todywalla

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**You said it...**

Great work done. Congrats. Warmest. - **Parag Tripathy** (New Delhi)

Very nice effort. All the best. Regards. - **R. Vaidyanadhan** (Chennai)

This is a truly professional effort for the home market in Indian coins, a nice mix of introductory material for the new collector, news, and scholarly work. When I was perhaps the only dealer promoting Indian coins to western collectors in the 1970s, I would never have imagined such a robust interest in the homeland. It is truly good to see.

- **Scott Semans** (<http://www.coincoin.com>, USA)

This initiative of publishing and distributing this *Gullak* newspaper is excellent and applaudable. I specially like its online distribution which will be helpful to thousands of coin collectors and numismatists around the world.

I like to know that, can a reader contribute any numismatics related article to the newspaper who is not the member of any coin society or group?

- **Shariq Khan** (<http://coinsindia.info>)

*Yes, Khan Saheb. Everyone is invited to contribute articles, notes and news of their coin clubs, etc. And especially, I would like to invite you to write on any topic of your choice as I have been reading your posts on the South Asia Coin Group. (DR)*

Congratulations on your new project and thanks for all the time, energy and devotion you are investing in the study of Indian numismatics! Best wishes.

- **Wilfried Pieper** (Germany)

I went through the first issue and find it excellent. Your efforts have been justified. Many many congratulations to you and your team. Warm regards.

- **R. T. Somaiya** (Mumbai)

Congratulations on the launch of *Gullak* - really looks good and serves the purpose very well. I did find some inaccuracies in Prashant Kulkarni's paper on the Patwardhans, though - please be careful when consigning texts into print because as 'Gullak' will have a wide circulation, there is a greater danger that mistakes/myths/errors will be perpetuated once in print!

I also have a suggestion - it will be good to include a para or two about the **history of numismatic activities in cities like Bombay or Calcutta**. It needs to be documented, lest personalities like **Coachman, Bhikaji, Shuklaji** or even **Sashtikar** in Chor-Bazaar will all be forgotten! Fortunately, we still have collectors/dealers around who have plenty of anecdotal memories and it will be a worthwhile effort to put at least some of them in print...Do think about it. Why not start about your own experiences in the 1980's? At some point even I could jot how I got into the scene (Appa Parab, and all...). Cheers.

- **Shailendra Bhandare** (Oxford)

*Thanks, Shailen. Please write your views on the Patwardhans so that we have healthy academic discussions. And I have noted your suggestion about the history of numismatic activities, and will definitely start working in that direction, cool. (DR)*

Heartfelt congratulations. Now we have got what we wanted for long, in the form of *Gullak Newspaper*. And thanks for the same.

I liked the paper, print and presentation of the first issue of *Gullak*. I believe that heart of any newspaper is its readers and its advertisers are like its bones. We all have liked your columns, Did You Know? and Hi-Profile. Many thanks once again.

- **Shamji Winchhi** (Mumbai)

**Prakash Gupta**

Professional Numismatist

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**The Gullak Team**

- |                        |                             |             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Editor:</b>         | <b>Dr. Dilip Rajgor</b>     |             |
| <b>Correspondents:</b> | <b>A. V. Jeyachandran</b>   | Pondicherry |
|                        | <b>Abdul Razak Shaikh</b>   | Mumbai      |
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E-mail: [girishvira50@hotmail.com](mailto:girishvira50@hotmail.com) • [girishvira50@rediffmail.com](mailto:girishvira50@rediffmail.com)

Website: [www.indiacoingallery.com](http://www.indiacoingallery.com)

