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**A Rs. 1,000 coin to celebrate 1,000 years of Thanjavur big Temple**

By C P Sajit (TNN)



Silver (80% + Copper 20%), 35 g, 44 mm, Year 2010

Numismatists have a reason to rejoice. Soon, they could have limited edition commemorative coins of Rs 1,000 denomination in their collection. So far, the highest denomination of commemorative coins issued by the Indian government was Rs 150.

The Rs 1,000-coin is to be issued in commemoration of 1,000 years of the Brihadeeswarar temple in Thanjavur. Though Parliament passed a bill in 1975 to mint coins up to denominations of Rs 1,000, the government never issued coins worth more than Rs 150. A Rs 5- commemorative coin was released when the Thanjavur temple celebrated 1,000 years of its existence in 2010 by the then Tamil Nadu chief minister M Karunanidhi. It is only recently that the government decided to issue Rs 1,000 coins.

So what makes this coin special? According to C Selvaraj, a city-based numismatist and philatelist, all these years, commemorative coins were minted for the maximum denomination of Rs 100 and, lately, Rs 150. "Never before has the government released Rs 1,000 coins though 75 commemorative coins have been issued by the government since 1964," he says.

Commemorative coins are released in limited number on various themes. The first of its kind was issued on the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964. So far coins of denominations, Rs 1, Rs2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 75, Rs 100 and Rs 150 have been issued. These are prized by numismatists.

Selvaraj says the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, had restricted minting coins of denominations above Rs 100. However, a 1975 bill raised the limit to Rs 1,000, but the government didn't issue coins of higher denominations. Commemorative coins of Rs 150 were issued to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the 150th year of public institutions including the Income Tax department and the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Interestingly, the government had released Rs 1000 currency notes in 1954 with the image of the Brihadeeswarar temple. The government withdrew Rs 1,000 denomination notes in 1977 as part of a measure to crack down on black money. The Rs 1000 denomination currency notes are now back in circulation.

What makes the Rs 1000 commemorative coins stand apart from the rest is not just the amount but that these coins have 80 per cent silver content. The rest is copper. The other commemorative coins are 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper, five per cent zinc and five per cent nickel, Selvaraj says.

The Brihadeeswarar coins will be available in the proof set (with mat finish) and uncirculated coins (polished). These will cost Rs 4775 and Rs 4435 for a piece. Interested parties can make demand drafts for the amount and apply to the mint.

For further details, log on to [www.ngsofindia.com](http://www.ngsofindia.com). The last date for booking the limited edition coin is August 31.



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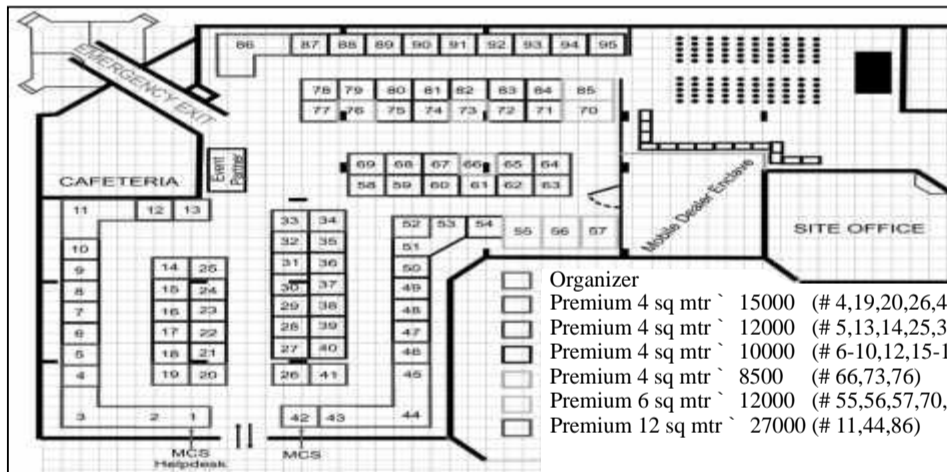


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07-09-12 @ 3pm, Auction of Coins by Maru Auctions, Bangalore.  
5.30pm Presentation by MCS and release of Souvenir

07-09-12 @ 6pm, Auction of Coins by Todywalla Auctions, Mumbai

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Those wanting to contribute by way of articles are requested to send in their articles not later than 14-08-2012.

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MCS reserves the right to publish any article.

## Introduction about new Japan Bimetallic coins (Part 1)

*By Riddhi Bhattacharya (India) & Zdravko Bosnjak (Croatia)*

### Japan 47 Prefectures Coin Program

To mark the 60th Anniversary of Enforcement of the Local Autonomy Law, Japan launched "Japan 47 Prefectures Coin Program" in 2008. Obverse of each coin has prefecture's own design and reverse design is all the same. Each year Japan had a programme to issue 6 coins but in 2008 they produced 3 and 2009, 4 coins and from 2010 onwards they are producing with 6 coins each year. All the coins are legal tender coins produced in coin card in UNC as well as in Proof Version.



**1000 yen silver coin**



**500 yen bi-color clad coin**

Common reverse design of 1000 yen silver coin: Snow Crystals, Moon and Cherry Blossoms  
 Common reverse design of 500 yen bi-color coin: Shape of Japanese old coin Issue List  
 2008 (Heisei 20) Hokkaido Kyoto Shimane  
 2009 (Heisei 21) Nagano Niigata Ibaraki Nara

### Hokkaido Prefecture

Capital City: Sapporo      Population in 2007: 5,570  
 Area in 2007: 83,456 sq km

Hokkaido is the largest and most northerly prefecture in Japan. Hokkaido's development began in 1869 with the establishment of the Hokkaido Development Commission. Over 130 years have since passed, Hokkaido has seen significant development. Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido, is the fifth-

most populous city in Japan and lies at 43 north latitude, almost the same as Boston, Sarajevo and Monaco. This island prefecture is full of nature, so it plays an important role as the largest food supplier and tourist area. Not only a lot of Japanese tourists but also a lot of foreign tourists arrive there and enjoy Hokkaido!



Obverse design: Lake Toya and Red-crowned Cranes  
 Obverse design: Lake Toya and The former Hokkaido Government office building

### Kyoto Prefecture

Capital City: Kyoto      Population in 2007: 2,635  
 Area in 2007: 4,613 sq km  
 Old capital, Kyoto, was founded in 794, and since then it was always the capital of old Japan through the Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi, Azuchi-Momoyama and Edo periods for more than one thousand years. Historically and artistically valued temples, shrines, gardens, etc. are attracting a number of visitors from home and abroad. Some were registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site, and you can taste old Japanese culture in Kyoto.

The Tale of Genji was written one thousand years ago by Murasaki Shikibu. It is the most ancient surviving full-length (54

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chapters) novel. The story unfolds around the hero, Genji, depicting daily life and affairs among aristocrats in the Heian Period (794-1185).



Obverse design: Scene 3 of Yadorigi, Chapter 49 of "The Picture Scroll of the Tale of Genji (National Treasure of Japan).

### Shimane Prefecture

Capital City: Matsue Population in 2007: 731  
Area in 2007: 6,708 sq km

Shimane is located in the southwest of Japan's mainland, facing the Japan Sea to the north. Since Shimane is close geographically to China and the Korean Peninsula, it once played an important role as a bridge to those areas in the formation of ancient Japan. As many of Japan's myths are set in Shimane, it is known as "the Home of Gods."

The Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, located in Oda City in the center of Shimane, contains a range of remains that depict the history of mining from 1526, when large-scale mining operations started, to 1923, when the mine closed. Even today, much evidence remains of silver distribution and the lifestyles of the people who worked in the silver industry.



Obverse design: Otoriosame-Chogin, a silver coin made of silver from the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, and Peony Flowers, the prefectural flower of Shimane

Obverse design: Bell-shaped bronze vessel discovered from the Kamoiwakura Remains in Unnan City and patterns and pictograms on it.

### Nagano Prefecture

Capital City: Nagano Population in 2007: 2,180  
Area in 2007: 13,562 sq km

Nagano is famous as the site for the 1998 Winter Olympics. This 4th largest prefecture is located in the central region of Japan's mainland and faces 8 prefectures, the largest number among other prefectures. Nagano is surrounded by

mountains standing 3000 m above the sea level, and they are called the Japan Alps.



Obverse design: The Japan Alps and Kamikochi in early summer

Obverse design: Zenkoji Temple and Ox (Manifestation of Kannon, Bodhisattva of Mercy Zenkoji Temple is a historical and cultural monument representing Nagano. It attracts over 6 million visitors a year from home and abroad. A Japanese proverb says "Led by an ox I go to Zenkoji Temple." It means a person is led to a good situation by chance even though he/she does not act on his/ her own will but act at someone else's invitation.

### Niigata Prefecture

Capital City: Niigata Population in 2007: 2,405  
Area in 2007: 12,583 sq km

Niigata is located on Japan's main land on the coast of the Sea of Japan. The major industry in Niigata is agriculture. Especially Niigata is famous for its rice production, ranking second after Hokkaido. In winter, this area is hit by heavy snowfall.



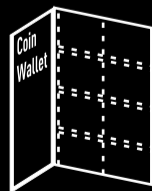
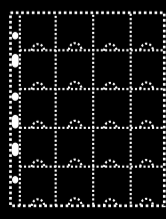
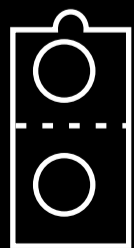
Obverse design: Japanese Crested Ibis and Sadogashima Island Japanese crested ibis is a special natural monument of Japan and an internationally protected bird. The scientific name of this bird is Nipponia nippon ("Nippon" means Japan). Sadogashima Island is famous for its gold mine. A lot of gold was mined, from four hundred years ago until twenty years ago in Sadogashima Island.

Obverse design: A Pair of Japanese Crested Ibises and Rice Terrace.



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## Ibaraki Prefecture

Capital City: Mito Population in 2007: 2,969  
Area in 2007: 6,096 sq km

Ibaraki is located in the northern part of the Kanto region close to Tokyo. Ibaraki takes pride in its traditional culture and nature, as well as in being a center of science and technology in Japan.



Obverse design: H-II (H-two) Launch Vehicle and Mt. Tsukuba  
The H-II (H-two) Launch Vehicle was the first rocket produced in Japan using only domestic technologies. It is also a symbol of Tsukuba Academic New Town in Ibaraki prefecture. The rocket was developed at the National Space Development Agency of Japan, the predecessor to the present Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, in this town. Mt. Tsukuba is admired for its graceful shape and is often compared with Mt. Fuji. It is designated as one of the one hundred famous mountains in Japan and is also known for its rare insects and plants.

Obverse design: Kairakuen Garden and Plum Tree or Japanese Apricot Tree

"Kairakuen Garden" is located in Mito city in Ibaraki prefecture and is known as one of the three famous traditional gardens in Japan. It was created in 1842 and is famous for plum blossom viewing.

## Nara Prefecture

Capital City: Nara Population in 2007: 1,410  
Area in 2007: 3,691 sq km

Nara is close to Osaka city. Nara was the ancient capital of Japan, even older than Kyoto. In addition to Kyoto, there are many famous temples and shrines in Nara.



Obverse design: Daigokuden Seiden, Cherry Blossoms and Kemari

2010 is the 1300th Anniversary of the Nara Heijo-kyo Capital. "Daigokuden Seiden" was the Former Imperial Audience Hall at Heijo Palace in the Heijo-kyo Capital, and is now being reconstructed. In those ancient days, the Emperor appeared in Daigokuden Seiden and national ceremonies were held there. Most of the Heijo Palace ruins have been preserved as a national historic site and a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

A type of cherry blossom called "Nara-no-yaesakura" is the prefectural flower of Nara. Literally translated, "Nara-no-yaesakura" means a double cherry blossom tree in Nara.

"Kemari" is a ball game that is said to have come from China to Japan approximately 1,400 years ago and was played by aristocrats during ancient times in Japan. It has been passed down through the generations and is still played today. There are no winners or losers in this game, as the objective is simply to pass the ball to fellow players.

Obverse design: Kentoshi-sen (Ship for Imperial Japanese Envoy to China in the Tang Dynasty).

Japanese envoys to the Tang Dynasty played an important role in international cultural exchange during the Asuka and Nara periods in ancient Japan. The design was taken from Toseiden-emaki, scrolls showing the history of Ganjin, a Chinese monk who propagated Buddhism in Japan. He came to Japan by Kentoshi-sen and opened the Toshodaiji Temple in Nara prefecture.

## Kochi Prefecture

Capital City: Kochi Population in 2007: 782  
Area in 2007: 7,105 sq km

Kochi is located in Shikoku Island and facing the Pacific Ocean. This region is known as its mild climate and rich nature.



Obverse design: Sakamoto Ryoma and Katsurahama  
Sakamoto Ryoma is one of the most famous historical figures in Kochi, and the 175th anniversary of his birth will be celebrated

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this year, in 2010. He made a great contribution to Japan's modernization at the end of the samurai period in Japan.

Katsurahama Beach is one of the most famous scenic spots in Kochi and also has long been known as a great location for Moon viewings.

Meantime, this silver coin will be the first ever coin among Japan's coinage that will bear a real person's effigy. So we are expecting that this will be one of the most precious and sought-after silver coins in Japan.

**Gifu Prefecture**

Capital City: Gifu Population in 2007: 2,104  
Area in 2007: 10,621 sq km

Gifu is located almost in the center of Japan and out of Japan's 47 prefectures, is one of only eight prefectures with no access to the sea.



Obverse design: Ukai (cormorant fishing) on the Nagara River  
Traditional cormorant fishing on the Nagara River, with its long history going back around 1,300 years, is conducted from May to October every year, and is preserved by the Japanese Imperial Family.

Obverse design: Shirakawa-go and Chinese milk vetch  
The Chinese milk vetch flower is Gifu's prefectural flower. The houses in the background are in the "Historic Village of Shirakawa-go," a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Gifu Prefecture. The traditional style of these houses is adapted to the natural environment in Shirakawa, which is often hit by heavy snowfall in winter.

**Fukui Prefecture**

Capital City: Fukui Population in 2007: 816  
Area in 2007: 4,189 sq km

Fukui is located to the north of Kyoto and Gifu, and faces the Sea of Japan. Just like Gifu Prefecture, Fukui is often hit by heavy snowfall in winter.

Obverse design: Dinosaur and Tojinbo  
Up to now, more than eighty percent of dinosaur fossils in Japan have been discovered here in Fukui Prefecture. This dinosaur's image was also recreated from the fossil remains which were discovered in Fukui. As a result of the study, this dinosaur was

found to be a new species of meat-eating dinosaur from 120 million years ago, and was named Fukuiraptor. The landscape in the background is Tojinbo Cliff facing the Sea of Japan. This surreal cliff has been designated as one of Japan's natural monuments.



Fukui design of 500 yen; Obverse design: Dinosaurs

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The dinosaur in the foreground is Fukuiraptor and the image in the background is Fukuisaurus whose fossil remains were also discovered in Fukui. Again, this dinosaur was found to be a new species of dinosaur, but unlike Fukuiraptor, it was a plant-eating dinosaur.

**Aichi Prefecture**

Capital City: Nagoya Population in 2007: 7,360  
 Area: 5,165 sq km

Located in the central part of the mainland Japan. Three warlords who changed the course of Japan's history during the 16th century, Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu were from Aichi. Now, it has become one of the major industrial centers of Japan.

**Aichi Coin of 1000 yen silver coin**



Obverse design: Kinshachi, Rabbitear Iris and Atsumi peninsula

Featuring the golden Shachihoko on the top of the donjon of Nagoya Castle in Aichi, a rabbit-ear iris as the prefecture's flower, and the sand beach, where is the famous spawning region of loggerhead sea turtles in the Atsumi Peninsula in Aichi. Kozutsuminishiike Pond in Aichi is one of the three major homes of rabbit-ear iris in Japan, and is designated as the natural monument of Japan.

**500 yen bi-color clad coin**

Obverse design: Main Building Aichi Prefectural Government and Rabbit-ear Iris

The Main Building of the Aichi Prefectural Government is famous for its mixed style of western architecture and the eastern castled roof.

**Aomori Prefecture**

Capital City: Aomori Population in 2007: 1,407  
 Area: 9,607 sq km

Located at the northern tip of the mainland Japan. The climate is marked by short summer and long cold winter, with heavy snowfall especially in the western region.

**Aomori Coin of 1000 yen silver coin**



Obverse design: Nebuta, Neputa and Apple

Nebuta and Neputa are traditional summer festivals of the cities of Aomori and Hirosaki. The floats feature enormous paper lanterns of popular or legendary characters, made of a wood base, carefully covered with Japanese papers, beautifully colored, and lighted from the inside with hundreds of light bulbs. Aomori ranks first among all prefectures in annual production of apples.

**500 yen bi-color clad coin**

Obverse design: Sannai-Maruyama Site and Clay Figurine

Featuring the restored model of an ancient building of Sannai-Maruyama Site of the Jomon Period (c.5,500-4,000 years ago) as well as the "goggle-eyed type" clay figurine from Kamegaoka Site of the Final Jomon Period (c.3,000-2,300 years ago) and the "praying-hands type" clay figurine from Kazahari 1 site of the late Jomon Period (c.3,500-3,000 years ago). **(To be continued)**

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(5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012.)

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**cum 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Auction - Bangalore**

**( 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 )**

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**In Conjunction with Mumbai Coin Society.**

*6<sup>th</sup> Auction - 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 - Nagpur*

**In Conjunction with 4th National Numismatic Exhibitions**

*7<sup>th</sup> Auction - 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 - Kanpur*

**In Conjunction with Kanpur Numismatic Society.**

*8<sup>th</sup> Auction - 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 - Cochin*

**In Conjunction with Kerala Numismatic Society.**

*9<sup>th</sup> Auction - 11<sup>th</sup> December Auction - Pune*

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## Some Avenues of Investment in Silver

By Sandeep Shah

A rapid rise in the price of gold and silver is like an economic "warning siren" - alerting savers that their wealth (i.e. the purchasing power of their currency) is being rapidly eroded by the monetary depravity of bankers.

With silver prices expected to soar, now is the perfect time to secure your stash of silver. The savviest silver investors in the world, are buying silver on every dip.

In fact, at every violent sell-offs we've seen a positive effect: Investor's are shaking out the weak hands and speculators. long-term investors are purchasing silver during these panic sell-offs.

### Some Avenues of Investment on Silver :

**Silver Bars:** The majority of .999 fine silver bars come in 10-oz and 100-oz sizes. A branded bar ensures the silver weight and purity is verified and recognizable. While bars typically have some of the lowest premiums of any physical form of silver, many find it difficult to move and store them. If storage is a concern, it probably makes sense to pay a higher premium for smaller forms of physical silver.

**Silver Rounds:** Silver rounds resemble with coins at first glance, but they are produced by private mints. They're a popular choice among investors because they're easier to store and trade than silver bars given their smaller size. Silver rounds are less expensive than silver coins based on the amount of silver they contain, but they aren't legal tender - meaning you can't pay public or private debts with them. It's also more difficult to verify the weight and purity of rounds versus coins because they are produced differently from mint to mint.

**Silver Coins:** Silver coins are minted by the governments of many countries, including the United States. Silver coins have an official guarantee of weight and purity made by their respective mints. Currently, the American Silver Eagle is the only official silver coin minted in the United States. (You can verify a dealer's American Silver Eagles here to confirm authenticity.) Other popular federally-minted silver coins includes the Canadian Maple Leaf, Canadian Silver Cougar and the

Austrian Silver Philharmonic. All are recognized and traded internationally. Because official silver coins are nationally recognized and promoted by trusted mints & banks, they typically carry a higher premium than rounds or bars. Regardless, silver coins are popular among investors looking to buy just one beautiful silver coin at a time instead of a larger silver bar that may cost several hundred rupees.

**Proof Coins Sets:** Special edition silver coins sets like the Rabindranath Tagore Proof sets have MS 70 Coin, which are stamped with finely polished dies that produce a mirror-finish look. Each of these collectors-edition silver coins is sealed with a certification number that validates its authenticity and quality. When quantities are in very short supply (as they are today), these special-edition silver coin proof sets have significantly higher premiums than their regularly circulated counterparts.

**Junk Silver:** Another form of physical silver sometimes overlooked by investors is called "junk silver." With a name like that, you may think you'll have to do some dumpster diving. But junk silver is simply the name for the widely collected coins by the Collectors, viz British India, E I C, Princely States & all coins having Numismatic value. The coins contain 90% silver by weight and volume, junk-silver coins are far from what their name suggests. Try to find a Learned dealer that sells it, junk silver usually gives highest gains than any form of physical silver available on the market.

**The Investing Answer:** Buying physical silver is just as easy as shopping online. Comex and Recognised Institutions are two great places to start. Or, to save costs, visit your local dealer Shop instead, but be sure to verify precious metal retailers in your area.

For the beginning physical silver investor, I suggest purchasing British India silver coins as it is by far the most affordable way to get started. Many dealers will help you to buy them. You can start by investing a little each month to slowly build up your investment collection and take advantage of today's bargain silver price.



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## Calendar of Events 2012-13

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
August	17-19	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair	Hotel Comfort Inn President, opp. Municipal Market, C.G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009. (079-2646 4850)
Aug - Sept.	31-2	Bangalore	Nanyadarshini 2012	Shikshara Bhavan, opp. Cauvery Bhavan (Karnataka Numis Scy)
September	7 - 9	Mumbai	10th Mumbai Coin Exhibition 2012	World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade (Mumbai Coin Society)
October	5 - 7	Nagpur	4th National Numismatic Exhibition 2012	Mor Bhavan, Jhansi Rani Chowk, Sitabuldi, Nagpur
October	12-14	Kanpur	1st Numismatic Exhibition	Kanpur
November	23-25	Cochin	Coin Expo - 2012	North Arnakalam, Near North Railway Station, Cochin (Kerala Numismatic Society)
December	11-13	Pune	COINPEX - PUNE - 2012	Sonal Hall, Karve Road (International Collectors Society)
December	22-25	Mumbai	Museum Coin Fair 2012	University Kalina Campus, Santacruz (E), Mumbai -98 (Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum)
December	27-30	Kolkata	Mudra Utsav 2012	Haldiram Banquet Hall, 24 Ballygunge Park, Kolkata -19 (Numismatic Society of Calcutta)
Jan 2013	4 - 6	Coimbatore	Coimbatore Coin & Currency Fair	Kamdram Doraiswamy Hall (Prabhu 0 94437 21245)
February	15-17	Bangalore	5th National Numismatic Exhibition 2013	Bell Hotel, Bangalore (Marudhar Arts)
April	18-21	Mumbai	22nd Shukla Day Coin Fair	World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade (Farokh Todywalla)



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 <p>NGS No. 2120000-011522</p> <p><i>Authority:</i> Mughals - Jahangir <i>Specs:</i> Gold, 11.04 g, 19.98 mm <i>Edge:</i> Plain <i>Denomination:</i> Portrait Mohur <i>Series :</i> Portrait with Goblet <i>Year:</i> AH 1020</p>	 <p>NGS. No. 2120000-005286</p> <p><i>Authority:</i> Mughals <i>Specs:</i> Gold, 11.08 g, 21.89 mm <i>Edge:</i> Plain <i>Denomination:</i> Zodiac Mohur <i>Series:</i> Zodiac <i>Year:</i> AH 1028 <i>Type:</i> Taurus (Bull)</p>	 <p>NGS No. 2120000-016929</p> <p><i>Authority:</i> EIC Uniform Coinage <i>Ruler:</i> Victoria Queen (CL) <i>Specs:</i> Silver, 11.51 g, 31.28 mm <i>Edge:</i> Milled <i>Year:</i> 1840 <i>Denomination:</i> Rupee</p>	 <p>NGS No. 2120000-016930</p> <p><i>Authority:</i> British India <i>Ruler:</i> Victoria Queen <i>Specs:</i> Silver, 11.55 g, 30.58 mm <i>Edge:</i> Milled <i>Year:</i> 1862 <i>Denomination:</i> Rupee</p>
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