



# गुल्लक Gullak



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Releasing in September 2015 ...

Standard Catalogue of  
**Coins of British India**  
**1835 to 1947**  
*Currency Issues*

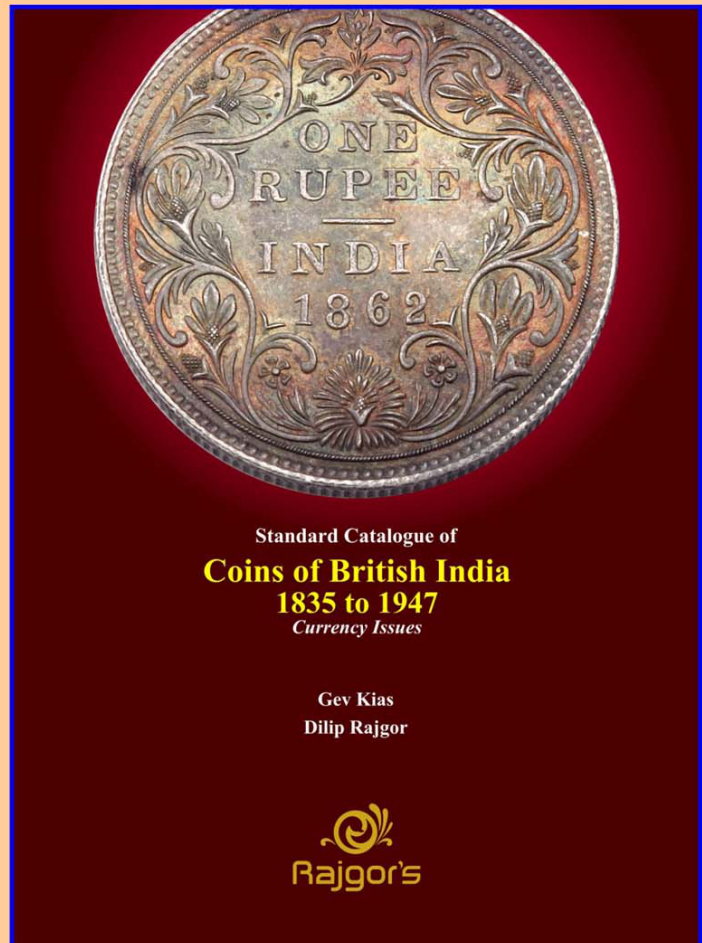
by

**Gev Kias**  
**Dilip Rajgor**

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*Standard Catalogue of Coins of British India* is a comprehensive catalogue of currency coins of Greater India from 1835 to 1947. The book catalogues silver and baser metal coins of British rulers from William IV to George VI. All the coins are chronologically catalogued from 1 Rupee to lower denominations. Each denomination is profusely illustrated with mint identifiers; obverse & reverse types, and is followed by the Catalogue listing with details like year, metal, initials, mint, mint marks, diameter, obverse & reverse varieties, mintage and remarks. The book catalogues as many as 1,458 coins with about 1,000 illustrations.

## Nazarana Coins

By Dilip Rajgor

The Persian word *Nazr* means to present and is a cultural tradition of India dating back to millennia. Not only in the matters of the King and his subjects, *Nazr karna* is a long standing tradition amongst the *hoi polloi* in India on occasions like marriages, seeing the bride for the first time, festivals etc.

The word *Nazarana* is derived from the word *Nazr* and therefore means *a presentation, a tribute*. This may include, inter alia, diamonds, jewellery, fine fabrics, swords, knives and coins etc. Though it is more based on “tradition” or “propriety”, there is also a bit of expectation on part of the receiver of the *Nazarana* so as to reiterate and cement the allegiance of the giver. In a feudal society where transactions (such as land grants, appointments to office, etc.) between the master and the subject entail a price, the same might not be paid in terms of money, lest the transaction may look gross and commercial. However, such rewards must be acknowledged by the recipient by giving a “return gift” or *Nazarana*. This principle may also be applicable in other social settings such as when people of ranks meet to do favours to each other or there are family occasions such as marriage wherein *Nazarana* is exchanged at various stages of the festivities.

Coinage had always been a prestigious and serious affair at the Mughal court. Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan each took a personal interest in the design and minting quality of their coinage. The *Ain-i-Akbari*, the official biography of Akbar’s reign, records that Akbar appointed one of his great court painters who had been trained at the Safavid court in Iran to be in charge of the imperial mint at Fathpur Sikri. He also gave equal status to engraver Maulana Ali Ahmad as that of the most skilful Calligrapher. The maulana held the royally granted military rank of *Yuzbashi* and the accompanying income and privileges.

Jahangir personally designed his Zodiac and Portrait coins. Nur Jahan ensured that coins be issued in her name too. The three Great Mughal emperors went to the extent of putting the most sacred Islamic text, the *kalmia* on their coins.

In the context of Numismatics, there is not much historical reference to specific attributes that may constitute a *Nazarana* coin. However, coins being offered as gift or “*Nazr*” in various courts including the Mughals abound. During the reigns of Akbar and Jahangir heavy Mohurs were struck and presented to the Persian ambassador to be given to the Shah of Iran. The *Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri* refers to many occasions wherein the emperor presented coins to other rulers and also his own functionaries. For example, on 19 Farwardin, Regnal year 8 (1613) Jahangir wrote “*I have presented a gold Mohur of 1000 tolas, which is called a Kaubab-i-talai (rising star), to Yadgar-Ali, the Ambassador of the ruler of Iran*”. Another reference to a similar Mohur presented to a Persian ambassador is found in *Iqbalnama-i-Jahangiri*.

The following is a 5 Tola Mohur of Akbar struck as a presentation piece:



Till the time the giant 1000 Mohurs of Jahangir was offered for sale by the auction house Habsburg, Feldman S.A, Geneva, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1987, the aforesaid 5 Mohurs were the largest Mughal Nazarana coins actually seen (*the 1000 Tola Mohur (11.93 kilo) together with 100 Mohur, with a weight of almost 1,100 grams were offered for sale. For this auction a special catalogue was printed exclusively for these two gigantic coins. Though the auction was conducted, the bids could not meet the reserve price and the owner withdrew the piece and the huge coin disappeared into a Swiss vault where it had been stored long before World War II (Ref: India Today, December 15, 1987).*

Though the aforesaid pieces are “presentation pieces”, they are strictly not Nazarana since Nazarana is a tribute to be paid to the person in power by ordinary people to confirm their allegiance and inferior status. Though the tradition of *Nazr* was formally abolished by the British Governor General Lord Hastings in 1816, and the British Officials were not supposed to pay any tribute to the Mughal Emperor at Delhi whenever they meet him, the system continued in the Princely courts at least on two occasions i.e. the birthday of the monarch and his coronation anniversary.

Though the aforesaid is the broad genesis of Nazarana coins, there is no particular historical reference to a coin as “Nazarana Coin” either in the mint records or any contemporary proceedings of the Princely Durbars. ***No mint records have come to light so as to define the attributes of a Nazarana coin such as the ideal flan size and the extent of the legend it should contain.*** The old museum catalogues such as the Indian Museum, Calcutta, 1907, does not refer to any coin as a Nazarana Rupee *albeit* it is of larger than normal size and contains the full inscription on it with dotted border (Coin No. 2067, Md. Shah, Shahjahanabad mint; Coin No. 2281 EIC, Shah Alam II, Shahjahanabad mint; Coin No. 2357, Shah Alam II, Sawai Jaipur mint, etc.). The same is applicable to the Lucknow Museum catalogues. C.J. Brown’s book *the Coins of India* published in 1921 does not refer any coin as “Nazarana “ even if Coin No. 4 (Md. Akbar, Hyderabad mint) and Coin No. 7 (Indore Rupee with Nagari legend) in plate XII fall in that category as per today’s standards.

### **Modern Term Nazarana**

It was only with the advent of *Krause Catalogue* that the term “*Nazarana*” made its appearance in 1973.

However, in 1883 Sir Alexander Cunningham, while writing in the proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, used the word “Nazarana Medals” in the context of Salim’s (later day Jahangir) presentation of large Mohurs to Akbar. But in the same journal, in Numismatic Supplement No. X, 1910, R.B. Whitehead did not use this term “Nazarana Medal” for coin no. 30 (Rafi ud Darjat Akbarabad mint, Rupee) even though it is of very large flan with dotted border. Instead, he used the description “*in double circle with one of dots in between*”.

Though we may not be sure of the functional attributes of a Nazarana coin, that is whether the coin was actually presented to a king, we may be certain of its physical characters that are whether it is substantially different from the ordinary circulated coin. A flan must have been cut from specially prepared blanks/ rolls so as to accommodate the full impression of the die (though Farrukhabad mint usually produced large flan coins). A special die would be prepared containing the full legend and within a border, since the ordinary coin dies per se did not even contain the full legend. This would entail an additional cost and hence the procurer had to pay a premium for these coins. The subject would feel happy to present a beautiful shiny large coin (though of the same weight and purity as an ordinary coin) instead of a worn out, clipped and test marked coin and the king would be glad to receive a coin with his full title on it. In some cases, as in Jaisalmer, the subject would like to present the king an auspicious “Sawa Rupiya” too.

From the aforesaid perspective, one may argue that a Nazarana coin should have the full legend/die impression on it should be of larger than the normal size. The first condition is a must and necessary lest it might be construed as disrespect to the person to whom the *Nazr* is given since his name and title are truncated on the gift itself. The second is sufficient, since that would make the coin more beautiful.

For functional attributes, some indirect evidence can be provided; such as: the scarcity of these coins in subsequent years *vis a vis* the ordinary coins singularly points to their being struck on special occasions and sparingly.

Once the *Nazr* was given the king was supposed to just touch it and pass it onto his official present at the *darbar* and the coin would find its way to the royal treasury. One may conjecture that sometimes these coins would be used for royal expenses purposes and the Nazarana coin would come out of the *Toshkhana* into circulation without any difficulty, since the weight is the same as the normal coin. These coins being beautiful and large had a lot of visual appeal and hence used as pendants in jewellery (as in case of large Jhalawar Nazarana Rupee, some Jodhpur Nazarana rupees, Bharatpur Nazarana rupees etc.) without incurring additional making charges.

One question arises as to what about the Princely States that did not have the right to strike their own coinage? Didn’t these kings receive Nazarana on their birthdays and coronation anniversary or other special occasions? The answer is, the British Indian Government used to grant them special one-time permission to strike medallic coins (as in case of Darghandhra, Rajkot etc.) and the subjects could offer them as *Nazr*.



*Princely State, Bikaner, Karni Singh, Silver Ceremonial Coronation Rupee, 12.89 g, dated VS 2007 (AD 1950), obv five-line Nagari legend Sri Maharajadhiraj raja rajeswara Narendra Shiromani Maharaj Sri Karni Singh ji bahadur, rev: Raj Sri Bikaner symbols and date.*

The tradition of Nazarana coins continued even after the departure of the British. Even after their integration to the Indian Republic, the rulers of certain states like Kutch and Bikaner struck Nazarana medallic coins so as to satisfy their people's desire to celebrate their long standing tradition of honouring their kings.

Over the years Nazarana coins have acquired a special status amongst collectors and are avidly collected by them. Since these were not intended to be circulated and were minted in limited quantity, they are scarce and of nice condition. One might argue that the Nazarana coins were to the earlier times what the commemorative coins are to modern times. By definition, Nazarana coins should have been struck by anyone who has been coroneted at least once. Though he had to appeal to the British for such a privilege as to strike a coin, many princes have struck these medallic coins stealthily. Certain regions like Rajputana struck Nazarana coins more frequently than South India wherein such a tradition seemed amiss. New discoveries, though scarce do occur in the Indian numismatic landscape.

In addition to Nazarana, there used to two more forms of tributes in the Mughal period. One is **Jabrana** or Extortion Money. Anyone who wants anything done in government has to pay the "extortioner" his fee, or *Jabrana*. The third form is **Shukrana**, or money paid by way of gratitude by a person whose work has been done without his having to pay a bribe. But no specific coins were struck to pay these tributes.

#### **Nisars:**

Nisar or "to strew" or "to sacrifice" are largesse coins to be strewn or scattered when the emperor goes on procession. Per force they have to be tiny and of small denomination lest they might hurt the people in procession since they were scattered and thrown with full vigor by the thrower.

These coins were not intended for circulation hence were distinguished from the normal coins by inscribing the word *nisar* on them

The first Nisar coin amongst the Mughals was that of Jahangir and continued right up to Alamgir II. In India, throwing coins to the public on certain occasions is prevalent even today.

#### **Legal Dirhams:**

These are tiny coins of ¼ Rupee weights to be used by a Hindu Pilgrim to pay *Zazia*, the dreaded tax imposed by Aurangzeb on Hindu Pilgrims. These coins were not supposed for circulation hence were distinguished from the normal coins by inscribing the word *Dirham* on them.

## Governors of Reserve Bank of India and their Terms in office

No	Name	Term of office - Began	Term of office - Ended	Length
1.	Osborne Smith	1- Apr-35	30-Jun-37	2 years, 90 days
2.	James Braid taylor	1-Jul-37	17-Feb-43	5 years, 231 days
3.	C. D. Deshmukh	11-Aug-43	30-Jun-49	5 years, 323 days
4.	Benegal Rama Rau	1-Jul-49	14-Jan 57	7 years, 197 days
5.	K. G. Ambegaonkar	14-Jan-57	28-Feb-57	0 years, 45 days
6.	H. V. R. Iyengar	1-Mar-57	28-Feb-62	4 years, 364 days
7.	P.C. Bhattacharya	1-Mar-62	30-Jun-67	5 years, 121 days
8.	L. K. Jha	1-Jul-67	3-May-70	2 years, 306 days
9.	B. N. Adarkar	4-May-70	15-Jun-70	0 years, 42 days
10.	S. Jagannathan	16-Jun-70	19-May-75	4 years, 337 days
11.	N. C. Sen Gupta	19-May-75	19-Aug-75	0 years, 92 days
12.	K. R. Puri	20-Aug-75	2-May-77	1 years, 255 days
13.	M. Narasimham	3-May-77	30-Nov-77	0 years, 211days
14.	I. G. Patel	1-Dec-77	15-Sep-77	4 years, 288 days
15.	Manmohan Singh	16-Sep-82	14-Jan-85	2 years, 120 days
16.	Amitav Ghosh	15-Jan-85	4-Feb-85	0 years, 20 days
17.	R. N. Malhotra	4-Feb-85	22-Dec-90	5 years, 321 days
18.	S. Venkitaramanan	22-Dec-90	21-Dec-92	1 years, 365 days
19.	C. Rangarajan	22-Dec-92	21-Nov-97	4 years, 334 days
20.	Bimal Jalan	22-Nov-97	6-Sep-03	5 years, 288 days
21.	Y. V. Reddy	6-Sep-03	5-Sep-08	4 years, 365 days
22.	D. Subbarao	5-Sep-08	4-Sep-13	4 years, 364 days
23.	Raghuram Rajan	4-Sep-13	Incumbent	1 year, 212 days

## Republic of India Mint Marks

KOLKATA MINT NO MINT MARK	BOMBAY MINT DIAMOND MINT MARK	BOMBAY MINT PROOF B MINT MARK	MUMBAI MINT PROOF MARK (AFTER BOMBAY RENAMED AS MUMBAI)	BOMBAY MINT UNC SET MARK (USED ONLY IN NEHRU UNC SETS IN 1989)
HYDERBAD MINT SPLIT DIAMOND MINT MARK	HYDERBAD DOT IN DIAMOND MINT MARK	HYDERBAD MINT STAR MARK	NOIDA MINT ROUND DOT MARK	
1997 SEOUL MINT (SOUTH KOREA)	1985 TAEGU MINT (KOREA)	1985 BRITISH ROYAL MINT LANTRISANT	1985 HEATON PRESS MINT BIRMINGHAM	1999 TOWER MINT, UK
1985 ROYAL CANADIAN MINT OTTAWA	1997 OESCHGER MASDACH & CO, MEXICO CITY MEXICO	2000 MOSCOW MINT RUSSIA (WRITTEN AS 'MMD' BELOW DATE)	1999 KREMNICA MINT SLOVAKIA REPUBLIC WRITTEN 'MK' UNDER CIRCLE	1999 PRETORIA MINT SOUTH AFRICA

## 3rd Coin Festival - Indore Mudra Utsav 2015



### में मुद्रा हैं

मानव जीवन की अभिलाषा हैं,  
काल-खंड की भाषा हैं।  
जिसको मिलता हैं, वो खुरा होता है,  
जिसका खोता हैं, वो रोता है,  
मैं गम-खुरी की परिभाषा हैं।

मैं जीवन की घुरी कहलाता हैं,  
मैं चलता नहीं चलाता हैं,  
हैं मैं मौन पर तुम्हारी भाषा हैं,  
मुद्रित हैं इसलिये मुद्रा कहलाता हैं:  
मैं मानव जीवन .....

डॉ. आनन्द शर्मा

### Anti Forgery Bureau of NGS



NGS No. 2150000-028781

Authority: British India Ruler: George VI  
Specs: Silver, 11.65 g, 30.50 mm Edge: Milled  
Denomination: Rupee Year: 1938



NGS No. 2150000-028785

Authority: British India Ruler: George V  
Specs: CN, 7.70 g, 26.25 mm Edge: Plain  
Denomination: 8 Annas Year: 1920

The NGS is receiving daily, hundreds of coins and bank notes for grading and certification. This includes not only genuine items but also modern forgeries meant to fool collectors. These are sent to us for authentication. But as you very well know, such forgeries are **Never** Certified and Graded by the NGS. Here are some more of them. (Rajgor)



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4<sup>th</sup>  
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Rajgor's

2-3-4 October

Kota 2015

Exhibition & Trade Fair of  
Coins, Banknotes, Collectibles and Stamps

Rotary Club Kota North, 4 Basant Vihar, Kota

## Calendar of Events 2015-16

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
August	7-9	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad Coin & Currency Fair	The Comfort Inn President, CG Road, Navarangpura, Ahmedabad
August	14-16	Chandrapur	Chanda Mulak - 2015	Rajiv Gandhi Kamgar Bhavan, opp. Telephone Ext., Behind- Jaiyant Cinema, Main Road, Chandrapur
September	4-6	Coimbatore	100th Grand Coimbatore Coin Stampex 2015	Kamalam Duraiswamy Hall, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
September	10	Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 41	7.00 pm, Noble Room, <b>The Diplomat Hotel</b> , Behind Taj Mahal Palace, Opp. Starbucks Coffee, Apollo Bunder <b>Mumbai 400001</b>
September	11-13	Mumbai	Coinex - Mumbai 2015	Sunderbai Hall, Churchgate, Mumbai
September	18-21	Ernakulam	Kerala Coin Expo 2015	Town Hall, Near North Railway Station, Ernakulam, Kerala-682018.
October	2-3-4	Kota	4th Coin Festival - Kota 2015 - Kota Mudra Utsav 2015	Rotary Club Kota North, 4 Basant Vihar, Kota Kota Philately & Numismatic Society (Lakesh ji 8233333370)
October	3	Kota	Rajgor's Auction	5.00 pm, 4th Coin Festival - Kota Mudra Utsav 2015
October	10-11	Chennai	98 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	NSI, University annexe auditorium, Chennai
October	16-18	Mumbai	Mumbai Coin & Philately Fair 2015	World Trade Centre (Mumbai Coin Society)
November	14-17	Gwalior	Stamps Exhibition Virasat 2015	Gwalior (Contact: Neel Kamal 094257 45455)
November	20-22	Ludhiana	Ludhiana Coin Exhibition	Ludhiana (Punjab)
December	3-4-5-6	Goa	5 <sup>th</sup> Coin Festival - Goa 2015	Rajgor's at Panji, Goa
December	10-12	Pune	Coinex-Pune-2015	Sonal Hall, Karve Road Pune - 4.
January	8-9-10	Nashik	Nashik Rare Fare 2016	Indraprashtha AC Hall, Old Gangapur Road, Nashik 2
January	9	Nashik	Rajgor's Auction	7.00 pm, Indraprashtha AC Hall, Old Gangapur Road, Nashik
February	26-28	Bangalore	7th National Numismatic Exhibition	The Bell Hotel, Majestic, next to Bangalore City Railway Station

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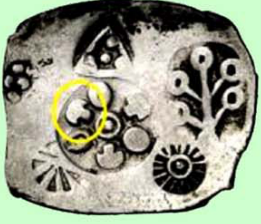
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## सिक्कों का सफर



दुनिया भर के सिक्के देखे,  
सिक्कों के मेले में,  
विभिन्न प्रकार के सिक्के देखे  
जो थे उनके थैलों में।

अपने-अपने देश के बैंकों व बाजारों में,  
आकार-प्रकार की गिनती नहीं, सिक्के थे हजारों में।  
विशेष प्रकार के सिक्के देखे, जो थे नुमाइश में,  
नीलामी में बिके सिक्के, अपनी-अपनी ख्वाहिश में।  
आश्चर्य! अति आश्चर्य! प्राचीन सिक्कों से आज तक,  
एशिया से अफ्रीका तक, आस्ट्रेलिया से अमेरिका तक।  
पौण्ड से यूरो तक, रुपयों से डॉलर तक,  
बच्चों से बूढ़ों तक, निर्धन से धनवान तक।  
सिक्का संग्रह को कई लोगों ने सँवारा है,  
अन्य शौकों से सिक्का संग्रह सबसे प्यारा है।  
सात समुद्र पार से आती है ये विभिन्न मुद्रा,  
जिसे संग्रहित कर हम सभी लेते हैं सुख की निद्रा।  
नीलामी पुस्तकों में छपती है सिक्कों की सूची,  
सब शौकों को मात करती सिक्का संग्रह की ये रुचि।  
इस विषय पर कुछ लिखने व पढ़ने का ये जमाना है,  
सिक्कों के सफर से साथियों बढ़ रहा अपना खजाना है।  
निवेदन है आप सभी से, उठाओ कलम और लिखते चलो,  
संग्रह बढ़ाते रहो और गुटखा-तम्बाखू दुर्व्यसन से टलो।  
क्योंकि यदि चलता केवल नशे पत्ते से ही काम,  
तो सरेआम मानवता बिक जाती कौड़ियों के दाम।  
सिक्कों से ही नाम पड़ा डॉलर, पौण्ड और येन का  
कौड़ियों से ही सफर शुरू हुआ था, आपसी लेन-देन का।  
शुभकामनाएँ सिक्कों को, इनका सफर यूँ ही जारी रहे  
मित्रों! अपन सभी की सिक्कों से सदा यारी रहे।

मिठूलाल बंसल  
भीलवाड़ा (राज.)