



Newsletter of

# Mumbai Coin Society

Reg. No F-37374 (Mumbai)

NMCS - 06

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## Shivaji at Agra – A Numismatic Testimony

- Shailendra Bhandare

A silver coin was recently spotted in an auction by 'Stephen Album Rare Coins' (Auction 31, lot 2318, 17th May 2018). It is a quarter rupee 'Nisar' struck at Akbarabad, in year AH1076 and RY9. The inscription on obverse reads Nisar 'Alamgir Badshah Ghazi Sanah 9, while the mint-name appears on the reverse as ZarbAkbarabad Sanah 1076.



While there exist a fairly large number of Nisars of Akbarabad mint that are known to us, this particular date and RY combination is rare. Only one more specimen with this combination was noted, and that comes from the British Museum. This is from the R B Whitehead collection. The British Museum has one more coin, which has the same AH date but unfortunately the RY on the obverse is not clear enough.



When the precise extent of time which the combination covers is examined, some clues about why these coins could be historically interesting start emerging. As per the Julian reckoning, AH1076 commences 4th June 1665 and ends on 23rd June 1666. Aurangzeb had decreed his regnal years to be counted from 1 Ramzan AH1068. So the 9th regnal year must have commenced on 25th February 1666 and ended on 14th February 1667. The period covered by the combination of AH1076 and RY9 is therefore a relatively short one – 25th February 1666 to 23rd June 1666.



'Nisars' were a functional coinage struck by the Mughal emperors and the coins were basically meant to be consumed in court rituals and ceremonies. As veteran numismatist S H Hodivala has suggested, the word 'Nisar' comes from the Perso-Arabic root which means 'to scatter'. Numismatists have assumed, therefore, that the primary function of Nisars was that they were scattered into the crowds, when people gathered together for particular celebrations like announcement of a good news, like a victory in a campaign or the birth of a royal baby, or indeed, when a high royal carried out a procession.

But the main reason why money was scattered or given was to do with the concept of 'evil eye'. Extended sighting of a person of exceptional qualities or importance was deemed to bring forth a hidden, darker sentiment of envy and ill-feeling towards the person. It was widely believed that such a sentiment would affect the person's qualities, or destiny and the way to intervene was to create situations where the 'sight' of the viewer would be deflected away from the person of importance. Nisars, therefore, did not only mean objects for scattering, but they were also the 'scatterers' or 'deflectors' of the 'evil eye'.

The same concept was at the basis of the role of Nisars in courtly functions. When a courtier 'sighted' the monarch, he imparted an 'evil eye' on him. So to ward off its effects, he had to ritually present money to the monarch. The custom was to charge courtiers sums denoted as 'Nazar', which was to show respect and to approve the 'sighting' and 'Nisar', which was to avert the ill-effects the sighting might bring forth due to the 'evil eye'.

The period in which the Nisars of AH1076/Ry9 combination were struck would have covered two important occasions. The first was the festival of Nowruz, usually taking place in April, which was traditionally celebrated in the Mughal court as the beginning of a new year. But soon after Aurangzeb crowned himself for the second time in 1659, he abolished the celebration considering it to be unnecessarily lavish and wasteful. The second occasion was a very important one and it took place on 12 May 1666. This was the 50th birthday of the emperor and a special 'Darbar' was held for the event. A guest of very high importance had arrived in Agra for the event – this was Shivaji, who had recently been humiliated into a treaty by Mirza Raja Jaisingh, a trusted Mughal commander, who has persuaded him to come to Agra to pay homage to the emperor at his 50th birthday celebrations.

The events that followed are very well known to every student of Maratha history. Shivaji and his retinue arrived in Agra with great pomp and circumstance and he was ushered in the imperial assemblage on 12th May. He presented 1000 gold mohurs and 2000 rupees to the emperor. However, the emperor for personal or political reasons chose to ignore him completely and made him stand with courtiers which he obviously thought were below his status. Shivaji created a lot of fuss, there was shouting and such other so-called rude behaviour in the court, and ultimately he was allowed to leave to return to his dwellings. Nearly four months after a house arrest, and narrowly averting being killed, Shivaji managed to stage a dramatic escape from Agra.

Judging by circumstances, it is very likely that the Nisars with AH1076/Ry9 combination were struck for the event of Aurangzeb's 50th birthday celebrations. Shivaji's visit to Agra marks this date with a profound historical significance, and it is plausible that some of these Nisars must have been used in court rituals on that fateful day.

## The various coinage types of Siri Satakarani - Gautam Jantakal

In the Puranas, Siri Satakarani is mentioned as the third ruler of the Satavahana dynasty after Chimukha (aka Srimukha) and Kanha (aka Krishna). Coin provenance shows that Siri Satakarani ruled over a vast geography as compared with his predecessors. His period of rule was 1 Cen BCE. Dr Shailendra Bhandare in his thesis (available at [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)) has suggested that Siri Satavahana and Siri Satakarani are synonymous. Hence coins with legend Siri Satavahana are also issues of Siri Satakarani. In this article, I have tried to list various coin types of Siri Satakarani in my collection along with their provenance.

### Coins from Maharashtra:



8.84 g

Obv : Elephant with raised trunk facing right. A bold Swastika above. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa". The entire arrangement in a double lined box.  
Rev: Four orb symbol with the top orb converted to a Nandipada. A Tree in railing to its left.

Weight: 8.84 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance: Nashik



4.27 g

Obv : Tree in railing with elongated leaves. Brahmi legend above in clockwise direction reading "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Four orb symbol

Weight: 4.27 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance: Marathwada



14.8 g

Obv : Bull to right. Brahmi legend above in clockwise direction reading "RaNoSiRiSaTaVaHaNaSa"  
Rev: Four orb symbol with a dot in each orb and interspersed by Taurines

Weight: 14.8 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance: Marathwada



1.55 g

Obv: Four orb symbol with Taurines interspersed in between the orbs. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading as "RamNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Shrivatsa symbol

Weight: 1.55 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance : Marathwada





3.55 g

Obv: A typical maned Junnar Lion to left facing a Triangle standard. Three arched hill and river with dots below. Brahmi legend on top (effaced in this specimen) reading clockwise as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Four orb symbol with Swastikas in each orb and Nandipadas interspersed in between

Weight: 3.55 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance : Junnar



10.02 g

Obv: Brahmi legend "NaGaNiKaYa" between two lines. A Railing to the right. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: Four orb symbol with Swastikas in each orb. This arrangement is enclosed within a box. This is the earliest coin type of India that has a queen's name on it.

Weight: 10.02 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance : Junnar



2.7 g

Obv: Three arched hill with a line below. Brahmi legend around inside out in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: Four orb symbol with dots in each orb

Weight: 2.7 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance : Prakashe



5.21 g

Obv: Tree in railing with seven branches. Six arched hill in left field. River below.

Rev: Four orb symbol with concentric circles in each orb. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Weight: 5.21 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance : Vidharba

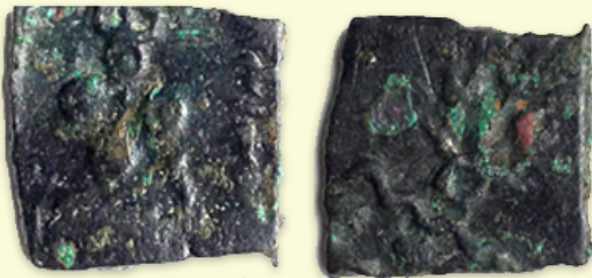




1.81 g

Obv: Bold Taurine and Four orb symbol. Elephant below and legend above in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Tree in railing with a river below.

Weight: 1.81 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance : Vidharba



3.55 g

Obv: Four orb symbol. Elephant below facing right. Legend in right field reading downward as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Tree in railing with characteristic split leaves. A wavy river below.

Weight: 3.55 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance : Vidharba



8.2 g

Obv: Elephant to right with trunk raised. Swastika, Nandipada, Taurine on its back. Tree in railing in front of elephant. Brahmi legend on top reading as "RaNoSiRiSaDaVaHaNaSa"  
Rev: Four orb symbol with concentric circles in each orb. Nandipada, Triangle Standard, Swastika, four orb symbol interspersed between orbs.

Weight: 8.2 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance : Vidharba



5.35 g

Obv: Lion to right. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"  
Rev: Tree in Railing

Weight: 5.35 g  
Metal: Copper  
Provenance : Newase

## Coins from Madhyapradesh:



7.4 g

Obv: Punches of Elephant, River, crescented four orb symbol, Tree in Railing, Brahmi legend "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: Uniface

Weight: 7.4 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance : Eran



11.37 g

Obv: A four orb symbol with the orbs converted to Taurines. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: A human form and a tree in railing

Weight: 11.37 g

Metal: Lead

Provenance : Tripuri



3.36 g

Obv: A four orb symbol. Brahmi legend around in clockwise direction reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaVaHaNaSa"

Rev: A human form and a tree in railing

Weight: 3.36 g

Metal: Lead

Provenance : Tripuri

## Coins from Telangana:



2.2 g

Obv: Three arched Hill with a tree in railing on its left. A rather crude Brahmi legend "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa" around

Rev: Four orb symbol with dots in each orb

Weight: 2.2 g

Metal : Potin

Provenance: Dharmapuri



5.89 g

Obv: Three arched Hill with a river below. A Swastika counterstruck. Anticlockwise circular Brahmi legend reading inside out as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: Four orbed symbol with dots in each orb. Traces of an undertype

Weight: 5.89 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance: Kondapur

## Coins from Gujarat:



15.03 g

Obv: A bold Swastika at centre. Four orbed symbol above. Circular anticlockwise Brahmi legend reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: A crude elephant facing right. A river below.

Weight: 15.03 g

Metal: Copper

Provenance: Malwa Lower Narmada valley



18.85 g

Obv: Elephant to right with Brahmi legend around reading as "RaNoSiRiSaTaKaNiSa"

Rev: A hollow cross with Swastika at centre and interspersed by Taurines. A four orbed symbol on its left.

Weight: 18.85 g

Metal: Lead

Provenance: Malwa Upper Narmada valley

### Author:

Gautam Jantakal

Contact: 9845674240

Address: 108, Century Pragati, 5 Cross, Laxmi Layout, Bengaluru





## British India Victorian Envelopes - II

- Col Jayanta Dutta & Dr Anjali Dutta

### Service Envelopes

**January 1887 Issue** The 1877 1 anna issue was overprinted Service in black. There is only one known example known of this issue which is with Mr Manik Jain of Calcutta and illustrated in his book. Pratisad Neurgaokar feels were never issued and it is an essay.

**1 April 1895 Issue** ½ anna green and 1 anna brown were overprinted in black “On H,M.S.” and “On Her Majesty’s Service” on top of the envelope.



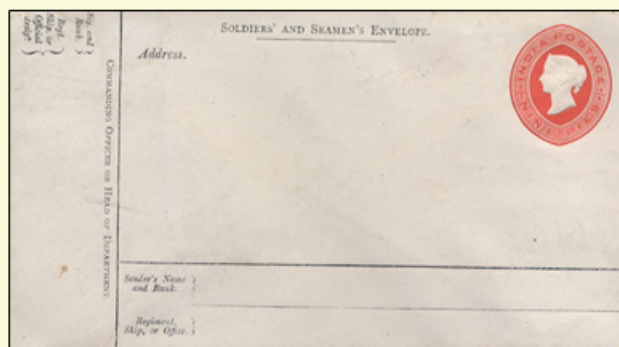
### Service Registered Envelopes

**1895 Issue** “On H,M.S.” and “On Her Majesty’s Service” on top of the envelope was overprinted in black on the 2 annas registered envelope large size (254x105 mm).

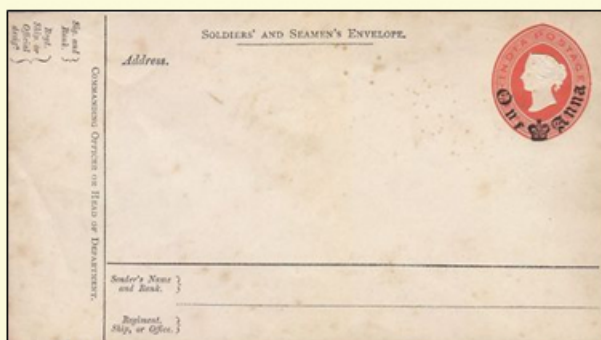


## Military Envelopes

**1 May 1879 Soldier's and Seamen's Envelope** The troops used existing stamps and postal stationery till 1879 when, for the first time, special postal stationery, the 9 pies red on white Soldiers' and Seamen's envelope was issued.



**1 May 1895** The 1879 issue was surcharged One Anna in black. A variety exists with n of One inverted.



**1900 C.E.F. Issue** In 1900 for the first time stamps and postal stationery was issued overprinted C.E.F. for use of troops sent to China to suppress the Boxer Rebellion. The ½ anna green, 1 anna brown, 2annas 6 pies orange and one anna on 2annas 6 pies orange were overprinted C.E.F.



1/2a green envelope overprinted C.E.F. addressed in pencil to Mangalore and cancelled by neat F.P.O./No.6 cds dated 14.JL.01.



## Indian Envelopes used in Convention States

The convention states of India were:

Chamba (1887–1948)

Faridkot (feudatory from 1879–1887; convention from 1887 to 1901).

Gwalior (1885–1948)

Jhind (feudatory 1874 – 1885; convention from 1885).

Nabha (1885–1948)

Patiala (1884–1947)

For details of the postal stationery of Convention States one may refer to the monumental work of Edward F Deschl. A few Victorian envelopes from the Convention States are illustrated. They had the name of the state with or without the coat-of-arms.

### Chamba



### Jhind



### Patiala



Patiala postal envelope 1885 and 1891

### Faridkot

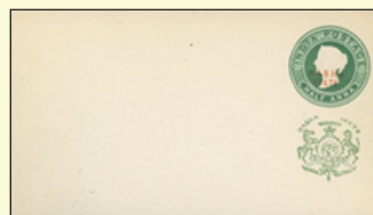


### Gwalior



Gwalior postal envelope 1886

### Nabha



Nabha postal envelopes 1886

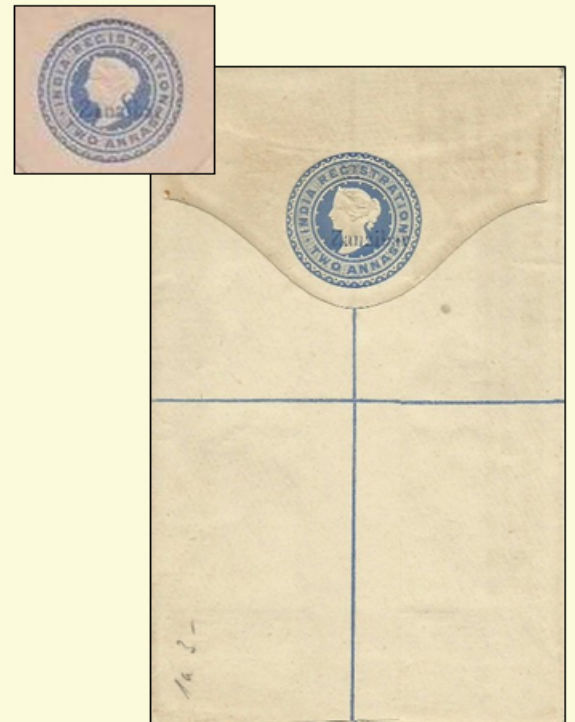
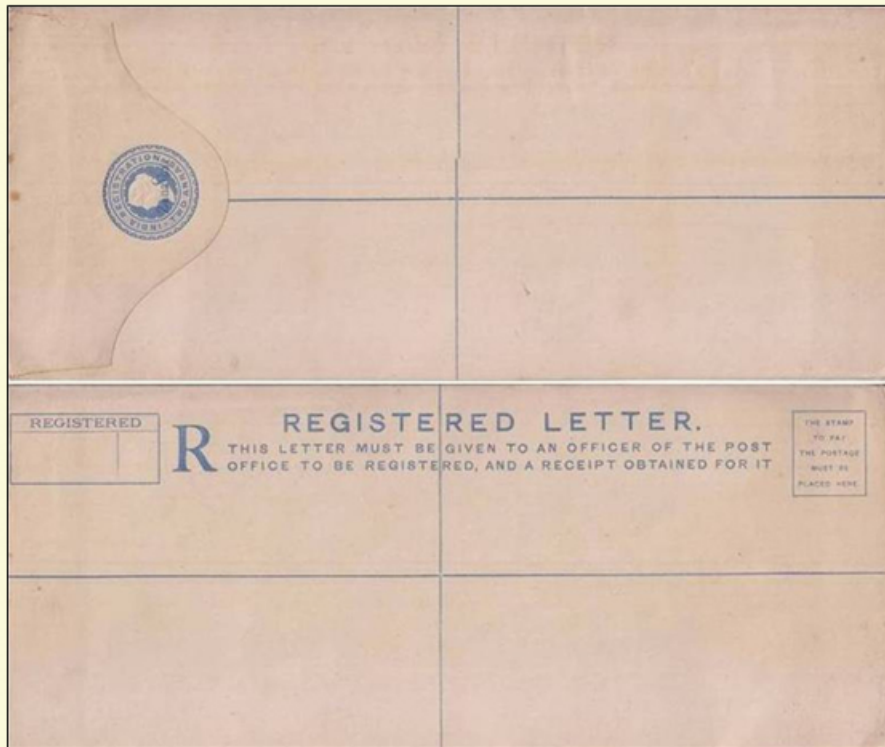






## Zanzibar Overprinted Envelopes

As with stamps and fiscals, postal stationery too were overprinted for use in Zanzibar and were covered in detail by George T Krieger in his article Zanzibar-Overprinted Postal Stationery of India 1896-6, feely available on the net. A few Victorian envelopes from Zanzibar are illustrated.





## Indian Postal Stationery Envelopes Overprinted “British East Africa”

The inventory of stamps and postal stationery held by the Indian post office in Zanzibar was turned over to the Zanzibar authorities when the control of the post office was passed on to Sultan’s Government of Zanzibar on 10 November 1895. An additional quantity was delivered in April 1896. Thomas E.C. Remington, Postmaster General of both Zanzibar and British East Africa, had the Zanzibar Gazette overprint the stationery both “Zanzibar” and “British East Africa”. This covered in detail by George T Krieger in his article Indian Postal Stationery Envelopes Overprinted “British East Africa” , freely available on the net.



Birtish for British Error

## References

1. Allen Mintz, Ed.; Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, Cut Squares and Full Corners of the United States; UPSS, 2001.
2. Derek Lang, A Guide to the Postal Stationery of India (1856-1977) Vol.III: Envelopes, India Study Circle, 1980.
3. Manik Jain, Encyclopedia of Indian Postal Stationery, Philatelia, Kolkata, 1973.
4. Pratisad Neurgaokar, Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947, Published by the author, Pune, January 2009.
5. Edward F Deschl, Indian States Postal Stationery Listing, Published by the author, 1994.
6. George T Krieger, Zanzibar-Overprinted Postal Stationery of India 1895-6, Postal Stationery, No 332, 2003.
7. George T Krieger, Indian Postal Stationery Envelopes Overprinted “British East Africa”.

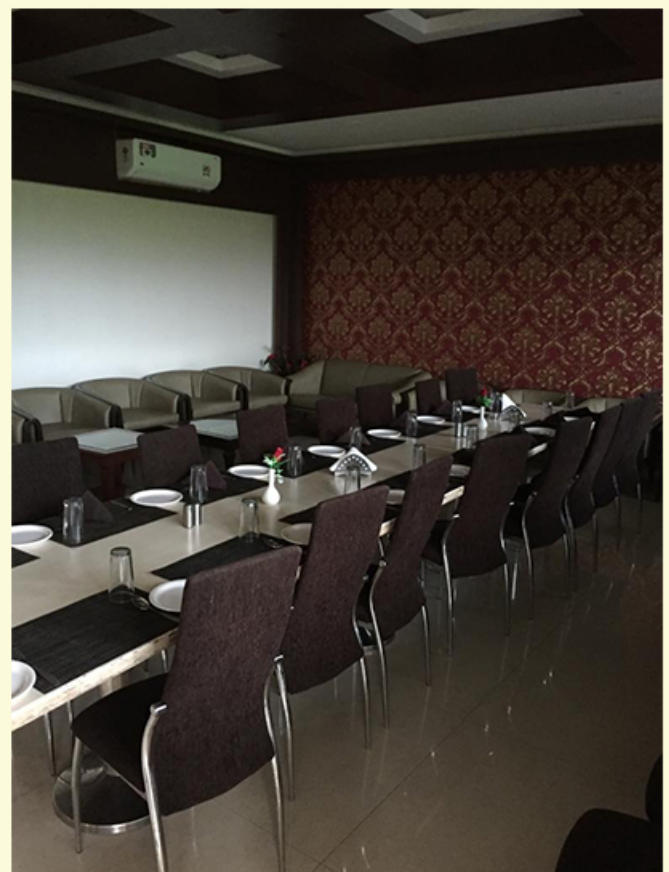




## Monthly Meeting of the Mumbai Coin Society

Dear members,

A Monthly meeting / gathering for members of Mumbai Coin Society has been organised on the 1st Saturday of every month at the family room (1st floor) of Mumbai Police Gymkhana, Marine Drive, 4-7pm. We will be having Lectures / Talks / Workshops on Coins, Banknotes, Stamps. We already had two successful meetings on the 6th Oct & 3rd Nov 2018. The next monthly meeting will be held on 1st Dec. Details of the upcoming meets will be regularly uploaded on MCS Face Book page & Website.





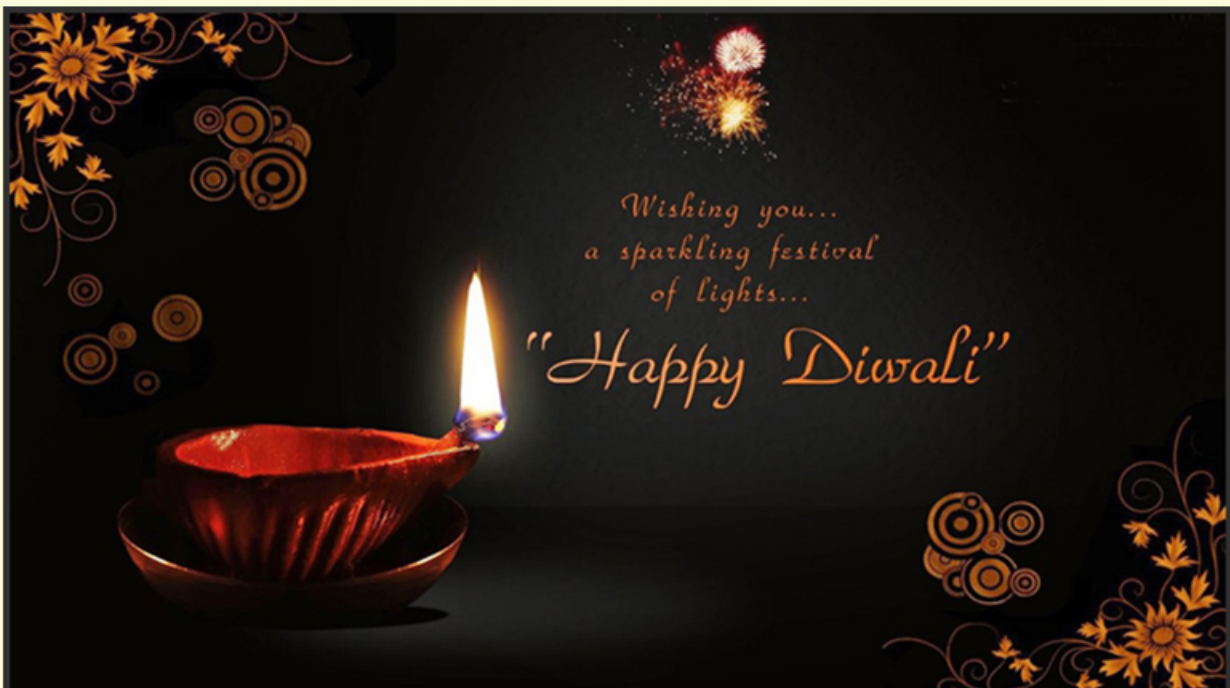


Dear members of the Mumbai Coin Society,  
Wish you all a Very Happy Dhanteras,  
Happy Diwali and a  
Very Happy & Prosperous New Year (Vikram Samvat  
2075)!



**Admin Editor NMCS**

**Amit Surana**





# Events - Exhibitions & Auctions

## Events List 2018-19 (as reported by Prem Peus Kumar)

### **CALPEX - 2018 , Calicut,**

**Date :** Nov - 15, 16 & 17th

**Venue :** Kandamkulam Jubilee Hall India Post - SSP Calicut.

### **Punjab Mudra Utsav**

**Date :** Nov - 16, 17 & 18th

**Venue :** Patiala, Punjab .

**Contact :** Inderjeet - 9914618056

### **Virasat - 2018**

**Date :** Nov - 20, 21 & 22nd

**Venue :** Kala Vithika, Near Railway Station. Gwalior, MP .

**Contact :** 942574555; 7415045455

### **6th Coinex - 2018,Mumbai**

**Date :** Nov - 23, 24 & 25th

**Venue :** Shree Sundarbai Hall, Churchgate (E) Mumbai.

**Contact :** Girish - 9820010483, Sudip - 9833783409,  
Razack - 9820024329

### **Delhi Coins Currency Stamps Paintings Exhibition**

**Date :** Nov - 23 to 29th

**Venue :** All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, Near Central  
Secretariat metro Station, New Delhi

**Contact :** Mukesh Verma - 9717517872

### **Samanwayam - 2018**

**Date :** Dec - 7 & 8th

**Venue :** MES KVM College, Valancheri , Kerala

**Contact :** Ashwin - 9995990666, Siraj - 8891985070

### **International Collector's Society of Rare Items Pune is organizing a 3 Day Grand Exhibition - Coinex-pune-2018**

**Date :** Dec - 13, 14 & 15th

**Venue :** Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune, Maharashtra

**Contact :** Nitin - 9823050050

### **Odipex - 2018**

**Date :** Dec - 15, 16 & 17th

**Venue :** Ravindra Vidya Niketan, Keonjhar, Odisha

**Contact :** D. P. Naik - 9437124058

### **Mudra Utsav - 2018**

**Date :** Dec - 21, 22 & 23rd

**Venue :** Haldiram Banquet Hall, West Bengal , Kolkata

**Contact :** Ravi Sharma - 9051070786, Manish - 7059434383

### **NAGMONEY 2019**

**Date :** 25, 26 & 27 January 2019

**Venue :** Ramgopal Maheshwari Hall, Sitabuldi, Nagpur

**Contact :** Piyush Agarwal 9822220826, Sanjay Misra 9373104980

### **1st National Numismatic Exhibition -2019**

**Date :** Feb - 22, 23 & 24th -2019

**Venue :** Shikshak Sadan, Bengaluru



## FAQs

- **Which articles are accepted and published in the newsletter?**
  - Articles on Coins, Banknotes, Stamps, Medals, Tokens,
  - News about launch of new books, bookings of Republic India UNC & Proof sets,
  - Forgeries,
  - Lost or robbed coins, stamps, banknotes,
  - News about Events: Exhibitions & Auctions in India.
- **How should we send articles or information to NMCS?**
  - Email us at [NewsLetterOfMCS@gmail.com](mailto:NewsLetterOfMCS@gmail.com)
  - cc to [antiqueee@gmail.com](mailto:antiqueee@gmail.com) & bcc to [parthsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:parthsolutions@gmail.com)
  - Subject of the email should be Article for NMCS
  - and please dont forget to mention Authors name right below the heading of the article.
  - images for the article should be in .jpg format only and should not exceed 5MB in size.

**For any more queries you can whats app our Admin editor Amit Surana on 9819381833.**

## Disclaimer

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**Admin Editor: Amit Surana | Newsletter Designed By: Upendra Salvi, Parth Solutions**