

THE KING OF HOBBIES!

• Shobana

"If we are engaged in good hobbies like stamp collection, we are almost off from all the bad habits" says Rajesh, an avid stamp collector who has been collecting it from the age of 6. He has taken some new dimensions in collecting some rare stamps and coins.

He talks about his collections and gives some valuable tips. There are two specialties in his stamp collections. "I have more than 600 stamps with pictures of Gandhi from 100 countries. I have also collected stamps and autographs from the cricketers all over the world" he says with great enthusiasm.

When it comes to coins, his collections range from Chandragupta's coins to today's 1000 rupees note. Some are 2000 years old coins.

One of them is the smallest gold coin. All of his collections are rightly preserved in a way that they will last for decades and centuries.

He also says that, "Stamp collecting has been around for over 160 years. It's a great way to learn about history and past events. Collectors naturally learn about other countries as they save stamps from old letters from all over the world."

Tips to start up your collections:

1. Make a list of stamps from different themes that you would enjoy collecting. For example, some people like to collect stamps from foreign countries and some like to collect stamps of previous rulers, kings & queens.
2. Go to the post office and purchase new stamps or else start up from your old letters and envelopes.
3. Ask friends and family for their old stamps. Their saved envelopes also can be valuable.
4. The next step is preserving it. The easiest way to do this is to simply cut out the stamp from the document and fix it in order in your album. Maintain neat album and keep it in a safer place.
5. Joining in Indian Philately by opening an account makes the job easy to get updated on the new issues of stamps and upcoming events / exhibitions.
6. Moreover, by attending / participating in the exhibitions, we can get good contacts with stamp collectors / vendors which will be really help collecting thematic stamps to a great extend.



Photo : Girija