

For CMAT Exam

COINS IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL INDIA

Introduction

- Coin made up of the latin word “Cuneus”
- First coin used in china in 700 BC
- In india coins used in 600 BC
- Study of coins and medallion is called as Numismatics



Punch Marked Coins



Karshapana



Magadha Coins



Indo Greek Coins



Gupta Coins



Rupee Of Sher Shah Suri

Punch Mark coins

- Earliest coins and made using die struck technique with 1 side minted
- Five marks used that why called as Punch mark coins
- Panini Ashtadhyayi mention about these coins
- Each coin is called as Ratti weighting 0.11 grams

Classification of Punch marks coins

1. Punch mark coin issued during 6th century BC
 - Issued during Mahajanapada period
 - Called as purana, karshapana or Pana
 - Coins were of irregular shape and standard weight

- Made up of silver
 - Maghda coins were most famous and widely circulated
 - Mention in Manusmriti and buddhist literature
2. Punch mark coin issued during Mauryan period
- Chanakya'S Arthashastra mention about minting of various coins
 - Rupyarupa(Silver),Savarnrupa(Gold),Tamrarupa(Copper) and Sisarupa(Lead)
 - Sun and Six armed wheel were most important symbols
 - Weight of 50-54 grains of silver called as Karshapana

Indo Greek Coins

- Started showing bust head of the king on the coins
- Greek and pali(Kharosthi script) Language used
- Greek gods like Apollo,zeus,hercules were shown
- Later Indian deities were also shown
- Made up of Silver,gold and copper also
- Carried date,monarch name ,portrait also
- Kaniska issued with helmet wore head of king on one side and greek god on other side

Satavahana Coins

- Coins made up of mostly lead
- Silver as well as Potin (copper +silver) material used
- Devoid of any Artistic beauty
- On the one side figure of elephants,horse,lion and chaitya
- Other side had Ujjain symbol
- Language used in Prakrit

Indo Scythians Coins

- Saka ruled over gujarat,kathiawar and malwa region
- Coins issued had dates in saka era (78 AD)
- On One side ,Head of the king and Buddha chaitya on the other side
- Language used was prakrit

Gupta Period Coins

- Large scale gold coin issued
 - Silver coins were also issued after chandragupta II
- On one side of the coin---
- ❖ King playing veena,standing before Altar,Performing Ashvmedha
 - ❖ Hunting horse and elephants,slaying a lion or tiger
- On the other side of the coin----

- ❖ Image of goddess lakshmi, Lotus flower
- ❖ Image of queen herself also there
- Language used was Sanskrit in Brahmi Script
- Gupta rulers showed religious affiliation, leisurely activities and social activities also

Vardhana Coins

- Harshavardhana the most powerful ruler ruled from 606 AD
- Silver coins issued
- On one side ,head of the ruler and peacock on the other side
- Dates on coins mentioned is 606 AD started as Harsha Era

Chalukyan coins

- Ruled over karnataka in 6-7th century AD
- Westran chalukyan issued coins with Temple, lion or legends on one side
- Other side left blank
- Eastran chalukyan issued coins with boar on one side and blank other side

Rajput coins

- Issued during 11-12th century AD
- Mostly made up of Gold, copper and billion (silver +copper)
- Name of the king on one side and goddess on other side
- While gandhara coins had sitting bull on one side and horse on the other side

Pandyan coins

- Square shape coins
- Elephant image was used in early times
- Later ,Fish Was used at large scale
- Gold and silver coins had inscription in sanskrit
- Copper coins had inscription in Tamil

Chola coins

- Raja raja 1 issued coins with standing king on one side
- Seated goddess on other side
- Sanskrit language used
- Tiger and fish emblem used
- Rajendra issued coins with Gangaikonda cholapuram inscribe on the coins

Turkish and delhi sultanate coins

- Coin had name of the king ,date as per Hijiri calendar
- No kings image was used due to ban on idolatry
- Gold, silver and copper coins issued
- Illtutmish introduced Silver tanka and copper jital
- Muhammad bin tughlaq issued copper and bronze coins

- Shar shah suri launched Rupee and dam in standard of 178 and 330 grain of weight

Vijayanagara coins

- Issued in 14-16th century AD
- Issued large quantity of Gold ,pure silver coins

Types of vijayanagara coins

- ❖ Pagoda Means Higher denomination –figure of running warrior along with dagger symbol
- ❖ Gold fanams - fractional units
- ❖ Silver taras - fractional units
- ❖ Copper coins - day to day transactions.
- Language used was kannada
- Figure of eagle and elephants was used

Mughal coins

- Called as Mohar and made up of Gold with 170-175 grain weight
- Mohur was equivalent to 9 rupees as mentioned in Ain-e-akbari
- Silver coin was also issued
- Akbar issued both round and square coins
- In 1579, issued Illahi Coins to spread religious message of Din-i- illahi
- On illahi coins “god is great and may his glory be glorified” was written
- Sahansah was the largest coin
- Jahangir added couplets and his wife noor jahan also
- Most famous coins are of Zodiac sign

Important Facts

- Coin mention in veda called as Nishaka
- Sher shah suri launched silver rupiya
- Money tree was used to store their values
- Shivaji issued Gold huns and copper Shivrai
- Wodeyar dynasty issue coins with narasimha image