

IMAGES THROUGH A THEODOLITE

Magnificent palaces of Rajputs, great jewels of the Nizams of Hyderabad, princely sums for a regal canine wedding (such as done by the King of Saurashtra, paying 30,000 rupees back in the 1930's) — these are what we usually associate with princes of pre-partition Indian States.

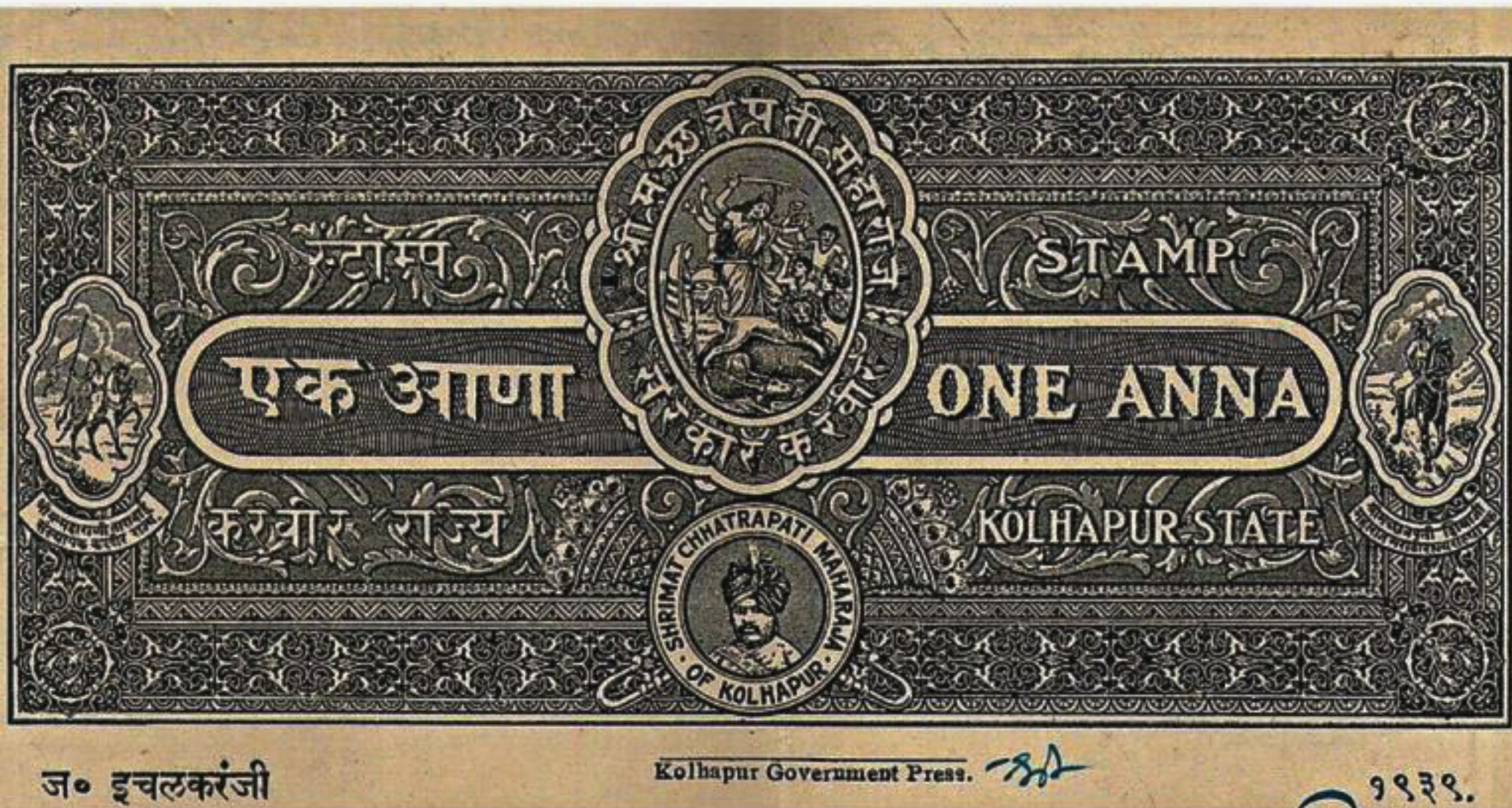


IMAGE: EBAY



Reverence with a DIFFERENCE

For millennia, the Subcontinent was ruled by empires, and yet, at any given time, much of the land was under the supervision of viceroys, quasi-rulers, and as was the case in Bengal, Zamindars.

The East India Company faced initial resistance, but under the Crown, colonial grip on this region was strengthened and any major opposition dealt with iron hands. And at this point, where the rulers faced a bleak future if not complete annihilation of their wealth and status, the British made an offer they could not refuse! As long as they agreed to remain as subservient under the colonial government, they would be allowed to continue having royal privileges.

Important wealthier states were handed state emblems, the petite and the powerless were allowed to design one of their own. As signs of sovereignty, some were permitted

to mint coins; others issued postage stamps. An arrangement was also made for them to exercise relative power by means of operating courts and a judicial system. This meant paperwork, and lots of it. We now find endless remnants of that era.

And this is where the rulers got creative!

Some put their regal portraits; for others, it was the state emblem; some gave contracts to European printers, while others issued doodle-like images of malnourished lions.

And then there were the ones with religious iconography. Goddess Durga annihilating Mahishashur with her trident; Ma on her feline ride. There was even a version of Durga killing a German soldier — an image on stamps issued to collect tax for World War II.

The religious vignettes do not stop there— Vishnu standing on a bed of lotus and carrying the ubiq-

uitous conch shell in one of his four hands. Ganesh in his myriad forms; even Hanuman the ardent follower of Lord Krishna, carrying the sun!

At the time, when India became independent, there were over 600 states. Students of history and society of pre-partition India keenly study such material as they not only reveal the politics of the period, but also the social history.

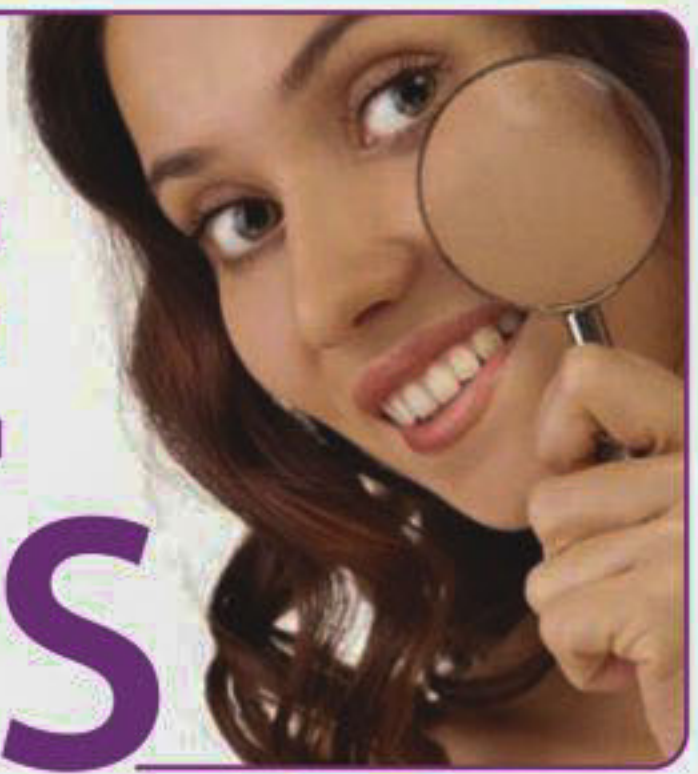
The people of this land have been shaped by a range of languages, religions and traditions. It is what defines us. While certain sources want to preach that it is religion that separates people, others can equally argue that it is faith that binds us all.

By Mannan Mashhur Zarif

Special thanks to Jiri Cerny of the Czech Republic, an ardent collector and researcher of Indian State revenue stamps for providing the images.



TREATING ACNE SCARS



Acne is not life-threatening but can cause long term physical and emotional scarring. Scars from acne can seem like double punishment — first you had to deal with the pimples, now you have marks as a reminder.

Nearly half of all adults experience mild to moderate acne. Acne lesions or pimples happen when the hair follicles or pores on the skin become plugged with oil and dead skin cells. A plugged follicle is the perfect



place for bacteria to grow and create the red bumps and pus-filled red bumps known as pimples. These may or may not contribute visible scarring.

Most serious scarring is caused by the more severe forms of acne, with nodules more likely to leave permanent scars than other types.

The best approach is to get treatment for acne soon after it appears to prevent further severe acne and more scarring. Specially if you have nodules, it is better to consult dermatologist as soon as possible for treatment.

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR ACNE SCARS MILD VS. SEVERE SCARRING

Treatments depend on how severe the scars are. With advancement of medical science, a Chemical peel or LASER or Microdermabrasion is more suggested by the Dermatologists to help improve the appearance of scarred areas. These milder treatments can be done right in the clinic. If the scarring is difficult and too old with punched out appearance, the following advanced treatment may give better result:



- Fractional Laser Resurfacing
- PRP : Platelet rich plasma
- Fillers
- Surgical Scar Revision

One thing you shouldn't do to deal with acne scars is load up your face with masks or fancy lotions — these doesn't help. If you are really bothered, better to consult a Dermatologist who practices medical grade aesthetic treatments.



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