

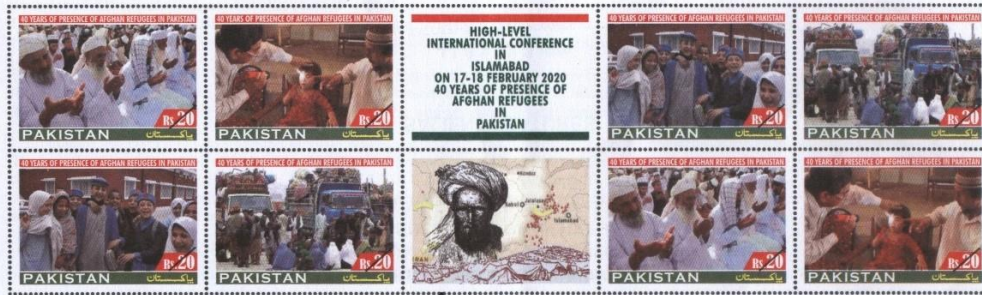
**FIRST DAY ISSUE**



**40 YEARS OF PRESENCE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN**

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**HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD ON 17-18 FEBRUARY 2020**  
**17-02-2020**  
**PHILATELIC BUREAU KARACHI**

**HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD  
ON 17-18 FEBRUARY 2020  
40 YEARS OF PRESENCE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN  
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS  
February 17, 2020**



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**SALIENT FEATURES**

- Size of Stamp : 44.6 x 32.3 mm
- Size of Print : 40.6 x 28.3 mm
- Number of Stamps  
in a sheet : 5 x 4 = 20 Stamps
- Perforation : 13 C
- Denomination : Rs. 20/- each
- Colours : CMYK
- Printing Technology : Lithography (Offset )
- Paper : 100 GSM W/M Gummed Paper
- Gum : PVA
- Quantity : 0.1 Million (One Lac each Stamps)
- Designer : Khalid Nawaz
- Printer : National Security Printing Company Karachi.

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**1. Background and context:**

In 2019, the international community marked 40 years since the beginning of the Afghan displacement. Entering the fifth decade of their uprooting, Afghan refugees are the second largest refugee population in the world and largest protracted displacement situation under UNHCR's mandate.

While millions of Afghans returned to Afghanistan over the years, there have also been waves of displacement and migration to neighbouring countries and beyond. Although Afghan refugees are dispersed across more than 80 countries, nearly 90 per cent of them continue to be hosted by just two countries: the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran. With over 1.4 million Afghan refugees and a similar number of other groups of Afghan nationals residing on its territory, Pakistan remains the world's largest host country of Afghan refugees (and the second largest refugee hosting country worldwide).

Despite immense pressure on its infrastructure and national public service delivery systems for the past four decades, associated with the protracted presence of millions of refugees, Pakistan continues to generously host these refugees and uphold the principles of international refugee protection. The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme, initiated and spearheaded by the Government of Pakistan in 2009, has benefitted more than 12.4 million individuals, including both Afghan refugees and their Pakistani host communities.

The Government also remains committed to actively promoting solutions to the problem of displacement with the Government of Afghanistan and other stakeholders. The Government of Afghanistan, meanwhile, has identified the return of refugees and other nationals as one of its key priorities, reflected the reintegration needs in its national development plans and processes, and identified "priority areas of return and reintegration" (PARRs).

The international community has supported these efforts, including through investments in the implementation of the multi-year regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). The SSAR focuses on voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan and support for host communities among its principal elements. A dedicated SSAR Support Platform will be launched in December 2019, in line with the overarching objective of the Global Compact on Refugees, to operationalize international burden- and responsibility-sharing, including by creating new partnerships and better leveraging the existing ones for coherent and sustainable humanitarian and development responses.

2019 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Afghan refugee situation, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAHA programme. These significant milestones provide a unique and timely opportunity for the international community to recognize the immense contributions made by Pakistan to the refugee cause; to reflect and capitalize on the achievements and lessons learned thus far; and to explore opportunities for forging a new solidarity approach for the Islamic Republics of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, building on the outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum and the launch of the SSAR Support.

**2. Objectives of the Conference**

Against this background, the Government of Pakistan, with the support of UNHCR, is convening an international conference that will seek to bring together high-level representatives of the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and the international community with a view to:

- (i) Highlighting the generosity, hospitality and compassion of the Islamic Republics of Pakistan as Iran, as well as other countries that have hosted one of the largest refugee populations in the world for four decades;
- (ii) Galvanizing greater support to establish conditions for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration of refugees in Afghanistan, and increased international burden- and responsibility-sharing with host countries, in line with the SSAR and the Global Compact on Refugees; and
- (iii) Mobilizing engagement of a broader and more diverse base of stakeholders through the SSAR Support Platform and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, with a view to leveraging humanitarian and development interventions to ease the pressure on host countries and create conditions conducive to return in Afghanistan.

**3. Outcomes of the Conference**

The Conference will produce recommendations, captured in a chairperson's summary, which will inform the SSAR Support Platform and complement the outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum and its follow-up processes.

**4. Format of the Conference**

The conference will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and be held over two days, consisting of a high-level opening segment, two ministerial roundtables, a ministerial panel and other panel discussions.

On the occasion of High-level International Conference in Islamabad on 17-18 February 2020, To mark 40 Years of Presence of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan, Pakistan Post is issuing the Commemorative Postage Stamps of Rs 20/- denomination each (Set of Stamps).

**TERMS OF SALE**

The Commemorative Postage Stamps will be available for sale from February 17, 2020. at all important Post Offices in the country.

Overseas orders for Stamps, First Day of Issue Covers and Leaflets should be addressed to the Manager, Philatelic Bureau, Karachi G.P.O. or Manager, National Philatelic Bureau, Islamabad G.P.O. accompanied by the Bank Draft or Crossed Cheque encashable in Pakistan.

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