

**ABDUR RAHMAN CHUGHTAI**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
(1894-1975)



**FIRST DAY OF ISSUE**



PAKISTAN POST

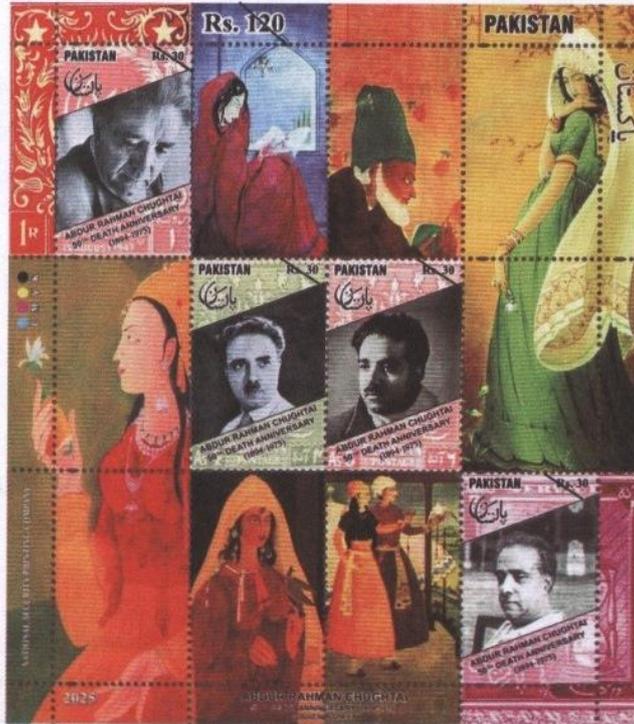
پاکستان پوسٹ

2025-03

**ABDUR RAHMAN CHUGHTAI (1894 - 1975)  
50<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR SHEET  
JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**SALIENT FEATURES**

Size of Souvenir Sheet	:	165 x 190 mm
Size of Print	:	165 x 190 mm
Size of Stamp	:	35 x 56 mm
Denomination	:	Rs. 120/-
Colours	:	CMYK
Perforation	:	13c (elliptical)
Printing Technology	:	Lithography (Offset)
Format	:	Rectangle
Paper	:	100 GSM W/M Gummed Paper
Gum	:	PVA
Quantity	:	10,000
Designer	:	Abu Obaidah Ayyaz and Hasnain Mahmud
Printer	:	National Security Printing Company, Karachi.



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Abdur Rahman Chughtai (21 September 1894 - 17 January 1975) was a painter, artist, and an intellectual from Pakistan, who created his own unique, distinctive painting style influenced by a variety of sources that included traditional miniature, Mughal, Art Nouveau, Orientalist, and Islamic styles of painting. Chughtai's best-known paintings are his portraits, featuring their subjects existing in a flattened pictorial space painted in rich golds and pastels, and populated by metaphorical signifiers. Chughtai was lauded as one of the most important Muslim artists of the early 20th century and is considered to be the first significant modern artist from Pakistan and the national artist of Pakistan. Apart from paintings, Chughtai has the unique honour to be the designer of the official logos of Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television and also one of the values of first Pakistan stamp set issued on 9 July 1948 to commemorate Pakistan's first independence anniversary. On Pakistan's Independence Day in 1951, he produced a set of 9 stamps, better known as 'Chughtai Art set'. At that time, this set was considered as the most beautiful stamps of the world. He went on to achieve widespread attention and honour for his work and was given the title of Khan Bahadur in 1934, awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Crescent of Excellence) in 1960, and the Presidential medal for Pride of Performance in 1968.

In the 1920s, Chughtai created large watercolours in a modified Bengal-school style. By the 1940s his painting style was influenced by Mughal architecture, Islamic calligraphy, miniature painting and Art Nouveau. His diverse subject matter by now included heroes and heroines from Islamic history, Mughal kings and queens, and episodes from Punjabi, Persian, and Indo-Islamic legends and folktales. Throughout his six-decade career, Chughtai produced over 2000 watercolour paintings, countless pencil sketches, and nearly 300 etchings and aquatints. His work, characterized by its delicate yet powerful use of line and

colour, reflected his deep connection to his heritage while also introducing modern elements. As a versatile artist, he also designed stamps, coins, insignia, and book covers. Some of his famous books include Muraqqai-i-Chughtai (1928), Naqsh-i-Chughtai (1935) and Amal-i-Chughtai (1960). The Muraqqai-Chughtai which is chiefly an illustrated version of Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib's Diwan-e-Ghalib, in which side by side with some selected couplets, Chughtai produced their artistic renditions in the form of watercolour illustrations. With a foreword by Sir Muhammad Allama Iqbal, it is regarded as the most significant work of Chughtai's career and in its time, was considered the finest achievement in book production in the country.

Chughtai's works are displayed at President House Islamabad, Governors' Houses in Lahore and Karachi, the British Museums - Victoria and Albert, Peace Palace Hague, United Nations Headquarters New York, Kennedy Memorial Boston, US State Department Washington D.C., President's House Bonn, Queen Juliana's Palace Netherlands, Emperor's Palace Bangkok, Andhra Pradesh State Archaeology Museum and the National Art Gallery, Islamabad. Many of his works are at the Chughtai Museum Trust in Lahore.

As an apt tribute to the maestro, each stamp incorporated in the souvenir sheet figures a distinct inscription of Pakistan in Urdu crafted by Abdur Rahman Chughtai on Pakistan's first stamp set issued in 1948. Furthermore, all stamps on the souvenir sheet have backgrounds of a different Pakistan stamp designed by Abdur Rahman Chughtai which are as following (top to bottom):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary - 1948 (1 Rupee)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary - 1951 (4 Annas)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary - 1951 (6 Annas)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary - 1951 (3 Annas, Service)

Following paintings of Abdur Rahman Chughtai have been used in this souvenir sheet (clockwise):

- Princess by the Terrace
- Portrait of Ghalib (from Muraqqa-i-Chughtai)
- Doe-Eyed Beauty
- Noor Jehan and Jahangir
- Lady with Bulbul (from Muraqqa-i-Chughtai)
- The Mughal Princess

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Abdur Rahman Chughtai, a Commemorative Souvenir Sheet of Rs. 120/- denomination is being issued by Pakistan Post on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **TERMS OF SALE**

The Commemorative Souvenir Sheets will be available for sale from January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at all important Post Offices in the country.

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

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