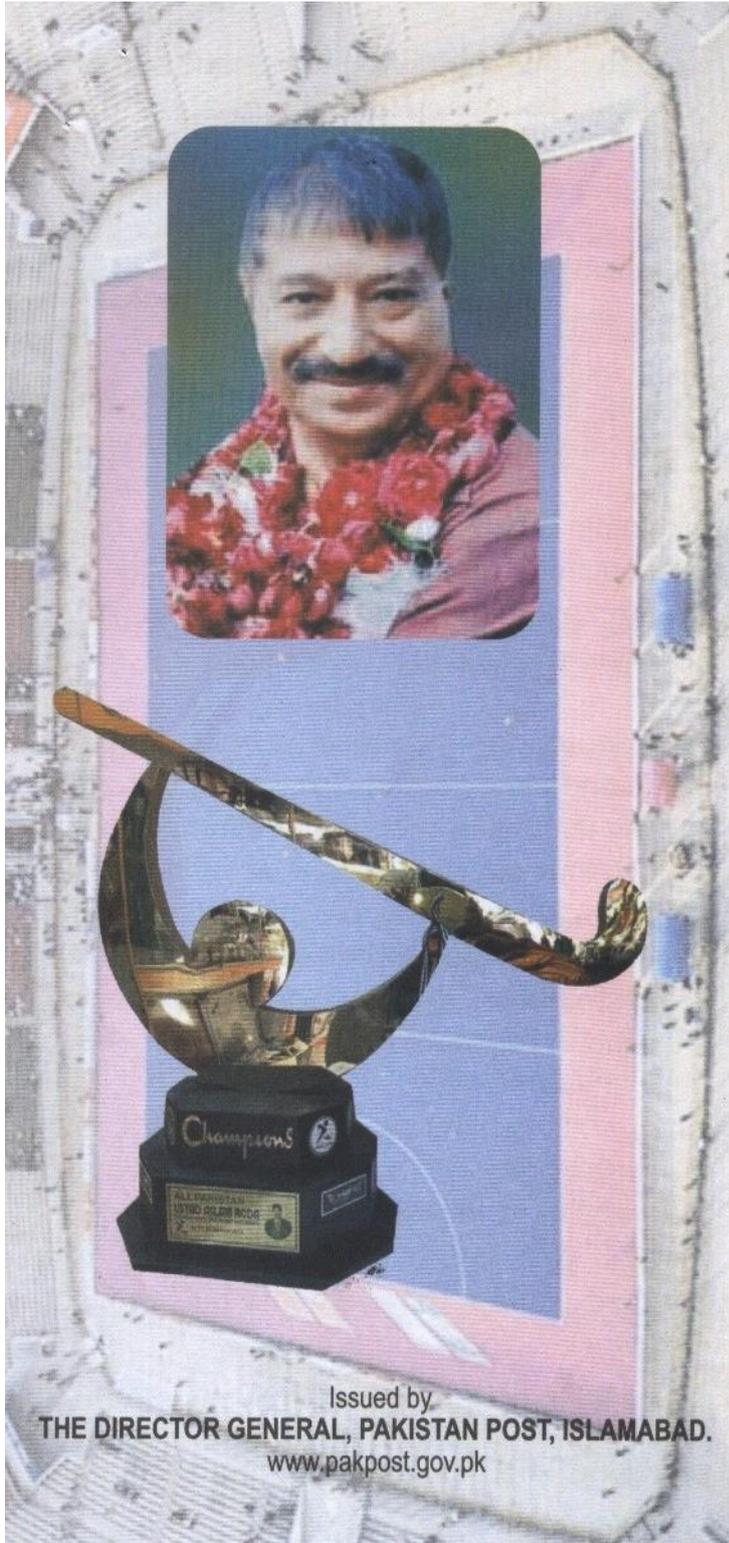


USTAD ASLAM RODA

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



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Denomination : Rs. 50/-  
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Printing Technology : Lithography (Offset)  
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Paper : 100 GSM W/M Gummed Paper  
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**USTAD ASLAM RODA**  
**COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP**  
**MAY 16, 2025**

**Ustad Aslam Roda:**

A Legendary Hockey Coach and Master Builder of Champions

Ustad Aslam Roda left an indelible mark on Pakistani hockey, etching his name in the annals of the sport's history. His remarkable journey, dedicated to hockey from his youth until his last breath, transformed the lives of countless individuals and elevated Gojra to unprecedented heights.

In the history of sports, no other small town has produced as many players as Gojra, a testament to Roda's tireless efforts and dedication. Born on October 1, 1945, in Amritsar, Roda's family migrated to Pakistan and settled in Gojra.

Roda was himself a Pakistani international hockey player before becoming a renowned coach who brought about transformative change. His playing experience and expertise laid the foundation for his future success as a coach.

Roda's coaching legacy began with a passion to give back to his community. His contributions to hockey are unparalleled,

producing over 100 international and national players.

Notable players include Tahir Zaman, Shahbaz Ahmed Jr., and Irfan Mehmood, all Pride of Performance Award winners, 1994 World Cup winners, and Olympic medalists.

Through hockey Roda transformed the lives of over 350 families living below the poverty line and empowering them to achieve economic stability and prosperity. Through his coaching, he provided opportunities for young players to secure scholarships, jobs, and international recognition.

A pioneer for women's hockey, Roda established and trained Gojra's first women's hockey team. It is still another example of his paving the way for female athletes in the region and producing several international players. This groundbreaking initiative not only promoted gender equality but also challenged societal norms.

Under his guidance, Gojra earned the prestigious title of "Olympic Hockey Village," recognizing its impressive hockey record, as noted by the BBC. This distinction not only honored Roda's achievements but also put Gojra on the global sports map.

Roda's coaching philosophy emphasized discipline, hard work, and teamwork. He

instilled in his players a strong sense of national pride, responsibility, and sportsmanship. His training methods, though unconventional, yielded remarkable results, earning him respect and admiration from peers and players alike. Roda's legacy extends beyond his coaching accomplishments. He played a crucial role in promoting hockey infrastructure development in Gojra, advocating for better facilities and resources for young players.

Ustad Aslam Roda passed away on January 21, 2013, leaving behind a legacy of selfless service. His demise was mourned by the entire nation, with tributes pouring in from the hockey community and beyond.

Today, Roda's legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched and the hockey academy he founded. His story serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us that dedication, passion, and selflessness can transform communities and shape the future of sports.

The town of Gojra remains eternally grateful to Ustad Aslam Roda, who transformed its sports landscape and put Pakistan on the global hockey map. His legacy serves as a testament to the power of sports to unite, inspire, and uplift communities. He was a legend.

In recognition of the outstanding contributions of Ustad Aslam Roda to the development of hockey in Pakistan, both as a distinguished player and a dedicated coach, Pakistan Post is issuing a commemorative postage stamp of Rs. 50/- denomination on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. His efforts in nurturing talent and promoting the national sport have left a lasting legacy in the history of Pakistani hockey.

#### **TERMS OF SALE**

This Commemorative Postage Stamp will be available for sale from 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 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 GPO or Manager, National Philatelic Bureau, Islamabad GPO, accompanied by a Bank Draft or Crossed Cheque encashable in Pakistan.