

2025-13

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
GLACIERS' PRESERVATION - 2025
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS
& SOUVENIR SHEETS
MAY 9th, 2025**

SALIENT FEATURES

Size of Stamp : 35 x 50.5 mm

Size of Print : 35 x 50.5 mm

Number of Stamps

in a Sheet : 4 x 6 =24 stamps (set of 6 Stamps)

Perforation : 13 C

Denomination : Rs.30/-

Size of Souvenir Sheet : 4.5 X 3 Inches

Denomination of Souvenir

Sheet : Rs. 30/-

Colours : CMYK

Printing Technology : Lithography Offset

Paper : 100 GSM Water Mark

Gummed Paper

Gum : PVA

Quantity of Stamps : 2,01,600 stamps

(Two Lac one thousand six hundred)

Quantity of Souvenir Sheet : 15,000 each

Designer : Abu Obaidah Ayyaz &

Hasnain Mahmud

Printer : National Security Printing

Company, Karachi

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The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/77/158 dated 14 December 2022 declared **2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation**. Purpose of this initiative is to raise awareness on the vital role glaciers, snow, and ice play in the climate system and water cycle, as well as the far-reaching impacts of rapid glacial melt. Aim is to highlight the urgent need to protect glaciers from the rapid melting caused by climate change, which impacts freshwater access to over 2 billion people worldwide. This commemoration aims to mobilize international action to address the challenges posed by glacier loss and promote sustainable practices to preserve them.

Around **70% of the global freshwater** is stored in glaciers and ice sheets, however these ice formations are rapidly retreating due to climate disruption. Preserving these crucial resources is essential for environmental sustainability, economic stability and safeguarding cultures and livelihoods. Glaciers supply freshwater to over half of humanity. As they retreat, they are altering water availability and quality downstream, with implications for aquatic ecosystems and sectors including agriculture and hydropower. This is accompanied by a short-term in landslides, avalanches, floods and droughts, as well as a long-term threat to the security of water supplies for billions of people.

Outside the polar region, **Pakistan is the country with the highest number of glaciers in the world**. However, climate change has significantly contributed to the rapid melting of these glaciers. The melting of glaciers in Pakistan has several adverse effects on the country's economy, including **water scarcity**, reduced agricultural productivity, and increased natural disasters. According to a report by the World Bank, Pakistan is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world, and the rapid melting of glaciers is exacerbating this issue. It is estimated that Pakistan's water supply will fall below the minimum threshold of 1,000 cubic meters per person per year by 2025, leading to increased water scarcity and reduced agricultural productivity.

The melting of glaciers is also causing an **increase in natural disasters** such as floods, landslides and glacial lake outburst floods. In recent years, Pakistan has experienced several devastating floods, which have caused significant damage to economy, infrastructure and livelihoods. **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood** is another danger which refers to a sudden and catastrophic release of water from a glacial lake, typically caused by the collapse of a natural dam formed by ice or debris, or by a

sudden rise in water levels due to melting glaciers. These floods can result in severe downstream flooding, often causing significant damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and human lives. Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) are a significant concern in Pakistan, particularly in its northern regions, where numerous glaciers exist in the mountain ranges of Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and Himalayas. Pakistan's vulnerability to glacial lake outburst floods is likely to increase as the effects of climate change worsen.

The reduced availability of freshwater due to glacier melting is also affecting Pakistan's hydropower generation, which accounts for approximately 29% of the country's electricity production. According to a report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the melting of glaciers will lead to a significant **reduction in hydropower generation** in the country, which will have adverse effects on Pakistan's economy.

It is feared that **two-thirds (68%) of World's Glaciers are set to disappear by 2100** under current global warming scenario. The melting of glaciers in Pakistan is not just a local problem but a global one that requires immediate action. Failure to address this issue will not only harm Pakistan's economy and water security but also have wider implications for the region and the world. There are over **7,000 glaciers in Pakistan** and together these form the most amount of ice outside the polar regions. The glaciers shown on the stamps of this issue are as below:

1. **Siachen Glacier.** 76 km (47 mi) long, Siachen is the longest glacier in the Karakoram and second-longest in the world's non-polar areas at an altitude of 5,753 m (18,875 ft). "Sia" in the Balti language refers to the rose family plant widely dispersed in the region. "Chen" refers to any object found in abundance. Thus, the name Siachen refers to a land with an abundance of roses. The glacier's melting waters are the main source of the Shyok River. The Shyok in turn joins the 3000-kilometre-long Indus River which flows through the length of Pakistan. Thus, the glacier is a major source of the Indus and feeds the largest irrigation system in the world.
2. **Biafo Glacier.** Measuring 67 km (42 mi) in length, Biafo is the third-longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas at an altitude of 5,128 metres (16,824 ft). Snow Lake (shown on stamp), consisting of parts of the upper Biafo Glacier and its tributary glacier Sim Gang, is one of the world's largest basins of snow or ice in the world outside the polar regions, up to 1,600 m (0.99 mi) in depth. Evidence of wildlife can be seen on the glacier, including Ibex and Markhor. Although sightings are rare, the area is also known for Himalayan brown bears and snow leopards.

3. **Baltoro Glacier.** 63 km (39 mi) in length, Baltoro is the fifth-longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas. K2 (shown on stamp), the second-highest mountain in the world, stands at the southern end of the Baltoro Glacier, making the glacier an essential route for climbers attempting to summit K2. The confluence of the main Baltoro Glacier with the Godwin-Austen Glacier is known as Concordia; this location and K2 base camp are popular trekking destinations.

Design Elements

- Each stamp and souvenir sheet in the issue as well as the postmark showcases International Year of Glaciers' Preservation logo. The CMYK colour palette has also been illustrated using the logo.
- Pakistan's first Tête-bêche pair: a stamp inverted in relation to the adjoining stamp in a pair.

To commemorate International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, Pakistan Post is issuing a set of six Commemorative Postage Stamps and three Souvenir Sheets of Rs 30/- denomination each on May 9th 2025.

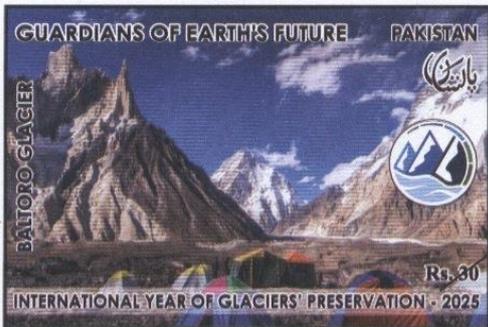
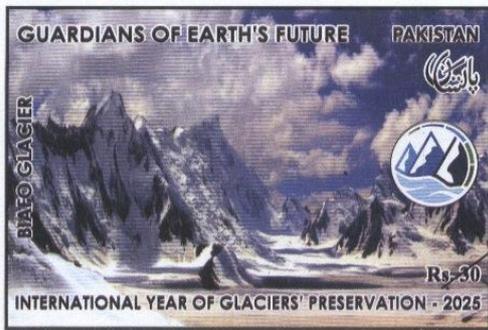
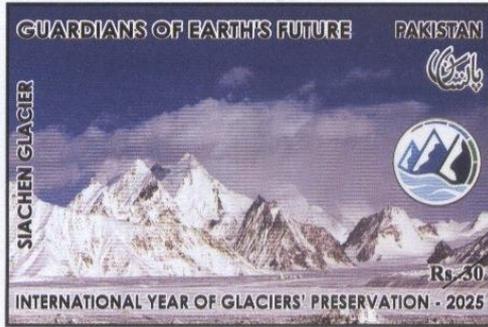
TERMS OF SALE

The Stamps and Souvenir Sheets will be available for sale from May 9th, 2025 at all important Post.

Overseas orders for Commemorative Postage Stamps, First Day 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.

Issued by
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, PAKISTAN POST, ISLAMABAD
www.pakpost.gov.pk

SOUVENIR SHEETS



COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

