Joginder Singh Pandhi and his Ghazal Collection 'Jheel Pinde Te Likhi Behar'

Jang S. Verman

S. Joginder Singh Pandhi, a well known Punjabi poet and fiction writer has contributed in enriching Punjabi literature of J&K state with colourful and flavoured diction reflecting values in life, his philosophical approaches, social issues and Kashmir's natural beauty in his bag of imagery, symbols and metaphors. 'Jheel Pinde Te Likhi Behar'- a collection of Ghazals by Joginder Singh Pandhi (Baramulla, Kashmir) is one more contribution by Pandhi. Published by Highbrow Publications, Bari Brahmana, Jammu, the Ghazal collection 'Jheel Pinde Te Likhi Behar' is dedicated to writer friends of Joginder Singh Pandhi viz. Sumer Singh Mastana, Dr. Gurcharan Singh Gulshan and Kirpal Singh Kasali, who departed many years ago...

Ghazal has been a popular poetry form, having roots in Arabia and Persian. It came into Indian sub-continent during 12th century due to the influence of Sufi mystics and the spread of Islamic Sultanate. It's a typical style of amatory poetry generally with five to fifteen Sheyar (couplets in particular order of syllables), with the lines ending with the same word or group of words (Radeef), preceded by a specific rhyming pattern (Qaafiya). Although every couplet is composed with different thought from that of the other one but it remains an integral part of the main idea/theme or emotion of the Ghazal, with the themes of spiritual and romantic love and separation.

Ghazal writing has a typical style of composing couplets in particular order of syllables, lines ending with the same word or group of words (Radeef), preceded by a rhyming pattern (Qaafiya). The first couplet called 'Matlaa' gives the clues of the thought, content & spirit of the couplets of the Ghazal to follow. Many times the lat couplet includes the 'Takhalus' (the adopted penname of the poet), this couplet, then, is called 'Maqta'. The Ghazal in later periods was written in other languages in the world particularly in Urdu. These days it's adopted in various languages including Kashmiri, Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi etc. in north India among other languages elsewhere.

The literary creations of Pandhi reflect his concern with the humanity and Nature equally. Many writers and intellectuals have reflected on his literary contributions. His novel titled 'Parbatvaasi' (1999) has been popular in the literary circles, for its content that deals with the life of Kashmiri people in the locale context, expressed in local diction and phraseology. His second novel titled 'Maa' (2015) depicts the agony of partition of the country during 1947 when tribal ambushed the area in Kashmir disrupting their peaceful life. The situations happening there have been depicted in detail in a sincere effort.

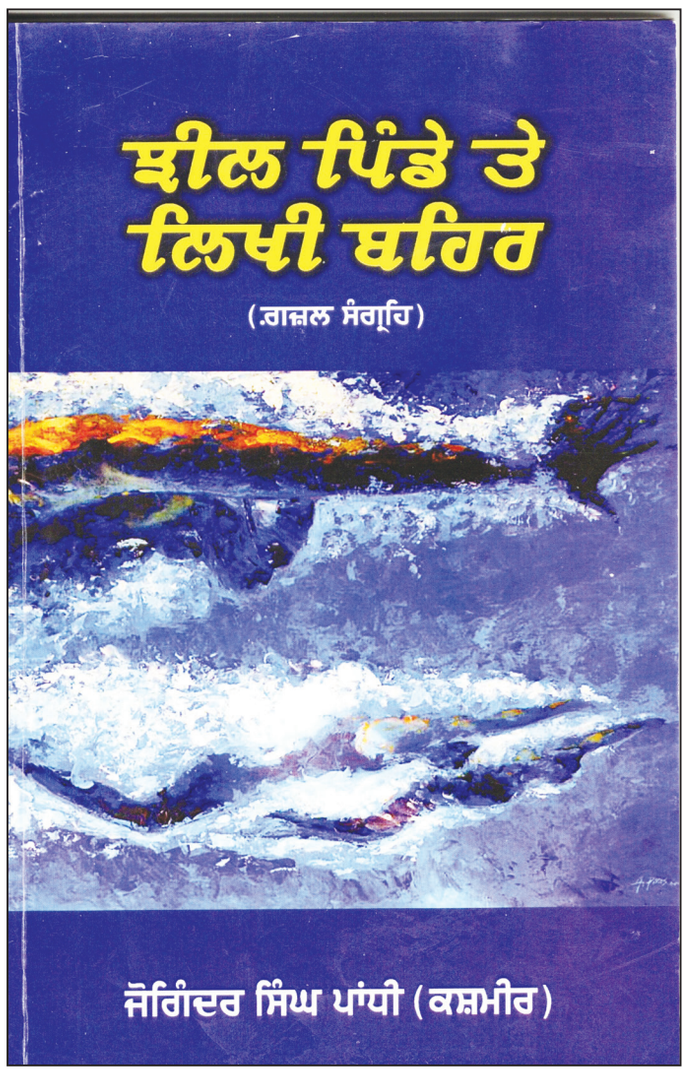
Pandhi has always opted for modern techniques in his writing. He reflects his skill of craftsmanship in all sorts of his writings, though created for creativity purpose or for magazines, papers or radio programmes. While going through his poetry one sees the quality in his works. Some of pieces of his poetry can be referred here as a glimpse of his free verse poetry reflecting his ideology and imagery.



His concern about the need of values, brotherhood, interrelationship of humans, and vegetation, environment and the relationship of humans with environment can be seen spread over his literary works. In one of his poems, he writes: Ped, prindey/ Parbat, Jheelan/ Sab mere/ Bhain- Bhraa/ Dharti maan di/ Kukh ton janme/ Sab rishteydaar/...

Ghazal was so far considered to be a delicate genre of poetry associated with serious concerns of cosmic love, partition and rich in content and symbolism, obeying particular laid down rules of writing a Ghazal but lately the poets discarded the established rules and vision obeyed in writing Ghazal poetry, due to the effect of Progressive, Experimentalism, Modernism and Post Modernis movements taking place in the literary world.

Pandhi opines that the Ghazal is not only concerned with specific issues related to male-female relations, romance, eternal love, partition and concerns related to cosmic powers but it should be concerned with the issues of societal importance, politics, science, environment etc. also.



In his Ghazal writing, he has opted for about eight Behrs (a scale or meter) out of nineteen kinds of Behrs usually used while writing a Ghazal. The eight Behrs used in the book 'Jheel Pinde Te Likhi Behr' include: Behr Ramal; Behr Hajaz; Behr Mutdarik; Behr Mutkarib; Behr Mushakal; Behr Kamil; Behr Khafif; Behr MujariyaBehr Mujtas; and Behr Taveel along with their sub- Behrs.

Various concerns raised in this Ghazal collection are associated with values, situations prevailing in day-to-day life and the environment: Teela teela jorh koyee ghar banaande/ Hatth senkan par kuyee aake jalaande/ Sochaan, kuttey aivein shor pa rakhde, par/ Sutte hoye shehr noon kuyee taan jagaande/... Ghar mere noon dhhah, us rasta bana liya/ Ik ghwaandhh da faraz us edaan nibha liya/... Footpathaan te suttee insaan vekho/ Dhool khakha palde ne armaan vekhe/ Bandh, hadtaalaan, buland naare jaan bhaashan/ Shehr vich jeen de iho samaan vekhe/...

He further writed: Bhal dil patthar chon vi dil bhaalda hai/ Be bafa duniya ton jo na-aasna hai/ Khak chhane khaaban di kujh sochda hai/ Paani vichla aks fadna lochda hai/... Nit janaaje uthh ture is shehr vich/ Rang sabh maatam bhare is shehr vich/ Rul rahi laashan pachhane koyee nahin/ Harek akkh ho annee fire is shehr vich/... Zindgee dishaam te zinda haan main/ Geet gag a ke bulaayo parinda haan main/ Nit naven ih katal ghaarat dus rahe/ Aadmi de bhesh 'ch drinda haan main/... Dor sarhde van virani vekhna/ Dhundh itthe ghar ghar hairani vekhna/ Hosh di khidkee tako hux khol ke/ Ret pairaan heth "Paani " vekhna/...

Love affection and partition are also reflected in his poetry: Charcha usda chhidiya jaaye raat bhar/ Supne vich jo aaye jaye raat bhar/ Chann mira jad badlaan de vas ho giya/ Raahan 'ch main jugnu jagaye raat bhar/... Birha di baraf kinve aan jammee hai palkaan te/ Subah vekhi hi nahin sham dhhali hai palkaan te/ Yaar te hatthaan 'ch ik aisi maseehayee vekhi/ Murda khahsh vi lagge jee uthhi hai palkaan te/... At times, there is a satire in the poetry of Joginder Singh Pandhi, on the prevailing systems in political, religious and societal circles. Hesays: Kise maali ne phir chaman vech ditta/ Kinve leeran leeran badan vech ditta/ Shaheedan de sir te kafan baddhe hoye/ Bane khaak supne kafan vech ditta/... Parizaad mal mal nahane lagee/ Nadi jkoomke gungunaane lagee/ Kaza khoure kis di aani ajj/ Kudi much ton ghunghat uthhane lagi/ Chhupa rakhiya chann uhne bukkal de vich/ Taan hi bindiya jagmagane lagee/ Havas da shikaar ho muhabbat kurhee/ Zamaane ton mukhda chhupaane lagee/... Kinjh hawa 'ch deeva jal riha hai/ Vekho maajra badal riha hai/ Shehr vich lagaye karfew par/ Sadnaa vich fasaad chal riha/...

S. Joginder Singh Pandhi was born in the year 1943 in the family of Sardarni Gopi Kaur and S. Sadhu Singh at Najibhat, a remote village of Baramulla District of Jammu & Kashmir state. Having no school in his village, he had to study up to 9th class at a school in adjoining village Singh Pura. He completed his matriculation from Baramulla. He did his Bachelor's Degree from Saint Joseph College, Baramulla and L. Lb. from Aligarh Muslim University during 1966. He was appointed a Govt. Lawyer in 1967. He retired as Director Prosecution during 2001.

His earlier published books are 'Haddiyan De Khandar' (Poetry collection)- 1975; 'Agg De Jogi' (Poetry collection)- 1982; 'Chourahe Da Udaas Rukh' (Poetry collection)- 1984; 'Parvatvaasi' (Novel)- 1999; 'Sarhde Van Da Sek' (Poetry collection)- 2002; 'Akkhraan De Us Paar' (Poetry collection)- 2003; 'Ghazaala' (Collection of Ghazals)- 2006; 'Meri Kavita' (Select poems)- 2009; 'Chinar Patte Utte Likhi Aayet' (Poetry collection)- 2011; 'Maan' (Novel)- 2015, and the recently published Ghazal collection- 'Jheel Pinde Te Likkhi Behr'- (2024).

Jammu's Mattoo Bros. make a Powerful Bollywood Debut with Film 'Rahu Ketu'

Jang S. Verman

Jammu-based musical duo Mattoo Bros. have marked an impressive entry into Bollywood as music composers and lyricists with the Hindi feature film 'Rahu Ketu'. Their debut project has already begun to attract attention in the industry, especially with the release of the high-energy song 'Dahaad'. The song Dahaad is rendered by legendary playback singer Sukhwinder Singh, whose powerful and soulful voice perfectly complements the intense composition and impactful lyrics created by Mattoo Bros. The collaboration brings together raw energy, emotion, and contemporary sound, making the track a standout in the film.

Movie 'Rahu Ketu' has been released on 16th January, 2026. Music Composer & Lyricist: Mattoo Bros, Singer: Sukhwinder Singh, Production House: Blive Production. The movie 'Rahu Ketu' is written and directed by Vipul Vig, known for his strong storytelling and distinctive cinematic vision, and produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Varsha Kukreja and Suraj Singh. The film boasts an impressive ensemble cast featuring Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Shalini



Pandey, Chunky Pandey, Piyush Mishra, Manu Rishi Chadha and Amit Sial each bringing depth and individuality to the narrative.

Speaking about the project, Mattoo Bros credit the grace of God, and the blessings of their parents. Mattoo Bros extend their heartfelt gratitude to Mahesh Kukreja, owner of Blive Music, for his invaluable support throughout the film. His constant encouragement, trust, and belief in the project played a significant role in bringing the film's music and vision to life, and the support of the film's team for helping them take this significant step in their careers. Working with an iconic singer like Sukhwinder Singh on their very first Bollywood film has been a milestone moment for them.

With Rahu Ketu and the thunderous response to Dahaad, Mattoo Bros have announced their arrival in the Indian film music scene. The industry and audiences alike now look forward to more powerful and soulful compositions from this promising new talent.

For Mattoo Bros, this project is more than just a debut- it represents years of dedication, struggle, and belief in their craft. Coming from Jammu, their journey to the Hindi film industry serves as an inspiration for aspiring artists from smaller cities who dream of making it big in Bollywood.

Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu's Short Story Collection released by JKAACL

Jang S. Verman

Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Jammu organized a book release function at K L Saigal Auditorium Hall, Jammu on 17th January, 2026, for the release of 'Kadmaan De Nishaan', a Punjabi short story collection authored by Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu, an emerging Punjabi writer. The function was graced by Smt. Harbans Kaur Bali as the Chief Guest, while eminent Punjabi writer and novelist Smt. Surinder Kaur Neer presided over the event. A large number of writers, scholars, critics, family members of the author, Punjabi literature lovers including Dr. Baljit Singh Raina, Jang S. Verman, Rattan Singh Kanwal, Kanwal Nain Singh, Balwinder Singh, Gurmej Singh Sandhu, Sangeet Kaur, Amardeep Singh, and Sandeep Kaur, among others.

Welcoming the guests, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote literature, art, and culture by providing meaningful platforms to emerging writers and artists under the able guidance of Smt. Harwinder Kour JKAS, Secretary, JKAACL. He informed that JKAACL is regularly organizing a series of programmes aimed at promoting and preserving the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on literature, art, painting, and languages, thereby enabling artists, scholars, and cultural practitioners to showcase their talent and contribute to the preservation of timeless traditions.



Dr. Parwinder Kaur, Asstt. Prof. Punjabi presented a scholarly paper on the content, literary merits and other elements related to creative pursuits and process of Sharanjeet Kour Sandhu, with reference to her debut short story collection 'Kadmaan De Nishaan'.

It may be mentioned that the released book of 108 pages has eleven short stories as fiction writing, supported by two non-fictional stories of prevailing situation in the present times. The book has been published during 2025, by Tarlochan Publishers, Chandigarh. The book has been dedicated to S. Kanwal Kashmiri, a prominent Punjabi fiction writer of Jammu & Kashmir, and who has written the foreword for the book also.

Senior Editor, Sheeraza, S. Popinder Singh Paras reflected on the book and the author's literary journey in detail, observing that despite being a new entrant, the author's short stories reflect maturity, freshness, and deep social sensitivity. He also appreciated the role of Sh. Kanwal Kashmiri in guiding Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu in writing good stories. While expressing his views on this occasion, Jang S. Verman, a renowned artist, writer and columnist on art & culture, said that he was impressed by her dealing with the characters, plots and craftsmanship in her Punjabi short stories included in the released book. He informed that Smt. Sandhu has acted a major role in a Punjabi feature film also. Dr. Baljit Raina, Dr. Raj Kumar and Shamsher Singh Chouhalvi also expressed their views during the programme.

On the occasion, the author Smt. Sharanjeet Kaur Sandhu read out 'Yateem', one of her short stories, which left a deep impact on the audience. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Academy authorities and the dignitaries for their constant encouragement and support.

In her presidential address, Smt. Surinder Kaur Neer lauded the Academy for its significant initiatives to support upcoming writers and young scholars. She observed that such literary gatherings play a vital role in enriching and sustaining Punjabi literature in the contemporary era. The chief guest Smt. Harbans Kaur Bali congratulated the author on the publication of her book and emphasized the urgent need to write, read, and preserve Punjabi language and literature in the present times. She appreciated JKAACL for organizing such meaningful literary events that encourage writers and strengthen the cultural and literary fabric of society.

The programme was conducted by Senior Editor Popinder Singh Paras, who also presented the vote of thanks.

Brij Mohan conferred 'Top Grade' as Music Composer

Jang S. Verman

Prasar Bharti's Akashvani Jammu has announced that Shri Brij Mohan of Deewan Estate, Mubarak Mandi, Jammu, has been awarded the prestigious 'Top Grade' by the Central Audition Board for Composer in the category of Music Composer (Hindi/Dogri). This honour places him among the most distinguished composers associated with All India Radio and recognizes his outstanding contribution to Indian and regional music.

The upgrading audition, which led to this recognition, featured performances by renowned singers Suraj Singh, Sonali Dogra, Mukteshi Sharma, Ram Lal and Rakesh Kumar. Their soulful renditions of compositions by Sh. Brij Mohan played a vital role in showcasing the depth, melody and cultural richness of his musical creations.

Sh. Brij Mohan is a well-known and respected music composer from Jammu who has been actively engaged in the field of Hindi and Dogri music for many years. His music is deeply rooted in the cultural traditions of the region. By blending classical musical discipline with the unique regional flavour of Jammu, he has created compositions that are both refined and emotionally resonant. His work reflects a strong commitment to preserving and promoting the linguistic and cultural heritage of Dogri while also enriching Hindi music.

Through his long association with Akashvani and various cultural platforms, Sh. Brij Mohan has made significant contributions to the promotion of regional and national music. Over the years, he has worked with numerous artists and singers, guiding and inspiring them with his musical vision and dedication. Many young performers consider him a mentor who has helped shape their artistic journeys.

The recognition of Sh. Brij Mohan as a 'Top Grade' composer is being widely seen as a matter of pride for Jammu and the entire region. Cultural circles have also expressed hope that this honour will inspire young musicians to pursue excellence and remain connected to their roots.

