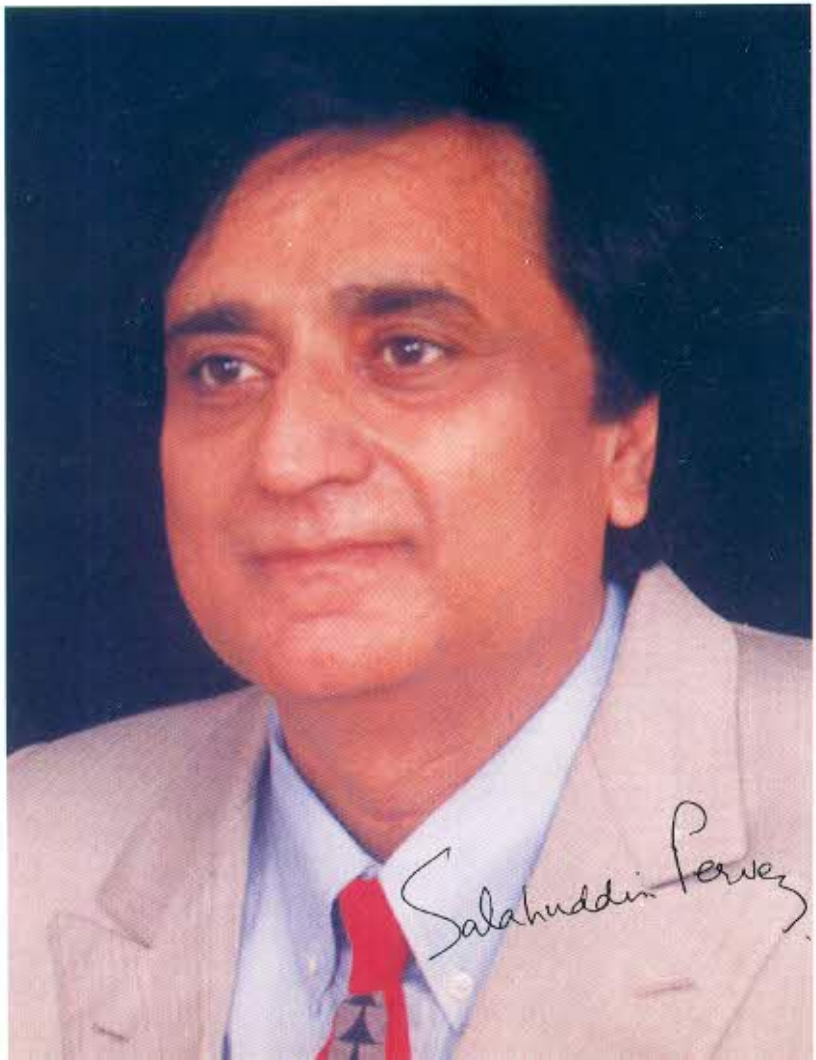


16 July 2004



meet the author

Salahuddin Pervez



Salahuddin's poetry represents the style of our country. It has all the colour of Indian poetry ranging from Meera to Khusro and our culture, our traditions find supreme expression in it. 'Bharat' is Salahuddin's second name.

- Kanhaiya Lal Nandan

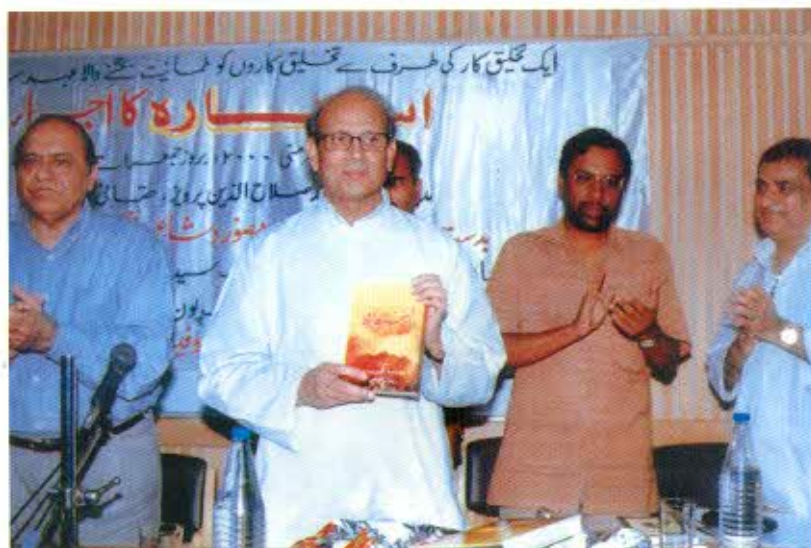


Born on 9th February 1954 in Allahabad, Mohammed Salahuddin Pervez graduated from the Allahabad University and then joined the Aligarh Muslim University to study English Literature for his Master's degree. He started his career as a Data Processing Analyst at Sysorex International, USA, and gradually rose to become its Vice President in 1991. He is at present a computer consultant and film-maker.

Salahuddin's tryst with the muse began when he was just nine and soon he established himself as a bold experimentalist with his early collection of poems such as *Zaaz*, *Negative and Jungle*. Since then, he has brought out several poetry collections: *Khutoot*, *Confession*, *Dhoop's Samandar Saya*, *Love*

Poems, *Dhoop Sarai and Sabhi Rang Ke Sawan*, *Radha ke Naam Krishna ke Khat* and *Kitab-e-Ishq*.

His poetry has been widely acclaimed for its literary merit and also for its potential to establish a creative link between Hindi and Urdu. His language is unique and it shapes itself from the power and flavour of almost all major Indian languages and their multi-cultural ethos. He has often taken words from Bengali, Marathi, Gujarathi, Sanskrit, Hindi and polished them like jewels and studded in the Urdu crown with them. His recently published collection of poems are *Atma ke Patra Parmatma Ke Naam*, *Dasht-e-Tahurriyat* and *Kitab-e-ishq*. His poems in *Barahmasa* touchingly depict the themes of love, longing and



Release function of ISTEARA. With Gopi Chand Narang, V.P. Singh and Pavan Kumar Verma

loneliness of a woman. His poetry manifests great power and charm in various forms including the blank verse, the conventional rhyme and metrical verse. Perhaps he is the only poet in the sub-continent who has used the lullaby or *Lori* in the patriotic poems such as "Lori Hindustani ki" and "Nindiya Tu Mat Sona", which have been further immortalised by Lata Mangeshkar through her golden voice. "A poet of distinction, a poet with a lot of bubbling zeal and passion for life and all that life has to offer, Salahuddin Pervez remains the Indomitable Icon of contemporary Urdu poetry and has set his sights on heights man could ever conquer". says Yogendra Bali. Intizar Hussain has this to say ; "...I feel the pleasant power of Saawan after I go through the poetry and the novel of Salahuddin Pervez...".

The award he rightly treasures most in life, is the life membership in *Alma Mater*, which the Aligarh Muslim

University conferred on him in 1983. The others who have received this prestigious award are: Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru and Allama Iqbal. He has also been honoured with the Qatar International Urdu Literary Award which was earlier awarded to eminent writers like Aal-e-Ahmad Suroor, Qurrat-ul-ain-Hyder, Intizar Hussain, Gopi Chand Narang and Kali Das Gupta Raza.



With his mother Saira Begum

Winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature in 1991, Salahuddin Pervez has proven himself to be one of the most creative national poets of recent times, and he speaks of his love for life, humanity and above all, for his



With Siraj Muneer, a noted critic of Pakistan, Akhtar Hashmi and Alia Imam



With Gopi Chand Narang, Yashwant Sinha, Kamleshwar and Jetender Singh

motherland India. Critics have often found it difficult to categorise him as he has proved his ability equally as a poet and a novelist at the same time. Four of his novels, *Namrita*, *Saare Din Ka Thaka Hua Purush*, *Ek Din Beet Gaya* and *Identity Card* have been considered the most significant among contemporary Urdu novels. *The War journals*, his latest novel reveals his sensitive reaction to the Iraq war, which seems to him the continuation of wars of domination, greed and destruction, sparked by the ego of those who have ever sought to dominate the world since the days of the epic *Mahabharata* in India.

Namrita, his magnum opus, is famous for its powerful philosophical vision of the human spirit, imbibed from Indian culture. The novel with immense poetical beauty depicts a grand span of a thousand years of Indian culture, and is considered one of the best works of contemporary literature.

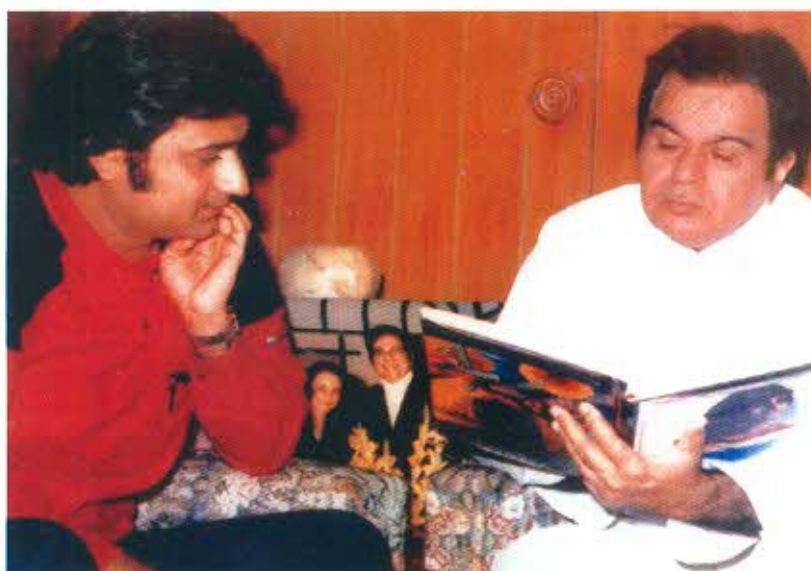
Identity Card is the story of four people belonging to four

different generations from the advent of Islam in India to the present. The crisis of identity echoed the metaphor in the title is resolved through the assertion of the Indian roots and the Indian cultural ethos of the characters. This book is regarded as a milestone in Indian literature in Urdu for its breadth of concerns, its perfection of design, its innovations in narrative techniques, and its sophisticated treatment of an important human theme.

He has been honoured with many literary and film awards for some of his poetic creation, immortalised in celluloid in Jumbish.

He is editing a leading Urdu journal *Isteraa* (The Metaphor) for the sheer love of literature. It is a bridge between the creative writer and discerning readers of good literature.

Renowned for his unique poetic talent, he has also a very special place in contemporary Indian literature as a cultural activist, humanist and "Indianist" as he loves to call himself.



With Dilip Kumar

A Select Bibliography

Poetry

<i>Zaaz</i>	Long Poem	1972
<i>Negative</i>	Long poem	1974
<i>Jungle</i>	Collection of Poems	1978
<i>Dhoop, Samandar, Saya</i>	Collection of Poems	1980
<i>Love Poems</i>	Collection of Poems	1982
<i>Dhoop Sarai</i>	Collection of Poems	1983
<i>Loriyaan</i>	Collection of Lullabies	1986
<i>Khutoot</i>	Poetic Letters	1987
<i>Confession</i>	Collection of Poems	1990
<i>Sabhi Rang Ke Saawan</i>	Collection of Poems	1994
<i>Parmatma Ke Naam, Atmaa ke Patr</i>	Poetic letters of Shri Krishna to Radha	1998
<i>Dashte Tahurriyat</i>	Collection of poems	1999
<i>Kitab-e-Ishq</i>	Collection of poems	2002

Novels

<i>Namrita</i> (Urdu, Hindi)	1983
<i>Saare-Din Ka Thaka Hua Purush</i>	1985
<i>Ek Din Beet Gaya</i>	1987
<i>Identity Card</i>	1990
<i>The War Journals</i>	2003

Chronology

- 1954 : Born, 9th February
- 1969 : High School education from A.M.U. Aligarh
- 1970 : Pre-medical education at A.M.U.
- 1972 : Publication of *Zaaz*, a long poem
- 1974 : Publication of '*Negative*', a long poem
- 1976-78 : Worked as a data processing analyst at Sysorex International, USA
- 1977 : M.A. English from Aligarh Muslim University
- 1978-80 : Promoted as the Director of operations in Sysorex
- 1979 : Married Syeda Bibi Sadiga
- 1980 : Travelled in USA, Kuwait, UK, Canada, Paris, Spain, Italy and Saudi Arabia
- 1983 : Honoured by A.M.U.: conferred Life membership
Honoured by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India
Honoured with Qatar International Urdu Literary Award
- 1984 : Returned from abroad to make a movie on Indira Gandhi
- 1991 : Sahitya Akademi award for *Identity Card*
Editing leading Urdu journal '*Isteara*' (The Metaphor)

Salahuddin Pervez achieved the first vision of the universe and scenes by virtue of a negative, the positive of which has not been achieved by philosophers and intellectuals.

- Salim Ahmed

