

Sahir Ludhianvi

March 8, 2021

- Abdul Hayee (8 March 1921 – 25 October 1980), popularly known by his takhallus (pen name) Sahir Ludhianvi, was an Indian poet and film song lyricist who wrote in the Urdu and Hindi languages.
- His work influenced Indian cinema, in particular Bollywood films.
- Sahir won a Filmfare Award for Best Lyricist for Taj Mahal (1963). He won a second Filmfare Award for Best Lyricist for his work on Kabhie Kabhie (1976).
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1971.
- On 8 March 2013, the ninety-second anniversary of Sahir's birth, a commemorative stamp was issued in his honour.

Early life and education

- Sahir was born on 8 March 1921, in a red sandstone haveli in Karimpura, Ludhiana, Punjab, India, into a Gujjar Muslim landlord family.
- This is the reason why he added the suffix Ludhianvi after his name.
- His mother, Sardar Begum, left her husband thus forfeiting any claim to financial assets from the marriage.
- He then enrolled at the Government College, Ludhiana. The auditorium there is named after him.
- As a college student, Sahir was popular for his ghazals and nazms (poetry in Urdu) and impassioned speeches.

Partition

- In 1943, Sahir settled in Lahore. There, he completed Talkhiyaan (Bitterness) (1945), his first published work in Urdu. Sahir edited Urdu magazines such as Adab-e-

Lateef, Shahkaar, Prithlari, and Savera and became a member of the Progressive Writers' Association.

- However, when he made controversial statements promoting communism, a warrant for his arrest was issued by the Government of Pakistan. In 1949, after partition, Sahir fled from Lahore to Delhi. After eight weeks, Sahir moved to Bombay.

Career

- He made his debut with four songs performed in the film Azadi Ki Raah Par (1949).
- One of the songs was Badal Rahi Hai Zindagi. Both the film and its songs went unnoticed. However, after Naujawan (1951 film), with music by S.D. Burman, Sahir gained recognition. Sahir's major success was Baazi (1951).