

# ALVA'S MIRROR



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## FREEDOM HAS MORE MEANING, ITS NOT JUST DECOLONIZATION

- Sonia Sali

A bird out of the cage, a man out of slavery, an animal out of a zoo and a child out from its parents' warmth is Freedom. But freedom is much more beyond that or are the above examples freedom even.

The term freedom is a vast and throbbing concept. It is not just letting the body free. It is where the mind and soul are together at peace with the body's joy of freedom. Binding an object within the control of one is restricting the object's rights of being joyful and peaceful but there are times when the body is absolutely at

peace but consciously or unconsciously the mind is bound with chains. Today India is considered as an independent country. The people of this land are free, their territories are no longer controlled by the power of a foreign land nor are the people living in fear but is this what we call freedom today? It is true we have achieved fame, name and popularity in the world, recognizing itself as the "The Largest Democracy in the World" but are we really free within our territory? Are the people of India really free to move around as they wish, do what they like or speak out their ideas in their motherland.



Obviously we aren't. Though we are out from the bondage of the British we are still under secret bondages that bind our spirit, soul and mind. We live in an independent India but India hasn't achieved complete freedom within itself. People still fight in the name of religions, communities

and regions. They don't see that they belong to one land. People are differentiated on the basis of their region, culture or religion. It is more like living in a country within a country. Peace, joy, unity and love has all vanished away into the darkness and all that remains today is hatred, strife and bloodshed. We

remember our brethren when the national flag flutters high and proud on special occasions, else we revolt fight and kill our own brethren with whom we share our land, living and history.

This is what India has come to today. We believe we are free but within our boundaries we live in fear of death, revolts and wars waged by our brethren.

How then can we claim ourselves free?

How then can we call ourselves peaceful?

Freedom is not when we are free from a foreign rule; it is being free in the spirit, soul and body within the country and within oneself.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION OF THE SEVEN SISTERS

**Shillong:** Meghalaya celebrates Independence Day with full national fervor and gaiety on August 15 where the Chief Minister unfurled the National Flag followed by the parade after which he spoke about the condition of the state and its development.

**Manipur:** The celebration function was held at Imphal where the state Chief Minister hoisted the national tricolour followed by the parade and addressed about the welfare and the peace of the state.

**Nagaland:** The unique and only state who celebrates the Independence Day on 14th August, a day before rest of the nation celebrates Independence



North-Eastern states of India

day as the Naga leader Angami Z. Phizo declared the Independence of Naga region, one day before India gain Independence on August 14, 1947 with triggering, bloody and prolonged armed conflict. They celebrated the Independence near Dimapur.

**Arunachal Pradesh:** The

Chief Minister hoisted the flag in Indira Gandhi Park and spoke about the development and welfare of the state.

**Assam:** The celebration started by hoisting the national flag in Guwahati by the Chief Minister after which the speech about the development of the



state was spoken.

**Tripura:** The celebration took place by hoisting the tricolour by the Chief Minister of the state, which was followed by the valuable speech for the development of its state.

And as the North-East region are a very destruc-

tive and armed prompt places the leaders and Ministers spoke about living together with peace, love and harmony as they are called as THE GREAT SEVEN SISTERS.

- Deepak Sagolshem



# THE POLITICAL DRAMA WHICH CHANGED THE INDIAN HISTORY, NATIONAL EMERGENCY 1975

- Varun Raj

On 25th June 1975, around midnight, our former president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on the orders of the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi declared internal emergency throughout the country. The Emergency being a political set up impacted and affected both common man and media. This was a dramatic turn in the Indian political affairs. The democracy was brought to halt and all the fundamental rights and legal remedies protected by the constitution of the Republic of India were suspended. Indira Gandhi tried to defend the emergency on the grounds that she was trying to protect the state and the Indian people. Her emergency rule faced immense criticism and is undoubtedly one of the most controversial periods of the political history of Independent India. As the Emergency was announced, the press came



under total censorship though media is known as the fourth estate of democracy. With the suspension of few fundamental rights, the right to freedom of speech and expression was suspended too. The press was censored from publishing any news. The electricity was cut-off at many press offices which helped the government to properly enforce the censorship as no news agencies were able to operate and criticism on emergency did not spread for at least

2 days. **Causes -** Indian national congress (INC), won the Indian general election of 1971. Indira's party was blamed for the mal-practices committed in the elections. On 12th June 1975, Allahabad high court justice Jaganmohanlal Sinha found the prime minister guilty. The court declared her election campaign null and void and unseated her from her contesting any election for an additional six

years. Hence to save the face of congress Emergency was announced. **Consequences -** There were many social and political issues. Many were killed and prosecuted during the Emergency. Media was troubled too by censorship. The fourth estate of democracy, media went under censorship. Many newspapers did not have the courage to defy the censorship, except a few like The Indian Express. On June 28th of same year, the Indian Express

carried a blank first editorial. The Financial Express reproduced Rabindranath Tagore's poem "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" concluding with the prayer "Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake". Many opposition leaders were arrested in the period of emergency. The emergency was a 19-month ordeal, which finally came to an end on January 23rd 1977. After that Mrs. Indira Gandhi called for national elections in which the Janata party under the guidance of Jaya Prakash Narayan won the elections. It was the first non-congress government that formed in India. The Press Council of India was formed whose main aim was to safeguard the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.

## THE PEOPLE OF NORTH-EAST INDIA ON INDEPENDENCE

The colourful, vibrant, multi-ethnic, multilingual India, thus breathed the air of freedom. And what better can rouse the spirits of Indians the north-east too start the celebration of the independence day with singing of the national song. North-East - Popularly known as the seven sister states too is an integral constituent of this country. The North-East part of India often sidelined. People from North-East also face racist comments mostly because of their physical resemblance to people in other countries. The North-East part which is has and surges, gets



ignored by the mainstream media too. But this discrimination never took them away from the country as they live in a single unique umbrella that is India. Along with the whole nation North-East too celebrates the Independence Day with full pride and patriotism. On the independence day of India, the common people of the North-East have shown their cultures, bravery and gratitude to

their under strict security control. In these regions there are many armed outfits of the North-East called for a general strike boycott all the celebration of India's Independence day in these regions. The separatist groups including The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), The National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), The Kamrup Liberation Organisation

(KLO), The Manipur People's Democratic Front (MPLF), The Tripura People's Democratic Front (TPDF) etc. They called upon the people to boycott and prevent the celebration of Independence day of India as a mark of solidarity against New Delhi. The boycott will be started from the midnight of 14th August and till 15 August midnight and

some areas of the regions bomb blasts and gun fires have also occurred. Work for security sanitisation has been geared up in all these places by using metal detectors by bomb experts and conducting frisking and checking of passengers by at strategic points. In some places dead and injured have also occurred in these regions.

- Deepak Sagolshem



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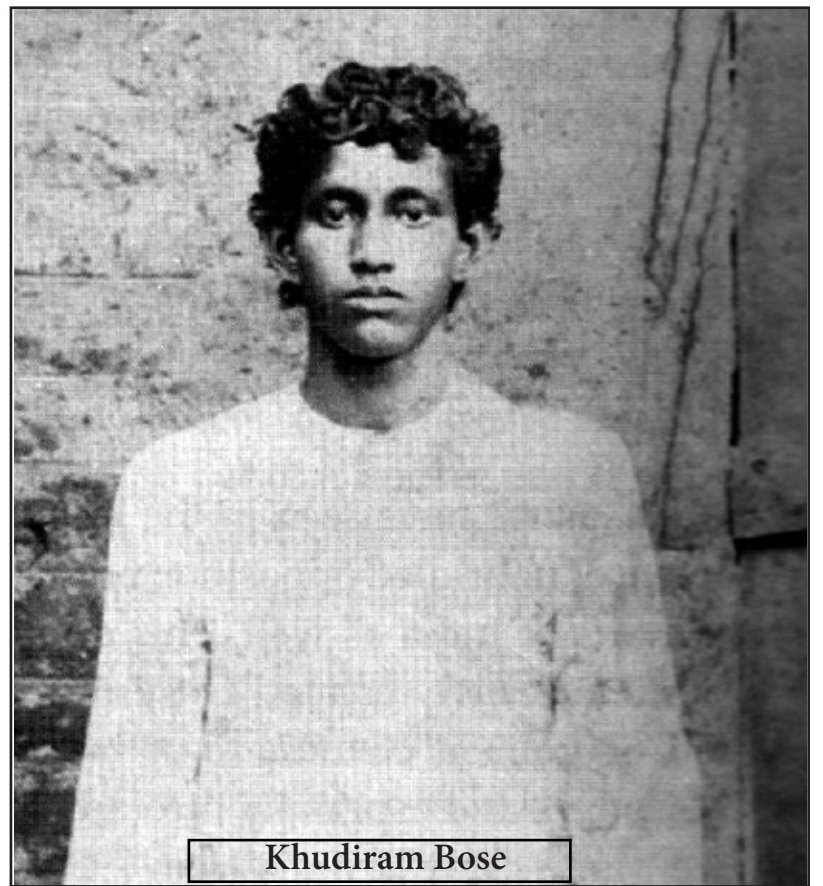
# FREEDOM IS NOT FREE WE PAID FOR IT

Freedom or Indian independence are not just words, they are emotions. These words should stimulate some feelings in us or it should provoke some emotions in us. If it does not, then we are lacking behind. Being a 20 year old youth its my duty to recall the sacrifices that our elders made for us. "Rome was not built in a day", is a common proverb that we use but even the independence of India was also not a one day task.

Youths were the main pillars in the Indian Independence struggle. Many youths held guns in their hands and fought the British soldiers at the age of 12, 14 and 16. One of the stories that I want to tell is about Khudiram Bose he was just 14 years old when he shot a British commissioner. Like him many youths sacrificed their lives for the sake of our nation.

Why am i telling all these things is because it is our duty to protect our country's freedom. We didn't get our freedom very easily we got our freedom by the payment of blood and lives. "Freedom is not free we paid for it."

- Sushant M



Khudiram Bose

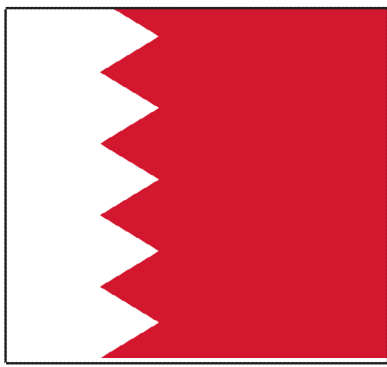
## COUNTRIES THAT CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH US

- Niki Wakambam



### REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

The central African country gained full Independence from France on August 15, 1960, exactly 80 years after it came under French rule. Fulbert Youlou ruled as the country's first President until 1963.



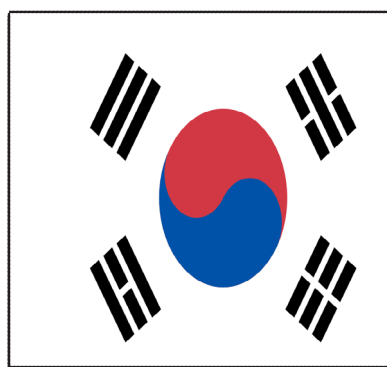
### BAHRAIN:

Bahrain, the ancient land of the Dilmun civilisation got its independence from the British colonial rulers on 15 August, 1971, after a United Nations survey of the Bahraini population.



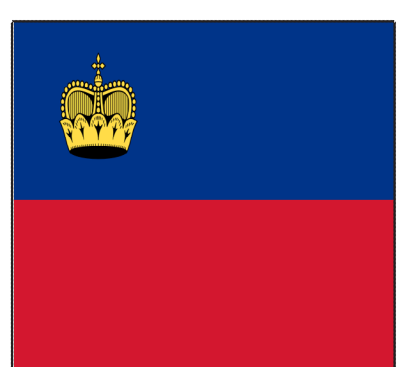
### NORTH KOREA :

North Korea gained independence from Japan on August 15, 1945 after the Korean Peninsula was liberated by the Allies at the end of second world war. The government was created 3 years later on August 15, 1948.



### SOUTH KOREA :

South Korea's independence from 35 years of Japanese colonization in August 15, 1945. 3 years later pro-US Syngman Rhee was made the first president of South Korea.



### LIECHTENSTEIN:

The national day of the sixth smallest nation of the world also falls on 15th August, after it was freed from the German rule in 1866. It has been celebrating this day as its independence day since 1940.

## INDIAN LEGEND'S THOUGHTS FOR THEIR MOTHERLAND

**"Jai Hind":** Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose  
One of the most influential leaders of his time, Subhash Chandra Bose popularly known as Netaji. This was the first postmark of our independent country, now used as a slogan and salutation almost everywhere in India.

**"Vande Mataram":**  
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay  
A poem from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel Anandmath in

1882, written in Bengali and Sanskrit. Being a praise to motherland, it has played a vital role in our freedom movement. **"Swaraj mera janamsiddh adhikar hai, aur main ise lekar rahunga":** Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
A popular slogan adopted by Bal Gangadhar Tilak was coined by Kaka Baptista in our fight for independence. Not only did this slogan motivate people to fight for their rights, but also provoked the love for country in

thousands of people. **Jai Jawaan, Jai Kisaan":** Lal Bahadur Shastri  
This is the slogan that awakens the inner-most sentiments in the hearts of Indians even in today's era. Acknowledging the efforts of our soldiers and farmers, this slogan gave a new dimension to our freedom struggle. **"Satyamev Jayathe":** Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya  
"Truth alone triumphs" is the literal meaning of the



above slogan. It has not only been adopted as the national motto of India but is also inscribed in script at the base of our national emblem. **"Inquilab Zindabad":** Bhagat Singh  
This slogan awakened the feeling of patriotism in

the youth of India during those days. The urge to lay their lives for their motherland and to get her free from the clutches of the British, this slogan embarks an important event in the fight for freedom.

- Akshita Suvarna



# VARIOUS CULTURES, TRADITIONS & LANGUAGES UNITING THROUGH CELEBRATION

Independence Day is that glorious moment in the lives of every Indian when we travel back to days of old and with a grateful heart remember the souls who fought for freedom, for joy and peace for future generations risking their own lives. These great men of valour and courage ought to be remembered every moment and not just once in a year. They ought to be remembered every day for the courage they posed, the confidence they held and the patriotism they had in their hearts. The fragrance of freedom fills the air every Independence Day when



the flag is hoisted, patriotic songs are sung, and freedom fighters are remembered. Yes that is the common and most traditional way of celebrating Independence all through India. Every town, city, schools, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, industries

and every institution in the country wakes up to the song of freedom in the air, to salute the freedom fighters and the flag. Of all the celebrations in the country the grand celebration at the Red Fort and the unique celebrations at Alva's Education

Foundation top all of the celebrations of the country. Its uniqueness proves its honour for the nation, worth and greatness. Independence Day at Alva's is indeed a feast for the eye. It lifts the spirit and enthuses the mind. The cultural programmes,

the patriotic songs, hundreds of tri coloured flags, tri coloured umbrellas, tri coloured balloons, tri coloured body art, NCC cadets are all part of the elements that add to the glory of the event.

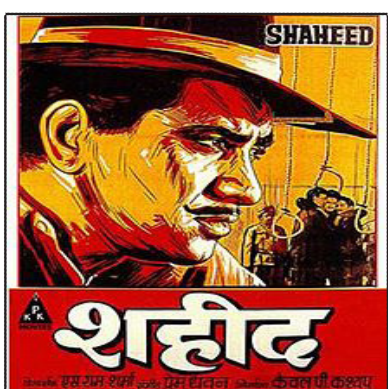
-Sonia Sali

## MEDIA SHOWING PATRIOTISM THROUGH MOVIES

- Akshita Suvarna

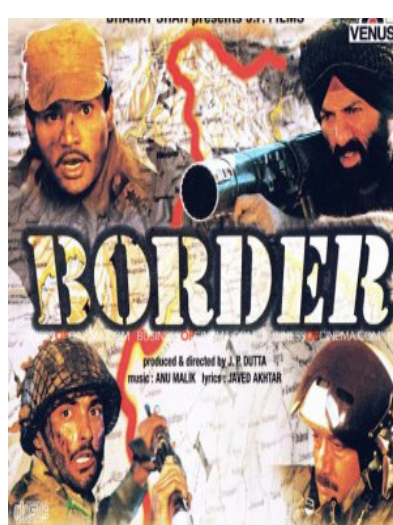
Indian films have shown its sagacity of patriotism by making such films which won critical acclaim for generating strong views on the unique feel- India. One should be proud when he/she hear about their motherland and in the case of most of the patriotic films released in India, that feel is truly at its best. India has made several films based on India's independence, its struggle and also about both sung and unsung heroes whose sacrifice made us to live in this country as we like. On this auspicious eve of Independence Day, here is the list of the best patriotic films made in India. The film-makers kept no stone unturned while making such movies and made the viewers proud of their nation.

### SHAHEED (1965)



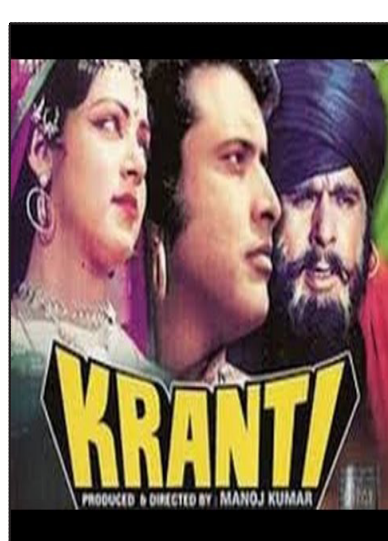
To begin with, there are lot more films, but it would be better if we start from the film 'Shaheed' that got released in 1965. Shaheed is a Bollywood patriotic film based on the life of Bhagat Singh, this movie shows that how they struggle and fought for our independence. Shaheed stars Prem Chopra, Manoj Kumar in the lead roles. Manoj Kumar is playing the role of Bhagat Singh.

### BORDER (1997)



Border is one of the finest Bollywood films on war and patriotism. Border is based on the Indo-Pak war in 1971. The film was directed by J.P. Dutta. It stars Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty, Akshaye Khanna, Jackie Shroff in the lead roles.

### KRANTI (1981)



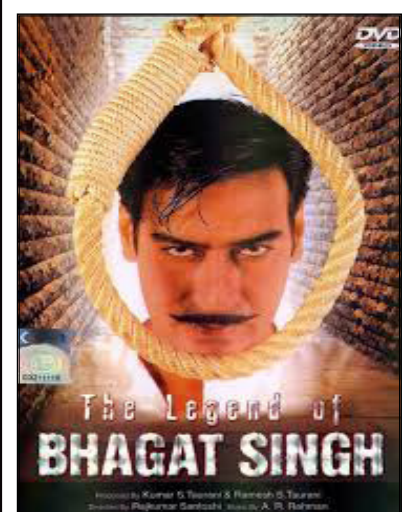
Kranti is a Bollywood multi starrer film, starring Dilip Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Hema Malini, Shatrughan Sinha, Praveen Babi, Sarika, Prem Chopra. It is a fictional story about British India and freedom. A group named Kranti is fighting for the independence with the Britishers.

### LAGAAN (2001)



Lagaan sets in the British era, it is a fictional story. A cricket match between British team and Indian team to remove the tax for three years. Starring Paul Blackthorne, Aamir Khan in the lead roles. The film was in the top five films in the foreign film category for Oscars.

### THE LEGEND OF BHAGAT SINGH (2002)



The legend of Bhagat Singh is a biographical drama film about Bhagat Singh and his life as a freedom fighter. It was directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and Ajay Devgn was in the lead role of Bhagat Singh. The film shows the flashback of his life and his work for our independence.