

UTV MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS

RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA'S  
*Rang De Basanti*  
a generation awakens



UTV MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA PICTURES PRESENTS RANG DE BASANTI  
DIRECTED BY RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SONALI SENGUPTA AND RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA PRODUCED BY SURESH MEHRA AND DEVEN KHOTE WRITTEN BY A K KHANNA EDITED BY MANOJ KUMAR SINGH PRASAD  
COSTUME DESIGNER P. J. PRASAD MUSIC BY P. SURESH, ANAND BHASKAR AND DAVID HIND EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BINA BHASKARAN PRODUCED BY RANG DE BASANTI PRODUCTION DESIGNER PRASAD MEHRA  
CASTING BY RANG DE BASANTI CASTING DIRECTOR RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA COSTUME DESIGNER P. J. PRASAD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SONALI SENGUPTA AND RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SONALI SENGUPTA AND RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SONALI SENGUPTA AND RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SONALI SENGUPTA AND RAKESH OMPRAKASH MEHRA  
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Historical background



Rowlatt Bills: “no charge, no trial, no appeal”



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre  
Amritsar, Punjab, April 13, 1919  
Brig. Gen. Reginald Dyer

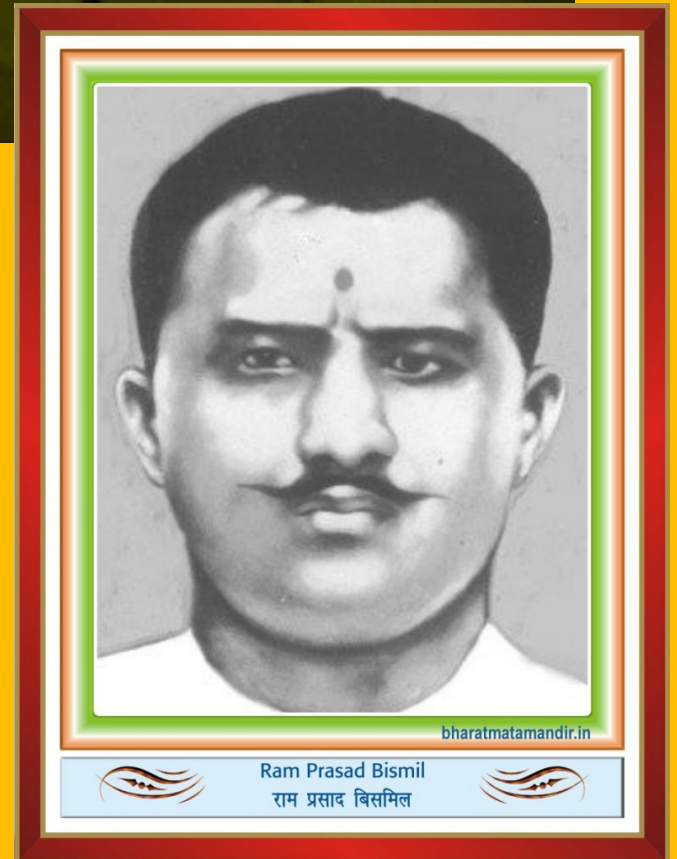




Death toll: (official) 379  
(unofficial) 1000 +, 2000 wounded



Kakori Train Robbery, 1925

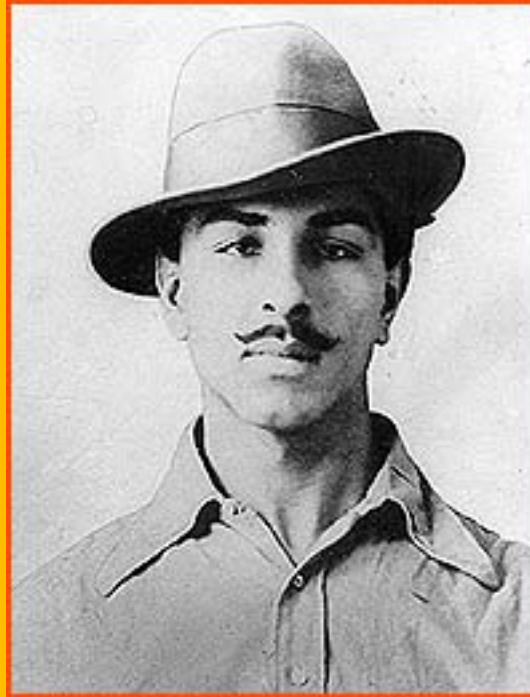




## Chandrashekhar (Tiwari) “Azad”

1906 - 1931

Mentor of Bhagat Singh, co-founder of  
Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)



**Bhagat Singh**

**1907-1931**

- Joins Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920 (age 13)
- Co-founds Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
- Simon Commission visits Lahore, October 1928; clubbing death of Lala Lajpat Rai (age 63)
- Revenge killing of Deputy Supt. Of Police J. P. Saunders by Bhagat, Rajguru, and Sukhdev





- April, 1929, bombs, leaflets in Legislative Assembly;  
“Inquilab Zindabad!”  
 (“Long live the revolution!”)
- Hunger strike for 63 days in prison

# The Tribune.

VOL. 11, NO. 31

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1931.

Price One Ann.

## BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU AND SUKHDEV EXECUTED.

### NO "LAST INTERVIEW" WITH RELATIONS.

#### Shouts Emerge From Jail.

#### DEAD BODIES SECRETLY DISPOSED OF

#### Removed to Distant Place.

Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were executed at 11.15 p.m. on Monday.

Before the last gas, they were taken to the cell and they were allowed to see their relations.

They were taken to the cell at 10.30 p.m. and they were allowed to see their relations at 11.15 p.m. They were taken to the cell at 11.15 p.m. and they were allowed to see their relations at 11.15 p.m.

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BHAGAT SINGH

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#### Thick Veil of Secrecy.

#### Relations' Parts Quoted for Dead Bodies.

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#### Bhagat Singh's Letter.

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#### WIDE TENDR NET KING DROPPED OUT.

#### Engineer's Feeling.

#### REVENUE JARRET AGAIN HERE.

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#### UNITED OFFICERS OF B.P.M. CLUB.

#### Farmer's View in World.

#### REVENUE JARRET AGAIN HERE.

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#### "THANKS" AT BARRACKS.

#### REVENUE JARRET AGAIN HERE.

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- Hanged on March 23, 1931, with Rajguru and Sukhdev

“Let us declare that the state of war does exist and shall exist so long as the Indian toiling masses and the natural resources are being exploited by a handful of parasites. They may be purely British Capitalist or mixed British and Indian or even purely Indian. They may be carrying on their insidious exploitation through mixed or even on purely Indian bureaucratic apparatus. All these things make no difference. ....”

“It is easy to kill individuals, but you cannot kill ideas.”

**Bhagat Singh**



ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ (1907-1931)

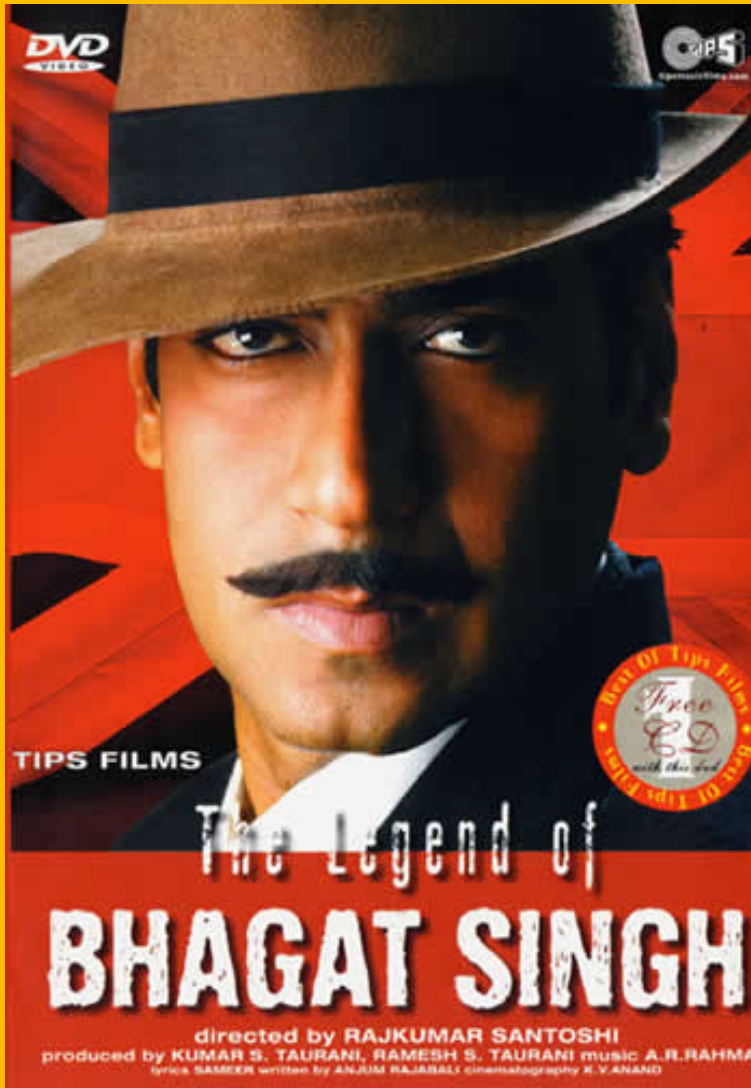
ਸੇਵਾ ਦੇਸ਼ ਦੀ ਜਿੰਦੜੀਏ ਬੜੀ ਔਖੀ, ਗੱਲਾ ਕਰਨੀਆ ਢੇਰ ਸੁਖਲੀਆ ਨੇ ।  
ਸੰਨਾ ਦੇਸ਼ ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੈਰ ਪਾਇਆ, ਉਨਾਂ ਲੱਖਾ ਮੁਸੀਬਤਾਂ ਝੱਲੀਆਂ ਨੇ ।



ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ

*Sukhjinder Bajwa*





Films:

*Shaheed* (“Martyr,”  
1965, Manoj Kumar)

Three feature films,  
one television film  
in 2002



Bhagat Singh

vs.  
Gandhi







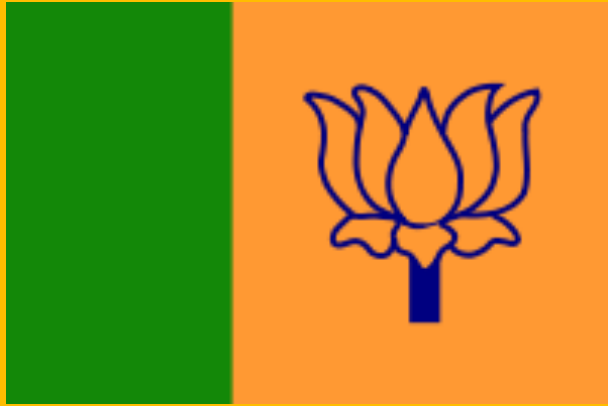


Political  
Background:



“the party” / Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ?  
Sangh Parivar, “saffronization” of politics





# BJP / Bharatiya Janata Party

Central governments: 1996, 1998-2004



## Characters and actors:

Daljeet Singh, “DJ” [Sikh] (Aamir Khan/Muslim)

Sukhwinder Singh, “Sukhi” [Sikh?] (Sharman Joshi/Hindu)

Aslam Khan [Muslim] (Kunal Kapoor/Hindu)

Karan Singhania [Hindu] (Siddarth/Hindu?)

Laxman Pandey [Hindu] (Atul Kulkarni/Hindu)

Ajay Rathod [Hindu] (Madhavan/Hindu)

Sue McKinley (Alice Patten/Christian?)

Sonia [Hindu?] (Soha Ali Khan/Muslim)

Mrs. Rathod [Hindu] (Waheeda Rehman/Muslim)

Music: A. R. Rahman (Tamil Hindu convert to Islam)

Daljeet Singh, “DJ” / Chandrashekhar Azad  
Sukhwinder Singh, “Sukhi” / Sukhdev  
Aslam Khan / Ashfaqullah Khan  
Karan Singhania / Bhagat Singh  
Laxman Pandey / Ramprasad “Bismil”

Sue McKinley / James McKinley  
Sonia / Durga Bahin



Themes:



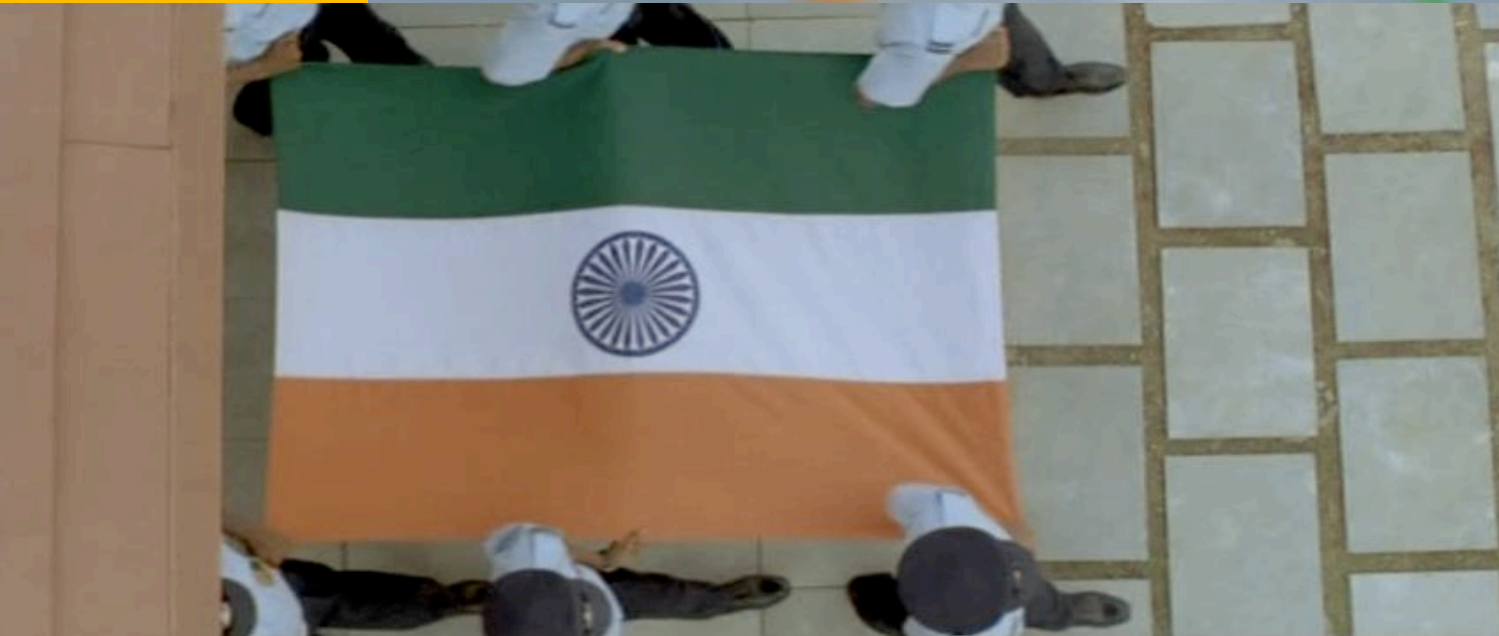
- Hindu-Muslim brotherhood





- nationalism / patriotism







- the Mother(land)  
*Vande Mataram!*  
“Hail to the Mother!”

(Waheeda Rehman)







- political corruption and popular protest



- VIOLENCE



by the state and its agents

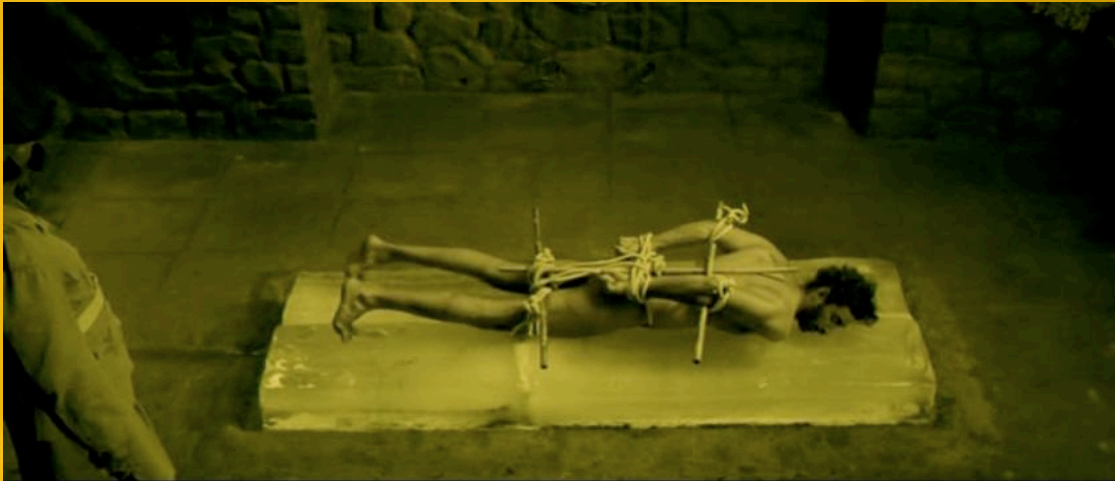






- against the state and its agents





- sacrifice, martyrdom, and transfiguration



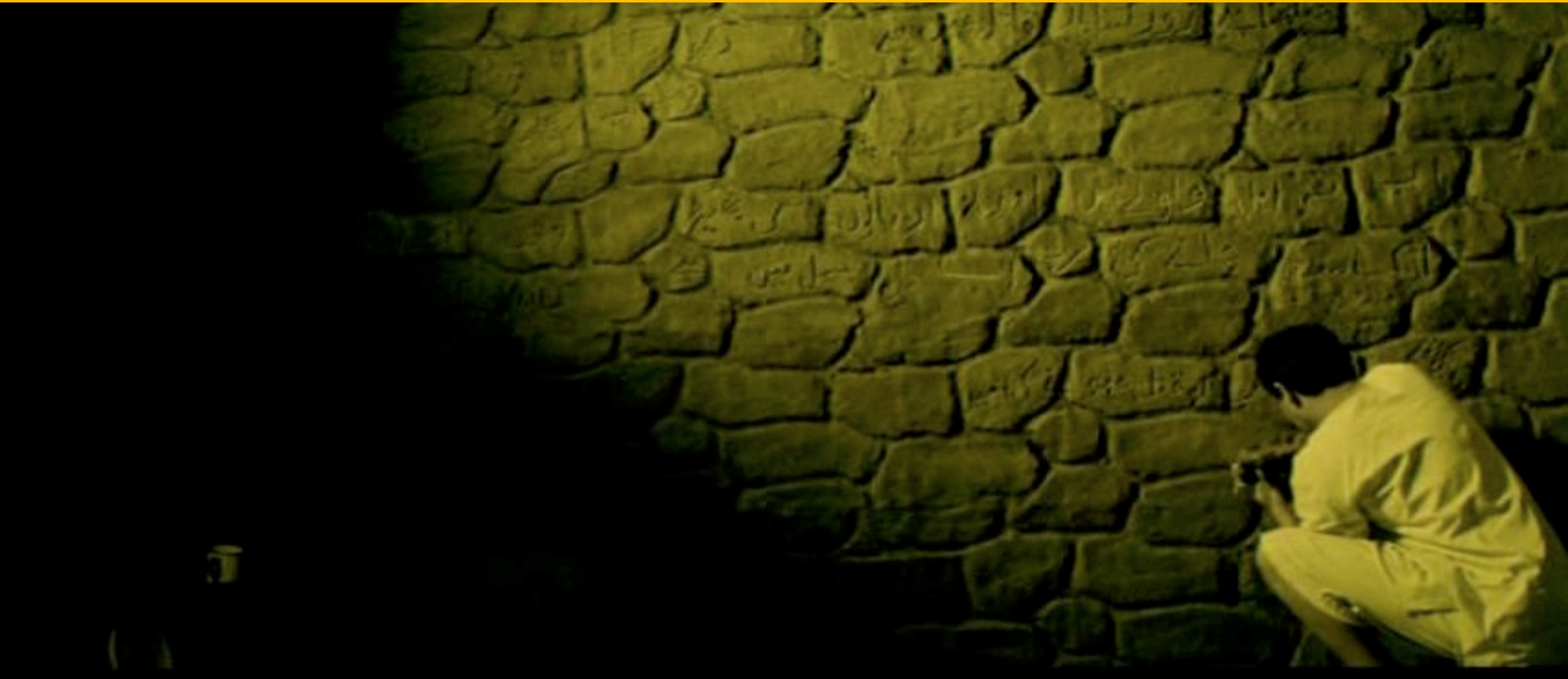


• *dosti*





- the power of poetry





*Sarfarosh ki tamanna ab hamare dil men hai....*

“Now the desire for sacrifice is in our hearts....”

(also: *Mera rang de basanti chola*, “My saffron-colored cloak”  
both by Ramprasad Bismil)

- the power of mass media











- the power of storytelling,  
the power of cinema





- seeing oneself through the other's eyes



The McKinleys as narrators

