

## Historical Princess Study Guide

Indira Raje Devi

Married for Love

Name: Indira Raje, Indira Devi

Born: February 19, 1892

Died: September 6, 1968

Spouse: Maharaja Jitendra I Narayan

Father: Sayajirao Gaekwad III'

Mother: Maharani Chimnabai

Issue: Jagaddipendra Narayan, Indrajitendra, Ila, Gayatri, Menaka



*Above information gathered from Wikipedia*

At a young age, Indira was engaged to marry Madho Rao Scindia, the then Maharaja of Gwalior. However, when she was eighteen, she met Jitendra, younger brother of the then Maharaja of Cooch Behar. They fell in love and Indira broke off her engagement without the approval of her parents. The happy couple was forced to marry in London without family present.



*Lakshmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara (Baroda)*

## Website/ Non-Fiction Book List/ Historical Fiction

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira\\_Devi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira_Devi)

<https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/the-young-widow-of-cooch-behar-11572591109526.html>

- A Princess Remembers by, Gayatri Devi
- Maharajas of India by, Ann Morrow

## Era Literature

The most internationally famous Bengali writer is Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**, who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his work "Gitanjali". He wrote the national anthem of India and Bangladesh namely, "Jana Gana Mana" and "Amar Sonar Bangla", respectively.

**Sukanta Bhattacharya** (15 August 1926 – 13 May 1947) was a Bengali poet and playwright. Along with **Rabindranath Tagore** and **Kazi Nazrul Islam**, he was one of the key figures of modern Bengali poetry, despite the fact that most of his works had been in publication posthumously. During his life, his poems were not widely circulated, but after his death his reputation grew to the extent that he became one of the most popular Bengali poet of the 20th century.

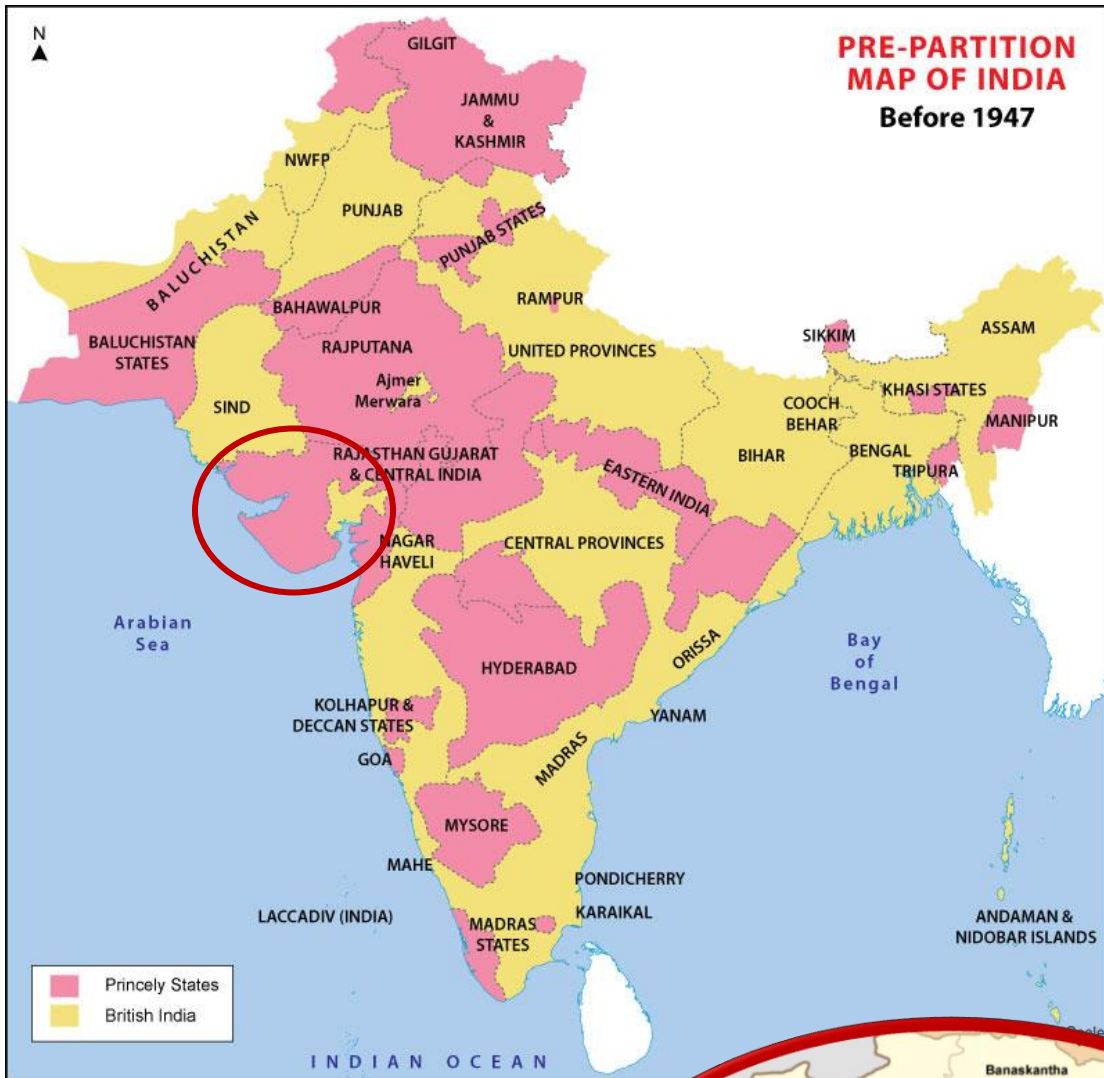
## Music

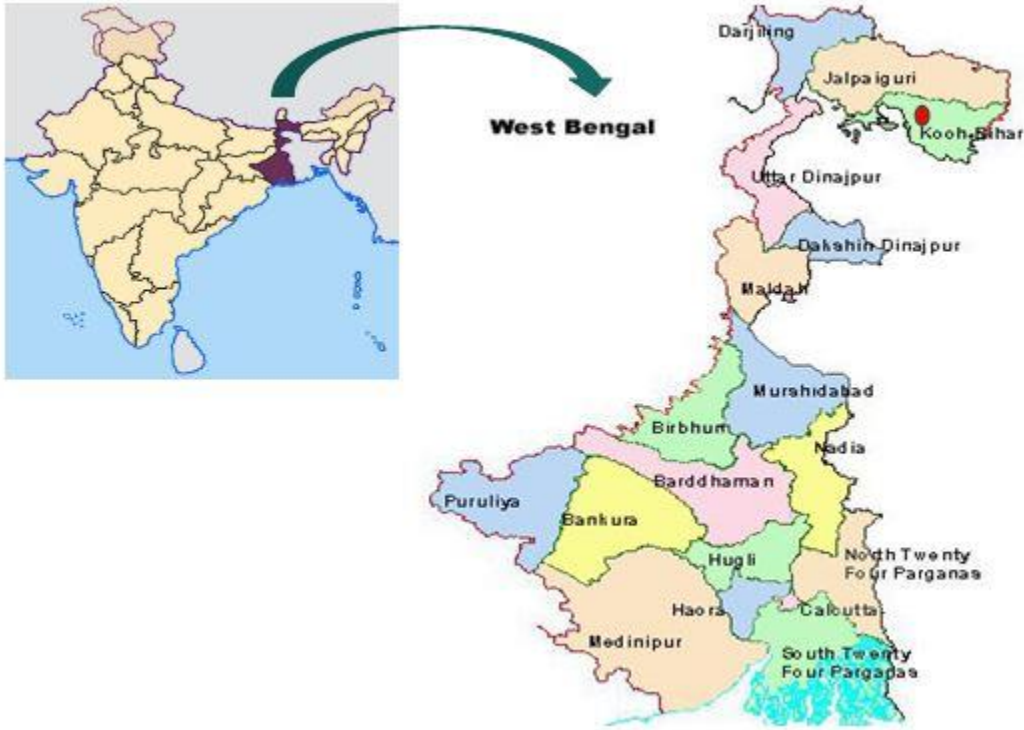
Bollywood songs, more formally known as Hindi film songs or filmi songs, are songs featured in Bollywood films. Derived from the song-and-dance routines common in Indian films, Bollywood songs, along with dance, are a characteristic motif of Hindi cinema which gives it enduring popular appeal, cultural value and context. Hindi film songs form a predominant component of Indian pop music, and derive their inspiration from both classical and modern sources.

Songs in Bollywood movies are deliberately crafted with lyrics often written by distinguished poets or literati (often different from those who write the film script), and these lyrics are often then set to music, carefully choreographed to match the dance routine or script of the film. They are then sung by professional playback singers and lip-synched by the actors.



# Maps





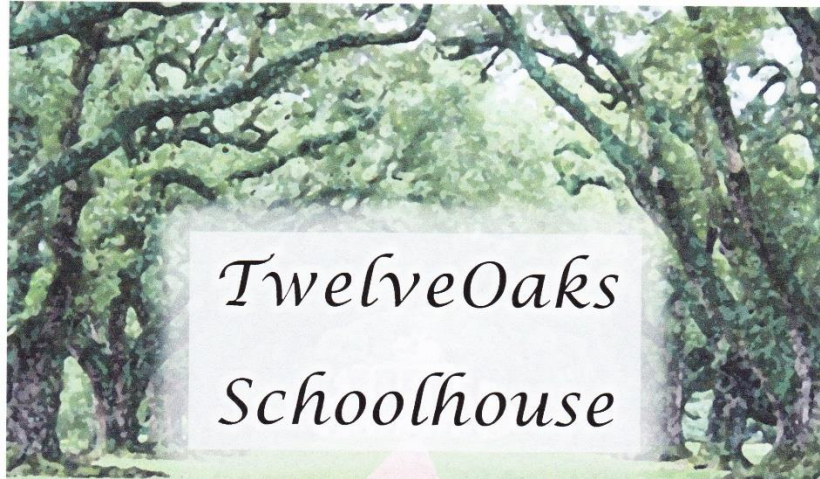
## Discussion or Essay Questions

1. Why did Indira break off her engagement? How did she do it?
2. Why did her parents not want her to marry Jitendra?
3. What was Indira responsible for when her husband died?
4. What was Indira's "retirement" life like?
5. What big event in India happened toward the end of Indira's life?

## Activities

1. Learn some Bollywood dance moves with this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ0maICKKEI>
2. Map the distance from Baroda to Cooch Behar. How long was it? What type of land is between the two states?
3. Indira was known as a fashion icon. Research her style. Make a collage of her in different outfits.
4. Make a timeline of Indira's life





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*Kendra Bott*