... a ray of hope ...

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An Indian film, has rewritten the legends the world of cinema. The court room drama, *Jai Bhim*, based on true events that happened in Tamil Nadu in 1993 has surpassed the Frank Darabont’s cult classic *Shawshank Redemption* (1994) as the highest-rated film on IMDb. *Jai Bhim* earned a 9.6 IMDb score.

Written and directed by T. J. Gnanavel, *Jai Bhim* was released on 2 November on Amazon Prime Video. The films recall the trials of a pregnant woman from an oppressed tribe as she seeks justice for her husband who was arrested, brutally tortured, and murdered after being implicated in a false case of theft.

The film title, which translates to “Long Live, Bhim,” is a slogan used by the followers of Dr BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the country’s Constitution. Ambedkar was a staunch defender of the rights of Dalits, formerly considered “untouchables,” and led public movements to secure economic, political, and social rights for people from the marginalised community.

The actual event behind the film took place in 1993, which involved a case fought by Justice K. Chandru. His efforts to secure justice for Senggeni and Rajakannu, a couple from the Irular tribe, in Tamil Nadu. Rajakannu was arrested by the police, and was later reported as missing from the
police custody along with his two other friends. Senggeni seeks the help of an advocate Chandru to seek justice for her husband. Chandru files a habeas corpus case and he refers Rajan case to continue further to find the truth.

The film makes us realise the power of Courts, the last resort of the common man’s hope, to live, survive and struggle to earn their livelihood in this country.

While all the other lawyers were protesting and boycotting the proceedings of the court, Chandru’s (Suriya) who was also a part of strike first court appear in the court to secure the long-delayed justice for a man from a minority community who has been wrongly imprisoned by the cops, who are under pressure to close pending cases. With a single petition in the Madras High Court, Chandru manages to get bail not just for his client but for another 7,000 people, who were possibly arrested on false charges across the state of Tamil Nadu. This incident, makes one understand the power of courts and how it could be harnessed to hold unscrupulous men in power accountable.

What make Jai Bhim, different from other films like the same, is one, the real depiction of event, which makes one who has the luxury to watch the film, think of the real state of events in the country. Second, is the charismatic judiciary who categorically reassert the credibility of the system.

The third point which deserves mention about this film is the role of the heroes who are nonviolent but rebellious, who do not obey any sort of tyranny. Take the example of Rajakannu, played by Manikandan. He is an embodiment of Gandhian virtues, even though he’s not aware of it himself.
And to uphold the rights of modern-day Gandhi, we need a modern-day Ambedkar, aka Chandru. The men who are taken to violence are the villains in this movie. The barbaric methods of the cops were no match to the non-violent resistance and resilience of Rajakannu, Senganni and, of course, Chandru.