The freedom movement in India actually began in the second half of the 19th century in an organized manner, though isolated attempts were made in various parts of the country to bring the British rule in India to an end about a century ago. The English had came to India as traders around 1600 A.D., when the English East India Company was established. Surat was the first centre of their trade. After the battle of Plassey in 1757 witnessed the expansion of the British domination all over India. The battle of Plassey was of immense historical importance. It paved the way for the British mastery over Bengal and eventually the whole of India.

In the Year 1857 started the first organized struggle on the part of the Indians for freedom. It started in the form of mutiny of sepoys and resulted in a popular revolt.

The Indian National Congress, founded in December in 1885, was the first organized expression of the Indian National movement on all India scale. The credit for founding the
premier political organization, the Indian National Congress, goes to Allan Octavian Hume. The first Indian National Congress met in Bombay in 1885 under the presidency of W.C. Banarjee. With the foundation of the National Congress the struggle for India's freedom from foreign rule was launched in a small but organized manner.

The history of Indian national movement divided into three periods, such as Moderate Period (1885-1905) Extremist Period (1905-1919) and Gandhian Period (1919-1947).

Many poets of modern India wrote their literary works focusing the Indian freedom movement. In Sanskrit also we get several Kāvyas like Nehruçarita of Brahmananda Sukla, Indirāgāndhicarita of Satya Vrat Sastri, Bhaktāsīphacakarita of Swayam Prakash Sarma, Gāndhīghāthā of Madhukara Sastri, Bhāratīyasvātantryodaya of Visvanatha Kesava Chathre, Navabhārata of Muthukulam Sreedhar, Keralodaya of Dr. K.N. Ezhuthacchan, Bhāratendu of C.V. Vasudeva Bhattathiri, etc., dealing with the topic.
Numerous studies have been made on different aspects of the contributions and the philosophy of the leaders of Indian freedom struggle. But no serious attempt has been made to study the contribution of Kerala Sanskrit poets in the history of Indian freedom movement. This study is the first attempt to analyze and compare such contributions of our great scholars in detail. It consists of six chapters.

The first chapter Freedom Movement in India - A General Outlook discusses the history of Indian freedom movement in a comprehensive manner. It gives a broad background to the study. The first organized struggle of 1857, the formation of Indian National Congress, the three main phases of Indian freedom movement namely moderate period, extremist period and Gandhian period, various disobedient movements lead by Mahathma Gandhi etc., are dealt with in the chapter in a comprehensive manner. The second chapter gives a detailed information about Sanskrit literary works dealing with Indian freedom movement consisting of Mahākāvyas, Khaṇḍakāvyas,
Gadyakāvyas and Dramatic works and their role in cultivating the patriotic feelings among the people at that period. It enlists about 45 works including biographies of great leaders of Indian freedom struggle like Mahathma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Balagangadhara Tilak and Jhansi Rani. It also includes Kāvyas written eulogizing Indian freedom movement. Bhaktasimha-carita, Svārājyavijaya, Bhāratīyasvātantryodaya, Bhāratīya-vijayanāṭaka, Bhārataḥṛdayāravinda etc., are some important Mahākāvyas and dramas discussed in this chapter.

The third chapter namely Depiction of Freedom Movement in Selected Sanskrit Works of Kerala authors discuss the contribution of Sanskrit scholars of Kerala in this field. Keralodaya of Dr. K.N. Ezhuthacchan, Navabhārata of Muthukulam Sreedhar and Bhāratendu of C.V. Vasudeva Bhattachari are the main Sanskrit Mahākāvyas written by Keralites which depict Indian freedom movement in detail. We also have two Khaṇḍakāvyas namely Sātvikasvapna and Prākṛtasamvidhāna written by Sambhu Sarma eulogizing Indian
freedom movements. Among them *Keralodaya* is a historical Mahākāvyya dealing with the entire history of Kerala. An unbroken history of Kerala beginning with its legendary origin to the formation of united Kerala in 1956 is dealt with in the Kāvya. An attempt has been also made in this Kāvya to present on a broad canvas the cultural, political and social history of Kerala with a national and international background and hence a detailed description of Indian freedom movement and also the first and second world war find its place in this Mahākāvyya. *Bhāratendu* written by Prof. C.V. Vasudeva Bhattathiri is a biographical Mahākāvyya written in praise of Mahathma Gandhi. The life history of Mahathma Gandhi itself is the history of Indian freedom struggle. Hence we get a detailed description of various aspects of Indian freedom movement lead by Mahathma Gandhi is glowing terms. *Navabhārata* is another Mahākāvyya written by Muthukulam Sreedhar. It deals with the biography of Jawaharlal Nehru, the fore front fighter and first Prime Minister of Independent India. The life history of Jawaharlal Nehru is also the history of Indian freedom
movement. All the phases of Indian freedom struggle are depicted in this Mahākāvyya in a comprehensive manner. The two works written by Sambhu Sarma depicts the main features of Indian freedom struggle in the form of Anyāpadeśa. The fourth chapter discusses the impact of freedom struggle in Indian political, social, economical and cultural scenario. Indian freedom struggle greatly influenced Indian society in various aspects. In this chapter it is also tried to evaluate the ability of our authority in using Sanskrit language as a vehicle for depicting modern ideas and situations precisely and accurately.

The fifth chapter Indian Freedom Struggle and Malayalam Literature is an evaluation of the influence of Indian Freedom Movement on Malayalam literature. Great was the involvement of Keralites in Indian Freedom Struggle. The movement also influenced Kerala poets greatly. A large number of literary movements like Enṭe Gurunāthan of Vallathol Narayana Menon, Amma of Vaikkam Muhammad Basheer, Varṣācandran of V.C. Balakrishna Panicker, Patāka of K. Surendran, Keraḷa-siṁhaṁ of K.M. Panicker etc., have been written by Kerala
authors to propagate patriotism and national integrity. This chapter highlight deep contributions to Kerala life. The main features and the major findings derived from the study are summarized in the sixth chapter.

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