

Operation Blue Star: A Turning Point in India's History



In June 6, 1984, the Indian Army launched Operation Blue Star to remove armed militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, Punjab. The operation was ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi amid rising insurgency and calls for a separate Khalistan state. The military action involved heavy fighting inside one of Sikhism's holiest shrines, leading to significant casualties and damage to the complex. The event deeply impacted India's political and social landscape, triggering widespread unrest and grief among Sikhs. Months later, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards, followed by tragic anti-Sikh riots across the country.

#HEALTH

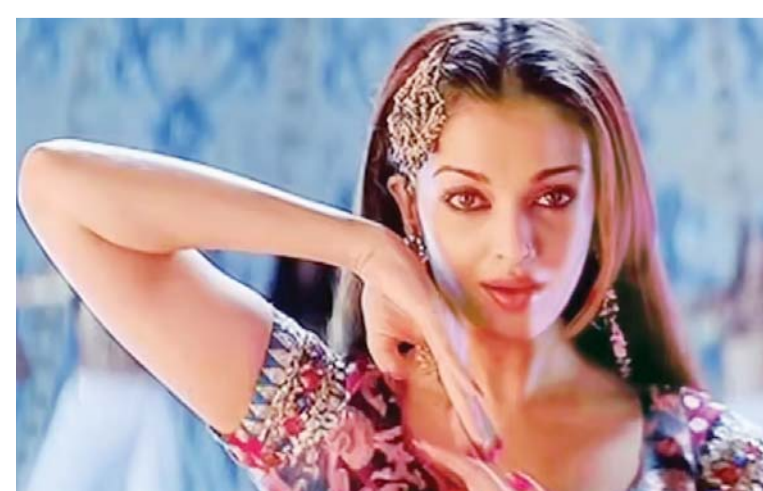
Kohl and Chemistry

"Kohl," "Kahala," and similar variations, reflecting its widespread cultural journey. In South Asia, it became known as *Kajal*



The story of kohl begins in Ancient Egypt, where it was far more than a cosmetic. Both men and women lined their eyes with a dark pigment known as kohl, used not only to enhance appearance but also for protection against the harsh desert environment. This black eye paint, made from minerals like galena (lead sulfide), helped reduce glare from the sun and, as modern studies suggest, may have stimulated the production of nitric oxide in the skin, strengthening the immune response and helping prevent eye infections.

Kohl carried multiple names across regions and languages. "Kohl," "Kahala," and similar variations, reflecting its widespread cultural journey. In South Asia, it became known as *Kajal*, a term still commonly used today. Its cultural imprint even extends into popular culture, as seen in the Bollywood song *Kajra Re*, where the word evokes beauty, allure, and tradition rooted in this ancient practice.



Not Much Protects You And Your Personality!

And then came deepfakes. Suddenly, courts found themselves dealing with something altogether more sinister, AI-generated videos that could put an actor's face on things they never agreed to, or replicate a cricketer's voice to sell a product he has never endorsed. Judges have done what they can: injunctions have been granted, orders have been passed. But anyone who has watched this process knows how inadequate it feels. By the time the lawyers file the urgent application, get a date, and walk out with an order, the video has already been seen by millions. An injunction at that point does not undo the harm. It just closes a stable door that has been open for weeks.

PERSONALITY RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF AI & DEEPFAKES



Legislation has the power to address this issue effectively. It can clearly specify what constitutes wrong, establish quick injunction processes and statutory damages, and impose responsibilities on platforms. Additionally, it can directly target AI-generated misappropriation.

What Other Countries Have Done

India does not need to reinvent the wheel. In the United States, California's right of publicity statute protects an individual's name, voice, photograph, and likeness, during their lifetime and for decades after death. Germany treats personality rights (Persönlichkeitsrecht) as a fundamental civil right rooted in human dignity, protecting both the moral and commercial dimensions of personal identity, a framing that resonates with India's own constitutional tradition. The UK stitches together protection through passing off, the Human Rights Act 1998, and data protection law. The European Union's GDPR treats facial images and voice recordings as sensitive personal data requiring explicit consent before processing.



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

The Time for Half-Measures Is Over

The violations are no longer occasional. Deepfakes are being created at scale. AI voice clones are used in financial frauds. Synthetic media puts false statements in the mouths of political opponents. And in each case, the victim faces the same reality: no clear law, no obvious remedy, and a legal process that moves far more slowly than the technology being used against them.



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#RIGHTS

Personality rights are simple enough to understand, the rights you have over your own name, face, voice, and the persona you have built over a lifetime of work. The right to decide who uses that identity, and for what, India has no dedicated law on this subject. What we have is a patchwork of constitutional provisions...

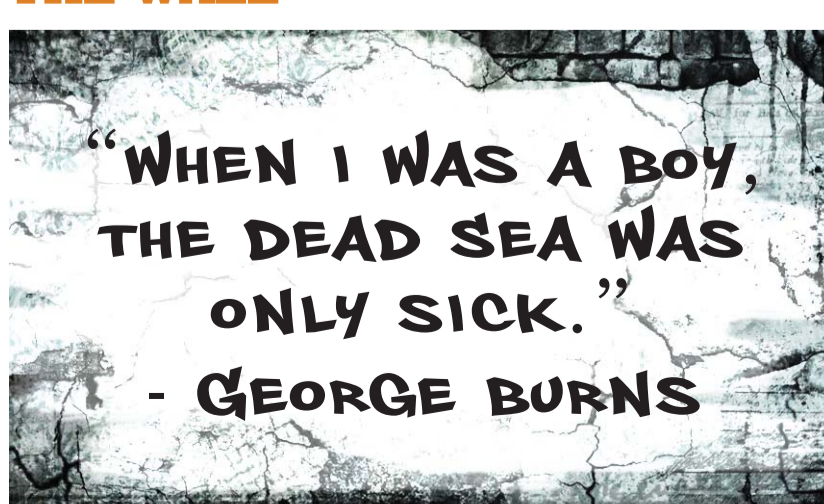
Picture waking up one morning to see your photo featured in an ad for a product you've never used. Or an AI-created video of you is shared online, depicting words you never spoke, potentially damaging your career or reputation. You turn to your lawyer and ask: which law shields me? The straightforward, honest answer today in India is: not much.

What the Law Offers, and Why It Falls Short

When a client walks in with a personality rights grievance today, there are two doors to knock on: Article 21 of the Constitution and the law of torts. Both open, but neither leads anywhere comfortable. We do have the Puttaswamy judgment, the Supreme Court's landmark 2017 ruling that declared privacy a fundamental right under Article 21. And yes, it opened a door. But here is the honest truth about that door: it was built for a different house. Article 21 was designed to protect you from the government, from the State overreaching into your life. It was not designed for the moment a corporation quietly uses your face in an ad campaign, or a tech company harvests your voice to train an AI. In those situations, filing a writ petition is like bringing a constitutional cannon to what should be a straightforward civil dispute. It is slow. It is expensive. And by the time relief comes, the damage is usually already done.



THE WALL



a client whose face has been stolen for a commercial and tell them their best bet is an action for passing off, you can see it in their eyes. They came in hoping for a law. You are offering them a legal concept that even lawyers find uncertain.

The Courts Have Done Their Best, But Cannot Do This Alone

To be clear, the judiciary has not been sitting idle. Indian courts have shown genuine ingenuity in carving out protections where the legislature has failed to provide them. When the Madras High Court stepped in during the Rajnikanth case, Shivaji Rao Gaikwad v. Varsha Productions (2015), and stopped a film from appropriating his name, style, and screen persona, it was making a statement that resonated far beyond one celebrity's grievance: fame is earned, not public property. Being well-known does not mean the world gets to use you.

BABY BLUES

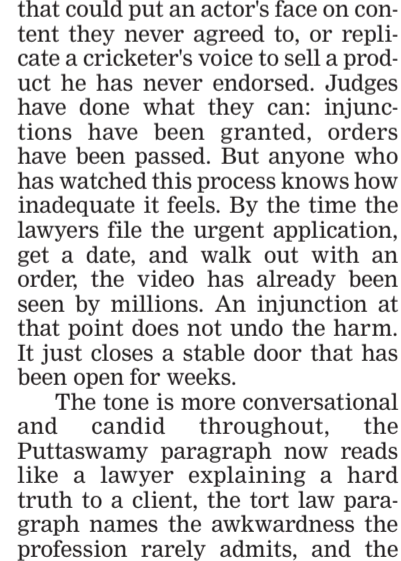


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#FIRMAAN

The Times of Firuz Shah Tughlaq

Bulah Shah attempted to intervene when a Qazi (Islamic judge) was reportedly ordering harsh punishment for people who refused to abandon their faith

During the reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388), ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, the administration placed strong emphasis on the application of Islamic legal principles. Historical chronicles from the period note that the sultan promoted the enforcement of Sharia within his empire and reorganized taxation according to Islamic categories such as *kharaj*, *khums*, *zakat*, and the *jizya*. The *jizya* was a tax traditionally imposed on non-Muslims living under Islamic rule. In Firuz Shah's reign, it became more strictly collected in many regions, particularly from Hindu communities. Contemporary and later historical writings indicate that conversion to Islam could exempt individuals from paying the tax, which sometimes created social and religious tensions within the population.

Some traditional narratives also describe incidents of resistance. One such story recounts that a spiritual figure named Bulah Shah attempted to intervene when a Qazi (Islamic judge) was reportedly ordering



harsh punishment for people who refused to abandon their faith. According to these

accounts, a group of Hindus chose to prove their commitment to their religion even at the cost of their lives, with stories claiming that more than two hundred people accepted death rather than conversion. Another dramatic version of the narrative says that a man named Mammu Khan later killed the Qazi with a sword in anger over the incident. Historians caution that many such stories survive mainly in oral traditions or later writings, so the exact details remain debated. However, these accounts reflect the deep religious tensions and acts of resistance remembered from that turbulent medieval period in South Asian history.

#GOA STONE

A Stone To Protect And Cure

Scrapings from the ball were ingested as an antidote to poison and melancholy, as well as to prevent illness



This globular, ornate gold artefact is only the container for the oldest displayed here! The seemingly inconspicuous stone within, called a Goa stone, is one of many such objects believed to have been manufactured by Jesuits in the late seventeenth-century in Goa. These stones were manmade replicas of bezoar stones, which are natural gallstones of ruminants, known for their medicinal and protective powers.

The ingredients for these stones sound as fascinating, consisting of a paste of bezoar, clay silt, crushed shell, amber, musk, resin, narwhal tusk (believed to be unicorn horn), and crushed precious and semiprecious stones, all pressed into a ball and then gilt. Scrapings from the ball were ingested as an antidote to poison and melancholy, as well as to prevent illness. Such



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