

International Country Music Day, observed on September 17, celebrates one of the most beloved music genres worldwide. Rooted in folk traditions, storytelling, and soulful melodies, country music has evolved into a global phenomenon that connects people through its heartfelt lyrics and rustic charm. The day honours legendary artists who shaped the genre as well as emerging voices keeping the tradition alive. From classic ballads to modern country-pop fusions, the music resonates with themes of love, resilience, and everyday life. Celebrated with concerts, playlists, and fan gatherings, it's a tribute to the enduring power of country music.

#JOHN WILLIAM WATERHOUSE

The Last Painting

Black Death tore through Florence, so, the writer Giovanni Boccaccio imagined 10 Florentines, 7 women and 3 men, escaping to a villa in the countryside



This is one of the last paintings John William Waterhouse ever made, and it is basically the world's first quarantine podcast. Painted in 1916 by John William Waterhouse, *A Tale from the Decameron* is set in 14th century Italy, and it captures one of the most famous group chats in literary history. In 1348, The Black Death tore through Florence, killed two-thirds of the city. Bodies in the streets, mass graves, total collapse. So, the writer Giovanni Boccaccio imagined 10 Florentines, 7

women and 3 men, escaping to a villa in the countryside. There, to keep themselves from going completely insane, they told each other stories. 100 of them, over 10 days. That is the Decameron. Have a look at the painting. The man in the red cap is the storyteller. The girls are leaning in. Everyone's beautifully dressed, sitting in a garden full of fountains and flowers, like nothing is wrong. But it is. And here is the wild part. Waterhouse painted this in 1916 during World War I. He died a year later. Same impulse, different plague.

#FOOD

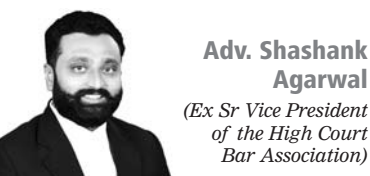
Sambhar For Sambhaji

Sambhar was invented in the South because of the North



Who knew sambhar came with such a spicy plot twist? At South Side Story's literary curtain-raiser bookmarked, Dr. Shashi Tharoor turned a seemingly simple question into a deliciously witty origin tale. Asked whether he enjoyed Delhi's version of the dish, Tharoor began, "Look, you guys have to understand that sambhar was invented in the South because of the North." He explained that when the Marathas conquered Tanjavur, they installed

Sambhaji as Maharaja, who, missing his daal, prompted southern cooks to improvise a suitable replacement. "Sambhar was named for Sambhaji, the Maratha Peshwa of Tanjavur. And that's how it came about," he quipped, eliciting laughter before concluding with characteristic charm: "So, whatever you guys do to sambhar can't be worse than what we did to daal." Audiences across social media dubbed it "classic Tharoor storytelling," even as some playfully corrected his North vs. West India geography.



Adv. Shashank Agarwal (Ex Sr Vice President of the High Court Bar Association)

In the last article, we asked a simple question: if your face turns up in an advertisement you never agreed to, or an AI-generated video puts words in your mouth, which Indian law protects you? The honest answer, we said, was: not much a constitutional right built for a different purpose, and a law of torts nobody quite trusts. Since then, nothing has changed in Parliament. But a great deal has changed in one courtroom. If you have followed the news even loosely over the past year, you will have noticed a pattern: a cricketer here, a film star there, each turning up at

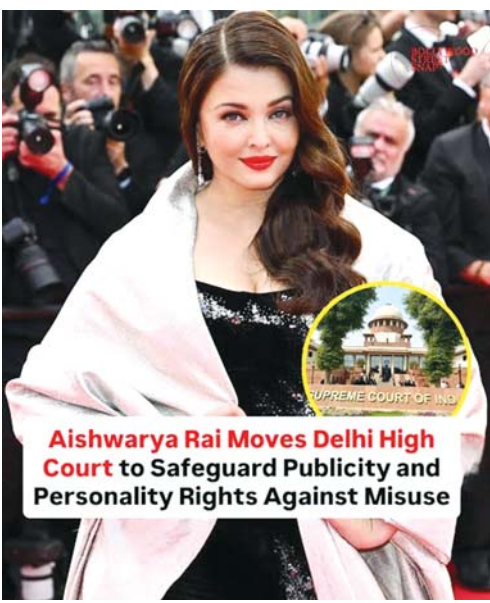


Sunil Gavaskar Becomes First Indian Sportsperson To Secure Court-Backed Personality Rights Protection

the Delhi High Court asking a judge to stop someone from stealing their face. It is worth asking why Delhi, of all places, has become the address for this and worth looking closely at the one recent case where a well-known public figure asked for the same protection and was told, quite firmly, that he could not have it.

The Delhi High Court Has Become the Address!

Legal commentators tracking this trend counted more than twenty personality rights suits filed in Indian courts, overwhelmingly in Delhi, in roughly the past two years alone. The list reads like a cross-section of Indian public life. Cricketer Gautam Gambhir went to court this year over deepfake videos, a fabricated resignation announcement, and merchandise sold in his name, seeking Rs. 2.5 crore in damages. Cricketer Yuvraj Singh followed soon after, after AI-generated images placed him, without his consent, at a Sikh shrine with his head uncov-



Aishwarya Rai Moves Delhi High Court to Safeguard Publicity and Personality Rights Against Misuse



BJP's Raghav Chadha moves Delhi High Court to protect his personality rights



Shilpa Moves Court For Her Personality Protection Rights



Salman Khan moves Delhi High Court to protect his personality rights

Personality rights and defamation, though they can look similar from the outside, are answering different questions. Personality rights exist to stop someone else from making money, or deceiving the public, by trading on the commercial value of your identity, your face on a T-shirt you never approved, your voice cloned to sell a loan app, a fake video suggesting you endorsed a product you have never touched. What Chadha complained of was not anyone profiting from his persona; it was people saying false and damaging things about him as a politician. That is a reputational injury, and Indian law has a well-worn, if imperfect, path for it, defamation complete with its own defences of truth, fair comment, and public interest, none of which have anything to do with commercial identity theft. A politician facing false allegations does not get to reach for the celebrity's toolkit merely because both grievances involve someone's name being dragged through the mud.

Why Everyone Is Suddenly Suing in Delhi ?



#LAW

ered, content the court itself called "religiously insensitive" alongside a fake Reddit post attributing opinions to him he never held. The judge did not mince words, observing that "violators of personality and privacy rights need to be dealt with a heavy hand." Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, actor Salman Khan, actor Shilpa Shetty, and the spiritual teacher Sri Sri Ravi Shankar have all filed similar suits. Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and actor Tabu have moved court over AI misuse of their image.

Why Delhi, and not Mumbai, where most of Bollywood actually lives, or Chennai, where much of South Indian cinema is based? Part of the answer is structural. Delhi High Court set up a dedicated Intellectual Property Division in 2021, staffed by judges who have spent years handling exactly this kind of dispute and have grown comfortable granting fast, often ex parte, injunctions including so-called "John Doe" orders that restrain unnamed, unidentifiable defendants the moment a violation surfaces online. For a client whose deepfake video is racking up views by the hour, that speed matters more than home turf. Delhi has, in effect, built the country's only real play-book for this kind of case, and everybody, Mumbai star or Chennai cricketer, has learned to use it.

The Case of the MP Who Was Told: This Isn't Personality Rights

Then came a case that tells us just as much by what the court refused to do. Earlier this year, Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha approached the Delhi High Court over social media posts he called obscene and defamatory, alleging, among other things, that he had "sold himself for money." He sought a blanket order to remove all such content, framing his plea, like the film stars before him, as a personality rights matter.

The court gave him some relief, it ordered the takedown of five specific posts. But it declined the blanket order, and it said something more important along the way: this case, the court held, did not actually involve personality rights at all. The relief was granted under the law of defamation, not under the doctrine that has been protecting Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, and the rest.

Why the difference? Because personality rights and defamation, though they can look similar from the outside, are answering different questions. Personality rights exist to stop someone else from making money, or deceiving the public, by trading on the commercial value of your identity, your face on a T-shirt you never approved, your voice cloned to sell a loan app, a fake video suggesting you endorsed a product you have never touched. What Chadha complained of was not anyone profiting from his persona; it was people saying false and damaging things about him as a politician. That is a reputational injury, and Indian law has a well-worn, if imperfect, path for it, defamation complete with its own defences of truth, fair comment, and public interest, none of which have anything to do with commercial identity theft. A politician facing false allegations does not get to reach for the celebrity's toolkit merely because both grievances involve someone's name being dragged through the mud.

Drawing the Line: When Personality Rights Apply, and When They Don't

This gives us, finally, a workable answer to the question every general reader actually wants answered: when can you claim these rights, and when can't you?

Courts tend to lean in your favour when someone is using your name, face, voice, or unmistakable likeness to make money or to

deceive selling merchandise bearing your image without a licence, creating an AI video that puts fabricated words or endorsements in your mouth, or building a business around your persona without paying you or asking you. This is the common thread running through the Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh orders: real commercial exploitation, dressed up as something else. Courts tend to lean away from you in at least two situations. The first, as Chadha discovered, is when your real complaint is about reputation and falsehood rather than commercial misuse that belongs to defamation law, with its own, different rules. The second is when the challenged use is not commercial exploitation at all but genuine expression satire, parody, art, journalism, or fair comment. The Delhi High Court made this point sharply in an earlier dispute over cricketers' digital trading cards, a case with a distinctly Rajasthani flavour: an unlicensed fantasy-sports platform had used the names and likenesses of IPL players, including several who turn out for the Rajasthan Royals, in commissioned artwork rather than actual photographs, with clear disclaimers attached. As it has been held that the right of publicity is not absolute, it must bend to free expression and that lampooning, satire, parody, art, scholarship, and news reporting are all legitimate uses that a celebrity cannot block simply by invoking their persona. Fame, in other words, does not buy you a veto over every mention of your own name.

That case is a useful reminder for anyone tempted to see this as a one-way ratchet. Legal commentators tracking the recent surge have themselves flagged a real worry: some Delhi High Court orders have gone further than they should, restraining ordinary fan tribute pages, blocking T-shirts carrying a celebrity's catchphrase without asking whether any buyer was actually confused, and even purporting to

bind millions of anonymous social media "subscribers." A right built to stop identity theft can, if courts are not careful, start to look like a right to control culture itself.

Rajasthan's Turn Will Come

Which brings us to a curious gap. For an article written from Rajasthan, one would expect at least a passing mention of a case filed here. There isn't one, not in the Jaipur bench of the Rajasthan High Court, nor anywhere else in the state, despite the state's own strong claim to this conversation. The fantasy-cards dispute alone involved Rajasthan Royals players, yet, it was fought and decided in Delhi. Jaipur and Jodhpur host a growing film and web-series economy; Kota and Jaipur have produced no shortage of social media influencers with real, monetisable followings; the state's folk musicians and sportspersons face exactly the same deepfake and impersonation risks as any



GAUTAM GAMBHIR MOVES DELHI HC AGAINST MISUSE OF DEEPFAKES AND AI FACE-SWAPPING

ZITS



Miners in Myanmar have unearthed an extraordinary 11,000-carat ruby, weighing around 2.3 kilograms (4.8 pounds), in what is being described as the country's second-heaviest ruby discovery by weight.

The enormous rough gemstone was discovered near Mogok, in Myanmar's upper Mandalay region, an area internationally famous for producing some of the world's finest rubies. The discovery reportedly took place in April, shortly after the traditional New Year festival.

The ruby was later displayed at the presidential office in Naypyidaw, where President Min Aung Hlaing and members of his cabinet examined the remarkable stone. Although the

newly discovered ruby is enormous, it is not the largest ever found in Myanmar. That distinction belongs to a 21,450-carat ruby discovered in 1896, which weighed approximately 4.29 kilograms (9.45 pounds). However, size is not the only factor that determines a ruby's value.

The newly discovered stone is reportedly considered potentially more valuable because of its superior colour and quality. It has been described as having a distinctive purplish-red colour with yellowish undertones, moderate transparency and a highly reflective surface.

Rubies from Myanmar, particularly those originating in Mogok and Mong Hsu, are among the most prized gemstones in the world. Myanmar has historically been estimated

to produce a very large share of the world's rubies, with Mogok often referred to as the country's legendary "Valley of Rubies." But the discovery comes at a complicated time for Myanmar's gemstone industry.

The Mogok region has experienced intense fighting amid the country's ongoing civil war. Gemstones have long been an important source of revenue for Myanmar, but the industry has also attracted international criticism over the way revenues from precious stones can support military authorities.

Human-rights organisations, including Global Witness, have called on jewellery companies and consumers to avoid purchasing gems originating from Myanmar because of concerns over the financing of military rule.

Myanmar's political situation remains deeply contested following the military takeover in 2021. The country's recent elections and political transition have also been criticised by opposition groups and human-rights organisations.

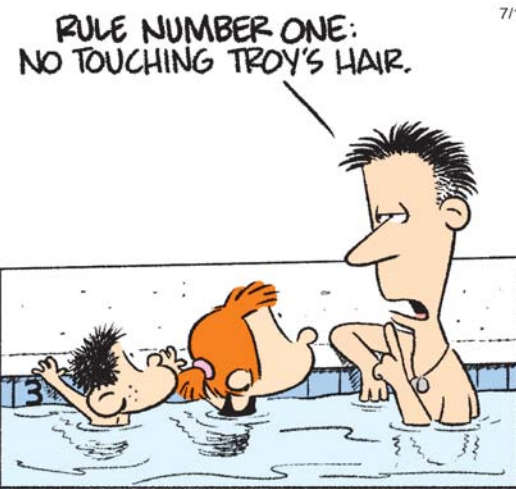
Against this backdrop, the discovery of an 11,000-carat ruby represents more than a spectacular geological event. It highlights the extraordinary natural wealth hidden beneath Myanmar's soil, and the complicated relationship between beauty, wealth, politics and conflict.

A rough ruby weighing more than two kilograms is rare enough to make headlines anywhere in the world. But in Myanmar, where rubies have shaped economies, attracted international buyers and become entangled with decades of political conflict, even a magnificent gemstone carries a much larger story beneath its surface.

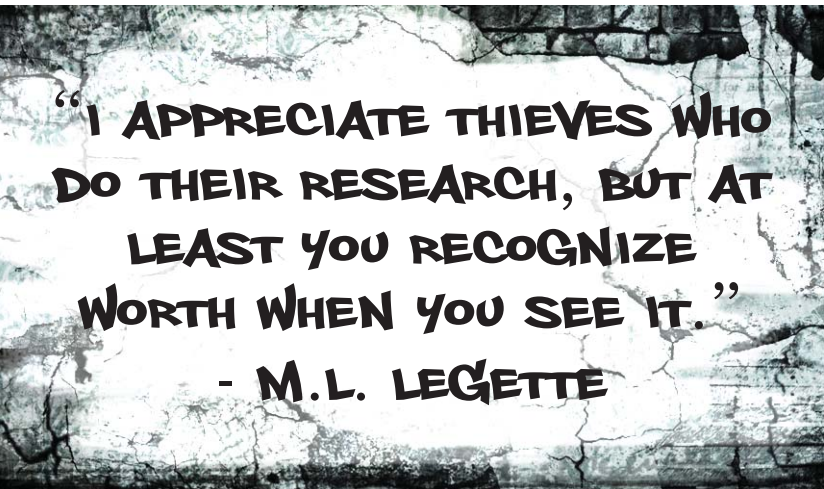


By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



THE WALL



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman