









# 'INDIA' unites against BJP's 'nationalism'

In a show of unity and strategic opposition, 26 Indian political parties have coined the acronym INDIA, or Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, as their collaborative platform. This move is both a reflection of their resolute ambition to achieve a common objective, as well as a rather strained attempt at mixing language and politics. By adopting the country's name as their title, the alliance is attempting a face-off with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on its own battleground - the field of nationalism. The alliance aims to convey to the electorate that, contrary to the BJP's stance, they represent a more inclusive vision of India. The Congress, by relinquishing any claim for the Prime Ministerial seat should the alliance win the 2024 general elections, has facilitated the formation of INDIA. This is the most cohesive effort to challenge BJP's dominance since 2014. However, there are undeniable inconsistencies within the INDIA alliance, which includes parties that regularly contest against each other in regions like West Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala. The term 'alliance' may thus seem a misnomer. Yet, the shared recognition of a larger political fight is currently INDIA's driving force. Allocating seats among the partners will be a monumental task, even with a mutual commitment to a pluralistic India. Moreover, multiple parties and leaders within the alliance are embroiled in corruption investigations and trials, exposing them to potential coercion or bribery from the BJP. There's evidence of bruised egos and thwarted ambitions, but the resolve to reconvene in Mumbai holds. Despite shifting attitudes towards the BJP and credibility issues, INDIA stands firm. While the BJP's moral standing has significantly deteriorated, it continues to question opponents on issues of dynastic politics and corruption. The opposition's case against the BJP holds substantial weight, yet they must overcome significant hurdles to appeal to the masses and emerge victorious.

## LETTERBOX

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## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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SHASHANK MOHAN ON HOW MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2022 DPDP BILL CAN ENHANCE FUTURE-PROOFING, COMPLAINT RESOLUTION.

# India's data protection law needs refinement



India is no Europe, and this seems especially true in the face of a task such as drafting and conceptualising a data protection law for over 1.4 billion Indians. The European Union's (EU) data protection law, i.e., the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), came into force in the middle of 2018 and achieved widespread popularity as arguably the most comprehensive data privacy law in the world. However, the GDPR has been saddled with challenges of implementation and risks being relegated to the status of a paper tiger. Although the EU's challenges may be due to its unique legal structure, India must guard against the risks of enacting a law that is toothless in effect.

## Issues around data use

This deliberation becomes increasingly relevant as the Indian government is likely to table India's fresh data protection law in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament (July 20-August 11). Late last year, the government released the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022 for public consultation. This is its third recent attempt at drafting a data protection law. While the draft released for public comments was not as comprehensive as its previous versions, news reports suggest that the government may present a Bill that is largely similar. Considering this, critical gaps remain in the DPDP Bill that would affect its implementation and overall success.

In its scope and definition, the DPDP Bill only protects personal data, that is any data that has the potential to directly or indirectly identify an individual. In the modern data economy, entities use various types of data,



including both personal and non-personal data to target, profile, predict, and monitor users (non-personal data is typically anonymous data that does not relate to a particular individual — for example, aggregate data on products which numerous users look at between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Amazon). Often, this non-personal data when combined with other datasets can help identify individuals, and in this way become personal data, impacting user privacy.

For instance, anonymous datasets about individual Uber rides in New Delhi can be combined with prayer timings to identify members who belong to a certain community, which could include their home addresses. This process of re-identification of non-personal data poses significant risks to privacy. Such risks were accounted for in previous versions of India's draft data protection Bill,

in 2018 and 2019, but do not find a place in the latest draft. By not recognising these risks, the DPDP Bill is very limited in its scope and effect in providing meaningful privacy to Indians. A simple and effective solution — as in the earlier versions — would be to add a penal provision in the Bill that provides for financial penalties on data-processing entities for the re-identification of non-personal data into personal data.

## Limited reach of data protection board

Another gap is the inability of the proposed data protection board to initiate a proceeding of its own accord. Under the Bill, the board is the authority that is entrusted with enforcing the law. The board can only institute a proceeding for adjudication if someone affected makes a complaint to it, or the government or a court directs it to do

so. The only exception to this rule is when the board can take action on its own to enforce certain duties listed by the Bill for users. This is for the adjudication of disputes between the law and users — for example, an obligation on users not to register a false or frivolous complaint with the board, and not between users and data-processing entities.

In the data economy, users have diminished control and limited knowledge of data transfers and exchanges. Due to the ever-evolving and complex nature of data processing, users will always be a step behind entities which make use of their data. For example, a food delivery app can take all my data and sell it to data brokers in violation of my contractual relationship with them. Individually, I may have little resources or incentive to approach the data protection board.

The board, on the other hand, may be in a better position to proceed against the food delivery app on its own — on behalf of all such affected users. This is not a novel suggestion. The Competition Commission of India, which is responsible for the enforcement of India's antitrust law, has the power to initiate inquiries on its own (and utilises it frequently). Again, a simple way to do this would be to have a provision in the DPDP Bill that allows the data protection board to initiate complaints on its own.

These are not the only gaps in the DPDP Bill, but finding solutions to them would help address challenges in implementation in a significant way and make for a more future-proof legislation.

*Shashank Mohan is Programme Manager at the Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University Delhi*



FROM AN ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATION PERSPECTIVE, BRANDING A POLITICAL ALLIANCE AS INDIA IS A BRILLIANT IDEA AND A DANGEROUS STRATEGY. BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH THE COUNTRYMEN WILL DIGEST THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL PLOY.

# The idea of INDIA will bounce back!

NARVIJAY YADAV

The upcoming 2024 parliamentary elections are going to be exciting. The country is on the path of development. The expansion of highways and expressways during this period is unprecedented. Digital modes of transactions have made people's life easier. The means of telecommunication and internet data are as affordable as they have never been before. Our country is moving towards becoming the new Superpower of the world. After all this, it becomes necessary that this chariot of development continues to run at the current speed. This has been possible because of a corruption-free government with an absolute majority in the House. It is obvious that a 'khichdi sarkar' cannot give all this to the countrymen. If there are 26 people using a single sheet, there will definitely be a tussle. The Opposition parties are happy by naming their sheet as INDIA, but they do not know that no one person or organization can have authority over India. Has this name been adopted after consulting India? Have the countrymen allowed this misuse?

India is the name of this nation and the nation belongs to the 1.4 billion people. No one can claim his rights on this name. The one who does this will



definitely face the music. India will give a befitting reply to this idea, let the day of polling come. I believe that you cannot drag the name of the country in your petty fights and squabbles. No nationalist Indian citizen will tolerate this cheap joke, just let the elections come. Then watch the spectacle. Most of the names

in this group of 26 are involved in corruption cases, some are out on bail and some are facing legal cases, while some others are under investigation. How can such tainted individuals or parties be recognized in the name of the nation? And which true Indian would allow this to happen? With the kind of cheap words

used during the poll campaigns by these political parties, you can easily guess what is going to happen to the dignity of the word INDIA.

Earlier also a political party was successful in keeping Indians poor for decades by giving the slogan of Garibi Hatao. A leader of the same party had publicly accepted that one rupee sent from the Center gets reduced to ten paise by the time it reaches the beneficiary. This 'leakage' does not happen nowadays, as the entire amount directly reaches the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Linguistically, even the word India is a symbol of English mentality, while the other camp emphasizes Bharat, promotes Hindi at global levels, and speaks to the heart of Indians. It is not enough just to use a tricky name or slogan to persuade voters, it is necessary that the person or the party has integrity, honesty, truthfulness, grassroots-level connection with the people, and patriotism, to succeed. However, from an advertising and communication perspective, calling the group INDIA is a brilliant idea and a dangerous strategy. But it remains to be seen how much the countrymen will be able to digest this psychological ploy.

*The writer is a senior journalist and columnist, Views are personal.*



## BOOKS: REVIEW

# Book helps understand our mind's musical journey

“Every Brain Needs Music” is an enlightening journey into the intersection of music and neuroscience, masterfully penned by neuroscientist Larry Sherman and professional musician Dennis Plies. The book deftly explores the intricate connections between our neural systems and the melodies that invigorate our lives, revealing why music is as fundamental to our existence as food and shelter.

Sherman and Plies' collaboration blends the analytical with the artistic, presenting a compelling picture of the science behind music's profound influence on human emotion. They delve into the complex mechanics of how music — be it instrumental or vocal — modifies the air molecules entering our ears, stimulating specialized nerve cells and thus creating potent emotional responses. They also address one of the most intriguing questions about our brain's interaction with music: how we can immediately recognize a song from just a few notes, yet we identify the sound of running water merely as functional noise.

In the tradition of language's universal significance, the book positions music as a language in

its own right, enriching our communication and expression. The text is thoughtfully structured into eight chapters, each resonating with the cognitive, sensory, and motor functions of the brain and how these interact with creativity. The final two chapters focus on our brain's process of interpreting music and the emotional responses it generates, forming a captivating conclusion.

The authors underpin their narrative with a fascinating survey, where they query composers, musicians, educators, students, and music enthusiasts about how music enhances their lives. The responses affirm Nietzsche's famous sentiment, “Without music, life would be a mistake.” This survey gives life to the idea that music predates language in human development, offering profound moments of clarity for individuals such as Alzheimer's patients or those suffering from Parkinson's.

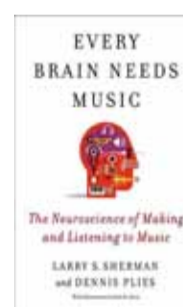
“Every Brain Needs Music” is a charming blend of wit and knowledge. The text is filled with engaging narratives that demonstrate the potent impact of music on memory and emotional well-being. The authors compellingly argue that engaging with music, be it through listening or playing an instrument, fosters the generation of new brain cells,

**The final two chapters focus on our brain's process of interpreting music and the emotional responses it generates, forming a captivating conclusion**

synapses, and myelin. They attribute the unique and powerful effects of music to its ability to engage multiple networks within our brains, unlike any other activity. In this light, music is presented not just as an art form, but an essential aspect of our existence.

Sherman and Plies' work is not an ode to music; rather, it is an exploration of what music is to the human brain. They resist the temptation to be swept away by romantic metaphors and instead delve into the intricate science behind it all. Their conclusion is profound: it's not just that we enjoy music, but rather our brains, in their unique complexity, are what truly gives music its melody.

The authors end their book with a plea to make music education a mainstream element of our learning,



*Every Brain Needs Music*  
 Music  
 Larry Sherman,  
 Dennis Plies  
 Columbia  
 University Press;  
 288 pages; \$32

highlighting its potential to enrich our aesthetic and cognitive lives. “Every Brain Needs Music” stands as a testament to music's fundamental role in our lives, providing a detailed and persuasive argument for its place in human cognitive development. It's a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the nuanced relationship between our brains and the melodies that pervade our existence.

In “Every Brain Needs Music,” Sherman and Plies also shed light on the therapeutic potential of music. They share moving anecdotes about music's ability to penetrate the fog of Alzheimer's disease, improve mobility in Parkinson's patients, and provide comfort to those battling cancer. These stories powerfully illustrate how music can reach areas of the brain that are otherwise unreachable, bringing about significant changes in mood and cognition. It is a testament to music's potent and transformative healing power, offering the reader a deeper understanding of the subject and its wide-reaching effects on human well-being.

The authors artfully navigate the dichotomy between the analytical

and emotional experiences of music. They explain how our brains process rhythm, melody, and harmony, translating these elements into emotional responses. They also delve into the evolutionary perspective, drawing on Charles Darwin's speculation that the human brain evolved to engage in music. This viewpoint adds a compelling layer to the discourse, reinforcing the idea of music as an integral part of human existence.

Sherman and Plies further enrich their narrative by incorporating fascinating scientific research alongside personal accounts from their survey respondents. Their comprehensive approach reveals that music's impact is deeply personal and varies greatly among individuals, yet it has universal elements that touch the lives of all humans. This quality offers a rich perspective, positioning music as a universal language that speaks to our individuality and shared humanity.

“Every Brain Needs Music” also examines the societal implications of understanding music's influence on the brain. The authors make a compelling case for integrating music education into mainstream curricula. They argue that cultivating musical skills not only improves cognitive function but also enhances social cohesion, empathy, and emotional well-being. The book ends with a powerful call to action for educators and policymakers, encouraging them to recognise music not as a peripheral pleasure but as a necessary component of a holistic education.







# Priyanka and her husband just celebrated her 41st birthday

**P**riyanka Chopra just celebrated her 41st birthday, and her husband, pop star Nick Jonas, shared an adorable post on the occasion.

Nick took to Instagram and dropped an unseen photo with Priyanka, wherein the couple are sitting on a yacht in a lovestruck pose.

Priyanka is wearing a white and black dotted halter-neck dress paired with white sunglasses, and Nick is in a blue sleeveless tee shirt.

He penned a note along with the photo: "I love celebrating you. Happy birthday my love, with a red heart emoji. The comment section was filled with fans expressing: 'Lots of blessings to you both, I'm happy that you are celebrating our queen, she deserves all the love and happiness in this world.'"



Another wrote: "Nick Jonas... his acts of service and affirmation are so strong." "You are the greatest happiness for her, you make her happy, keep partying together! Happy Birthday Priyanka," and "Happy Birthday to your queen PCJ! We love you and wish you a beautiful blessed year ahead! Keep shining and stay blessed with your gorgeous family!"

Priyanka's mother, Dr Madhu Chopra, also shared a video on social media wherein we can see montage of throwback and unseen pictures of PCJ with her mommy, brother, daughter Malti Marie and husband Nick. The video also shows Priyanka saying: "I don't wanna have a label. I wanna have a legacy."

The post was captioned: "Happy Birthday to the bold & gorgeous @priyankachopra."

## 'The Trial' Kajol impresses in daunting task of matching up to original



**MUMBAI:** The purpose of a trial is to ensure that the defendant gets a fair assessment of all evidence against him or her, and so, it is a structured process wherein the facts of a case are presented to a jury, which decides if the defendant is guilty or not. If the ruling in the case is found to be not maintainable, then it can be challenged in a higher court.

The only difference is that unlike in the US, India does not have a trial by jury system!

The process of trial as enumerated in our Constitution is that "trial is the right of a person", or that the trial of a court should be a "fair trial". And that could be a huge challenge if a story around the American courts is adapted to suit the Indian milieu and its legal system.

Understandably then, the eight-episode Disney+ Hotstar series, 'The Trial: Pyaar, Kaanon, Dhokha', adapted from the multi-season CBS show 'The Good Wife', has been tweaked -- at times, a bit liberally -- to cater to Indian audiences, and has amended the original creative writing with some of the technical legal terms and laws altered.

By doing so, it does fit into the mindset with which court cases are filed, viewed and judged under the Indian Penal Code.

## Highly-anticipated film 'Project K' starring Prabhas, Deepika, Amitabh and Kamal Hassan

**MUMBAI:** The makers of the highly-anticipated film 'Project K', starring Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan in the lead, have finally unveiled the first glimpse at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), with the official title announcement.

The film is now officially titled 'Kalki2898AD'. This cinematic masterpiece has been hailed as a seamless fusion of science fiction and unprecedented storytelling, setting new benchmarks for the genre. The grand unveiling of 'Kalki2898AD' took place at the prestigious San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), where the film captivated audiences with its visionary concept and spellbinding visuals.

The new title perfectly encapsulates the essence of the film, generating curiosity and excitement among fans and cinephiles worldwide. Directed by Nag Ashwin, 'Kalki 2898 AD' promises to transport audiences to a world never seen before in Indian cinema.

The film's premise, set in the distant future of 2898 AD, seamlessly blends futuristic elements with rich storytelling, offering an unparalleled and immersive cinematic experience. The one-minute 15-second teaser is set in a dark and sci-fi futuristic world. It begins with a glimpse of war-torn time-period, where people are being treated violently by the oppressor, and they are running for their lives.

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## Producer Param Sidhu launches the trailer of Punjabi film "Balle O Chalaak Sajjna"

**KULBIR SINGH KALSI Chandigarh**

Bringing forward a social drama injected by the society in the lives of two brothers, Hakam and Varyam; Mainland Films (Canada) and Mainsite Pictures (India) shared the trailer of the film "Balle O Chalaak Sajjna" produced by Param Sidhu, Guri Pandher and Sukhi Dhillion; whereas directed by Royal Singh to release on 4th August, 2023.

The film stars an adept star cast including Raj Singh Jhin-



jar, Vikram Chouhan, Molina Sodhi, Harashjot Kaur, Nirmal Rishi, Mahabir Bhullar, Rupinder Rup, Parkash Gadh, Raj Dhaliwal, Parminder Barnala, Aman Sudhar, Gurpreet Toti, Dilraj Uday, Sukhwinder Raj and Harman Virk.

Talking about the film written by Gurpreet Toti and realistically edited by Manish Eklaya, the film highlights some crucial norms of the society who create shameful remakes on the basis of their false assumptions. But how are these norms and allegations harmful or crucial on an innocent family is what the audience will get to witness in the film.

## Salman Khan is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT'

**MUMBAI:** Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT', feels the show is like an extension of his life.

While news of Salman quitting the show as the host including the ongoing 'Bigg Boss OTT 2' has been circulating, this is what the 'Dabangg' star had to say about the show during the launch of the OTT version.

"Bigg Boss is an emotion for me; I always say mai attachment se door rehna hoon but Bigg Boss is different! I have hosted it now for so many years that it feels like an extension of my life!" said Salman.

"Bigg Boss" is an Indian reality show franchise based on the Dutch reality show 'Big Brother'. It was originally started in the Hindi language, and has since been extended into seven languages spoken in the Indian subcontinent, including Kannada, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Malayalam.

Salman has been the host of 'Bigg Boss' for the last 13 seasons and took over as the host of 'Bigg Boss OTT' this season.

He first joined the hosting duties in 2010 with the fourth season of the show, where Shweta Tiwari emerged as the winner.

On the acting front, he was last seen in 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', which also stars Pooja



Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari and Raghav Juyal among many others.

Salman will next be seen in 'Tiger 3' with Katrina Kaif. The film is slated to release on April 21, 2023.

"Tiger 3" is the third instalment in the 'Tiger' franchise directed by Maneesh Sharma.

The first instalment 'Ek Tha Tiger' directed by Kabir Khan released in 2012. The second 'Tiger Zinda Hai' released in 2017 and was directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.

'Bigg Boss OTT 2' streams on Jio Cinema. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is currently seen hosting the second season of 'Bigg Boss OTT', feels the show is like an extension of his life.

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## Vicky Kaushal shared a glimpse from Katrina Kaif's 40th birthday



**MUMBAI:** Actor Vicky Kaushal shared a glimpse from Katrina Kaif's 40th birthday and said that he is in awe of her magic everyday.

Vicky took to Instagram to wish his wife and shared photos, where he and Katrina can be seen by the sea.

The two were seen posing romantically as they looked into each others' eyes.

The actor captioned: "In awe of your magic... every day. Happy Birthday my love!"

Vicky's brother Sunny Kaushal took to the comment section and dropped three

heart emojis after seeing the beautiful photographs from their birthday getaway.

Vicky and Katrina got married in December 2021 in Rajasthan and the couple later held a reception in Mumbai.

On the work front, Katrina is gearing up for the third instalment of the 'Tiger' franchise, which is slated to release on Diwali 2023. She will also be seen in Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas and Jee Le Zera.

Vicky will be seen in 'Sam Bahadur' directed by Meghna Gulzar.



## Bollywood diva Kriti opens up on loving butterflies to explain production house's name

**NEW DELHI:** Bollywood diva Kriti Sanon, who has created a big wave of excitement with the announcement of her production house Blue Butterfly Films, has explained the real reason of her choosing this title.

Taking to social media, Kriti has shared a video

of her journey, explaining and showing visuals of her high points so far, and also revealed how she has been using the 'blue butterfly' emoji since her debut.

Kriti also said that how she truly resonates with the title of her production house. In the video, she said: "So

why Blue Butterfly Films -- I do love butterflies and I do love the colour blue, it's there on my insta bio since ages, I use it in my captions, I use it when I write poetry. I think it signifies dreams, wings, flight, freedom, liberal, positivity, happiness all of it. I feel like a butterfly is beautiful but it starts off with you know, being a caterpillar, turning into a cocoon and then turning into a butterfly."

"It is a slow steady process and becoming the most beautiful version of yourself and I think my life on my journey has kind of been like that, I've learnt everything on the job, I've slowly gotten to where I am today, evolved into the person I am today," said the 'Shehzada' actress. "You have your struggles but you move on, you grow, you change and then you find the best, the most beautiful version of yourself and then you fly. So, that's why it is blue butterfly," added Kriti.

On the work front, Kriti will next be seen in Vikas Bahl's 'Ganapath - Part 1' and 'The Crew' starring next to Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Rajkumar Rao.

## In 'Kohrra,' we introduced all our characters through eyes of the cops says Randeep Jha



Director Randeep Jha skillfully takes audiences on a thrilling journey in 'Kohrra', delving into the intertwined lives of dysfunctional families, and the chilling depths of the crime. Set against the backdrop of the picturesque countryside of Punjab, the story revolves around the discovery of a murdered NRI just days before his wedding.

## Sara Ali Khan pays obeisance at Amarnath cave shrine



**SRINAGAR:** Actor Sara Ali Khan undertook the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said on Thursday.

Sara, daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, undertook the yatra from the Baltal axis, they said.

On July 19, the 27-year-old actor visited the Sonamarg resort -- on the way to Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district -- and enjoyed the breathtaking views at the Thajwas glacier.

## Arjun Rampal, Gabriella Demetriades welcome second child



**MUMBAI:** Actor Arjun Rampal and his partner, Gabriella Demetriades, have become parents to a baby boy, their second child together. Arjun, 50, took to his social media pages to share the news. "My family and I are blessed with a beautiful baby boy today. Mother and son are both doing well. Thank you to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses. We are over the moon. Thank you for all your love and support. #helloworld #20.07.2023," the "London Files" actor wrote alongside a picture of a swaddle that read "Hello World".

being, I am shattered each time. I am ashamed."

He further mentioned that he feels guilty for being helpless in such a situation and also wrote that there is "no right to life in free India."

He continued: "I am so guilty for my helplessness. O Manipur, I tried... I tried... but I failed. All I can do now is tell their tragic stories through my work. But it's too late by then. We are all victims of selective and hyper-competitive electoral politics. We are victims of hyper-religion. We are victims of dangerous media. We, the people of Bharat, are victims. There is no #RightToLife in free India. And we can't do anything about it."

"This is not the freedom I want. This is not the kind of democracy I want. It's worth nothing if it makes us pay for each other's blood. We are a failed society. I am sorry, my sisters. I am sorry, my mothers."



Actor Randeep Hooda joins forces with Khalsa Aid to aid flood-affected regions of Punjab and Haryana. PHOTO: PRABHJOT GILL

A complete **KNOWLEDGE CAPSULE**

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