

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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January 11, 2024 Rs 100

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We bear Witness

Palestinians tell their stories of loss, despair, and of courage from their war-torn land

More than 20,900 Palestinians killed, including 8,000 children, in the Israeli offensive since October 7, 2023

RNI NO. 7044/1961

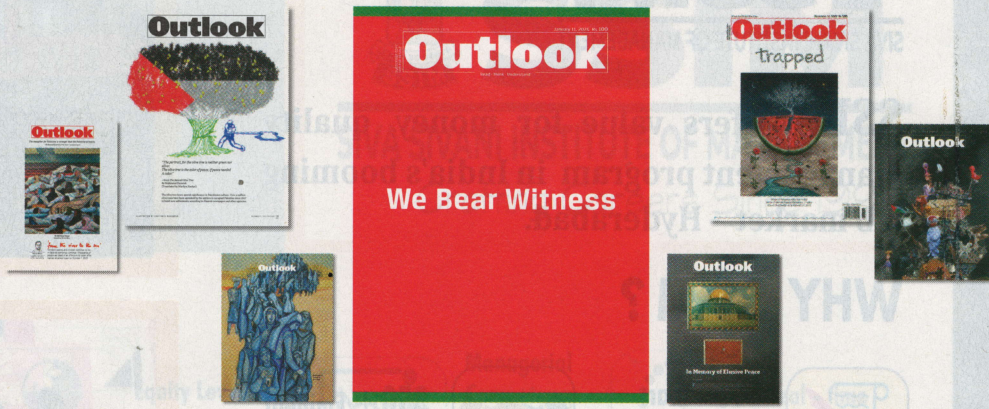


Volume LXIV, No. 2

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Outlook issue
 January 1, 2024

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Printed and published by Indranil Roy on
 behalf of Outlook Publishing (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Editor: Chinki Sinha. Printed at MP Printers
 (A Unit of DB Corp Ltd) B-220, Phase-II,
 Noida 201305, Gautam Budh Nagar (UP)
 and published from AB-10, S.J. Enclave,
 New Delhi-110 029

Published for the period of
 January 2-11, 2024
 Released on January 1, 2024

Total number of pages 316 including covers

In an average-sized globe, Israel and Palestine are two tiny dots. And yet, in the post-World War II global politics, no other region has perhaps been so volatile. In 1948, when the State of Israel was formed—many say by the Western nations in an attempt to cleanse their guilt of anti-Semitism—more than 700,000 Palestinians living there were displaced. Since then Israel has consistently expanded its territory, with many violent conflicts in the region—the Six-Day War in 1967, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, the Lebanon War in 1987. That year the militant organisation, Hamas, was formed in Palestine to counter Israel's march into Palestinian areas. Hamas is considered a terror outfit by the US, the UK, the European Union and a dozen other countries.

Among the bloody past confrontations, the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 was heinous, with over 1,200 Israeli soldiers and civilians killed and many taken hostage. But all Palestinians don't support the Hamas or approve of its methods. Yet, the Israel counter-attack is inhumanly brutal. So far, about 20,800 Palestinians, including over 8,000 children, have been killed, while a silent world looks on. And the annihilation continues. What holds witness to the dead bodies, the cries of pain, the rubble of houses, schools, hospitals and libraries are what Palestinians hold close to their heart—the poppy flower, the keffiyeh head-scarf, the olive tree. Outlook's anniversary issue cover—a poppy flower on a keffiyeh pattern—is to hope that justice comes to this tormented people, to offer some solace to the souls of the survivors of this mayhem.

Here, in this anniversary issue, people take over. To tell their stories. In their voices.

The red of the red poppy flower symbolises the relationship of Palestinians with their land and the colour of blood that Palestinians have shed while protecting this land. It also shares the colours of the Palestinian flag—red, green, black and red.

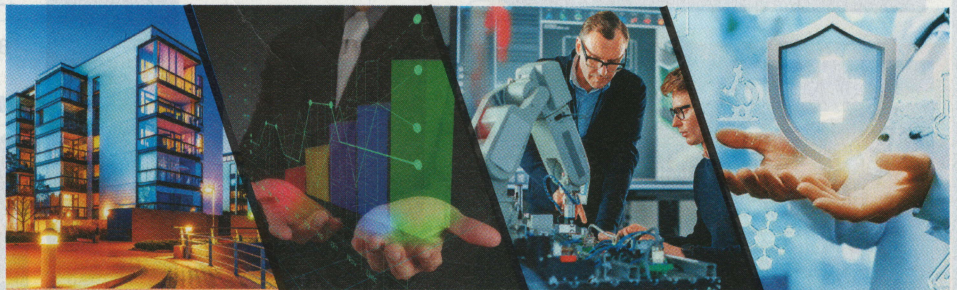
The Palestinian Keffiyeh, a scarf, rose to prominence during the 1936-1939 Arab revolt. It was revived during the 1960s by Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), as national attire, and has since been a global symbol of solidarity with Palestinians.

Cover Illustrations: Chaitanya Rukampur



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