

Outlook

Read · Think · Understand

SUBSCRIBER COPY
NOT FOR RESALE

What 'lies' beneath

How history is as deep as you dig or as big as you build
(Ayodhya, Gyanvapi, Mathura, Rakhigarhi, Pattanam, Keezhadi...)

Aerial shot of
the Rakhigarhi
excavation site in
Haryana in 2016
Photo courtesy:
Rakhigarhi Project

RNI NO. 7044/1961



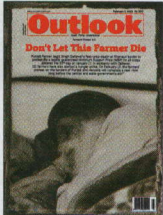
81904150800010 05

Volume LXV, No. 5

EDITOR Chinki Sinha
MANAGING EDITOR Satish Padmanabhan
FOREIGN EDITOR Seema Guha
CREATIVE HEAD Manpreet Romana
DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Tribhuvan Tiwari
DIGITAL EDITORS George P J, Toufiq Rashid

WRITERS Shahina K.K., Naseer Ganai,
Shweta Desai, Ashwani Sharma, Md Asghar Khan,
Apeksha Priyadarshini, Tatsam Mukherjee

COPY DESK S.S. Jeevan, Swati Subhedar,
Vineetha Mokkil



Outlook issue
February 1, 2025

BUSINESS OFFICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Indranil Roy
PUBLISHER Sandip Kumar Ghosh
HEAD OF CONVERGENCE Sayantan Dasgupta
DIRECTOR BRAND & MARKETING Shrutika Dewan
VICE PRESIDENT Diwan Singh Bisht
SR GENERAL MANAGERS Debabani Tagore,
Shailender Mishra
GENERAL MANAGER Anshank Dixit
CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION Gagan Kohli
CREDIT CONTROL Manisha Mishra

HEAD OFFICE

AB-10, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029
Customer Care: 9266855837 / 9266855636
Office Hours: 10 am to 6 pm
e-mail: yourhelpline@outlookindia.com

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
February 2-11, 2025

Released on February 1, 2025

Total number of pages 136 including covers



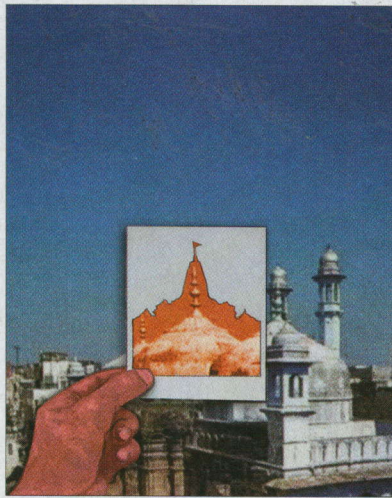
POINT AND SHARE

Now, open *Outlook* magazine on your
smartphone instantly.

Point your phone's scanner on the
code and align it in the frame.

You will be guided instantly to our
website, www.outlookindia.com

This is useful to share our stories on
social media or email them.



THE continued institutionalisation of the archaeological discipline in India and across the world has now led to a merger of science and politics, a presumption in any case that they both are exclusive domains. Archaeology is indeed politics as has been evident from the various inferences in India. The relationship between Hindu nationalism and archaeology has only become stronger since the end of the 20th century with the rise of Right-wing politics that often blurs the boundaries between mythology and history, especially through the state organisation called the Archaeological Survey of India, which many think has become a political and an ideological tool. The Ayodhya dispute—and the controversies regarding its origin—is one major example and there are many more such instances where suitable evidence might have been created. This issue of *Outlook* looks at the politics of archaeology and the role of state agencies.

44 | THE HARAPPAN HURDLE

Why Hindu nationalists desperately claim Harappa as an Aryan Civilisation

By Snigdhendu Bhattacharya

61 | TO DIG OR NOT TO DIG

On the legal turf, the battle is between findings of the ASI vs creative inferences that creep in depending on the politics of the day

By Saiyyad Mohammad Nizamuddin Pasha

84 | THE DISAGREEABLES

Though the controversies surrounding Pattanam have put an end to excavation work at the archaeological village in Kerala, the site is still cloaked in secrecy thanks to ASI

By Shahina K.K

106 | SACRED GAMES

Sacred spaces like Al Aqsa and Babri Masjid, which have raised nationalistic fervour, should have endured as symbols of hope, reminding us that while walls and domes may separate, they also unite

By Iftikhar Gilani



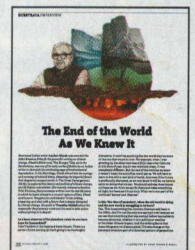
118 | THE DIP TEST

The modern Hindu, whether he takes a dip at the Mahakumbh or not, prefers to go along with Sahir Ludhianvi's famous formulation—*ye paap hai kya, ye punya hai kya, reeto par dharm ki mohre hai*

By Harish Khare

130 | THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT

Writer Amitav Ghosh speaks to Vineetha Mokkil



Subscribe Now

