

# Outlook

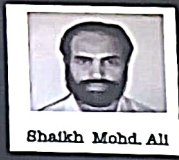
www.outlookindia.com

Read · Think · Understand

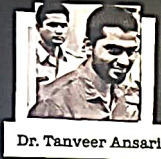
August 11, 2025 Rs 100

## Guilty Until Proven Innocent

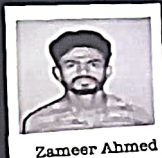
The 12 accused in the Mumbai blast case of 2006 were acquitted after 19 years. Like them, 75% prisoners in India are undertrials, waiting for their truth to be heard



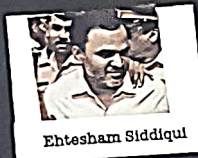
Shaikh Mohd. Ali



Dr. Tanveer Ansari



Zameer Ahmed



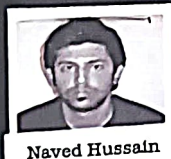
Ehtesham Siddiqui



Kamal Ansari



Sajid Ansari



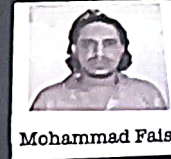
Naved Hussain



Muzamml Ataur



Mohammad Majid



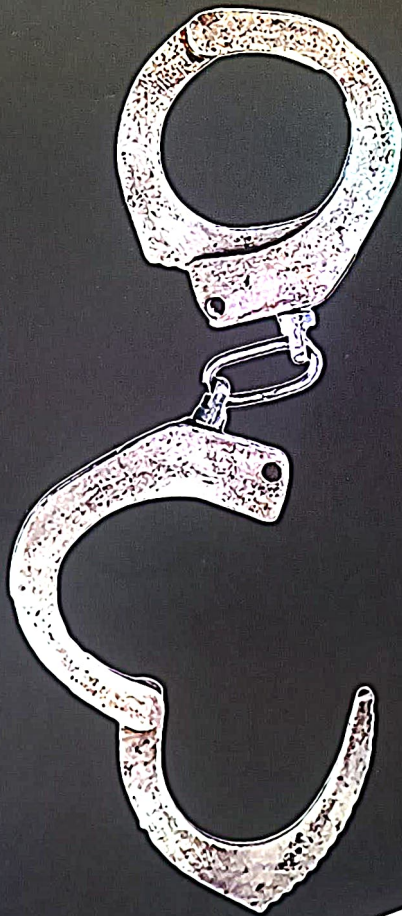
Mohammad Faisal



Asif Bashir Khan



Suhail Mehmood



OLEE  
721

Handwritten text in Urdu script, appearing to be a list or notes, possibly related to the individuals shown in the portraits.

RNI NO 7044/1961



Volume LXV, No. 23

EDITOR Chinki Sinha

MANAGING EDITOR Satish Padmanabhan

FOREIGN EDITOR Seema Guha

CREATIVE HEAD Manpreet Romana

DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Tribhuvan Tiwari

DIGITAL EDITOR Toufiq Rashid

NEWS COORDINATOR Vidya Ramamurthy

WRITERS Pragya Singh, Avantika Mehta,

Ishfaq Naseem, Ashwani Sharma,

Md. Asghar Khan, Apeksha Priyadarshini

COPY DESK S.S. Jeevan, Swati Subhedar,

Vineetha Mokkil

PHOTOGRAPHERS Vikram Sharma, Suresh K. Pandey,

Sandipan Chatterjee, Dinesh Parab, Yasir Iqbal

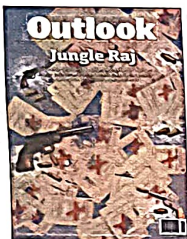
RESEARCHERS Animikh Chakrabarty, Anupam

Prashant Minz, Prabhat Mehrotra

DESIGN Champak Bhattacharjee, Yoshita Arora

ILLUSTRATORS Vikas Thakur, Saahil

SOCIAL MEDIA Rani Jana



Outlook issue  
August 1, 2025

### BUSINESS OFFICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Indranil Roy

PUBLISHER Sandip Kumar Ghosh

DIRECTOR BRAND & MARKETING Shrutika Dewan

VICE PRESIDENT Diwan Singh Bisht

SR GENERAL MANAGERS Debabani Tagore,

Shailender Vohra

GENERAL MANAGER Shashank Dixit

CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION Gagan Kohli

HEAD, SALES OPERATIONS 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

August 2-11, 2025

Released on August 1, 2025

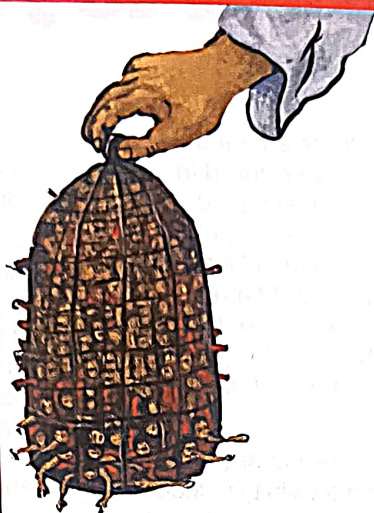
Total number of pages 148 including covers



### 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](http://www.outlookindia.com). This is useful to share our stories on social media or email them.

## THE MUMBAI BLASTS CASE



**J**USTICE delayed is justice denied is a truism. That's from the victim's perspective in any legal case. But what about justice delayed to the accused? After 19 years in jail, 12 persons charged with masterminding the 7/11 Mumbai blasts were acquitted as the judges of the Bombay High Court tore into the police investigation. In this case, the judges did not succumb to the collective conscience of the people, as it has happened in the past. But the acquitted will not get any compensation for the prime of their lives they have lost. This is not an exception in India. An unimaginable 75 per cent of prisoners in the country are undertrials, awaiting redemption, one way or the other. Who should be held accountable?

**6 |** India's bloated system of justice has a silent, devastated majority: the undertrials  
**By Avantika Mehta**

**14 |** The acquittal in the Mumbai blasts case shows that no amount of compensation can make up for the losses incurred. But courts must award compensation for wrongful prosecution  
**By Rebecca Gonsalvez**

**22 |** The night Mumbai bled and the wronged men who bled longer  
**By Pritha Vashishth and Jinit Parmar**

## OVERLAP



### Those Suspected Citizens

## 106 | THOSE SUSPECTED CITIZENS

A year after the Citizenship Amendment Act, citizenship screening still scares Bengali Hindus, as evident from the panic over the 'anti-migrant drive' and voter list revision  
**By Snigdhendu Bhattacharya**

## 138 | CARPET SAHIB & THE GHOSTS

Strange moving lights, the *churail's* scream from a deserted village, unseen terror... Jim Corbett did not encounter man-eaters alone; he also had a face-off with ghosts and supernatural powers  
**By Anjana Basu**

## 146 | DIARY

**COVER ILLUSTRATION:**  
Vikas Thakur



## The MAN The VISION The MISSION

**Shri Manohar Lal**  
Union Minister of Power,  
Housing and Urban Affairs, GOI

Collector's Edition with this issue