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JASON BURKE ON WHY THE WAR WON'T STOP NOTES FROM A TEL AVIV BUNKER



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# INDIA'S ACTION HERO

RIDING THE DHURANDHAR WAVE

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## OPEN MAIL

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**LETTER OF THE WEEK**

**A**s several states head into crucial elections, the contrast between BJP and the opposition is becoming sharper ('Pushing the Boundaries', March 30, 2026). On one side is a party that appears organised, focused, and clear in its messaging. On the other, alliances are still struggling with internal divisions, leadership questions, and coordination issues. In many states, parties are yet to present a united front. Seat-sharing talks drag, local leaders pull in different directions, and there is often confusion about strategy. This creates uncertainty among voters about stability and governance. BJP, in comparison, is entering the elections with a clear plan. It is focusing on development, welfare schemes, and strong leadership. It has the ability to maintain discipline within the party and run a coordinated campaign. Elections are not just about promises but also about trust. A party that looks prepared and united is more likely to inspire confidence than one still trying to sort out its internal problems. That difference could play a key role in the results.

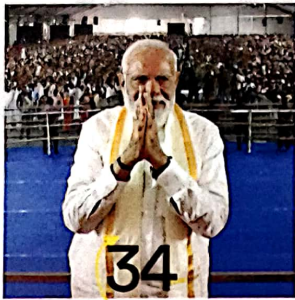


S Subbarajan

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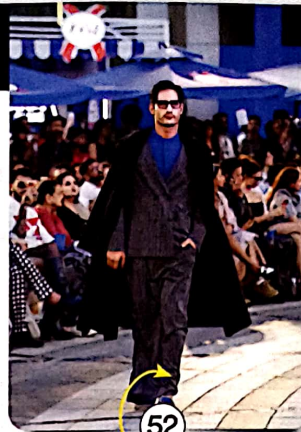


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**LEGACY POLITICS**

As parties compete to claim Kanshi Ram's legacy ahead of key state elections, the difference lies in approach, not just words ('Reinventing Kashi Ram', March 30, 2026). While many leaders are invoking his name, much of it appears driven by electoral calculation rather than commitment to real change. BJP, however, has focused on expanding welfare and ensuring delivery at the grassroots, especially for marginalised communities. Instead of limiting Kanshi Ram to symbolism, it has worked to bring development and opportunity to those he sought to empower. In contrast, opposition parties often rely on selective remembrance while remaining divided and inconsistent in their outreach. Their attempts to appropriate such legacies risk appearing opportunistic. As voters

prepare to decide, they are likely to look beyond rhetoric.

Ramesh Shankar

**TEHRAN'S OIL LEVERAGE**

US and Israeli jets have inflicted serious damage on Iran—senior figures killed, missile stockpiles depleted, allies weakened ('The US Is Likely to Blink First' by Jason Burke, March 30, 2026). But none of that may matter. Iran's real weapon is the Strait of Hormuz. Disrupt oil flows through that narrow waterway and global prices spiral. Economies hurt. Voters turn angry. No air strike fixes that. The Trump administration went into this war expecting regime change after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's killing. That didn't happen. Now it has no clear endgame. Iran has spent decades absorbing punishment. Washington doesn't have that kind of patience. The US has won the skies—but it is

losing the war that matters.

KT Gopalakrishnan

**THE AYURVEDA MOMENT**

Ayurveda is no longer limited to books or small wellness circles; it is going global ('The A-beauty Is Here', March 30, 2026). Its products are now seen in international stores, and many startups are building businesses around it. This feels like a natural moment for Ayurveda, as more people look for simple, plant-based solutions. Startups are making Ayurveda easier to understand and more attractive, but there is a risk of oversimplifying something that is deeply complex. The bigger concern is whether growth will come at the cost of authenticity. Ayurveda should not become just another trend. Its strength lies in its depth, and losing that for success would be a mistake.

Shalini Nair