

CAMPAIGN DISPATCHES FROM KERALA AND TAMIL NADU **THE TERROR CAM PLOT**

**IN SEARCH  
OF PERSIA**  
BY CARLO  
PIZZATI

# OPEN



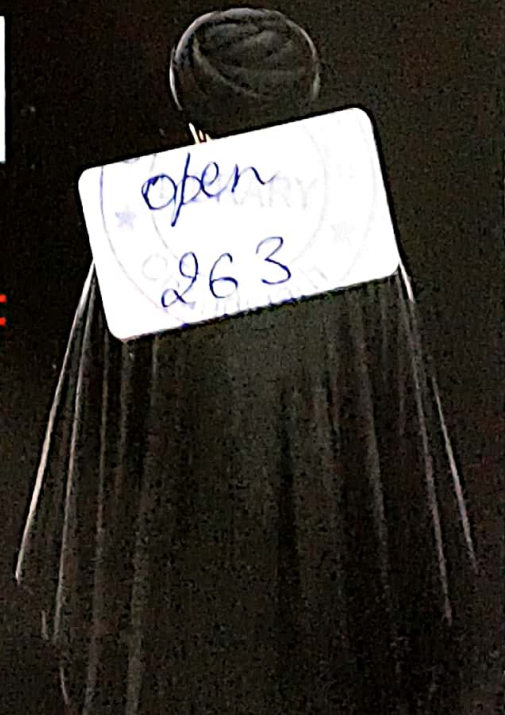
RNI CODE NO. HARENG/2023/89741  
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 15 WEEKLY

20 APRIL 2026 / ₹100

[www.openthemagazine.com](http://www.openthemagazine.com)

# THE WAR THAT NO ONE WON

**AND THE PRICE OF  
SURVIVING IT**



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Printed and published by Raas Taneja  
on behalf of Open Media Network Pvt Ltd  
Printed at Thomson Press India Ltd,  
18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road,  
Faridebad-121007 (Haryana) and  
Published in English from 1st Floor,  
Tower 3A, DLF Corporate Park,  
DLF City, Phase-III, MG Road, Gurugram,  
Haryana - 122002.  
Editor: S Prasannarajan

For subscription and other enquiries:  
WhatsApp 'openmag' to 9999800012  
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Volume 5 Issue 15, Weekly, ₹100  
RNI Code No. HARENG/2023/89741  
For April 14-20, 2026  
Total no of pages 68

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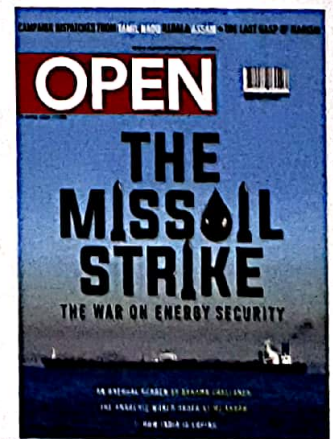
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**LETTER OF THE WEEK**

The analysis of the situation in Iran deserves attention ('The World Pays for One Man's Expansionist Follies' by Brahma Chellaney, April 13, 2026). Pursuing his undoubtedly expansionist agenda, US President Donald Trump is almost single-handedly overturning the post-World War II international order. It is a state of affairs almost without precedent. What troubles one most is not Trump's aggression itself but the absence of any meaningful counterweight. The UN is paralysed, Europe is hesitant, and the Global South bears the heaviest costs while holding the least influence. Energy and food shocks at this scale do not respect borders or income levels, yet the burden falls almost entirely on the vulnerable. The practical response must begin regionally. Countries like India should accelerate strategic petroleum reserves, diversify fertiliser sourcing, and deepen trade arrangements that reduce dollar dependency. Waiting for Washington to course-correct is not a strategy. Resilience, quietly and urgently built, is the only realistic answer available to nations that cannot afford another such miscalculation.

A Myilsami



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**HOMEFRONT**

The government's expanded security consultations under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflect a recognition that distant wars are now landing on our doorstep ('Steady in the Whirl', April 13, 2026). Although there has been a temporary ceasefire announced, anyone can understand that the crisis in the Gulf cannot be resolved easily. Mixed signals from US President Trump, ranging from threats to claiming that a truce is close, only heightened the general sense of volatility, making strategic autonomy urgent rather than rhetorical. Modi's decision to involve ministries to help safeguard the public from the repercussions of the war is a welcome one, yet coordination must move from reactive firefighting to anticipatory design. Energy diversification, fertiliser security, and price monitoring are prudent, but they

remain costly stopgaps unless paired with bold structural shifts towards renewables and electric cooking. India must treat this crisis as a rehearsal for a harsher future, where resilience is built not by control rooms alone but by working together.

K Chidanand Kumar

**ELECTION REBOOT**

Tamil Nadu needs a policy-based government and not a family party ('Stalin's Plot', April 13, 2026). The election is a worrying state of affairs. The state needs a change now so that it has responsible parties which strictly follow the principles of democracy. This should apply to all states and if required a legal amendment or constitutional one should be made. A state with many political parties can only lead to chaos. The Union government should take steps on this matter. In an election, only a few

parties should be allowed to contest. The sooner we do this the better for the people.

Ramakrishnan Srinivasan

**NEW COOKING**

Farah Khan's decision to cook with a variety of guests, along with her own cook, is a popular one, as is evidenced by the number of her followers on her YouTube channel ('Kitchen Confidential' by Viren Naidu, April 13, 2026). Her passion for this project shows that this is not just a fad or social trend. She is interested in the process as well as the results, and enjoys all of it. Her longtime cook, Dilip Mukhiya, is an invaluable part of the show, and not just a background character. This in itself proves Khan's statement that she believes domestic help should feel seen and included.

Megha Sareen