

**IRAN WAR
HUGE RISK IF UNDERSEA CABLES ARE SABOTAGED**

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HOLLYWOOD'S FUTURE**

APRIL 5, 2026

THE WEEK

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

BRANDS GO TO BATTLE

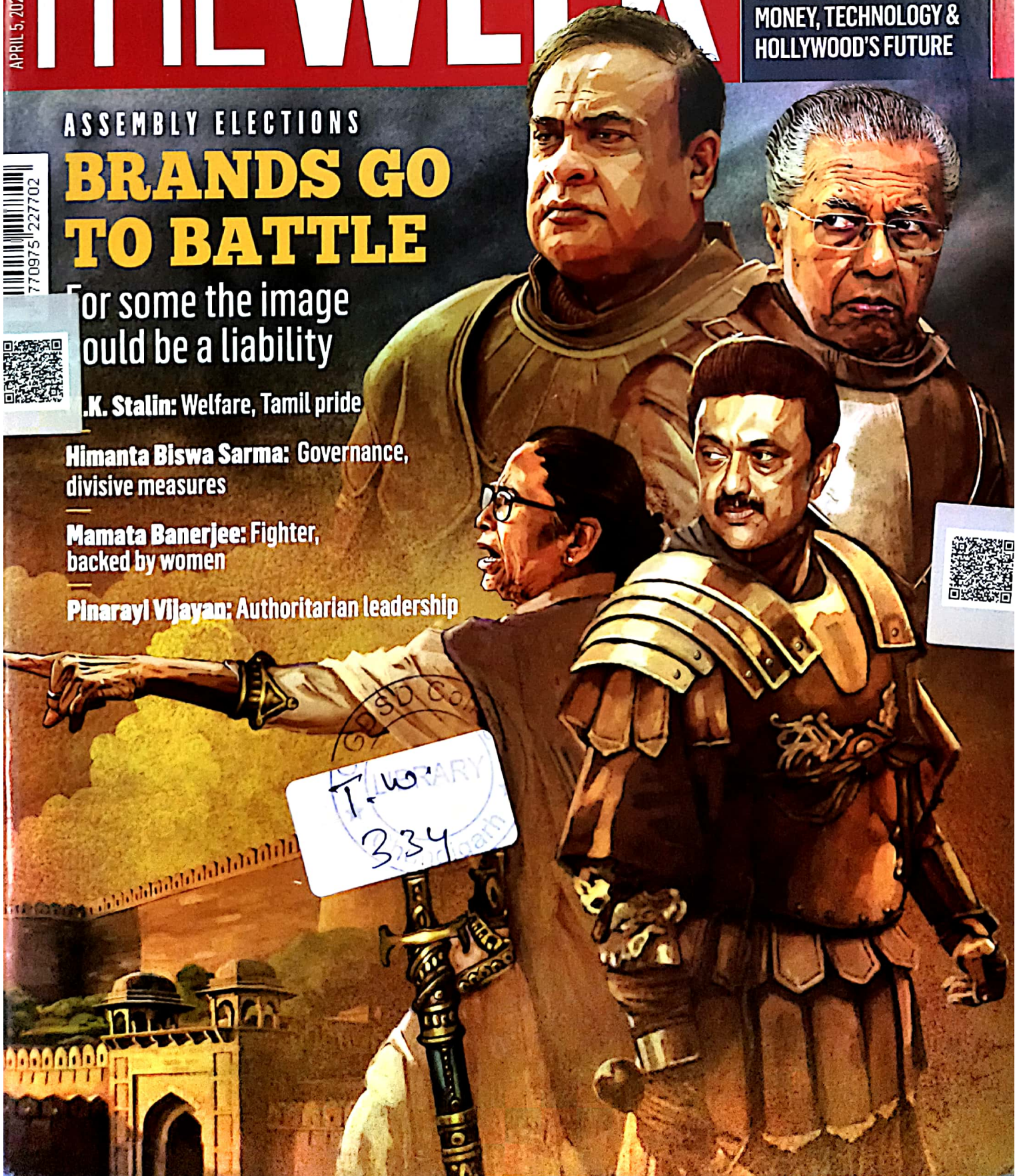
For some the image
could be a liability

.K. Stalin: Welfare, Tamil pride

Himanta Biswa Sarma: Governance,
divisive measures

Mamata Banerjee: Fighter,
backed by women

Pinarayi Vijayan: Authoritarian leadership



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Mamata Banerjee

Pinarayi Vijayan

Himanta Biswa Sarma

WHEN CMs TRY TO REWRITE INCUMBENCY

Across West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Kerala elections are noticeably leader-centric. In each of these states, the chief minister has cultivated a distinct political brand—sustained by a mix of welfare delivery and the mobilisation of sub-national identity—which ruling parties argue strengthens the incumbency factor.

PLUS

Will the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari be able to break the TMC's winning trend in Bhabanipur and repeat the Nandigram magic?

INTERVIEW

"We champion people-centric welfare politics and oppose economic reforms in favour of monopoly corporate interests."

—Pinarayi Vijayan,
chief minister, Kerala



M.K. Stalin

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A silent war is brewing in the depths of the oceans, as governments worldwide awaken to a critical vulnerability—one that could paralyse global communications in seconds

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As FTAs remove long-standing trade barriers, India's liquor market gears up for an era of global competition

60 EVENT

A structural shift in India's health care system was at the heart of discussions at THE WEEK India Hospital Procurement Leaders Summit



SANJAY AHLAWAT

COVER ILLUSTRATION BINESH SREEDHARAN

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A persistent police operation in the state is reuniting missing women and children with their families

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The politics of freebies needs a proper legal structure to balance welfare commitments with fiscal responsibility

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This year's Oscars celebrated cinema. But the real drama has been playing out in boardrooms and server farms



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In his Iran war media conferences, [Pete] Hegseth is less the solemn leader of the world's most

powerful military and more the gung-ho gunslinger starring in video games that splices Hollywood film clips with images of white-plumed missiles, menacing bombers, rising black smoke and dazzling pyrotechnics set to sonic boom.