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ART & CULTURE PROMOTION

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PERSPECTIVE

If it drains you, it's not for you. Remember that

Tripura sanctions Rs 50.65 crore ahead of Durga Puja for infrastructure, welfare projects

AGARTALA

Tripura has cleared Rs 50.65 crore for multiple development and public welfare projects in the run-up to the Durga Puja festival. The funding, approved after consultation with state departments, aims to improve infrastructure and ensure smooth public services during the celebrations.

Of the total amount, Rs 12 crore will be used for sanitation, solid waste management, safe drinking water, road construction, drainage systems, street lighting in newly created wards, online services, electric crematoriums, and conservation of water bodies across 14 municipalities and six nagar panchayats.

An additional Rs 9.37 crore has been allocated for the maintenance of fixed assets to benefit the public during the festival. Rs. 9.28 crore is earmarked for fast-tracking pre-approved construction projects in six R&D divisions, including Teliamura, Amarpur, Kumarghat, Kanchanpur, Satchanda, and Shantir-bazar.

In Agartala, Rs 17.38 crore has been sanctioned for the development of Cantonment Road, covering key stretches from Durga Chowmuhani to Lake Chowmuhani, Lake Chowmuhani to Radhanagar, Buddha Mandir to Radhamadhav Unnayan Sangha, and Pragati School to Buddha Mandir.

WHO SAID WHAT



Tributes to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji on his birth anniversary. We recall his contributions to our nation during his long years in public life.
~ Narendra Modi, PM

BTC ELECTION: Hagrama Mohilary's BPF claims decisive victory



KOKRAJHAR

The Bodoland People's Front (BPF) surged to a commanding lead in the 2025 Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections, capturing over 20 of the 40 seats as vote counting concluded on September 26, 2025.

The State Election Commission of Assam is yet to release a final & formal statement over the BTR Election Results. Comments of party Chief is awaited.

The BPF, under the stewardship of former chief Hagrama Mohilary, appeared set to reclaim power in the autonomous

Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam, India, dealing a body blow to the incumbent United People's Party Liberal (UPPL)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance. With tight security enveloping eight counting centers across Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udalguri districts, early trends solidified into a BPF landslide, underscoring voter fatigue with the ruling coalition's development promises.

The polls, held on September 22 amid 26.58 lakh registered voters and 3,279 polling stations, pitted 316 candidates in a high-

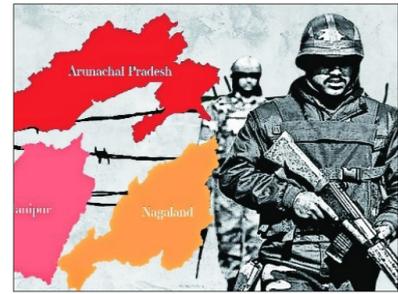
stakes battle for the council's 40 constituencies 30 reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

The UPPL-BJP duo, which swept to power in 2020 under Chief Executive Member Pramod Boro, had banked on infrastructure gains and anti-insurgency stability. Yet, BPF's grassroots mobilization, fueled by Mohilary's enduring clout, capitalized on grievances over uneven growth and ethnic harmony in this Bodo heartland, once scarred by militancy. Congress and smaller outfits like the Gana Suraksha Party faded into irrelevance, securing negligible gains.

BPF's Mun Mun Brahma led Parbatjhora by 327 votes, while Rabiram Narzary dominated Kachugaon. Mohilary himself trailed in Debargaon to UPPL's Khampa Borgoyari, but his party's sweep elsewhere leading in Shirampur, Yamduar, and Baokhungri ensured a buffer. Boro's fate hung in the balance in Dotma, where BJP ally Manoranjan Brahma edged ahead, signaling alliance fractures.

BJP notched leads in Guma and Fakiragram, and UPPL in Saraibil and Banorgaon, but their combined 15-20 seats fell short of the 21 needed for majority.

AFSPA extended in parts of Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal



NEW DELHI

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was on September 26 extended for six months in entire Manipur, except the jurisdiction of 13 police stations, in view of the prevailing law and order situation there.

The AFSPA, under which a particular state or some areas are declared "disturbed", has also

been extended to nine districts in Nagaland and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the state for six months, according to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry.

The law was also extended to Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and three police station areas, bordering Assam, in Namsai district in the state.

The extension of the disturbed area in the particular areas in the three states will be effective from October 1 for six months.

The AFSPA, often criticised as a draconian law, gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary.

Meghalaya govt probes USTM for alleged forest land encroachment

GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government has launched a formal inquiry into allegations that the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) encroached on forest land.

The Supreme Court of India appointed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), whose report prompted the action.

On September 25, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong confirmed the formation of a committee tasked with reviewing the CEC's findings and inspecting the areas mentioned in the report.

He also stated, "We have constituted a committee to thoroughly examine all details and inspect the sites as highlighted in the CEC report. The panel includes officials from the Pollution Control Board, the Mining and Geology Department, and the district administration."

The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Nongpoh will lead the committee, which must submit its findings by October 15.

The state government will base its final decision on this report. Tynsong emphasized a need

for careful evaluation rather than hasty action.

"If you blindly say everything must be closed down, I think that is wrong," he remarked.

The CEC report, submitted in September, accused USTM of illegally occupying over 25 hectares of forest land in two phases, allegedly in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The committee also recommended environmental compensation penalties totaling Rs 150.35 crore. The allegations stem from a petition filed by Assam BJP leader Jitlu Deka.

Tynsong defended the government's approach, clarifying that it was not a case of inaction but of responsible governance.

"Our approach is not one of inaction but of due diligence. Once we get the report, we will be able to take an informed decision," he said. Established in 2008, USTM has grown into one of Meghalaya's leading private universities, attracting students from across the Northeast.

The findings of the inquiry could have major implications for the university's operations and future development.

Shyamkanu Mahanta booked under BNS 61(2), 105, 106(1) in Zubeen death case

GUWAHATI

Guwahati turned tense on September 25 as the Special Investigation Team (SIT), along with the CID, raided the residence of Shyamkanu Mahanta, the chief organiser of the North East India Festival in Singapore and the man who took Zubeen Garg abroad for the event.

A case has been registered against Mahanta under Sections 61(2), 105, and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, in connection with the death of the iconic singer.

Officials confirmed that the raid was part of the ongoing probe into Zubeen's sudden demise in Singapore, which has sparked public outrage and demands for accountability.

Section 61(2) - Relates to acts of culpable homicide not amounting to murder in specific aggravated situations.

This subsection specifies the punishment for criminal conspiracy to commit an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life or for a term of two years or upwards.

The penalty for such a conspiracy is the same as if the person had abetted the offence itself.

Section 105 - Deals with abetment, instigation, or conspiracy



leading to an offence. This section deals with situations where a person's actions cause death, but the circumstances do not fulfill the criteria for murder.

It prescribes punishment for imprisonment for life, or imprisonment of either description for a term not less than five years but which may extend to ten years, and also includes a fine.

Section 106(1) - Covers acts endangering life or causing grievous harm with intent or knowledge.

This subsection covers causing death by negligence. Specifically, it outlines that

the act causing death must be negligent or rash to a criminal degree, directly causing the patient's death, and requires sufficient medical and factual evidence.

A distinct provision under this section applies to registered medical practitioners who cause death by negligence, with a punishment of imprisonment for two years and a fine.

The SIT is expected to continue questioning Mahanta in the coming days. Meanwhile, protests across Assam have intensified, with demands for immediate arrests and a transparent probe into Zubeen Garg's death.

Zubeen death row: Musician Ajay Phukan among six arrested; artists fraternity seek compassionate release

GUWAHATI

In connection with Fata-sil Ambari Police Station Case No. 137/2025, several individuals, including musician Ajay Phukan and social activist Victor Das, have been taken into police custody.

The case, registered under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code including 61(2), 189(2), 191(2), 191(3), 126(2), 125(b), 132, 109 BNS, 2023, read with Section 3 of the PDPP Act, relates to violent incidents that erupted in Datalpara earlier this week.

The arrests followed clashes where a large crowd of protesters had gathered outside the residence of Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sharma.

Police said protesters allegedly pelted stones at a Special Investigation Team (SIT) vehicle, injuring personnel and damaging property. Security forces



responded with baton charges, leaving several demonstrators seriously

injured. Ajay Phukan and Victor Das, along with four others,

were taken into custody on Thursday for further investigation. Authorities emphasised that the accused are charged with serious offences, including attempt to murder police officials on duty, obstruction of lawful investigation, criminal conspiracy, and destruction of government property.

The police have also cited concerns that, if released, the accused could tamper with evidence, influence witnesses, or incite public unrest following the death of Zubeen Garg. Custodial interrogation is deemed necessary to uncover the larger conspiracy, identify other absconding culprits, and trace evidence related to the case.

In an official notice under Section 48 BNS, Reba Kumari Das, wife of Ajay Phukan, was informed of her husband's arrest. The notice outlined that the case is non-bailable

and detailed the grounds for his detention, including the risk of further violence, public disorder, and tampering with evidence. The notice confirmed that the grounds of arrest were explained to the accused in his own language.

Meanwhile, members of the artist community have submitted a memorandum to the Officer-in-Charge of Gorchuk Police Outpost in Kamrup (Metro), seeking the immediate release of Phukan, describing him as a longtime associate of Zubeen Garg. The memorandum appealed for compassionate handling, noting that the community is still in mourning and urging authorities to act with care while the investigation proceeds.

Police have confirmed that the investigation is ongoing, and further updates on the case are expected as the SIT continues its inquiry.

Assam lawyers' body refuses to defend accused in Zubeen Garg death case



The All Assam Lawyers' Association has announced it will not represent the accused in the case linked to the death of renowned singer Zubeen Garg, citing social responsibility and moral obligation.

The association stated that extending legal support to those facing serious allegations in this case would be a "his-

toric mistake." The decision comes as the state continues to grapple with the sudden loss of Garg, whose passing in Singapore has left widespread grief and raised suspicions of foul play. Several FIRs have been registered across Assam against individuals alleged to have had a role in the singer's unnatural death.

The association emphasised that only a fair and thorough investigation can establish the truth. It urged for an environment where investigating agencies can function without hindrance, underlining the need to prioritise justice over technical defence.

In response to public concern, the Assam government has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter. The move aims to ensure that accountability is established and any culprits are dealt with under the law.

For many, Garg was more than just a musician — he was a cultural symbol of Assam whose loss has created what the association called "an unbearable void." The group noted that the accused are already seen by the public as individuals lacking moral credibility.



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RESTORE NORMALCY IN LADAKH



DR SUDERSHAN KUMAR

In the autumn of 2025, Nepal witnessed a powerful uprising led predominantly by its youngest citizens the so called Generation Z that shook the foundations of the country's political order. What happened was a resistance to an abrupt ban on the over dozen social media platforms escalated swiftly into a national protest movement, under pinned by frustrations much older and deeper than digital restrictions. The immediate trigger was a government directive requiring major social media sites among them Face book, Instagram, Whats App, X(formerly twitter), You Tube and Reddit to register with Nepali authorities. When many failed to comply, the platforms were blocked, sparking outrage among those for whom social media is not just entertainment but education, work place, social connection, and political voice.

But the protest rapidly transcended the ban young protesters voiced long suppressed anger over endemic corruption, nepotism, economic inequality, and stagnant governance issues that have left many Generation Zers disillusioned with the status quo. The "nepokid" phenomenon where the children of political elites flaunt wealth became a symbol of the gulf between ordinary Nepalese and untouchable privilege. Protests broke out across Kathmandu and numerous other towns and cities. Students activists donned their uniforms and marched, citizens carried placards and social media was flooded with video of clashes, slogans and demands. Despite the government curfews and attempt to suppress information, the protests were sustained, coordinated and highly visible both in streets and online. The response was violent, security forces used tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets and reportedly live rounds in confrontations. During this period that is from 8th September 2025 to 13th September 2025 nearly 74 people (61 protesters, 10 prisoners, 3 police personnel) were killed and nearly 2110 injured. Besides, large number of Government buildings including Singha Durbar, Parliament, Supreme Court and houses of Ministers were torched by agitating protesters. These protests were so intense that even the former King of Nepal Gyandara Shah called for calm and resolution be found internally.

The scale of death and destruction compelled the Government to respond under pressure. The Government rescinded the social media ban, key political figure including the Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli along with his few ministers resigned. There were promises of accountability, investigation and reforms. Protests, however, showed no sign of being merely a momentarily flash in the pan. One thing unique in the protests is the movement was digitally native; youth leveraged platforms, memes, humor and viral content to galvanize support. Symbols like protest posters one piece pop culture references, Tik Tok reels and online communities played as big role as marches and sit-ins. Therefore it is utmost important to know about Gen Z, role of technology in spearheading the protests in Nepal, the causes of violent protests, its impact in reshaping the

world order etc. It will not be an out of context to mention here that in the past the history has been shaped by revolutions, that transformed political, social and economic order across the Continents. The American Revolution (1776) was driven by the demand of Independence, self-governance, and freedom from colonial exploitation. The French Revolution (1789) emerged from economic inequality, class oppression and the quest for liberty and fraternity. The Russian Revolution (1917) was fueled by poverty and autocratic rule and the desire for social reforms. In Asia, the Chinese Revolution (1949) sought to end feudal oppression and establish a new social order; while anti colonial movements in India, Africa and Middle East reflected common struggle for national liberation and dignity.

Despite differing contexts, these revolutions shared core causes; economic injustice, lack of political representation, social inequality, suppression of freedoms and the yearning for dignity and self-determination. They often relied on mass mobilization, street protests ideological movements and sometimes violent confrontation to achieve change. Generation Z, however, approaches revolution differently, Gen Z harnesses the power of social media, online campaigns, and global connectivity to amplify voices and organized movements an unprecedented speed. Unlike past generations that relied on physical gatherings, Gen Z often triggers virtual revolutions that ripple in to the real world. Their struggles are not only against political autocracy but also against climate change, gender inequality, systemic racism digital surveillance and economic precarity.

Thus, while traditional revolutions were largely territorial, political and class based, Gen Z's revolution is global, digital, and value driven seeking justice not within nations but across humanity. Hence, Generation Z (Gen Z) basically refer to Cohort of people born approximately between the mid 1990's and early 2010's with Pew Research Centre defining their birth years as beginning 1997. They are also known as "digital natives". They are the first generation to grow up with internet and digital technology from an early age, which shape their views on inclusively social issues and values like work life balance. Key characteristics include being technologically adept, highly diverse, financially minded, and concerned about social justice and mental health. They prefer visual short form content, collaboration, online environments and seamless blend of digital and physical realities.

This tech fluency drives innovation influences consumer behaviour towards digital and sustainable and create new demands in the work place for flexibility and digital transformation. Also one must keep in mind that Gen Zers are grown in technology environment. They cannot be bullied by using brutal force. Their legitimate concerns and aspirations need to be addressed through dialogue and proactive approach so that the space is not created between them and ruling dispensation. The authorities must keep this in mind, otherwise this gap will be bridged by anti social elements, criminals and others by selling

fake narratives using technological tools.

This would be detrimental to any country's society. This is what exactly happened in Nepal, which otherwise is a peace loving nation. In fact Nepal is a land locked country in South Asia, bordered by China (Tibet) to the North and India into the East, West and South. It is roughly trapezoidal about 800 Km long and 200 Km wide with area around 147576Km2 divided in to 77 districts with population around 29.7 million as per mid 2025. The medians age is around 25.3 years. Suggesting significant youth demographic. Nearly 40% population in Nepal falls in to the Generation Z category (roughly born between 1997 - 2012). In fact, those who were on the helm of affairs in Nepal miscalculated the gravity of Gen Z protests and used excess force to quell the protesters and paid heavy price in terms of tragic loss of innocent lives and infrastructure thereby resulting the regime change for major reforms.

Therefore, the major takes always from Gen Z revolution for global world are: (i) Digital Activism and Mobilization: Gen Z leverages social media and digital platforms, to organize protests, share information and create rapid wide spread movements for change as seen in recent protests in Nepal, (ii) Anti corruption and Accountability: A central theme in recent Gen-Z led movements is a strong demand for accounted transparency, and end to corruption, seem as a driver of inequality and unemployment iii) Challenging Traditional Authority: Gen Z exhibits a greater willingness to question and challenge established authority, social norms and hierarchies, which can lead to increased dissent and calls for reforms, (iv) Emphasis on Ethical Behaviour: For Gen Z the ethical practices of businesses and institutions are crucial. They are willing to leave companies with unethical practices, influencing corporate responsibilities and consumer behaviour v) Shift Towards Access and Ownership: Gen Z's consumption pattern favour access to goods and services rather than ownership, moving towards subscription models sharing economies and experiences over possessions vi) Technological Integration in Daily Life: As digital natives, Gen Z seamlessly integrates technology in to their daily lives, expecting easy to use Apps and online experiences, which shape the design of services and businesses, vii) Heightened Social Awareness: This generation is deeply concerned about global issues such as climate change, homelessness and systematic discrimination.

This concern translates in to active engagements and demand for solution. viii) Diverse and Inclusive World Views: Gen Z is a most likely generation to identify as a part L G B T Q + community and advocates for greater inclusivity, influencing social norms and representation across the world. ix) Focus on Personal Development in the Work Place: Gen Z priorities feeling valued, empowered and supported in their careers, with a strong desire for employers to invest in their personal and professional growth, x) Influences on Older Generation: Gen Z's activism and solid stances are increasingly influencing older generations with a growing percentage of millennial

and even baby Boomers agreeing with their causes and methods. In short, the Zen Z revolution in Nepal was more than protest against policy; it is reflection of generational awakening. It demands transparency justice and dignity. It insists that the voice of young be heard not merely as complaints, but re imagined potential and social contact.

It is also shocking and surprising that certain elements for the lust of power are trying to correlate the precarious situation in the neighbourhood with that of India with out realizing that India is the largest Peninsula of South Asia with 4th largest economy of the world with population around 1.40 billion. It is also one of the largest and vibrant democracy of the world. Therefore in India the change of regime is possible only through the power of votes, not by other means. There fore, their Day dreams will continue to allure them for getting power like that of "Mungari Lal Ke Haseen Sapane." More over Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making India as developed nation by 2047 is also providing opportunities for younger generation to contribute towards nation building.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

In a dated video, Sonam Wangchuk urged protesters to come masked and hooded, while Smanla Norboo went so far as to threaten the stoning of the BJP office and openly provoked the masses. The so-called youth leaders — Stanzin Chosphe, Jigmet Paljor, and Padma Stanzin — who were instrumental in instigating the mob yesterday, were conspicuously absent today when violence erupted. Who, then, bears responsibility for the tragic loss of young lives in today's protest? What explanation will Sonam Wangchuk give to the grieving parents of these children, who were asked to cloak themselves in masks and hoodies? What justification will Smanla Norboo offer for fueling an anger that spiraled into deadly violence? And what accountability will Stanzin Chosphe, Jigmet Paljor, and Padma Stanzin accept for inciting unrest yesterday, only to vanish when lives were lost today? This is not leadership — it is misguidance. When leaders incite and then retreat, leaving the youth to pay the ultimate price, their silence becomes an indictment in itself.

~ Amit Malviya, Member National Executive, BJP



ATTENTION ECONOMY COMES AT A COST

ADA AGGARWAL

Human history has ever been defined by ongoing competition over limited and valuable resources. The 20th century made it obvious that oil was the driving force of power politics and earning vast profit for those in possession of it. Now, having walked into the 21st century, we find that the resource of equivalent value is not one hidden under the surface of the earth; it resides in people's intellectual skills and consciousness throughout the globe. The most valuable resource in this context happens to be none other than attention itself. What seems to be mere casual scrolling over social sites or casual interaction over other modes of entertainment is, as a matter of fact, the base upon which billion-dollar industries exist and prosper.

The attention economy represents, in numerous respects, a significant triumph and achievement of modern economics. It compellingly illustrates how something as intangible and elusive as human focus and concentration can be effectively transformed into measurable and quantifiable value. Entire industries have now come to thrive and prosper on the seemingly simple act of individuals watching videos, liking photos, or reading headlines. Prominent platforms such as Tik Tok, Instagram, and YouTube are not merely offering forms of entertainment; they are actively extracting substantial value from every single second of user engagement. Indeed, few developments better illustrate the remarkable capacity of human creativity in transforming innovative ideas into successful commerce.

The sheer scale of this phenomenon is truly striking and remarkable.

Global spending on digital advertising has surpassed an astonishing 600 billion dollars annually, highlighting

the immense financial resources that companies are willing to allocate in their efforts to vie for prime positioning both on screens and within the minds of consumers. This extensive investment is not primarily aimed at selling products instantly or directly; rather, it is focused on capturing attention in the first instance, fully aware that this attention will ultimately convert into substantial profit down the line. Each scroll through a feed represents an economic transaction cleverly disguised, with each fleeting moment of concentration contributing to a global marketplace that flourishes on the dynamics of time and the art of distraction. Yet, despite this brilliance, there are significant and serious risks that accompany it. Given that attention is a scarce resource, the competition to capture and secure this precious commodity is indeed relentless and unyielding. Companies do not merely sit back and hope for users to engage voluntarily; instead, they go to great lengths to design their platforms in such a way that maximizes compulsion and engagement. Features such as autoplay, push notifications, and infinite scrolling are meticulously crafted with a high degree of precision. These features are designed to appeal directly to our psychological instincts and needs, effectively keeping users locked in ongoing cycles of curiosity and reward. What might initially appear to be a harmless convenience for users is, in reality, a carefully devised strategy aimed at prolonging the amount of time individuals spend online.

The consequences of this situation are stark and unmistakable. Attention becomes significantly fragmented as individuals find themselves being pulled in multiple directions simultaneously, which detracts from their ability to concentrate fully. Productivity inevitably declines when the constant barrage of alerts and the end-

less streams of information disrupt our focus and divert our attention away from important tasks. Mental health is adversely affected as people engage in harmful comparisons, experience overwhelming overstimulation, and fall into patterns of compulsive use that infiltrate and disrupt their daily lives. In broader civic terms, an economy that is fundamentally built on distraction creates challenges for societies, making it increasingly difficult to maintain meaningful debates or to focus on pressing long-term issues that require sustained attention. Therefore, the true cost of what is often referred to as the attention economy may, in fact, be far greater than the profits it generates for those at the helm. Free platforms, viewed from this perspective, can never genuinely be considered free in any meaningful sense. In this new economy, there also runs an inherent risk of inequality that can't be ignored. Just as access to oil essentially shaped and defined power relations around the globe during the 20th century, control over being able to capture and retain attention has now become the defining criterion of influence in this new world order. As such, giant corporations who have advanced algorithms can then come to dominate this terrain, and smaller players have to fight to be heard and recognized above all the din. This isn't just an issue in business, but also in political life, as those who can muster attention through means of outrage, compelling spectacles, or sheer charismatic presence tend to win some kind of power in this arena, often one that's wildly out of proportion to actual contribution or qualifications. This presents urgent and multifaceted questions in terms of both viability of democracy and possibility of rational discourse in an economy of marketplace that appears to value and reward noise and sensationalism over value

of nuance and depth of understanding.

As we consider the future, it becomes clear that the attention economy is set to see an even intenser pace in both its growth and reach. Advances in artificial intelligence and virtual and augmented reality offer tremendous potential to revolutionize the face of advertising, making it not just intelligent but also far more targeted than ever before. Instead of just suggesting a

video or showing an ad, platforms can in the near future have the potential to scan numerous parameters such as facial expressions, tones of voice, or even subtle emotional nuances in real time. This would enable it to serve content tailor-made to match an individual's prevailing mood and emotional state at any given moment. These revolutionary developments essentially eliminate the line traditionally drawn between persuasion and intrusion, and raise critical questions over just how much people can continue to have privacy and remain free to themselves and their personal choices and actions. In an era in which their very emotions themselves are being exploited and sold, these implications to personal freedom and data security grow increasingly critical and deserve to be considered most carefully.

However, the future is an open page, not in print or hardcoded in any fashion. The evidence of history shows that whenever consumers have opted to resist dominant trends, there is an astonishing capacity of industries to adapt and transform in line with this resistance. Just as citizens around the world have banded together to call for renewable energies, justly traded goods, or strong environmental safeguards, there is an enormous potential to call for a more responsible and attentive consumption of our attentional

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I am convinced that the only people worthy of consideration in this world are the unusual ones. For the common folk are like the leaves of a tree, and live and die unnoticed. - L. Frank Baum

Sivasagar resonates with 'Justice for Zubeen' as thousands join protest march demanding CBI probe



SIVSAGAR

A massive protest march was launched at Sivasagar, Assam on September 25 demanding CBI probe into Zubeen Garg's death. The streets of the historic town

reverberated with slogans of "Justice for Zubeen", as citizens expressed their anguish and called for a transparent investigation.

The peaceful rally commenced from the statue of Bhupen Hazarika at the

heart of the town, where the gathering paid tribute before proceeding with the march. Students, youth organizations, and ordinary citizens joined hands in solidarity.

In addition to the protest, a mass signature campaign was launched to strengthen the demand for justice. Demonstrators unanimously called for a flawless probe into the circumstances surrounding the singer's death and urged that the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for an impartial inquiry. Earlier, members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday, September 25 reached the residence of entrepreneur Shyamkanu Mahanta. However, officials have not released further details regarding the raid.

This move comes a day after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assured the people of the state that no

individual would be spared in the probe into Garg's untimely demise.

Taking to social media, the Chief Minister revealed that he had convened a high-level meeting with Director General of Police (DGP) Assam, the ADGP (CID), the Chief Secretary, and senior officials to review the progress of the investigation. Following the meeting, Sarma directed the DGP to form a Special Investigation Team consisting of some of the state's most capable officers.

"The SIT will have full freedom to investigate the case with complete professional integrity," the Chief Minister stated. Acting on the directive, a nine-member SIT was constituted and has since been actively pursuing leads in the case. The visit to Mahanta's residence marks one of the first major actions undertaken by the team as part of the inquiry.

CID raids Siddharth Sharma's residence in ongoing Zubeen Garg's death probe



GUWAHATI

Sources said CID officials arrived at the complex early in the morning and waited outside the three-storey building for nearly two hours before commencing the search. The raid, carried out under the supervision of a magistrate, focused on Flat 3A — a 3BHK unit on the top floor where Siddharth Sharma and his family had been residing since 2019.

Adding to the intrigue, neighbours revealed that Sharma's family members, including his mother, brother, and sister, vacated the flat abruptly just three days after Garg's death. The sudden departure has reportedly fueled speculation within the locality.

During Thursday's raid, no family members were present inside the apartment. While officials have not disclosed whether any documents or materials were seized, sources indicated that the operation was aimed at gathering possible financial or circumstantial evidence that could shed light on the circumstances surrounding Zubeen Garg's tragic demise.

In the ongoing investigation into the untimely death of Assam's legendary singer Zubeen Garg, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday, September 25 conducted a raid at the residence of Siddharth Sharma, the artist's long-time manager. The operation took place at Orchid Hillview Apartment in Guwahati's Dhirenpara locality.

Meghalaya honeymoon murder accused Sonam Raghuvanshi to feature on Dussehra effigy

SHILLONG

Meghalaya's high-profile honeymoon murder case will find a dramatic mention in Indore this Dussehra. The image of Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of plotting her husband Raja Raghuvanshi's killing during their trip to the northeast, will be displayed on a special effigy that will be set on fire as part of the festivities.

Raja went missing on May 23 while the couple was in Sohra, also known as Cherrapunji. His mutilated body was recovered from a ravine near a waterfall on June 2. Sonam, along with her alleged boyfriend and others, is under arrest for the crime.

Breaking from tradition, city-based organisation Paurush (People Against Unequal Rules Used to Shelter Harassment) is preparing an 11-headed effigy for the "Surpanakha Dahan."

"We have always burned Ravana's ego in the form of an effigy on Dussehra. But this time we decided to burn an 11-headed effigy to symbolize misconduct and lack of values of women with criminal tendencies. It will feature images of women accused of heinous murders of their husbands, children, or in-laws, including Sonam Raghuvanshi," said Paurush head Ashok Dashora. The effigy will also include the image of Muskan Rastogi of Meerut, who along with her lover Sahil Shukla is accused of killing her husband, former Merchant Navy officer Saurabh Rajput, and concealing his body in a cement-filled drum. Raja Raghuvanshi's elder brother, Vipin, expressed support for the organisers' decision. "Like the mythological character Surpanakha, Sonam also made a mistake. My entire family will participate in the Surpanakha Dahan ceremony on Dussehra," he said.

BJP strength boosted as key Tipra Motha leader, supporters join party

AGARTALA

Ahead of the upcoming Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections, the BJP received a major boost as 920 voters, including a key Tipra Motha leader, joined the party in the presence of Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha.

Dr. Saha called the day "historic" and urged people to make the right decision at the right time. "We have seen how Janajati people were used in the name of politics. It is our responsibility to make them smile," he said, emphasizing the party's commitment to the welfare and development of the tribal community.

Highlighting the importance of TTAADC in Tripura's overall growth, Dr. Saha said, "Without the development of the TTAADC, the development of Tripura is not possible. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working with firm determi-

nation for the overall development of Janajati brothers and sisters."

Among those joining the BJP was Paritosh Debbarma, ex-Zonal Chairman of Tipra Motha, founder member, and Dhalai district in-charge of the Youth Tipra Federation. Dr. Saha said Debbarma's decision reflects his belief that sustainable development for the state and nation is possible only with a national party.

"The number of people joining is massive. This government has been working for the development of Janajati people, and we must ensure they receive everything they deserve. Seven Janajati people have been awarded the Padma Shri award. This is not for votes, but we know how to give respect to others," he added. The move is expected to strengthen the BJP's position ahead of the TTAADC elections, signaling a shift in local political dynamics.

Why no special protection for Zubeen under CM's five-year rule: Assam Congress questions Himanta

GUWAHATI

Assam Legislative Assembly Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Debabrata Saikia has demanded a high-level judicial probe into the untimely death of singer Zubeen Garg, questioning the state government's failure to ensure his safety despite his stature as Assam's foremost cultural icon.

Calling Zubeen "the embodiment of Assam's identity, culture, and youth aspirations," Saikia said Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has long described himself as an admirer of the singer, bore a "heightened responsibility"



to protect him. "The Chief Minister had earlier expressed concerns about Garg's safety, even hinting at possible conspiracies. Why then were special protection and dedicated

medical care not provided? He has been in power for five years," Saikia asked. The Congress leader further revealed that he has written to the Singapore High Commissioner and the

President of India, seeking a judicial review supervised by a Guwahati High Court judge. He has also urged the involvement of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to ensure transparency.

Highlighting the need to preserve Zubeen's legacy, Saikia called for the digital preservation of the singer's voice to prevent misuse and demanded full legal and administrative support for his wife and family to protect their rights over his creations. "All kinds of assistance must be extended so that his family can safeguard ownership of Zubeen's works," Saikia said.

Meghalaya sets up probe into forest encroachment allegations against tech university

SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government has launched an inquiry into allegations that the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) encroached on forest land, following a report by the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC).

Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong on September 25, confirmed that a panel has been formed to examine the CEC's findings and verify conditions on the ground. "We have constituted a committee to thoroughly examine all details and inspect the sites as highlighted in the CEC report. The panel includes members from the Pollution Control Board, Mining and Geology Department, and the district administration,"



Tynsong said. The committee will be headed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Nongpoh and has until October 15 to submit its findings. The government

will base its final decision on the report. Tynsong stressed the need for a balanced approach, remarking, "If you blindly say everything must be closed down,

I think that is wrong." The CEC's September report accused USTM of illegally occupying more than 25 hectares of forest land in two phases, allegedly violating the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It also recommended penalties amounting to ₹150.35 crore. The complaint was initially raised through a petition by Assam BJP leader Jitil Deka. Defending the government's cautious stance, Tynsong said, "Our approach is not one of inaction but of due diligence. Once we get the report, we will be able to take an informed decision."

Founded in 2008, USTM is one of Meghalaya's leading private universities and draws students from across the region. The outcome of the probe could have significant implications for the institution and its operations.

Tripura CM warns against political violence, promises strict action for attacks on BJP workers

AGARTALA

Assam's Law and Tourism Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass has stirred a political storm with his explosive remarks on Shyamkanu Mahanta following the death of music icon Zubeen Garg.

Addressing the media, Dass alleged that North East Festival Organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta had persistently called and messaged him, requesting his visit to Singapore with the promise of securing tourism department advertisements. Dass claimed he had "categorically refused" such overtures, making it clear that he was not interested in such dealings.

Drawing a striking comparison between politicians and artists, Dass said, "I have known Zubeen for a long time, and my bond with him was very strong. He helped people without expecting anything in return. Unlike politicians, who often extend support for electoral gains, Zubeen's generosity was genuine and

without motive." He went on to say that while Zubeen Garg never displayed a serious inclination towards electoral politics, his immense popularity and goodwill could have easily translated into "lakhs of votes" had he ever contested elections.

Dass also highlighted his personal efforts to honor the late singer's legacy, noting that he had initiated several commemorative projects in Bajali district, including the installation of Zubeen Garg's statue. "No one else took such steps to preserve his legacy the way I did," Dass asserted.

On the ongoing investigation into Zubeen Garg's sudden demise, Dass reiterated the government's commitment to justice. "No guilty person will be spared, no matter who they are. Both the state government and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma have taken a firm stand, and a thorough probe is underway," he said.

Trust deficit between BJP, Janajati communities fading away: Tripura CM

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha asserted on Thursday that the intentionally created trust deficit between the Janajati people of the state and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is fading away, and all misunderstandings are gradually resolving.

Speaking at a grand joining program at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan, Agartala, the Chief Minister said, "Some political elements once took advantage of the trust deficit between the BJP and the Janajati people of Tripura to misguide innocent Janajatis. But the situation has changed substantially. People now understand that our leaders have a vision for the whole country."

In the presence of BJP Tripura Pradesh President Rajib Bhattacharjee, Tribal Welfare Minister Bikash Debbarma, and other senior leaders, the Chief Minister welcomed 920 voters from Dhalai district who joined the BJP, severing ties with the Tipra



Motha Party under the leadership of Paritosh Debbarma.

Paritosh Debbarma is a founding member of the Tipra Motha Party. He previously served as Zonal Chairman and as in-charge of the Youth Tipra Federation's Dhalai district unit.

The Chief Minister said, "I am sure this joining will substantially enhance our strength. Recently, I was in the Bagma area, where a large number of Janajati people attended our

political rally. This clearly indicates that the BJP has the potential to grow in Janajati areas. However, I felt the intent to reach out was missing. I assure you that this gap will never exist in the future."

Pitching for collective effort to move the state forward, the Chief Minister said, "Tripura has historically emerged as a mixedly populated state. We cannot ignore this reality. The responsibility lies with both soci-

eties and the government to ensure a level playing field for all, and no one should be deprived of their rights. The government has always prioritized this."

According to the Chief Minister, politics requires a moral stand. Politics without morality may bring short-lived success, but fails miserably in the long run.

He also highlighted the government's spending to protect royal-era palaces, monuments, and structures. Additionally, he mentioned that the government plans to roll out a special policy to protect the distinct identity and culture of the 40 Janajati communities, including tribes and sub-tribes.

It is worth mentioning that the Tipra Motha Party is an ally of the BJP in the ruling coalition.

Despite this, reports of clashes and confrontations between the parties at the local level frequently surface.

Recently, the BJP accused the Tipra Motha Party of setting ablaze one of its party offices in the Mandai area, just hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi left the state.

A banner carrying the Prime Minister's picture was also burnt to ashes.

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Goodbye MiG-21: IAF bids adieu to legendary fighter jet after six decades

Ladakh tensions: MHA calls Leh Apex Body for prep meet before key Oct 7 talks as curfew continues



NEW DELHI

Marking the end of an era, the Indian Air Force (IAF) formally decommissioned its legendary MiG-21 fighter jets at a grand ceremony held at the Chandigarh Air Force Station on Friday.

Inducted in the early 1960s, the MiG-21 was the IAF's first supersonic jet and played a pivotal role in ushering the force into the jet age.

After more than six decades of distinguished service, the last of the MiG-21s, from No. 23 Squadron, famously known as the "Panthers", were given an emotional farewell. The event drew several high-profile attendees, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and former Air Chiefs SP Tyagi and B S Dhanoa. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and other serving personnel were also present.

In a symbolic final tribute, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh took to the skies in the last sortie of the squadron, flying under the call sign 'Badal 3'.

The ceremony featured a captivating skydiving display by the IAF's elite 'Akash Ganga' team, who jumped from an altitude of 8,000 feet. The iconic aircraft was first inducted into the force here more than six decades ago. 'MiG-21 gave IAF wings it never had before': Veteran pilots hail fighter jet's legacy. This was followed by a powerful aerial performance by MiG-21s in their final formations: the three-aircraft 'Badal' and the four-aircraft 'Panther'. The flypast was complemented by a precision drill by the Air Warrior team and an aerial salute to the retiring aircraft.

The IAF's renowned Surya Kiran aerobatic team added to the spectacle with

their trademark high-speed maneuvers and aerobatics, drawing loud cheers from the assembled audience.

In a tribute posted on X, the IAF paid homage to the jet that shaped generations of fighter pilots: "Six decades of service, countless tales of courage, a warhorse that carried the pride of a nation into the skies." Over the years, the IAF inducted more than 870 MiG-21s, making it one of the largest operators of the Soviet-origin aircraft.

The fighter played key roles in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan, the 1999 Kargil conflict, and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes.

However, the aircraft's long service history was also marred by numerous crashes, raising concerns about the safety of the ageing fleet in recent decades. Despite that, the MiG-21 remained a symbol of India's aerial strength for generations.

SRINAGAR

Amid the recent unrest in Ladakh, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which has blamed climate activist Sonam Wangchuk for the unrest, has reached out to the Leh Apex Body (LAB).

A seven-member delegation of Ladakh leaders will hold a preparatory meeting with MHA officials in New Delhi on Saturday, ahead of talks between the Centre and Ladakh leaders on October 7.

LAB co-chairman Chering Dorjay said a meeting took place yesterday in Leh between LAB members and MHA representatives. It followed Wednesday's violence in which four people were killed and 80 injured.

Since the violence, authorities have imposed a curfew in Leh district and restrictions under Section 163 in neighbouring Kargil to prevent protests and maintain order. Police have detained about 50 people. Curfew restrictions continued for a third day on Friday.

At Thursday's meeting, LAB and MHA officials agreed that a preparatory session for the October 7 talks will be held in New Delhi on September 27 or 28. It will be attended by three representatives each from LAB and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), along with Ladakh MP Haji Hanefza Jan.

The MHA has invited Ladakh leaders to New Delhi for talks on October 7. The last round was held on May 27.

"September 27 meeting is a preparatory meeting for October 7 talks between Ladakh leaders and MHA led by Union MoS Home. The preparatory meeting will discuss the prevailing situation in Ladakh and also the agenda for the October 7 talks," KDA leader Sajjad Kargili told TNIE.

The LAB and KDA, a coalition of



political, social, trade and religious groups from Leh and Kargil, have demanded that statehood and Sixth Schedule status be on the agenda for the October 7 talks.

The LAB has also sought an independent inquiry into the deaths "to ensure that the persons responsible for the shooting of our people are held accountable and brought to justice." It urged the administration and police to refrain "from harassing our youth leaders and locals" and appealed to residents to remain peaceful and follow official advisories.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, residents of Leh initially welcomed the move, while those in Kargil opposed it. Later, groups in Leh joined hands with Kargil's political, religious and trade leaders to agitate jointly for four key demands aimed at safeguarding

Ladakh's identity and fragile environment.

The LAB and KDA have since led a series of protests and sit-ins in Ladakh, Jammu and Delhi to press the Centre to meet their four-point agenda: statehood with legislature, Sixth Schedule status, a separate Public Service Commission, and two Lok Sabha seats for Ladakh, by themselves - fully autonomous and no human involved except the few who control AI system."

Zelenskyy echoed U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in calling for global rules on how AI can be used in weapons, stressing that "this is just as urgent as preventing the spread of nuclear weapons."

Stopping Putin now is cheaper than trying to protect every port and airport and every ship from drone attacks, and having to build underground schools and health centers as Ukraine has been forced to do to protect its citizens, he

said. "Stopping Russia now is cheaper than wondering who will be the first to create a simple drone carrying a nuclear warhead."

"So we must use everything we have together to force the aggressor to stop, and only then do we have a real chance that this arms race will not end in catastrophe for all of us," the Ukrainian leader said.

The Ukrainian leader said his country doesn't have "big fat missiles dictators love to show off in parades" but it is producing drones that can fly 2,000 to 3,000 kilometers which have been used against Russia.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine is building a new security architecture, and more than 30 countries are part of its coalition, and "we have decided to open up for arms exports - and these are powerful systems tested in a real war when every international institution failed."

INTERNATIONAL

Trump announces 100% tariffs on pharmaceutical drugs, 50% on kitchen cabinets, furniture and 25% on heavy trucks

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said that he will put import taxes of 100 per cent on pharmaceutical drugs, 50 per cent on kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities, 30 per cent on upholstered furniture and 25 per cent on heavy trucks starting on October 1.

The posts on his social media site on Thursday showed that Trump's devotion to tariffs did not end with the trade frameworks and import taxes that were launched in August, a reflection of the president's confidence that taxes will help to reduce the government's budget deficit while increasing domestic manufacturing.

While Trump did not provide a legal justification for the tariffs, he appeared to stretch the bounds of his role as commander-in-chief by stating on Truth Social that the taxes on imported kitchen cabinets and sofas were needed "for National Security and other reasons".

Under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the administration launched a Section 232 investigation in April about the impacts on national security from pharmaceutical drug and truck imports.

The Commerce Department launched a 232 investigation into timber and lumber in March, though it's unclear whether the furniture tariffs stem from that.

The tariffs are another dose of uncertainty for the US economy with a solid stock market but a weakening outlook for jobs and elevated inflation. These new taxes on imports could pass through to consumers in the form of higher prices and dampen hiring, a process that economic data suggests is already underway.

"We have begun to see goods prices showing through into higher inflation," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned in a recent news conference, adding that higher costs for goods account for "most" or potentially "all" of the increase in inflation levels this year.

The president has pressured Powell to resign, arguing that the Fed should cut its benchmark interest rates more aggressively because inflation is no longer a concern.



Fed officials have stayed cautious on rate cuts because of the uncertainty created by tariffs.

Trump said on Truth Social that the pharmaceutical tariffs would not apply to companies that are building manufacturing plants in the United States, which he defined as either "breaking ground" or being "under construction".

Trump said that the pharmaceutical tariffs would not apply to companies that are building manufacturing plants in the United States, which he defined as either "breaking ground" or being "under construction."

"At the end of the day we will come together," says US Treasury chief as tariffs bite India. It was unclear how the tariffs would apply to companies that already have factories in the US. In 2024, America imported nearly USD 233 billion in pharmaceutical and medicinal products, according to the Census Bureau.

The prospect of prices doubling for some medicines could send shock waves to voters as health care expenses, as well as the costs of Medicare and Medicaid, potentially increase.

The pharmaceutical drug announcement was shocking as Trump has previously suggested that tariffs would be phased in over time so that companies had time to build factories and relocate production.

On CNBC in August, Trump said he would start by charging a "small tariff" on pharmaceuticals and raise the rate over a year or more to 150 per cent and even 250 per cent.

According to the White House, the threat of tariffs earlier this year contributed to many major pharmaceutical companies, including Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Roche, Bristol Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly, among others, to announce investments in US production.

Pascal Chan, vice president for strategic policy and supply chains at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, warned that the tariffs could harm Americans' health with "immediate price hikes, strained insurance systems, hospital shortages, and the real risk of patients rationing or foregoing essential medicines".

The new tariffs on cabinetry could further increase the costs for homebuilders at a time when many people seeking to buy a house feel priced out by the mix of housing shortages and high mortgage rates.

Trump said that the pharmaceutical tariffs would not apply to companies that are building manufacturing plants in the United States, which he defined as either "breaking ground" or being "under construction."

The National Association of Realtors on Thursday said there were signs of price pressures easing as sales listings increased

11.7 per cent in August from a year ago, but the median price for an existing home was USD 422,600.

Trump said that foreign-made heavy trucks and parts are hurting domestic producers that need to be defended. "Large Truck Company Manufacturers, such as Peterbilt, Kenworth, Freightliner, Mack Trucks, and others, will be protected from the onslaught of outside interruptions," Trump posted.

Trump has long maintained that tariffs are the key to forcing companies to invest more in domestic factories. He has dismissed fears that importers would simply pass along much of the cost of the taxes to consumers and businesses in the form of higher prices.

His broader country-by-country tariffs relied on declaring an economic emergency based on a 1977 law, a drastic tax hike that two federal courts said exceeded Trump's authority as president. The Supreme Court is set to hear the case in November.

The president continues to claim that inflation is no longer a challenge for the US economy, despite evidence to the contrary. The consumer price index has increased 2.9 per cent over the past 12 months, up from an annual pace of 2.3 per cent in April, when Trump first launched a sweeping set of import taxes.

Nor is there evidence that the tariffs are creating factory jobs or more construction of manufacturing facilities. Since April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that manufacturers cut 42,000 jobs and builders have downsized by 8,000.

There's no inflation," Trump told reporters Thursday.

"We're having unbelievable success." Still, Trump also acknowledged that his tariffs against China had hurt American farmers, who lost out on sales of soybeans.

The president separately promised on Thursday to divert tariff revenues to the farmers hurt by the conflict, just as he did during his first term in 2018 and 2019 when his tariffs led to retaliation against the agricultural sector.

World leaders step up efforts behind the scenes at UN to end war in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

Behind the scenes at the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, key countries and regional organizations have been coordinating efforts to try to end the horrific war in Sudan, which has created the most devastating humanitarian and displacement crisis in the world.

Alan Boswell, the International Crisis Group's project director for the Horn of Africa, said this year's high-level General Assembly meeting, which ends Monday, could be "make-or-break" for stopping the conflict.

"For the first time since the war broke out more than two years ago, Sudan's most influential outside powers agreed this month on a roadmap to end the war," he said in a statement. "Now comes the huge task of trying to convince Sudan's warring parties to stop fighting."

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its rival military and paramilitary commanders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to western Darfur and much of the rest of the country.

At least 40,000 people have been killed, nearly 13 million displaced and many pushed to the brink of famine with over 24 million acutely food insecure, UN agencies say.

In a key development after a summer of discussions, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates issued a joint statement on Sept. 12 calling for a humanitarian truce for an initial three months to deliver desperately needed aid throughout Sudan followed by a permanent ceasefire.

Then, the four countries said, "an inclusive and transparent transition process should be launched and concluded within nine months to meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people towards smoothly establishing an independent, civilian-led government with broad-based legiti-

macy and accountability."

The group, calling themselves the Quad, met Wednesday on the sidelines of the assembly to discuss implementation of their roadmap.

Another meeting also focused on de-escalating the war was convened Wednesday by the African Union, the European Union and the foreign ministers of Germany, France and the United Kingdom. Representatives of the Quad, a dozen other countries, the Arab League, the United Nations and the east Africa regional group IGAD also attended.

A statement issued by the AU, EU, France, Germany, UK, Denmark, Norway and Canada after the meeting urged the warring government and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to resume direct negotiations to achieve a permanent ceasefire.

It welcomed the Sept. 12 statement by the Quad, and expressed support for efforts by the AU and the EU "to coordinate international and bilateral efforts to pressure all Sudanese parties towards a ceasefire, humanitarian action and political dialogue."

The statement strongly condemned the military involvement of unnamed foreign countries and "non-state actors" and urged them to stop fueling the conflict.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his "State of the World" speech at the opening of the global gathering Tuesday, made a similar appeal to all parties, including unnamed countries in the vast assembly chamber: "End the external support that is fueling this bloodshed. Push to protect civilians."

"In Sudan, civilians are being slaughtered, starved, and silenced," Guterres said. "Women and girls face unspeakable violence."

The deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said in July that the tribunal believes war crimes and crimes against humanity are taking place in Darfur, where the RSF controls all regional

capitals except el-Fasher in North Darfur.

The RSF and their allies announced in late June they had formed a parallel government in areas the group controls. The UN Security Council rejected the plan, warning that a rival government threatens the country's territorial integrity and risks further exacerbating the ongoing civil war.

Sudan's Transitional Prime Minister Kamil El-Tayeb Idris accused the RSF of "systematic killing and torture and looting and rape and humiliation and the savage destruction of all the components of life," part of its effort "to control Sudan, to plunder its wealth and to change the demographics of its population."

Speaking to the assembly Thursday, he stressed the country's sovereignty and said the government is committed to a Sudanese-developed roadmap including a ceasefire, "accompanied by the withdrawal of the terrorist Rapid Support militia from the areas and cities it occupies" including el-Fasher.

El-Tayeb said the civilian government he formed will engage in a national dialogue "that includes all political and societal forces to lay the groundwork for elections that are free and fair, and to engage positively with regional and international communities."

Chad's Prime Minister Allah Maye Halina told the General Assembly on Thursday that his country, which borders Darfur, is hosting over 2 million refugees from Sudan, 1.5 million of whom arrived since April 2023. He appealed to the international community to help support the refugees, saying more keep arriving.

"We are convinced that the current crisis in Sudan cannot be resolved through weapons, but rather through peaceful means, through inclusive inter-Sudanese dialogue," he said, stressing that Chad is strictly neutral in the conflict and is available to contribute to any initiative to end the war.

Governor of Sikkim urged the government to establish more KVKs in the state

ICAR-ATARI, ZONE VI CONDUCTS ANNUAL ZONAL WORKSHOP 2025 AT SIKKIM



BISWADEEP GUPTA
GANGTOK

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone VI, Guwahati, organized a two-day Annual Zonal Workshop 2025, in collaboration with the Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, on the 25th and 26th of September 2025, at Sikkim. In addition, the inauguration of the Administrative Building, Boys' Hostel and Girls' Hostel of College of Horticulture, Birmiook, took place during the occasion. The workshop primarily focused on major issues and relevant technologies in agriculture and allied sectors of the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; besides reviewing and recommending suitable technologies for relevant zones based on On-Farm Trials (OFT) and Front-Line Demonstrations (FLDs). Chief Guest, Om Prakash Mathur, Governor of Sikkim, inaugurated the workshop and appealed to all the scientists to further work on the value addition of crops, especially large cardamom. He urged the government to establish more KVKs in the state and highlighted the importance of drones in the agricultural scenario of the Eastern States.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt of India, graced the occasion via virtual mode and addressed the importance of agriculture in Sikkim while giving importance to natural and organic farming. He also highlighted PM Modi's vision of agriculture in the North-Eastern states of India. Also present via virtual mode were Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (DG), ICAR and Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (DDG), ICAR.



Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep the faith. It will all be worth it in the end.

Puran Kumar Gurung,

Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, and Fisheries Development Department, Govt of Sikkim, emphasised the importance of establishing 2 new KVKs in Sikkim. Chairman, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, addressed the significance of the agriculture sector being an important source of income and livelihood generation. Also, he spoke on the strengthening of FPOs and FPCs for the development of agriculture in Sikkim.

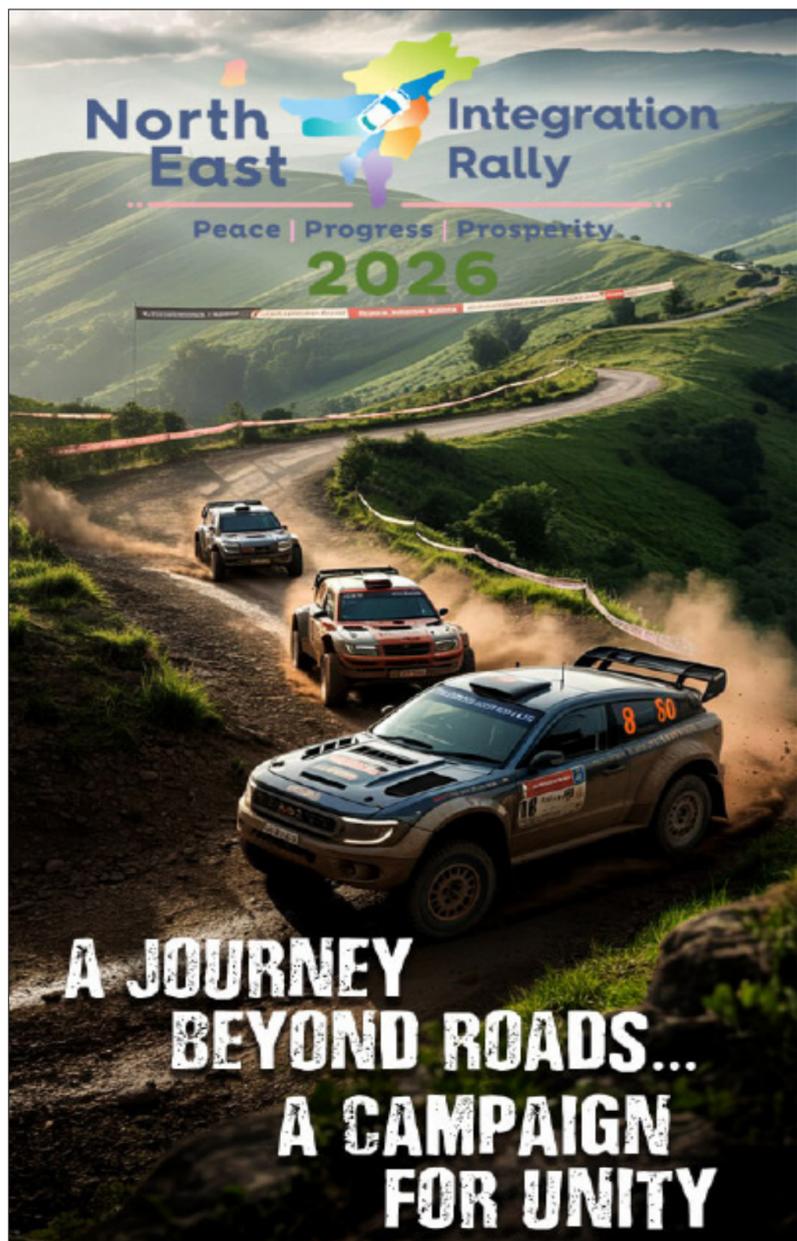
Earlier, during the inaugural session, Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal, delivered the welcome address and gave a brief on the agriculture scenario of Sikkim. Dr. G. Kadirvel, Director of ICAR, ATARI, Zone VI, spoke on new initiatives and the growth of KVKs in the region.

The workshop served as a platform for technology exchange, innovation, and effective dissemination of agricultural technologies aimed at enhancing farmers' incomes through sustainable farming practices.

Significant highlights of the workshop included an Exhibition which showcased technologies, innovations, and flagship products from different institutes and the release of several publications by different KVKs under ICAR ATARI, Zone VI.

During the course of the workshop, eminent scientists reviewed, provided insights, and gave recommendations on issues and technologies relevant for the respective states in the sectors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Field Crops and Natural Resource Management, Livestock and Fisheries, and Farm Machinery and Secondary Agriculture.

Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included B.S. Panth, MLA, Temi Naphing constituency, Dr. Manoranjan Neog, DEE, AAU, Dr. H.C Bhattacharya, Former DEE, AAU, Directors from different ICAR Institutes, KVK heads, scientists, senior scientists and officials from ICAR ATARI, Zone VI.



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11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders. Includes: KCCs, and D'gongal and can register for free. Registration: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and program will be started. Participation is through invitation only. All different events are hosted here.



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
State leaders will deliberate on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical and practical of River Barak, Planning & Geography, environmental and health in the River Barak, Climate Change.

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Online Global Fest
All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



11 JAN
Media Conclave
An Online Event

Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
The 4th 5E Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: "From School to Campus to Corporate". Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.

10 JAN
Media Conclave
Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the "Barak Festival 2025". Theme: "One for All, All for One".



CONCLAVE
"From School to Campus to Corporate"

10-12 JAN
Science Studio
Use a glimpse of Science to arts through digital. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents. Raw science into real-life experiences of students.

DEC'24-JAN'25
Photography
Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture. Real-Time Photography Contest of "Barak Festival 2025".

Barak Festival

Band Night 10 JAN

Musical Night 11 JAN

Barak Festival

Band Night 10 JAN

Musical Night 11 JAN

10-12 JAN
E-Sports
Full-Blown Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



11 JAN
film festival
Award-Giving Event featuring Film from Manipur. Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, W's. Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet.



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Send us your best photos!

5E SUCCESS

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.

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- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

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10-12 JAN
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Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books.

Painting Carnival
Water Colour and Oil and Saw Paper Campaign.