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MYSTIC AURA

MAGAZINE

Photography: Kamal Barman

ZUBEEN GARG

A Tribute to the Icon

The Heartthrob of Millions... The Legend That Lives On

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2025



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From Editor's Desk



October edition of Mystic Aura is a heartfelt tribute to our Legendary singer and son of Assam soil who won the heart of millions, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and unite people across the globe.., A unique personality and pure soul who lived life in his own terms and style, will always and forever be alive in our heart. ❤️

Regards

GITALI PATHAK DEKA

Proprietor & Editor-in-chief

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COVER STORY

An exclusive old interview of,

ZUBEEN GARG his journey.

Translated
version
by Mystic Aura

I was born and raised in Assam, and my journey with music began at a young age. From a very tender age I learned tabla when I was in class-2, and started learning different musical folk instruments too. Slowly thereafter composition and singing. My father, a magistrate, had a transferable job, which allowed me to experience different cultures and folk music traditions. I started learning music seriously after my 12th standard, and my background in folk music has been instrumental in shaping my singing style. "I always dreamt of becoming a music director, a musician and accordingly I tried mould myself in that direction.

My school life was very interesting and fascinating, with stints in English, Bengali, and Assamese medium schools. I was an energetic student who loved making noise, playing cricket, and singing. I was in fact a good tabla player and my talent in tabla and singing often helped me escape punishment.

In college life, I was a student of the science stream but music remained my true passion. I spent countless hours rehearsing and performing with fellow artists. I played tabla with other artists and did rehearsals till 2AM, 3AM and remained busy. Every day, I used to come home late at night. I too did a lot of drama, composed music for it and that experience was a great turning and blessed point of my life.

My mother was my first inspiration in music and I learned a lot from her. I've been fortunate to work with talented individuals like Pritam, with whom I shared a decade-long collaboration. The song 'ya Ali' holds a special place in my heart, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on it.

My big break came with the film 'Fiza,' where I composed the song 'Mere Vatan' and I've since then worked on numerous projects, including reality shows. While these platforms provide a platform for new talent, they also present challenges in establishing oneself in the industry. I believe that 'real struggle of a singer begins after the reality show. One has to focus and put all efforts to become a star'. I have worked as a music director and experimented with various genres and styles, and I enjoy the creative freedom that comes with it. In India I have sang songs in almost all the languages and it was truly a lovely experience.

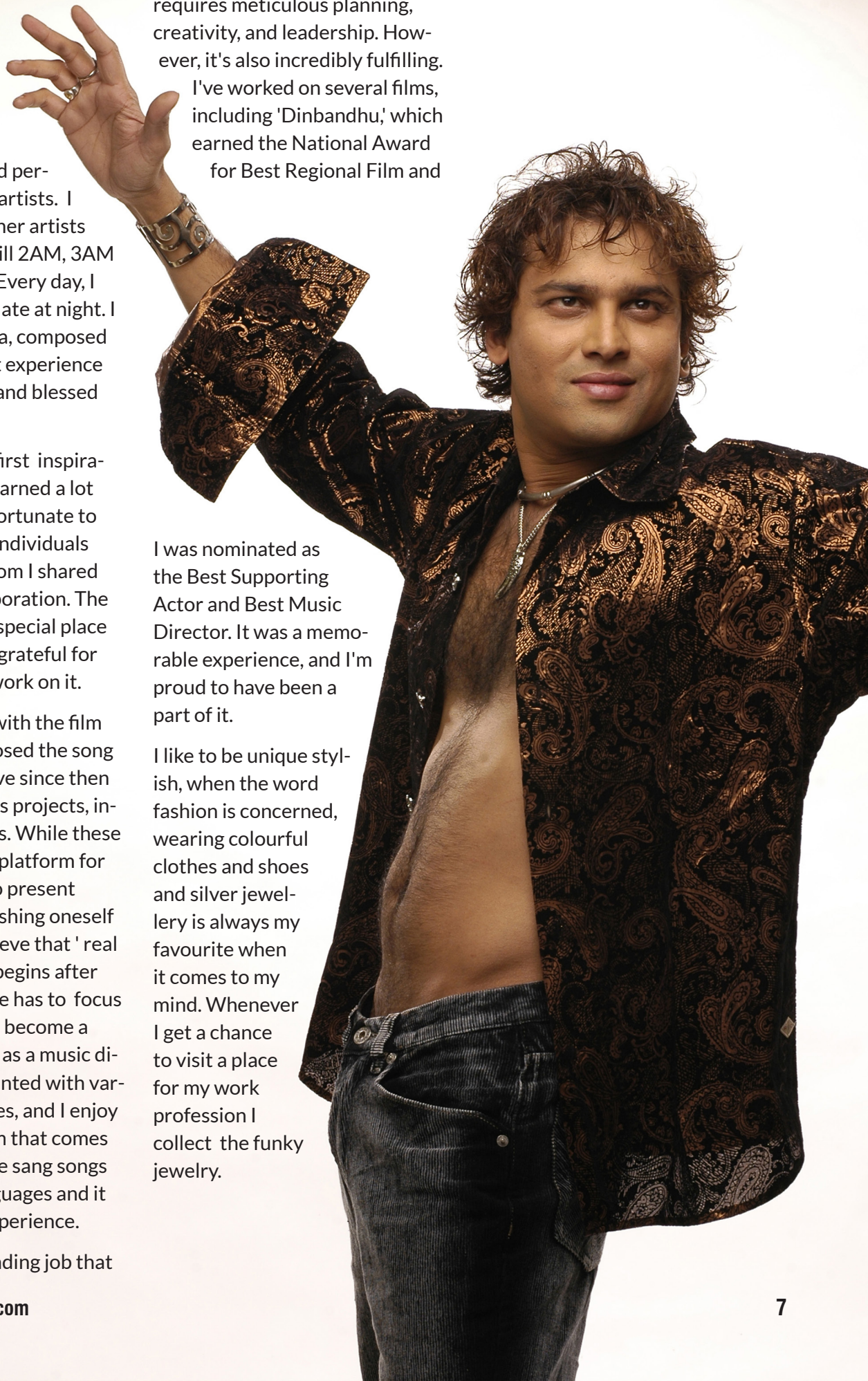
Direction is a demanding job that

requires meticulous planning, creativity, and leadership. However, it's also incredibly fulfilling.

I've worked on several films, including 'Dinbandhu,' which earned the National Award for Best Regional Film and

I was nominated as the Best Supporting Actor and Best Music Director. It was a memorable experience, and I'm proud to have been a part of it.

I like to be unique stylish, when the word fashion is concerned, wearing colourful clothes and shoes and silver jewelry is always my favourite when it comes to my mind. Whenever I get a chance to visit a place for my work profession I collect the funky jewelry.



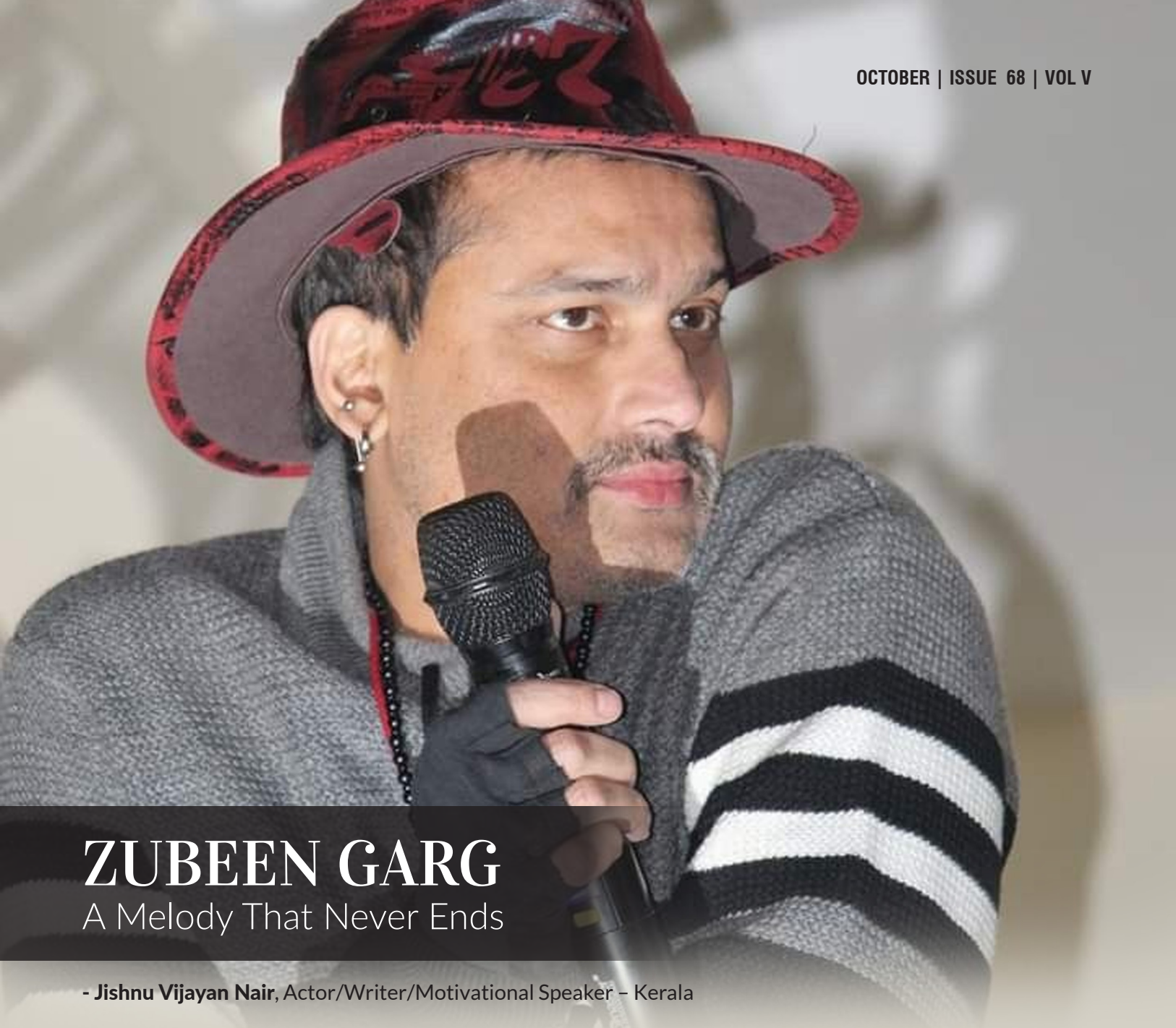
জুবিনদালৈ শ্ৰদ্ধাৰে

শব্দও আজি নিঃশব্দ,
প্ৰকৃতিও আজি ভাৰসাম্যহীন,
প্ৰতিটো জীৱৰ আত্মা আজি
প্ৰতিধ্বনিহীন!
উফ,
জুবিনদা বিহীন অসম...!
সুৰুজে আজি কান্দিছে,
নাহৰ, তগৰ, কপৌএ বিনাইছে,
কুলি, কেতেকীও সঙ্গীহীন,
সুৰ জুৰিবলৈ জুবিনদা যে অন্তৰ্ধান....!
অশান্ত হৃদয়,
অশ্ৰুশিল্প নয়ন
বিষাদভৰা ভাৱনাৰে
কিসতেনো বিদায় দিও তোমাক জুবিন দা !
নহয়,
জুবিনদা তুমি 'অমৰ'
বিদায় শব্দটো অপ্ৰযোজ্য, তোমাৰ বাবো
আত্মাৰ আঁৰে আঁৰে,
মনৰ চোকে কোণে,
জীপাল হৈ ৰ'বা বিশ্বৰ 'ইপাৰে-সিপাৰে'।
পাৰিজাতৰ সুৰাসেৰে
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মলয়াৰ সৈতে মিলি
তুমি জুবিন দা
আমাৰ মাজতে ৰ'বা
হৃদয়ত "হাৰ্ট থ্ৰ'ৱ" হৈ
দুচকুত "অমৰ নক্ষত্ৰ" হৈ।

-- IVA SONOWAL

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ZUBEEN GARG

A Melody That Never Ends

- Jishnu Vijayan Nair, Actor/Writer/Motivational Speaker – Kerala

*Some voices are not just heard - they are felt.
Zubeen Garg's was one such gift to the world.*

He sang not only with his throat, but with his heart, his soul, and the spirit of Assam. Every note carried a story, every lyric a prayer, every performance a festival of emotions. His music travelled beyond boundaries, weaving the fragrance of his homeland into the hearts of millions.

For some, he was a rebel; for others, a healer. For many, he was a companion in solitude, a spark in celebration, a melody in pain. Zubeen was not just an artist - he was an echo of life itself.

Though silence may have claimed his physical presence, his songs continue to breathe. They flow

like the Brahmaputra - sometimes calm, sometimes fierce, always eternal.

Zubeen lives on, not only in the sound of music but in the quiet spaces where music is remembered. And in that timelessness, he will never fade.



FOREVER ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS

Memories that never fade ...

By : **Bikram Borpatra** (Assamese version)
Translated to English by **Dr. Dipshikha Bhagawati**

I grew up immersed in the melodies of Zubeen Da, whose music has been a fundamental part of my life since I was a child. Like every Assamese who deeply admires him, I too have always dreamed of seeing him in person and calling him "Zubeen Da."

As I gradually made a name for myself in Assam as a fashion photographer under the brand Bikram Borpatra Photography, I often longed for the chance to photograph him one day. Eventually, that dream became a reality. I had the honor of meeting Zubeen Da, and over time, we formed a warm and respectful bond. He was gracious, loving, and supportive.

Whenever there was a photoshoot or a creative project, Dada would reach out to me. He would frequently introduce me to others by saying, "He is a talented photographer and part of my team," and many began to recognize me as Zubeen Garg's photographer.

Zubeen Da had a deep passion for photography. He adored nature and often captured its splendor through his camera. Some of his own photographs were truly remarkable. Each time I visited his studio, we would have lengthy conversations about photography and gear. I clearly remember him talking about his intention to buy a new, high-end camera. He mentioned, "It will be quite pricey, but you can use it whenever you like—just don't lend it to anyone else." When I inquired about which model he was considering,



he answered, "Hasselblad." It was the exact camera I had always dreamed of owning.

Alongside Dada, Garima Bou has always been like a protective figure to me—gently scolding me when I erred and uplifting me when I succeeded. They both embraced me as a younger member

of their family, a sentiment I will forever treasure.

Zubeen Da is no longer with us, but his inspiration continues to resonate. Through my work, I aspire to honor his legacy in every way I can.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Biman photography

ZUBEEN

Heart throb of Millions

By: **Brian La Cour**, Author/writer/Entrepreneur, US

The world feels a little quieter today, as we remember Zubeen Garg, a luminous voice snuffed out too soon but whose echo will live forever in hearts across continents.

When news broke of his passing in Singapore on 19 September 2025, the world paused. Assam declared three days of mourning; streets fell silent. Zubeen was just 52, still in the prime of his creativity, still charting the future of music.

He wore many hats: singer, composer, actor, even director. He sang in dozens of languages, bridged cultures, and carried the spirit of Assam with him, no mat-

ter where his voice traveled. But for many of us he will always be the voice of "Ya Ali," that haunting, soulful melody that reached across borders, ages, and languages.

In Singapore, he was attending the Northeast India Festival as a cultural ambassador. Reports say he suffered a seizure while swimming, some say without a life jacket, and after immediate CPR, could not be revived. The details remain under investigation now, but no inquiry can take away the acute ache of loss.

I think of the families in fashion, beauty, culture, those whose lives

he touched unexpectedly, through melody, through human kindness, through sheer artistry. In a world that often values gloss over substance, Zubeen embodied both. His death feels like a missing note in a grand symphony.

To those who knew him, to his family, to his countless fans across continents: may his memory be a blessing, may his music comfort and inspire. The stage may go dark without him, but the song, his song, all our songs, will carry on.

Rest, dear Zubeen. Your voice is forever.

Remembering ZUBEEN GARG

The Voice That United Millions

By **Vanessa Jacquelin D'cruz**
(Loani Chairperson, Singapore)

The music world mourns the untimely passing of Zubeen Garg, the legendary singer from Assam who died on September 19, 2025, in a tragic drowning incident near Singapore. He was 52.

Born on November 18, 1972, Zubeen Garg was more than just a singer—he was a cultural phenomenon. Throughout his remarkable 33-year career, he recorded over 40,000 songs in 40 different languages, becoming one of India's most prolific artists. His voice transcended linguistic barriers, resonating with audiences from the folk stages of Assam to the grandeur of Bollywood.

Garg's breakthrough came in 2006 with "Ya Ali" from the film *Gangster*, which earned him the Global Indian Film Award

for Best Playback Singer. The haunting melody remains one of Bollywood's most unforgettable tracks, with actor Emraan Hashmi calling it one of the biggest hits in his career. But while Bollywood brought him national fame, Zubeen's heart always belonged to Assamese music, where he revitalized the industry by

blending traditional folk with modern arrangements.

A multi-talented artist, Zubeen was also a composer, actor, director, and philanthropist. He played 12 different instruments and wore many creative hats throughout his career. His film *Mission China* became the first Assamese movie to cross significant box office milestones, showcasing his versatility.

Beyond music, Zubeen Garg served as a rare unifier in India's culturally diverse Northeast, particularly in religiously divided Assam. His music touched hearts across communities, embodying the spirit of harmony.

As we remember Zubeen Garg, we celebrate not just an extraordinary voice, but a cultural bridge-builder whose melodies will continue to inspire generations to come.



ZUBEEN GARG

A Eulogy

Dr. Dipsikha Bhagawati, Film Critic | Translator | Published Author

Zubeen Garg, from the very dawn of your musical brilliance to your meteoric rise, from your stardom to your transformation from Zubeen Garg into ZG, we have been the silent witnesses to your eternal journey. We have seen Anamika, felt Maya, and experienced Era Eri — we have heard them, lived them. It was never just music; it was a tender star that illuminated every emotion of human life. In your songs, I often find traces of that rustic rebellion of Bob Dylan — wrapped in romance yet deeply rooted in philosophical introspection. From afar, we found joy in watching you; you were never just a craze — you were courage itself. In countless

moments, both conscious and unconscious, we have looked into the flow of our own souls through the resonance of your voice — our Zubeen!

But now, with your departure, we are left adrift in an irreparable storm of grief — one that no story can ever soothe or erase. All that lingers is this mist-laden, sombre time, heavy with the ache of separation. In the realm of stars, may you go on singing songs of sorrow and joy, of tempest and eternity, beneath the endless depths of the cosmic ocean. Enshrined forever in our hearts, we offer a royal farewell to your magnificent mortal journey.

Bipul: Au Revoir

‘Neither the king is happy, nor the beggar’

-Bipul in Dinabandhu

In 2004, the esteemed filmmaker Munin Baruah released ‘*Dinabandhu*,’ a poignant and thought-provoking exploration of dignity, struggle, parallel mileage of mediocrity and the profound essence of art in Assamese cinema. Based on the visionary Dr. Bhabendranath Saikia’s short story ‘Zowtuk,’ the film intricately weaves the narrative around Bipul, a music teacher skillfully portrayed by the talented Zubeen Garg, whose character exemplifies the quiet heroism



Zubeen Garg's performance as Bipul is probably his best on-screen performance till date. Garg effectively communicates Bipul's emotional breadth through stillness and silence. One doesn't feel as though stillness becomes boring; Garg's presence is commanding and his facial movements communicate complex emotional states. Garg shows great restraint in the absence of grand pagination or sensationalist dramatics. The psychological depth of the character becomes Bipul's essence. He is relatable and authentic. One feels his emotional pain as he attempts to navigate the complex interplay of aspirations and ambitions that the world imposes. He is Bipul. Garg's deftness in complex characters transcends mere acting and becomes inspiration; not only in the sense of emotional inspiration to the character, but in the ability to invoke sacrifice that lies just beyond the thin veneer of aspirations. One feels as though he is asking the question: What drives you? Where is the balance? Garg challenges and inspires in equal measure. The journey that

often found in ordinary individuals dedicated to their craft and calling. Bipul's character serves as a powerful and profound symbol of unrecognized dignity and steadfast artistic integrity, navigating numerous challenges posed by financial insecurity and societal indifference. Despite these adversities, he remains unwaveringly committed to nurturing the musical talents of his students, showcasing an inspiring dedication to his vocation.

Bipul's life is illustrative of the layers of struggles faced by countless artists and educators who often toil in obscurity, experiencing little recognition for their significant contributions to society. His unwavering passion for music, even in the face of scanty rewards and widespread societal apathy, serves as a poignant critique of a culture that oftentimes overlooks those

individuals who shape minds and foster creativity within communities. The film underscores the idea that the true value of art lies not in the pursuit of external accolades, but rather in its transformative power and the meaningful connections it fosters between individuals and across diverse societal spectrums.





Bipul embarks upon is not just a personal one; it mirrors a universal challenge, one that resonates with anyone who has passionately pursued their dreams and aspirations despite facing significant hurdles along the way. In doing so, Zubeen Garg not only captivates viewers but also invites them to reflect on their own ambitions and the resilience required to navigate life's obstacles.

The character of Bipul truly shines brightly with its remarkable blend of subtlety and restraint, showcasing his immense talent as an actor. He adeptly brings the character's emotional depth to life through a series of quiet moments that resonate powerfully, anchored by a strong on-screen presence and finely tuned facial expressions that convey a wide range of emotions. Garg skilfully steers clear of any over-the-top movements or dramatic theatrics, opting instead for an authentic approach that enhances the psychological complexity of Bipul. This authenticity

renders the character incredibly relatable, allowing the audience to forge a deep connection with his inner struggles as he strives to balance his ambitious dreams with the challenging realities that confront him each day. The journey that Bipul embarks upon is not just a personal one; it mirrors a universal challenge, one that resonates with anyone who has passionately pursued their dreams and aspirations despite facing significant hurdles along the way. In doing so, Zubeen Garg not only captivates viewers but also invites them to reflect on their own ambitions and the resilience required to navigate life's obstacles.

Focused through, Bipul's role as a teacher is a testament of the holistic act of knowledge transmission, reinforcing the poignant idea that the worth of an individual's life is fundamentally measured by the impact one has on others. The casting of Zubeen Garg adds an intriguing meta-narrative dimension to the film, as it contrasts his

celebrity status with Bipul's uncelebrated existence, prompting reflection on societal perceptions of success and recognition. Through thoughtful storytelling and character development, *Dinabandhu* ultimately invites audiences to reflect on the enduring value of art and the often-unseen sacrifices made by those dedicated to fostering creativity and knowledge within society.

As suggestive, Bipul serves as a catalytic metaphor of the enduring impact that art can have on our lives, showcasing the quiet yet unwavering tenacity of those who refuse to abandon their dreams in the face of adversity. This journey speaks to the heart of human experience, illuminating the idea that passion and dedication can triumph over even the harshest challenges. *Dinabandhu* transcends the traditional boundaries of cinema, emerging not just as a film but as a heartfelt tribute to the countless individuals who selflessly dedicate their lives to the betterment of others. It shines a light on the profound notion that true success is not measured by wealth or fame but rather by the richness of living with purpose, integrity, and above all, love. Through the character of Bipul, the film invites the audience to engage in a philosophical reflection on what it truly means to lead a meaningful existence. This exploration of life's deeper truths renders *Dinabandhu* a timeless narrative, one that resonates deeply with audiences and leaves them contemplating their own aspirations and values long after the credits roll.



BEYOND MUSIC

The Eternal Bond of Zubeen Garg and Ashita Challengg

The Indian music fraternity stands still — wrapped in silence, disbelief, and sorrow. The sudden demise of *Zubeen Garg*, the voice that defined a generation of Assamese music lovers, has left behind a void that words can scarcely fill. Known lovingly as *Zubeen Da*, he was more than just an artist; he was

a cultural movement — a force of nature whose melodies carried the rhythm of Assam's soul.

But amidst the sea of mourning fans, one tribute stood out — heartfelt, raw, and deeply personal — from Assamese model and entrepreneur *Ashita Challengg*. Her emotional post on Instagram gave the world a glimpse into a

beautiful friendship and artistic connection that transcended fame, music, and time itself.

****A Friendship Woven in Music****

In her moving words, Ashita wrote:

> “Words fall short today... The news of Zubeen Da’s passing has broken my heart. For me, he was



not only a legendary singer but also a true friend, a mentor, and a soul full of kindness. We had recently worked together on a song that was yet to be released. It's hard to believe he is no longer with us... but his voice, his music, and his memories will live on forever."

The emotions in her note reflected not just grief but reverence — the kind one holds for a person who has shaped one's creative journey. Their connection wasn't fleeting or merely professional; it was layered with mutual admiration, trust, and warmth.

The duo had recently collaborated on an *unreleased Assamese track*, a project that has now taken on a sacred aura — a posthumous gift from Zubeen Da to his fans, and a deeply emotional keepsake for Ashita. Those who

witnessed them together describe their on-set chemistry as "pure magic" — two artists lost in melody, guided by passion and purpose.

When Kindness Meets Artistry

Ashita recalls Zubeen not just as a performer but as a person who carried kindness like a melody in his soul. His laughter, she says, could light up the dullest moments; his wisdom, always laced with simplicity, made him a grounding presence in a world obsessed with glamour.

> "His laughter, his words, and the time we spent together will always remain alive in my heart," she wrote.

> "Zubeen Da, you will forever remain in our hearts. May your soul rest in eternal peace."

In those lines lies a truth — that sometimes the most powerful

relationships aren't measured by duration but by depth. Zubeen and Ashita's bond reflected a meeting of hearts — the legendary musician and the rising star who shared an unspoken understanding rooted in art, respect, and shared pride in their Assamese identity.

Ashita Challengg: Grace, Grit, and Growth.

Hailing from the scenic heartlands of Assam, *Ashita Challengg* has carved her own path in both the fashion and business worlds. A former national-level beauty pageant contestant, she has graced countless ramps, blending traditional Assamese elegance with modern confidence.

Beyond the glitter of modeling lights, Ashita's entrepreneurial spirit shines bright through her venture, *Forest Assam Tea* — a premium brand celebrating the

state's rich tea heritage. Her brand stands as a symbol of sustainable entrepreneurship and Assamese pride — a vision that echoes Zubeen's lifelong mission to take Assam's culture global.

Perhaps it was this shared sense of purpose that connected them so deeply — both dreamers, both rooted in their land, both believers in the power of authenticity.

****Zubeen Garg: A Voice That Defined an Era****

To speak of Zubeen Garg is to speak of emotion itself. Born in Assam's Jorhat district, he redefined the meaning of versatility — moving effortlessly from soulful ballads to energetic folk-inspired rhythms. His contribution to Assamese, Hindi, Bengali, and other regional music industries remains unparalleled.

From “Ya Ali” in *Gangster* to countless Assamese gems like “Mayabini,” “O Bondhu,” and “Mon,” Zubeen's voice carried a rare magic — a mix of rebellion, devotion, and tenderness. He was the heartbeat of an entire generation.

His untimely passing during a private yacht trip has sent shockwaves through the nation. For Assam, it feels like losing a family member; for the Indian music scene, it marks the end of an era.

But as Ashita beautifully reminds us — *“legends never truly leave.”*

****An Unfinished Song, A Timeless Memory****

The yet-to-be-released Assamese music video featuring Zubeen and Ashita now stands as a poignant

reminder of the beauty of art and the fragility of life. It is not just another song — it is a chapter of emotion, creativity, and companionship immortalized in melody.

Fans eagerly await its release, not just to hear Zubeen's final notes but to witness the connection that inspired it. For Ashita, this song is now more than a professional milestone — it is a part of her heart, forever entwined with Zubeen's legacy.

****A Bond Beyond Goodbye****

In a world where connections are often fleeting, the story of Zubeen Garg and Ashita Challengg shines

as a reminder of genuine human bonds — built not on fame or fortune, but on respect, creativity, and shared passion.

As Assam continues to mourn its most beloved voice, one thing remains certain — Zubeen Da lives on in every beat, every lyric, every tear that his songs evoke. And in Ashita's words, memories, and music, his spirit finds a quiet, eternal home.

Because legends like Zubeen Garg don't fade away —

They simply turn into songs that never end.





ETERNAL DOORWAY

By: **Queen G Talukdar**, Artist, queen4friend@gmail.com

As an art practitioner, I believe my role goes beyond creation—it is also about careful observation, reflection, and awareness. Art is a medium that allows us to pay attention to society, nature, and people, transforming ordinary experiences into meaningful expressions that connect vision, truth, and humanity.

The passing of musical icon Zubeen Garg deeply moved me and led me to explore the circumstances of his departure, his profound philosophy of life, and his extraordinary artistic journey. His music and creative work reflected society, spirituality, and

human struggle. Studying his legacy revealed how his art shaped culture, inspired generations, and redefined Assamese identity.

Through this exploration, I found imaginative creative thoughts forming within me, thoughts that I felt compelled to bring into the real world. My work seeks to translate these reflections into artistic expression, sharing how I perceive his dreams, struggles, and philosophies.

One moment that especially stayed with me was a photograph of Zubeen Garg, captured years ago by a photojournalist. By coincidence, the same place later

became the site of his cremation. This profound connection between image and destiny touched me deeply. Instead of holding on to grief, I chose to transform these reflections into a positive vision—keeping his spirit alive through art, where imagination becomes expression and memory becomes hope.

As an artist, I see it as my duty to spread positivity and inspire hope through creative expression. Art is not only a tribute but also a way to illuminate pathways for society, reminding us that creativity carries the power to heal, unite, and inspire.

UNBREAKABLE TIES

**Cherishing Love &
Memories that Never Fades**

By: Dipankar Kashyap
Filmmaker/stylist/designer/
show director



Dipankar Kashyap: Today sitting on my living room sofa all alone. It seems like yesterday when I first met Goldie (Zubeen Garg).

The year was 1998. I was shooting for my second film MAHARATHI then and the director was Bani Das. Goldie with Debo (owner of n k production) and Pabitra (Margherita) had come to the set. Goldie was already a star then. His Albums Anamika and Maya were big hits. It was like fun moment for me. I was the star stuck- my God Zubeen Garg on set !

He knew that I was doing the costumes for Maharathi and told me he was starting a film soon. I immediately said I will do the costumes ,to which he asked me to act too. Then I realised he was all these while observing me. The way I walked,talked . I agreed and

that is how I became the costume designer and his real and reel friend in the movie "TUMI MUR MATHU MUR "

Goldie was an honest soul from day one. We had so much fun during the shooting. The call time would be 6AM and he would tell me to come at 11AM. Because he wakes up late. He would brush his teeth on set during our jorhat schedule. I used to find it very funny.

I still remember he took me out at 1 AM once to a nearby deserted place and talked about ghosts and magic. I got really scared. He was a bad driver too. He would keep

on asking beya solaisu neki? Bhoi khaiso neki. I used to get scared but say 'NO'

During that time I think Garima entered his life and I am not mistaken he had taken a eri kurti to gift her from me.

Goldie and Jonkie were great siblings. There was a scene in the film where Bubu (Jatin Bora) stabs me. Goldie comes rushing to save me.

I was too scared to do the scene. I thought what if the knife really hits me and I die? I was so nervous. Bubu showed me the knife was fake and would laugh then Goldie came and showed me how to do 10 times.



But people can find out I was nervous and couldn't do it properly. Next was the bed scene after my stabbing scene. A serious scene.

Zerifa, Jonkie, Partha all serious for the shot. In comes Goldie and in the middle of the scene he pulls up my blanket. And all burst up laughing. (That NG scene you can still see in the film last during cast and credits).

No one knows that I was the one who introduced Anindita Paul to Goldie. Anindita was Kopil Bora's classmate. Since Kopil used to do lots of anchoring for us once

he got Anindita to our panbazar office. They were from the English department of Cotton College those days. When I heard of Anindita I felt I have to promote her at any cost. I introduced her to Goldie and forced him to record a song with her. Pabitra, Jayanta, Debo used to laugh at the NK office for promoting Anindita so much. But I always loved new talents.

Anindita first sang XIKOLI SINGI TUMI JABA KENEKOL. I was so happy. Then Goldie told me after a few days that he had erased

Anindita's voice and redubbed it. I was so hurt. He knew I was sad. But then he said I will make her a star. I will soon record songs which will make her immortal. He made her sing for 'Prem aru Prem' and 'Dinabandhu'. Rest is history.

Today she is in a league of her own. He made her the Alka Yagnik of the Assamese film industry. I am proud that I have discovered some of the great talents of our Assamese film industry. Nishita Goswami, Utpal Das, Diganta Hazarika, Stuti Choudhary, Anchit udayaditya, Palashree Das, Amit Paul are a few of them.

Goldie shot for my garments and it came out in Femina and Nandini magazine. He used to love my clothes. I knew that. He used to wear them while not shooting too.

We had a soul connection. It's not that we used to talk regularly over phone or message or visit one another. But there was a whole lot of respect.

When Jonkie and Jayanta (zubeen's very close friend) died in 2002, Goldie and me went to the park near Sukreswar temple. He held my hands and cried so much. I wanted to see Jonkie but he asked me not to go because he said I won't be able to take it.

Today when he is gone I didn't go to see him. Because I know that he knows I won't be able to take it. That's why I said I have a soul connection with him (he is not dead for me)

A Legend never dies. A love for a friend from the core of my heart cannot die...



Zubeen Garg

The Incomparable star & Iconic Jewel of Assam

By: **Utpal Datta**, Professor / Film Critic.

The moment news broke of Zubeen Garg's untimely passing, a cloud of sorrow swept across Assam. It wasn't just grief — it was shock, disbelief, and

a quiet fury at fate itself. To lose such a beloved artist so suddenly, without warning, and far from home, left his admirers in a state of heavy, tangled emotion.

But this sense of loss was not merely for a singer. It was the collective ache for a rare cultural spirit — someone who had reached the hearts of people through his art, crossing the limits of creation to live as one among them.

Zubeen's popularity was never confined to his voice or his songs alone. It was the totality of his talent and personality — a dazzling image that transcended language, geography, and genre. In short, he was Assam's first true superstar — one whose comparison is possible only with himself.

In the world of entertainment, we call someone a star when their art and performance win such love and fame that their name itself becomes a force — a presence that influences the crowd. The difference between a good singer or actor and a star lies not only in talent but in a special magnetism: the ability to attract the masses, to draw audiences in, and to turn a show or a film into a celebration. A star is more than an entertainer; they become a symbol — a reflection of a society's dreams, identity, and culture.

From this perspective, Zubeen stands tall as one of the brightest stars to ever grace the sky of Assam's entertainment world. Zubeen's extraordinary ability to draw people toward him, his power to make a song soar in the market, and the irresistible glow of his creations — all of these secured his place as a true star.

Across Assam, he was loved with a sincerity rare in today's world. Yes, there were those who surrounded him for the glamour, for business,



or simply for the pride of being near him. But there were far more who knew him only through his art — who admired him, loved him deeply, and considered his music a part of their own lives.

Zubeen did not know most of these people personally — he could not have. Nor did his admirers seek fame or favour from him. They simply felt him. And it

was this feeling that transformed Zubeen Garg from a musician into a legend. Many singers tried to imitate his voice, and in doing so, they often improved their diction and rhythm. But others, who had no connection with music, tried to dress like him, to talk like him — to be him. This was no stage act or mimicry; it was the reflection of how deeply he had entered their

lives. Only love that runs very deep can create such imitation.

There was even a heartbreaking story — a young boy who, unable to bear the pain of Zubeen's death, took his own life. Decades ago, when news spread that Rajesh Khanna was getting married, there was a similar tale of a heartbroken fan's suicide. That story remained in the realm of myth and disbelief. But this — this tragedy was real, reported in the most credible newspapers of Assam. Perhaps this is the first and most powerful example in our state of how a star's light can entrance, even consume, the hearts of his admirers.

Zubeen's first Assamese music album, *Anamika*, became a sensation among the youth of the 1990s — a generation hungry for a new sound, a new rhythm. Assamese modern songs were already evolving by then. Artists like Aboni, Bhupen, and Jitul Sonowal had introduced fresh tones and styles to Assamese music, and Jitul himself had attained remarkable popularity. But then came Zubeen — bold, energetic, unstoppable — with his own *veni-vidi-vici* flair: I came, I saw, I conquered.

His songs carried the pulse of youth — vibrant, restless, full of life. His clear diction, his electrifying musical arrangements, his refusal to let the listener's attention drift — all of it created an experience that lingered long after the song had ended. His music thrilled the senses; it entered through the ears and settled permanently in the heart.

For more than three decades, Zubeen Garg remained not merely

a singer but a symbol — of love, of pride, of the joy of living itself. He proved that Assam could produce not just regional talents but stars who could shine by national standards.

His concerts in Assam were never just performances — they were social festivals. In those moments, the line between artist and audience dissolved. People didn't just watch Zubeen; they met him, felt him, and became part of his world. His popularity wasn't limited to Assam either.

The song "Ya Ali" from the Bollywood film *Gangster* catapulted him to nationwide fame, making his voice resonate across India. That song broke the walls of regionalism — it carried the voice of Assam into the very heart of Bollywood.

While his albums made him famous, it was his live concerts that turned him into a legend. Every Zubeen Garg performance was unpredictable — vibrant, electric, and deeply personal. He had that rare gift of connection: the ability to bridge the space between stage and crowd. A true performer, he could turn an ordinary evening into a shared emotional experience, where the audience didn't just listen — they lived the music with him. It was in those concerts that fans saw their beloved artist up close, felt his energy, and left enchanted.

Music was Zubeen's primary identity, yet his creative energy spilt into cinema as well. As an actor, he breathed life into characters in films like *Mon Jai* and *Dinabandhu*. He wasn't merely acting — he was

inhabiting the roles, making them feel authentic and alive. Even in later films, where the character seemed overshadowed by the towering persona of "Zubeen Garg," audiences forgave that overlap — because it was him they wanted to see.

Then came *Mission China* — a bold step that took Zubeen beyond music and acting into direction and production. The film was made on a scale previously unimaginable in Assamese cinema. While most Assamese films of that time were produced with budgets around thirty to forty lakh rupees, Zubeen invested over two crores — an act of sheer audacity and faith. With advanced technology, massive production values, and Bollywood-level ambition, *Mission China* broke box-office records in Assam.

Critics didn't unanimously hail it as a great film, but that hardly mattered. *Mission China* changed the business of Assamese cinema. After its release, big-budget Assamese films stopped being a dream — they became a reality. Zubeen had expanded not only the possibilities of Assamese music but also of Assamese filmmaking itself.

Zubeen Garg's fame did not rest on his music alone; his bold and unfiltered personality was just as magnetic. He spoke his mind, even when his words stirred controversy. His candour often brought him into the heart of debates, yet it also made him more endearing to people — especially the youth, who saw in him a reflection of their own fearless, questioning

spirit.

At times, his impulsive behaviour drew criticism. But the public forgave him easily, because behind every act — even the reckless ones — they sensed sincerity. There was no pretence in Zubeen; what you saw was what he truly was. That authenticity, raw and unvarnished, kept him forever close to people's hearts.

His songs may fall silent now, but their echoes will never fade. From *Mayabini Ratir Bukut* to *Era Eri*, his melodies will continue to play on streaming platforms and in countless hearts. Zubeen will live on — not just as a singer or performer, but as a cultural memory, a living story of how a people found their voice through one man's art.

He will remain forever entwined with Assam's heartbeat — the enduring rhythm of a land that loved him as its own son, its pride, its melody.



The Angel with a Golden Voice

"Zubeen" the Angel was not just a name or a heart throb.

He is an emotion of every heart.

Snatched away by the fake sweetness of the sapien's society.

A numb silence grips us around.

Our strength our identity our Zubeen.

A world without you is scary.

Melody of each and every one of your loved ones drowned and died in the Singaporean Sea waves.

Creating an Emptiness which never can be filled.

Your voice in our soul will always stay.

Zubeen is an identity of every Assamese heart.

The free Angelic soul silenced too soon.

But Zubeen, you are endless...

- Monali Bhuyan



A man wearing a black cowboy hat and a blue and black leather jacket is singing passionately into a microphone. He is on a stage with colorful, hazy lighting in shades of green and blue. The background is out of focus, showing some stage equipment and lights.

Echoes of ZUBEEN in My Soul

How can i accept the reality
that today i lost your touch for forever,
you are the tune of my
every charged emotions.

How can i acquire that
today you go for an isolated journey
you are the name of my fragmentary
poem

How can i espouse that
today you mixed with the morning
mist,
you are the vanished grapheme of
my imaginary whims.

I have to stop my pen,
because you are my melodic phrase
please you hold this ephemeral period
and whispered at my heart
in this groggy midnight
'Mayabini ratir bukut....

- **Manikangkana Devi**
Poet, writer, artist and Translator

Zubeen Garg

Your melodies filled our empty hearts
Soothed the silent pains
Like a sunfilled morning's warmth
Like a rainbow after the grieving rains
When you sang with the sun and storms
The sky glittered in our homes
Bringing smiles to our waning spirits
You made our dreams to sing
Your songs filled every Phagun breeze
Blossomed the 'Kopous' of spring
Your sweet voice enriched our lives
To believe in love through eternal times
Your voice will be remembered throughout
mankind
A voice so melodious pure and divine.
Jai Zubeen Garg.

- **Vijaylaxmi Sarmah**
Assam

ZUBEEN

The Prince of Hearts

On the land of Assam, by the banks of the Brahmaputra,
Was born a shining star of melodies and mantras.
Zubeen — a name, a feeling, a sound so pure,
Echoing in every heart, forever to endure.

From “Mayabini” and “Ya Ali” to “O Moi Moi”,
Every song you sang was filled with joy.
You sang of love, of pain, of life’s embrace,
Each tune carried a story, full of grace.

You weren’t just a singer, you were magic divine,
A heartbeat, a rhythm, a soul’s lifeline.
In your voice echoed the spirit’s song,
Through your melodies, we found where we belong.

Your love for animals was rare and deep,
For every being, your compassion did seep.
Dogs, cats, and birds — your friends so dear,
Your kindness shone bright, crystal clear.

Assam weeps, yet still it sings,
For your music, forever it brings.
You may be gone — how can hearts believe,
But your songs will stay, they’ll never leave.

Come back once more, O Zubeen Da,
With that smile, that soulful aura.
Now the stars hum your melodies afar,
You were the king of hearts, an immortal star —
Forever Assam’s pride, our eternal identity.

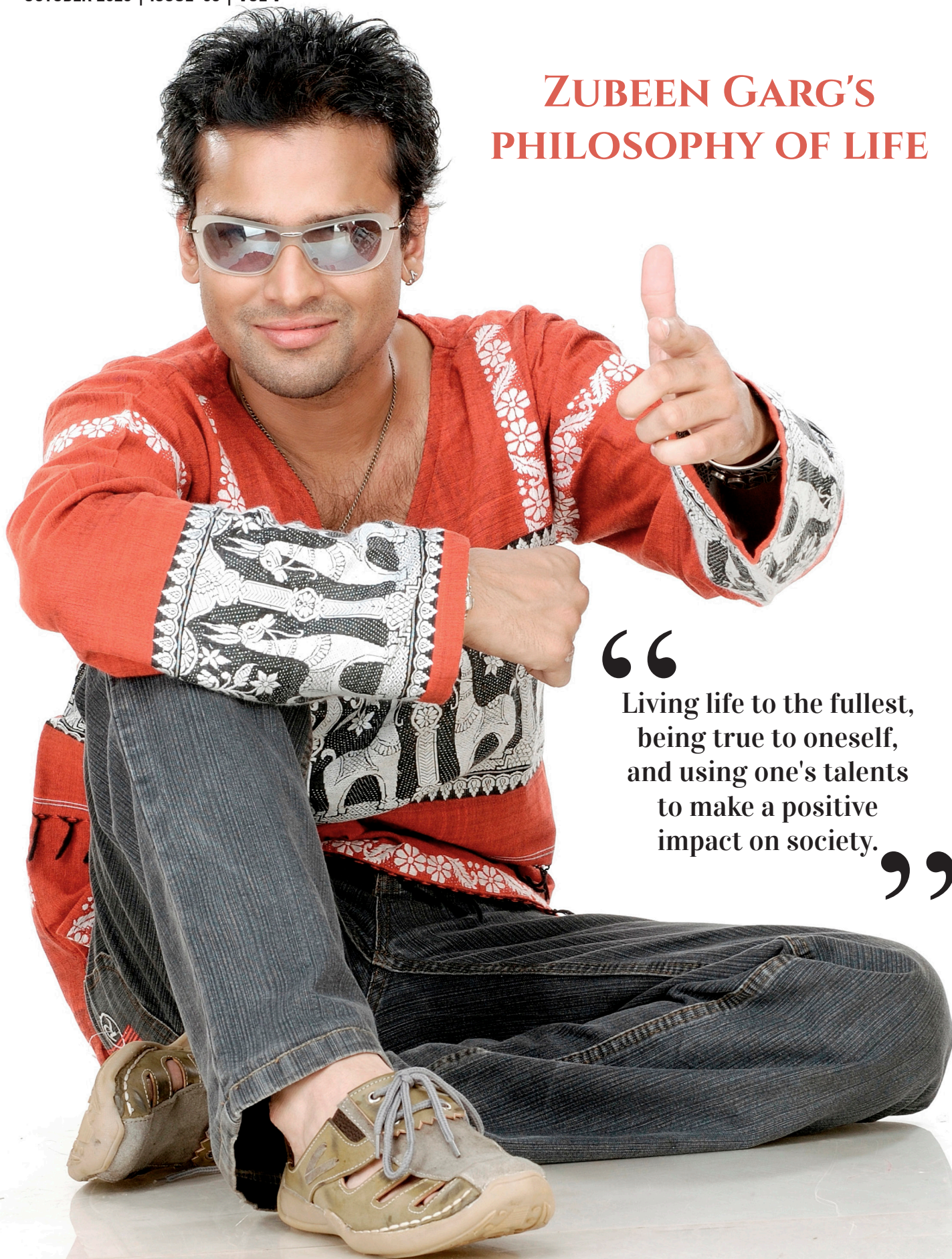
By :

RUBY BENGANI JALAN.

Anchor/ joint secretary of Assam/member
of FFA (Fashion fraternity of Assam).

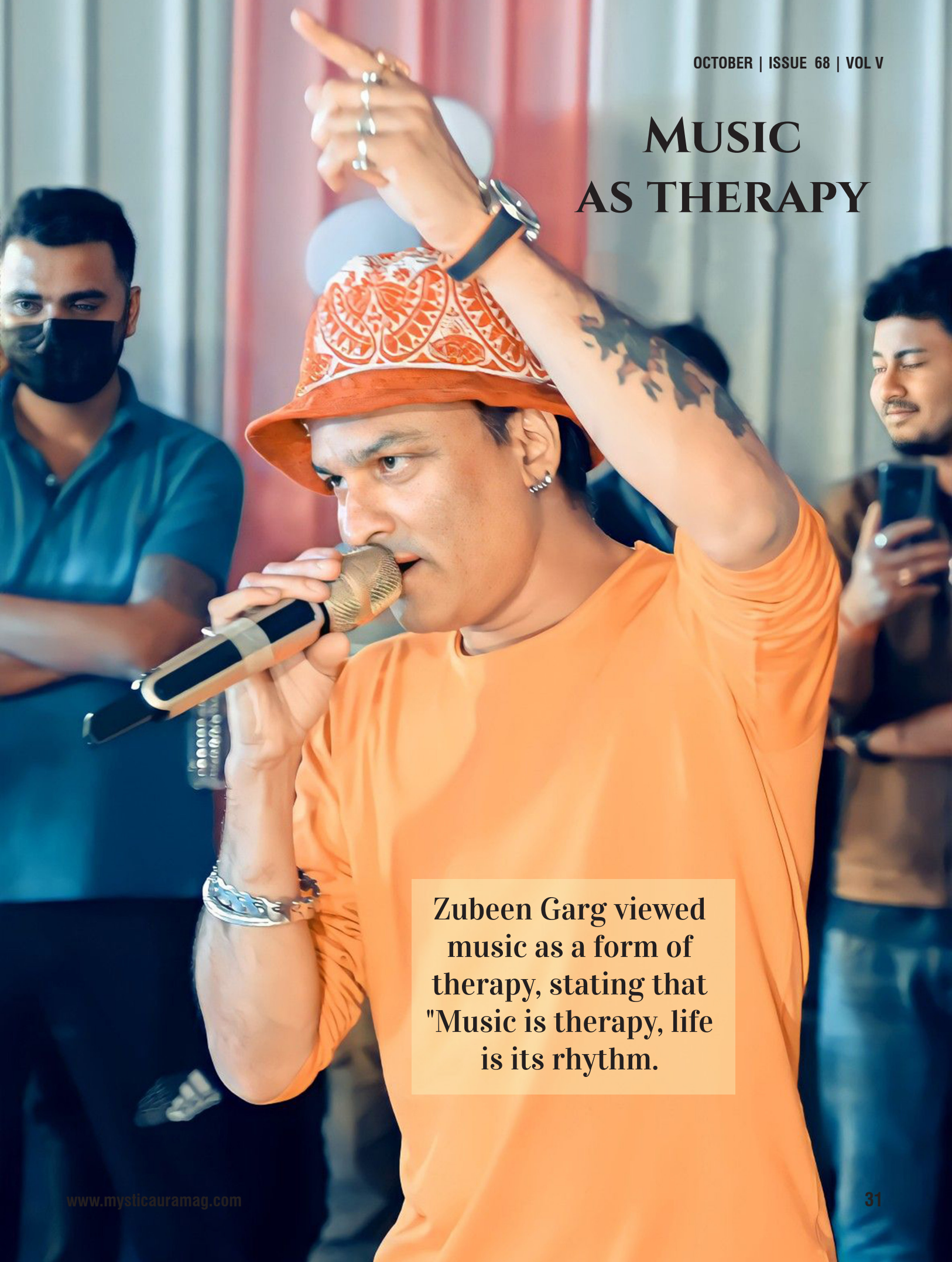
Photography: Kamal Barman

ZUBEEN GARG'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE



“
Living life to the fullest,
being true to oneself,
and using one's talents
to make a positive
impact on society.”

MUSIC AS THERAPY

A full-page photograph of Zubeen Garg performing on stage. He is wearing an orange t-shirt and a matching orange bucket hat with a white and red patterned band. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and pointing his left index finger upwards. He has a tattoo on his left forearm and is wearing a watch and a bracelet. In the background, a man in a blue shirt and black face mask is visible on the left, and another man is holding a smartphone on the right.

Zubeen Garg viewed music as a form of therapy, stating that "Music is therapy, life is its rhythm."

Zubeen Garg valued freedom and authenticity, often expressing his thoughts and feelings without hesitation. He said, "I am a straightforward man; I don't care about anyone"

In Assamese he says, 'মই ঘেঁটা কাকো কেয়াৰ নকৰো '



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