

SAF Games deferred to Feb next year



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Unpreparedness and climatic conditions in the north eastern region of [India](#) have forced the organizers to reschedule the South Asian Games ([SAF](#)) in Guwahati and Shillong. The sports event now will held in February next year.

The detail schedule has yet to be finalised. This was what the unanimously decision of the member countries of South Asian Olympic Council when they met in Chennai recently chaired by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) [President](#) N Ramachandran. This time the [SAF](#) games will include tennis along with the existing 22 disciplines. The IOA will fix the new schedule after consultations with all stake holders apart from the Assam and [Meghalaya](#) Chief Ministers.

Now the event will include tennis apart from the existing archery, athletics, [badminton](#), basketball, [boxing](#), cycling, [football](#), handball, hockey, judo, kabaddi, kho kho, shooting, squash, [swimming](#), table tennis, taekwondo, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu. These disciplines, mostly, will take place Guwahati.

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GUWAHATI, August 17, 2026 — Assam journalist Pranay Bordoloi marked India's Independence Day with a remarkable achievement, successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, and unfurling a traditional Assamese *phulam gamocha* at the summit.

Located in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro stands at 19,341 feet (5,895 metres) above sea level.

Bordoloi began his expedition on August 10 and completed a challenging five-day trek through rugged terrain, reaching the base camp on August 14. Later that night, at around 11 pm, he began his final push towards the summit and successfully reached the top on the morning of August 15.

The achievement gave the climb a special significance as the traditional Assamese *gamocha* was unfurled atop one of Africa's most iconic mountains on India's Independence Day.

Several mountaineers from Assam have previously scaled Mount Kilimanjaro, including Manish Deka, Hedayat Ali and Anupam Das. Bordoloi's Independence Day summit adds another chapter to Assam's presence on the world's major mountain peaks.



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