The Sentinel city

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GUWAHATI SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026

Pedestrians struggle for space as footpaths fall to vendors

The Supreme Court has a standing instruction to all concerned that footpaths are meant for pedestrians, not for vendors.

Vendors do a brisk business throughout the day in these semi-permanent structures at Napali Chowk near Noonmati.

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: Street vendors are increasingly occupying Guwahati's footpaths, frustrating pedestrians and forcing them to walk on busy roads. The situation at Nepali Chowk near Noonmati presents another instance of the growing problem, with vendors occupying substantial portions of the pedestrian pathways and restricting the movement of people. With new vendors occupying footpaths almost every day, the situation is set to go beyond control if the trend is not foiled now.

The daily inconvenience of encroachment for pedestrians raises questions about the effectiveness of eviction drives conducted by the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC). Despite periodic action against roadside vending, the occupation of footpaths continues to affect the city's walkability and pedestrian safety.

"Footpaths are for walking, but we must use the road because there's no space left." It is dangerous, particularly when vehicles are moving at high speed," said a pedestrian at Nepali Chowk.

Another pedestrian expressed dissatisfaction over the recurring problem, questioning the lack of a lasting solution. "The authorities carry out eviction drives, but the vendors return and occupy the same spaces. Ordinary people suffer every day. The GMC must ensure that footpaths remain accessible to pedestrians," the pedestrian said.

The issue has also put the administration in a difficult position, caught between demands for clear footpaths and concerns over the livelihoods of thousands of street vendors. The Supreme Court has a standing instruction to all concerned that footpaths are meant for pedestrians, not for vendors. The apex court further said that the onus of providing vending zones to vendors lies with the administration.

A source in the GMC said, "A few years ago, we identified a few places for vending zones. However, due to various reasons, such zones are yet to become a reality. We wrote to the higher authorities several times to ward off the hurdles in the creation of vending zones."

Last Sunday, Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, responding to persistent media questions about municipal eviction drives, remarked, "Why do both sides attack me?" He asked journalists to give him a written assurance that they would not report negatively if the government decided to clear the footpaths without any discrimination, leaving indigenous women and their families roofless.

The Chief Minister highlighted the scale of the challenge, stating that Guwahati has more than one lakh street vendors and that the metropolitan city does not have sufficient land to accommodate them all. He also pointed out that indigenous women depend on roadside vending to support their families. "The administration cannot be choosy while evicting the vendors, especially indigenous women," he said.

Meanwhile, vendors say they are trying to comply with the restrictions imposed by the civic authorities by adjusting their business hours. During a visit to the market area, a vendor told this reporter that the GMC had instructed them not to set up stalls during the daytime and to operate after 5 pm. "We come around 5 pm and stay until 9 pm," the vendor said.

While street vending provides an essential source of income for many families, the continuing occupation of pedestrian spaces calls into question designated vending zones and consistent enforcement. As Guwahati works to enhance its urban infrastructure, residents emphasise the importance of balancing livelihood protection with the need for safe, unobstructed footpaths.

HC grants bail to Amritprava Mahanta

STAFF REPORTER

ZUBEEN DEATH CASE

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: The Gauhati High Court on Friday granted bail to Amritprava Mahanta, the first accused to secure bail in the Zubeen Garg death case, on a bail bond of Rs 50,000.

The bail was granted by a bench of Justice Pranjal Das following a week of hearings on Mahanta's bail petition. However, she will not be able to walk out of Haflong Sub-Jail immediately, as her release is subject to the completion of the necessary legal formalities. The bail bond, along with two sureties, will have to be submitted before the Fast Track Court on Monday. Mahanta's release will proceed after the court completes the required formalities. Despite being granted bail, Mahanta will be required to attend daily hearings before the Fast Track Court, as directed by the court.

Mahanta was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the death of singer Zubeen Garg on October 2, 2025. She has been lodged in Haflong Sub-Jail since October 17, 2025. She was among those present at the yacht party in Singapore where Garg died. The circumstances surrounding the singer's death have since been under investigation by the SIT. The case has drawn widespread public attention in Assam, with investigators examining the events surrounding Garg's death in Singapore.

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Circle Office, Guwahati (D.No. 379600), Nilgiri Mansion, 1st Floor, Bhangagarh, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781005 e-mail: coguwsamd@pnb.co.in

Auction Ref No. CO-SAM /AUCTION/Q3/02/2026-2027 — Date: 03.10.2026

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable /Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) / Partner(s) / Proprietor(s) / Mortgagors(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property/assets mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Sl No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower / Guarantors Account	Description of the Properties Mortgaged/ Charged /Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (last date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	**Guwahati Branch (000220)** Digbijoy Medhi (Borrower) Type- B, 2nd Floor, Block A Panoroma Apartment, R.G. Baruah Road, Opposite Guwahati Commerce College Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam 781003	All that part & parcel of plot of residential Flat bearing No- 103 at Block-A, Type-B on the 2nd floor measuring 1085 sq.ft. at G+5 RCC building known as 'PANORAMA APARTMENT' together with undivided proportionate share of land measuring 3.2 lecha standing over a plot of land measuring 1 Bigha 1 Katha 8 Lecha covered by Dag No- 16(O) / 7(N) of K.P.Patta no-232(O) / 1678(N) situated at village 2 no Japorigog under mouza Beltola, Dist-Kamrup (Metro) , assam in the name of Shri Digbijoy Medhi S/o Late Chabin Medhi	A) 10.10.2023 B) Rs. 14,47,170.29 as on 09.10.2023 plus further interest wef 10.10.2023 andother charges thereon C) 08.01.2024 D) Physical Possession	A) Rs. 48.00 Lacs B) Rs. 4.80 Lacs (26.10.2026 upto 4pm) C) Rs. 0.50 Lac	Date: 27.10.2026 Time: From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Not Known to Bank
2	**Goalpara Branch (195910)** Hemanta Khakhlary (Borrower), S/o- Late Ananda Mohan Khakhalary, Vill: Chechapani, PO- Chechapani, Dist: Goalpara, Assam, Pin-783134	All that part & parcel of plot of land measuring 0Bigha 02 Katha 00 Lessa covered by Dag no-235, Patta no-32 situated at revenue village – Kushdhowa Chechapani Part-III , Post- Bidyapara under Dudhnoi revenue Circle Mouza, Post-Dudhnoi, PS- Dudhnoi, District- Goalpara, Assam standing in the name of Mr. Hemanta Khakhlary bounded by North : Land of Ananda Mohan Kachary , South : Land of Arun Basumatary & Village road , East : Land of Uttara Basumatary & Village road , West : Land of Ananda Mohan Kachary.	A) 12.07.2021 B) Rs.14,57,551.80 as on 30.06.2021plus further interest wef 01.07.2021 and other charges thereon C) 24.11.2021 D) Physical Possession	A) Rs. 2.32 Lacs B) Rs. 0.23 Lacs (26.10.2026 upto 4pm) C) Rs. 0.50 Lac	Date: 27.10.2026 Time: From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Not Known to Bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**.
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. **The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com on 27.10.2026 from 11.00 AM to 04:00 PM**
4. **For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com**
5. The authorized officer or the bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties(E-auction) not known to the bank. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities ,arrears of property tax, electricity dues, etc
6. The authorized officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids ,if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or very the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provide.
8. The particulars of secured assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the authorized officer, but the authorized officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation

Date: 03.10.2026
Place: Guwahati

Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (ARMB) GUWAHATI (823100)
1st Floor, Zonal Office, Hem Baruah Road, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001 (Assam), Email: cs8231@pnb.bank.in

Date: 06.10.2026
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/ IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Ref No. ARMB/GUWAHATI/E-Auction/sale-notice/01 & 02/2026-27 — Date: 09.10.2026

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable /Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) / Partner(s) / Proprietor(s) / Mortgagors(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property/assets mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot. No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantor Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged / Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies)	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (last date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	**Krishnai, (036720)** M/s Sahil Enterprises Prop: Soriful Haque, S/o Jaynul Abedin 1. M/S Sahil Enterprises, Prop: Soriful Hoque, Pub Boragaon, PS Garchuk, PIN 781035 (Borrower) 2 M/s Sahil Enterprise, Prop: Soriful Hoque, Jyotinagar, Krishnai, Goalpara Assam - 783126 3. Soriful Hoque, C/o Joynal Abedin Salpara Molandubi Pt-1, Goalpara Assam - 783126 (Borrower and Mortgagor)	A plot of land measuring 1 Katha 16 Lechas in the name of Soriful Hoque s/o Joynal Abedin with a Assam Type residential building having a plinth area of 141.26 sq.ms situated Revenue Village Krishnai Rajah Town, covered by Patta No. 740, Dag No. 1245 under Matia Revenue Circle and Goalpara Sub Registrar Office in Goalpara District. Surrounded by:- North- Road, South- Rohizuddin Seikh, East- Nur Mohammad, West- Panchayat Road. (Description as per Original Registered Sale Deed No. 515 dated 18.03.2020); **Property ID: PUNB7RI60588399**	A) 06.03.2026 B) Rs. 1,06,78,067.46/- as on 13.02.2026 plus further interest w.e.f. 13.02.2026 and other charges C) 19.05.2026 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs. 43,35,000.00/- B) Rs. 4,33,500.00/- (26.10.2026 up to 4 P.M) C) Rs. 0.50 Lakhs	Date: 27.10.2026 Time: From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Not Known to Bank
2	**Six Mile, Guwahati (465200)** Smt. Ranjita Basumatary (Borrower) Sri Sougrakpam Dolendra Singh (Co Borrower) 1. Smt. Ranjita Basumatary (Borrower), Add 1: W/o Sougrakpam Dolendra Singh, Lalmati, Games Village, Block A3, Room No 302, Guwahati-781029, Add 2: Fortune Residency, South City Apartment Tower 2, Block A, Flat No 281, 8th Floor, Lokhra Road, Guwahati-781038 2. Sri Sougrakpam Dolendra Singh (Co Borrower), Add 1: S/o Sougrakpam Madhumangol, Lalmati, Games Village, Block A3, Room No. 302, Guwahati-781029, Add 2: Fortune Residency, South City Apartment Tower 2, Block A, Flat No. 281, 8th Floor, Lokhra Road, Guwahati-781038, Mob: 7896523783	All that part and parcel of 3 BHK residential flat along with a private terrace bearing flat no. 281 on the 8th floor in Tower II, Block A, measuring area 1647 Sq Ft super built up area in the multi storied building namely "Fortune residency", South City" situated at Lokhra Road, Guwahati, PIN-781038 along with undivided proportionate share of land measuring 0.60 Are in Dag Nos-144,647(O)/812(N), & 145, 648(O)/813(N) of K.P Patta Nos. 69,214(O) /454(N),&32,98(O)/196(N) of Revenue Village Sarusajai, under Mouza-Beltola, Dist Kamrup (M), Assam together with 1 (One) open car parking space in the said building with common amenities and land is butted and bounded by:- North- Land of Manju Ghosh, South- Land of Jitu Bay, East- Land of Nagen Kiling, West- Road. **Property ID: PUNB465200202501**	A) 21.08.2024 B) Rs. 56,39,191.16/- as on 30.07.2024 plus further interest w.e.f. 30.07.2024 and other charges C) 04.12.2024 D) Physical Possession	A) Rs. 54,30,000.00/- B) Rs. 5,43,000.00/- (26.10.2026 up to 4 P.M) C) Rs. 0.50 Lakhs	Date: 27.10.2026 Time: From 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Not Known to Bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE:

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

1. The properties are being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. **The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com on 27.10.2026 for Lot No. 1 & 2 from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM.**
4. **For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://www.baanknet.com.**
5. The authorized officer or the bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-auction) not known to the bank. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues, etc.
6. The authorized officer reserves the right to accept any or reject any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or very the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provided.

Date: 09.10.2026, Place: Guwahati — **Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, Secured creditor**

OPPO launches F35 series with group selfie camera

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: OPPO has launched its F35 smartphone series in India, comprising the F35 Pro 5G and F35 5G, as the company marks 10 years of its F Series in the country.

The new series features a 50MP ultra-wide front camera with a 100-degree field of view, designed to capture group selfies. OPPO said it had sold more than 30 million F Series smartphones in India over the past decade.

The OPPO F35 Pro 5G is priced at Rs 45,999 for the 6GB RAM and 128GB storage variant, Rs 49,999 for the 8GB and 128GB variant, and Rs 54,999 for the 8GB and 256GB variant. The OPPO F35 5G costs Rs 38,999 for the 6GB and 128GB variant and Rs 42,999 for the 8GB and 128GB variant.

Both models will be available from October 11 through retail outlets, the OPPO India e-store, Flipkart and Amazon. The company has also announced offers including instant cashback of up to 10%, no-cost EMI and exchange bonuses of up to 10%.

The F35 Pro 5G features a 50MP main rear camera with optical image stabilisation, an 8MP ultra-wide rear camera and 4K video recording on both front and rear cameras. It is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7360 MAX processor and features a 17.22cm 1.5K 144Hz AMOLED display. The F35 5G comes with a 16.69cm FHD+ 120Hz AMOLED display.Both smartphones feature an 8,000mAh battery, 80W SUPERVOOC flash charging, IP69K, IP69, IP68 and IP66 water and dust resistance ratings, and ColorOS 16.

OPPO India Head of Communications Goldee Patnaik said the F35 series built on the F Series' imaging legacy and reflected changing consumer habits, with a focus on group photography and shared experiences.

The company also highlighted its after-sales network in Assam, where it operates 19 exclusive service centres. Across India, OPPO has more than 620 service centres in over 500 cities, a press release said.

29th Silk Mark Expo begins

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: The 29th edition of the Silk Mark Expo 2026 was inaugurated at the NEDFi House Convention Centre in Guwahati on October 8. The five-day exhibition will continue until October 12.

Actress and Chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Women, Angoorlata Deka, and Dr Naresh Babu N, IFS, Chief Executive Officer of the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI), Bengaluru, inaugurated the event.

The expo aims to showcase pure Indian silk, traditional handlooms and craftsmanship from across the country while supporting local weavers and artisans. The exhibition provides a platform to highlight India's silk heritage and the skills of artisans working in the sector.

The event will remain open to visitors at the NEDFi House Convention Centre until October 12, a press release said.

National Postal Week begins with focus on digital services

STAFF REPORTER

World Postal Day Celebrated

GUWAHATI, Oct 9: World Postal Day was observed across Assam on Friday, marking the beginning of National Postal Week 2026 under the Assam Postal Circle, with India Post highlighting its ongoing efforts to modernise postal services through technology, digital platforms and innovative delivery systems.

Addressing the media at Meghdoot Bhawan in Guwahati, Chief Postmaster General (CPMG) of Assam Circle Sachin Kishore said the Department of Posts is observing National Postal Week from October 9 to 15, with this year's World Postal Day theme being "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."

He said the week-long programme would highlight the department's efforts to make postal services more accessible, convenient and responsive to the evolving needs of citizens.

As part of its modernisation drive, India Post is developing N-Gen Post Offices and Jan Sewa Connect Post Offices to provide modern and inclusive service facilities. Digital platforms such as the Dak Sewa App and Dak Mitra App are also helping citizens access postal services more conveniently. The celebrations will focus on financial inclusion, digital empowerment, mail and parcel services, philately, and technological innovation across the postal network.

World Postal Day was observed on October 9, highlighting the role of postal services in connecting people, communities and businesses. Fun with Philately Day will be observed on October 12, followed by Financial Inclusion and CCS Day on October 13, Mails and Parcels Day on October 14, and Technology and Innovation Day on October 15.

The programmes aim to showcase India Post's contribution to financial inclusion, the preservation of postal heritage, efficient delivery services and the adoption of technology to improve public service delivery.

Highlighting another major development, Kishore said India Post had launched Assam's first drone-based postal delivery service as part of a pilot initiative to explore the feasibility of drone-based last-mile delivery.

The pilot project was initially launched in Himachal Pradesh and Assam. The initiative aims to improve postal connectivity and delivery efficiency, particularly in areas where conventional transportation can pose challenges. Under the project, 40 locations in Assam have been identified for drone-based postal delivery.

In Assam, the selected locations fall under Hajo Sub Post Office, Nagarbera Sub Post Office, and post offices in Dhemaji and Cachar districts. Each post office is expected to cover 10 locations under the initiative.

According to the CPMG, drone delivery services have already commenced at 27 locations, marking progress in the implementation of the project.

The initiative is expected to strengthen last-mile postal connectivity and demonstrate how emerging technologies can supplement the department's existing delivery network.

Kishore said National Postal Week would also provide an opportunity to showcase India Post's transformation into a modern, technology-enabled and citizen-centric organisation while continuing its long-standing role in connecting communities and delivering essential services across the country.