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Archbishop Waldemar Sommertag Appointed Apostolic Nuncio to India by Pope Leo XIV

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The CCBI welcomes Archbishop Sommertag and wishes him a fruitful ministry as he begins his new mission of fostering communion between the Holy See and the Church in India, and strengthening relations between the Holy See and the Republic of India."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Archbishop Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag, 58, as the new Apostolic Nuncio to India, the Vatican announced on Saturday, 14 November 2026. Sommertag, the titular Archbishop of Maastricht, will serve as the Holy See's diplomatic representative to the Republic of India and as the Pope's representative to the Catholic Church in the country. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CCBI) welcomed the appointment within hours of the announcement.

For India's Catholics, one of the largest Catholic communities in Asia, the arrival of a new nuncio is never just a diplomatic formality. The nuncio is the Pope's eyes and ears in the country, the man who carries messages between New Delhi and Rome, and the figure who quietly shapes which bishops are named to lead dioceses across India. Sommertag brings more than two decades of Vatican diplomacy to a posting that will test every bit of it.

Waldemar Sommertag New Nuncio To India: A Diplomat's Long Road To Delhi

Sommertag was born in Wiecbork, Poland, on 6 February 1968, and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Pelplin on 30 May 1993. He studied diplomacy at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome and canon law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, completing both in 2000. He entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See on 1 July 2000, and he has barely stopped moving since.

His early postings read like a map of the places where the Church's diplomacy matters most. He served in Tanzania from 2000 to 2003, then in Nicaragua from 2003 to 2005, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro from 2005 to 2010. From 2010 to 2013 he was posted to Israel, Palestine and Cyprus, a region where every conversation carries the weight of history.

From 2013 to 2018, Sommertag worked at the Secretariat of State in Rome, in the Section for Relations with States, as private secretary to the secretary for relations with States - the Holy See's foreign minister. It was a front-row seat to how the Vatican handles its hardest relationships, and the experience shows in the career that followed.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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