

{ 35 DAYS AFTER COLLAPSE OF ITS KEY PORTION }

Bhagalpur bridge opens to traffic

Aditya Nath Jha
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PURNEA : After 35 days, light vehicular traffic was restored on the Vikramshila Setu in Bhagalpur on Sunday with minister for road construction Kumar Shaileendra crossing it first in his official vehicle.

A 33-meter portion of the bridge over the Ganga had collapsed on May 4 and had been unusable since then.

Vikramshila Setu is 6th longest bridge over water in India. The 4.4 km long two lane bridge serves as a link between NH 33 and NH 31.

Expressing satisfaction over the early completion of the bridge's repair and its return to operation, the RCD minister thanked everyone who worked day and night since May 16 to restore the bridge for regulated traffic.

"The promise made by us that it will be repaired and oper-



Bihar minister for road construction Kumar Shaileendra along with personnel of the Border Road Organisation walk on the repaired portion of the Vikramshila Setu in Bhagalpur on Sunday. HT PHOTO

ational within the deadline has been fulfilled.

The also thanked Union defence minister Rajnath Singh and the Border Road Organisation (BRO) for making the speedy repair of the bridge possible.

Following the May 4 collapse, the BRO successfully constructed a temporary Bailey bridge over the damaged section, allowing regulated movement for two-wheelers, four-wheelers and light motor vehicles to cross.

Officials said, "It will bring much relief to a large number of people," adding, "Traffic opened on Sunday following a successful safety trial and load test."

Officials said that a daily one-hour block would be enforced everyday at night for maintenance and drone monitoring would be monitored to track structural integrity.

Bhagalpur district magistrate (DM) Nawal Kishor Choudhary and senior superintendent of police (SSP) Pramod Kumar Yadav expressed confidence that the bridge would ease transportation difficulties.

They said that strict traffic regulations would be strictly enforced.

Chief minister (CM) Samrat Choudhary, who visited the site on May 31, had assured that the bridge would be fully restored by November 30 this year.

On May 4, more than 33 meters of the RCC structure of Vikramshila Setu near pillar number 3, between the P2 and P3 spans had collapsed disrupting road connectivity between Bhagalpur and the Kosi-Seemanchal region of north Bihar.

4 varsities roll back PhD admission process after governor's directive

Arun Kumar
arunk@hindustantimes.com

PATNA : Following the directive from the Chancellor's secretariat, several state universities have responded promptly to cancel the notifications for Ph.D. Admission Tests (PAT) for the academic sessions 2024 and 2025.

While this is midway through 2026, the state universities were already late and were yet to complete their own admission process for even 2024 and 2025.

However, some universities have taken the exams and they, too, would have to scrap the process, while those who have started the course work for 2015 session would continue with it, said a senior official.

Bihar Governor Lt Gen (Rtd) Syed Ata Hasnain has asked the universities to mandatorily adopt score of UGC-NET/CSIR, held twice every year at the national level, as the basis for admission to Ph.D. programmes.

Munger University, Purnea University TM Bhagalpur University and Magadh University have already issued notifications for cancelling PAT, while others are in the process.

They have also notified that the universities would make arrangement for refund of application fee.

The Governor's move to clean up the process of awarding Ph.D. degrees, which has been mired by controversies in the past due to alleged arbitrariness and violation of prescribed norms, has evoked positive response.

The move is significant as in Bihar Ph.Ds are produced in large numbers, but they are rarely uploaded on the Shodhganga repository within 30 days of the successful completion of the evaluation process and there is a question mark over their quality.

"Universities which have already completed admissions to Ph.D. programmes through PAT (2024/2025) may continue to run such programmes, without disturbing the admitted batches. However, those Universities which have already issued advertisements for Ph.D. admission through PAT but have not yet conducted the examination, or are in the process of initiating such admissions, are directed to immediately roll back such advertisements and revoke the ongoing process and refund the application fee," said the Lok Hasnain letter.

2 YOUTHS DROWN IN RIVER WHILE SHOOTING REELS

Sandeep Bhaskar
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

BETTIAH : Two youths drowned while shooting reels for social media on the bank of Gandak river in Amawa Majhar village under Mufassil police station area of Bettiah in West Champaran on Sunday, police said.

According to police, the victims went to the river bank along with their friends when the incident took place. Their friends raised an alarm but by the time help arrived, the duo died. Their bodies were later fished out.

Mufassil SHO Samarjit Singh said, "Prima facie, it appears that the duo lost balance and fell into the river. They were swept away by the strong currents of Gandak. We have informed their families."

Bettiah SDPO Ajit Kumar said, "Dharm Kumar (24) and Karan Kumar (26), both residents of Baritola village, were pursuing graduation from a local college. Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem."

RSS chief on 3-day Bihar visit

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat arrived in Patna on Sunday on a three-day visit to Bihar.

The RSS 'Sarsangchalak', who reached Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport here, will leave for Munger, where he will stay for three days till June 9, sources said.

Bihar chief minister Samrat Choudhary received Bhagwat at the Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport here.

Tight security arrangements were in place in view of Bhagwat's visit to Munger.

According to sources in the RSS, Bhagwat's three-day stay is considered important from an organisational point of view.

"During his stay in Munger, he will guide the volunteers and participate in the 'Sangh Shiksha Varg' and attend various training sessions. The event will take place at the Saraswati Vidya Mandir premises in Purnaniganj, Munger," sources said.

Amid the tight security arrangements, there is tremendous enthusiasm among local volunteers about the arrival of the RSS chief, they said.

Around 700 volunteers are currently participating in three ongoing training classes in Munger. The purpose of the training is to develop organisational capacity, strengthen leadership skills, and prepare workers to play an active role in social life, sources said.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat with CM Samrat Choudhary at Jayaprakash Narayan Airport in Patna on Sunday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

44-YR-OLD ITBP SI FOUND DEAD NEAR HOSPITAL IN PATNA

Mukesh Kumar Mishra
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA : A 44-year-old Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) sub-inspector died allegedly after falling from the roof of a private hospital in Patna's Digha area on Sunday, police said, adding Vijay Singh was undergoing treatment there for the past two days.

The incident came to light at around 12.30 pm after passersby found him lying on the ground. Soon, locals and hospital staff informed the police. A team from Digha police station reached the spot, sent the body for autopsy and started a probe.

Singh, a resident of Bharatpur in Rajasthan, was serving as a sub-inspector in telecommunications wing of ITBP and was posted in Digha in Saran.

SI Sujit Kumar said, "We came to know an ITBP sub-inspector died after falling from the roof of the hospital. He was undergoing treatment at Asian Hospital. An FSL team has been deployed at the spot. Probe is on."

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2	AP COLONY	GAYA	Gaya	1000-1500	U	823001	5000		
3	HAHAHA	JAMUI	Gaya	900-1300	SU	811108	3000		
4	SEKANDRA	JAMUI	Gaya	1000-1500	U	811315	5000		
5	BHABHUA	KAIMUR	Gaya	900-1300	SU	821101	3000		
6	SURJAGADHA	LAKHISARAI	Gaya	1000-1500	U	811106	5000		
7	LAKHISARAI TOWN	LAKHISARAI	Gaya	1200-1800	U	811111	5000		
8	BARAHUA	LAKHISARAI	Gaya	900-1300	SU	811302	3000		
9	RAMPUR	MUNGER	Gaya	800-1000	R	813221	3000		
10	TAMAPUR	MUNGER	Gaya	1000-1500	U	813221	5000		
11	HILSA	NALANDA	Gaya	900-1300	SU	801302	3000		
12	WANSALIGANI	NALANDA	Gaya	900-1300	SU	803130	3000		
13	BAMBHUA	SHIVPUR	Gaya	900-1300	SU	811095	3000		
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