

# 205 Live – October 29, 2021: Give Them Time

## 205 Live

Date: October 29, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Nigel McGuinness

It's time for more of the NXT B show and that sounds good enough to me. I'm still wondering if they are going to change the name though, as we are now in a rare case where every single thing about the show's title is completely inaccurate. It takes something special to pull that off and a new name would make sense. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

## Boa vs. Jeet Rama

Mei Ying is here with Boa. Feeling out process to start until Rama takes him down to the mat with a headlock takeover. Back up and some armdrags have Boa in more trouble and even out on the floor for a breather. Boa gets back in and hits a few shots to the face in the corner, setting up the chinlock. A neckbreaker gets two on Rama, followed by a shot to the throat for the same. It's off to a figure four necklock but Rama fights up and hits some rolling gutwrench suplexes. Boa escapes a powerslam though and grabs a reverse layout DDT for the pin at 5:39.

**Rating:** C-. Just a match here without much else to be said. Boa continues to be one of the people who is around at least semi regularly but that does not exactly make him interesting. Rama is someone who could go a little somewhere with some more development but this is about his peak at the moment.

## Sarray vs. Katarina Cortez

Man Sarray has just not caught on. The fans are behind Sarray to start and they fight over a test of strength to get going. Sarray gets the better of things but gets flipped over, setting up a double bridge up. A double stomp rocks Cortez but she goes for the tape on Sarray's back to take over.

The camel clutch goes on until Sarray makes the rope, meaning Cortez busts out a rocking horse to stay on Sarray's back. The double arm crank has Sarray in more trouble but she's out in a hurry. A hard half crab keeps Cortez down, followed by a fisherman's suplex for two. Sarray's middle rope dropkick gets the same and the running dropkick against the ropes (I'm surprised she can still use that) finishes Cortez at 5:59.

**Rating:** C. Sarray is someone who has most of the tools to be a star but it hasn't clicked yet. It's not like the women's division couldn't use the help, but for some reason the only noteworthy thing about her is that dropkick. Cortez is good enough in the ring, but she needs a good bit more development.

Sarray checks on Cortez after the match. Maybe not kicking her in the face would be a bit nicer.

### Xyon Quinn vs. Ru Feng

They stare each other down to start as Nigel refers to Quinn as a Samoan ghost. Quinn powers out of a top wristlock but gets headlocked down instead. A snap suplex gives Feng one but Quinn is back up with...I think it was a botched leapfrog but he tried to turn it into a leg lariat but had to settle for something like a Sling Blade (we'll go with bad and leave it at that). Quinn hammers him down and finishes with the running elbow for the pin at 3:55.

**Rating:** C-. This wasn't awful, but that botch in the middle is all that is going to stand out in the whole thing. There's only so much you can do when you have less than four minutes and one of the biggest things was a mistake. I like Quinn a lot and I'm sure he'll be fine, as it means a bit to be in the

featured spot here.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Much like the old days of 205 Live, it's hard to really get annoyed at a show that is over in 28 minutes and includes a bunch of advertisements in addition to three matches. This show knows how to get in and out without overstaying its welcome, but it still isn't great stuff a lot of time time. That being said, these wrestlers need whatever ring time they can so putting them on this far less watched show is a good idea.

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# **NXT – November 2, 2021: Gimmicky**

**NXT**

Date: November 2, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett

We're done with Halloween Havoc and that means it is time to get ready for...well I have no idea actually as I'm not sure what they're going to do as far as Takeover goes. There were a bunch of title changes last week and now it is time to see where things go from here. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Here is Mandy Rose to open things up and Barrett is VERY happy to see her as the new Women's Champion. She is very proud of her win because she is the best looking champion in the title's history and she is still the baddest b\*\*\*\* around. Last week was a great night for Toxic Attraction and we see all of them holding up their new titles last week (Mandy: "D\*\*\* I'm hot.").

Her girls aren't here, so we cut to the back where the rest of Toxic Attraction is beating up Zoey Stark. Mandy is proud of them but wants some competition. Cue Io Shirai to say she'll fight right now, but Rose says she isn't scared. Rose wants a referee out here right now so Shirai looks to the entrance and gets hit with the microphone. The beatdown is on until Shirai fights back, which draws out the rest of Toxic Attraction for the real beating. Kacy Catanzaro and Kayden Carter run in for the save, likely setting up the six woman tag.

In the back, Toxic Attraction find Dakota Kai, who says she didn't help them last week. She just wants to get rid of Raquel Gonzalez.

Cameron Grimes is in Duke's Poker Room with a bunch of other people, though he doesn't seem to know the rules. Grimes: "You got 21? I GOT 22!" Hudson looks happy.

Dakota Kai vs. Cora Jade

Kai wastes no time in knocking Jade down and grabbing a chinlock. Back up and Jake fires off the running elbows, setting up the running hurricanrana. Jade gets two off a

sunset flip but Kai scorpion kicks her. The running boot in the corner finishes Jade at 2:24.

Post match the beatdown stays on, including another shot to Jade's head. Kai pulls out a table and lays it on Jade on the floor, but stops before jumping off the apron. Instead, she walks away and leaves Jade down.

Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner have been yelling at Legado del Fantasma on Twitter over the weekend.

Robert Stone doesn't like everyone being happy with Xyon Quinn beating him up last week. The challenge is on.

MSK is depressed by their Tag Team Title loss but they're getting help from someone. They don't say who it is, but he invented the legend of MSK and has helped millions and millions. We're about to hear the legend, but a bus pulls up and we can't hear the explanation. And they missed their bus, so they'll just have to walk.

### Xyon Quinn vs. Robert Stone

Stone doesn't like Quinn and promises to win in a hurry. This one is for Frankie Monet though and it's time to dance to Monet's theme. Quinn stands in the middle of the ring while Stone dances around him before asking if Quinn can dance better. After Quinn says no, Stone dances around like a chicken so Quinn says play the music and then dances/sings to Shawn Michaels' theme. He even dances with Stone a bit, including a Dirty Dancing lift. Stone slaps him in the face so Quinn says ring the bell. A Samoan drop and Jackhammer (better than that running elbow) finish Stone at 47 seconds.

Joe Gacy talks about how horrible the world is, including clips of people arguing and talking about how evil social media really is. Harland is called a monster because he's big and has tattoos. They will change the world together.

Legado del Fantasma, including Elektra Lopez, seems impressed by Xyon Quinn, who says he has a lot of sides to him.

### Legado del Fantasma vs. Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner

Elektra Lopez is here with Legado. O'Reilly headlocks Wilde's head to start so Mendoza comes in and has his sunset flip blocked. The much bigger Wagner comes in to take Mendoza down as well but Mendoza springboards over him for a breather. That doesn't go well either as Wagner plants him, allowing O'Reilly to come back in and go after the arm. Wilde comes in so Wagner shoulders them both down, setting up a double suplex as we take a break.

Back with O'Reilly loading up a kick on Wilde but getting distracted by Lopez. Wilde's kick connects in the corner and it's Legado taking over for the first time. Mendoza kicks Wagner off the apron and it's a springboard flip dive to drop O'Reilly for two. O'Reilly comes back and kicks Mendoza down, with Wilde making the save. Wagner comes back in but has some miscommunication with O'Reilly, allowing Wilde to roll him up for the pin at 10:59 (with Wagner's foot in the rope).

**Rating:** C+. For the life of me I cannot get into this O'Reilly/Wagner team. O'Reilly was a main event player in NXT and now he seems to be there to mentor a pretty run of the mill big guy. The team isn't bad or anything, but it's not something I'm going to be interested in, which is making for some rough sits.

Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams are ready to move on from the Way but Andre Chase pops up to say he has their back. Chase insists that he was NOT a coward last week and promises to give someone a beating to blow off some steam.

Back to the Poker Room, where Cameron Grimes is on a streak of beginner's luck despite hitting on the women and not knowing the rules. Duke Hudson takes all of one of the women's money and Grimes starts losing. More later.

Here's Andre Chase for the open challenge (required on every show) but his microphone doesn't work. We get a replacement microphone so Chase can say that people have been calling him a COWARD after last week. That sounds like a teachable moment so the challenge is on.

### Andre Chase vs. Bron Breaker

Chase gets knocked outside in a hurry and Breaker blasts him with a clothesline. Back in and Chase chops away a bit but Breaker grabs the gorilla press powerslam for the easy pin at 1:41.

Post match, Breaker says he fell for one trap after another last week. Tommaso Ciampa is the man in NXT but they're not done, because Breaker is coming after the title. Breaker's voice in this promo was so Steiner that it might as well have been the University of Michigan fight song.

Imperium is proud of their Tag Team Title win, but they don't like America. Toxic Attraction comes up to say Imperium should watch their six woman tag next week. Barthel thinks America has its benefits. I'm not sure if you noticed, but Toxic Attraction is a bunch of good looking women, just in case you didn't get it from how many times we heard about them.

It's time for Lashing Out With Lash Legend, with Lash talking about last week's Halloween costumes. She doesn't like the suggestion that LA Knight and Grayson Waller were the hosts because she is the REAL host around here. This week's guest is Tony D'Angelo, who talks about allegedly kidnapping Lash's producer, but here is the producer in person! D'Angelo makes vague threats to the producer's family before moving on to saying he wants to face bigger NXT stars. This was the dumbest thing on a show with a lot of dumb things and feels like it belongs on a low level territory show from 1989.

### Solo Sikoa vs. Jeet Rama

Sikoa sends him into the corner for the running Umaga attack and scores with a kick to the head. The Superfly Splash finishes Rama at 1:29.

Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen cook steak, play cornhole and pitch horseshoes while talking about loving to fight and compete.

### Boa vs. Grayson Waller

LA Knight is on commentary. Waller drives Boa into the corner to start but gets taken down into a crossarm choke. Back up and Waller fires off some clotheslines into a cravate with knees to the head. Knight offers a distraction though and Waller gets kicked off the ropes. Boa scores with a kick to the head to finish Waller at 2:28.

Back to the Poker Room where Cameron Grimes beats Duke Hudson on a big bluff. Grimes has 2's, because he's going TO THE MOON. So a poker game gets three segments, a good fifteen or more years after the poker boom hit its peak. That's very WWE of them.

Kay Lee Ray is back in a rage next week.

Boa can't find Mei Ying. I'd call that a positive.

Here is Tommaso Ciampa for a chat. Ciampa talks about how last week was a changing of the guard in NXT and lists off the new champions. Bron Breaker was supposed to be the next NXT Champion but no one told Ciampa about that. With this title comes a target, but he knows that this is usually the time when someone interrupts. Cue Carmelo Hayes and Trick Williams, with the former saying he is that guy. Hayes says he is the A Champion in NXT, but Ciampa can't hear him over the CIAMPA'S GONNA KILL YOU chants. The brawl is teased and Williams gets dropped, making Hayes think twice as Ciampa leaves.

### The Way vs. Carmelo Hayes/Trick Williams



Ciampa is still in the aisle as Johnny Gargano comes out for a tease of the good old days. Lumis and Williams start things off, with a single glare sending Williams over for the tag to Hayes. That's fine with Lumis, who crawls over to scare Hayes, meaning Williams comes back in to hammer away. Lumis scores with a Thesz press and right hands before it's off to Gargano to work on the arm.

That should mean a top rope ax handle, but instead Lumis lands on his feet and uppercuts Williams in the face. Hayes comes back in and gets his kick to the ribs caught, meaning Gargano can come back in for some more traditional wrestling. Gargano nails the slingshot spear to cut Hayes down, allowing the Way to clear the ring as we take a break. Back with Hayes cutting off Gargano's tag attempt and hitting an assisted springboard legdrop for two. Gargano gets over for the tag to Lumis a few moments later though and it's time to clean some house.

An assisted superplex gets two on Hayes and Gargano superkicks Williams. Gargano loads up his own glove for stereo shots to the face, followed by stereo superkicks. Lumis adds a top rope elbow for two on Williams with Hayes making the save. We settle down to Hayes and Gargano chopping it out until Hayes goes to the throat. A discus lariat turns Hayes inside out and there's the Silencer to keep Hayes in trouble. The referee gets Gargano out though, allowing Williams to hit Lumis with a shoe. That's enough to set up the top rope ax kick to give Hayes the pin at 13:32.

**Rating:** C+. Another perfectly decent if not fairly good match, as Gargano and Lumis have a weird chemistry, but are also an established team. What matters here is they made Hayes and Williams look pretty good, which is exactly the point of something like this. Hayes looks like a possible NXT Title challenger, so it isn't like he was going to lose here. I'm not sure what is next for the Way, but this father-in-law/son deal could be funny.

**Overall Rating:** C-. The two longer matches helped this show a lot but my goodness this felt like a circus. There are so many characters and so many gimmicks running around that it felt like a high school improv exercise where you pulled your character out of a hat and figure it out in ten minutes. That's fine for some low level place that needs something for people to do, but this is national television and I'd expect a bit better.

There are a lot of problems on this show, but there are certainly good parts too. I want to see where some of the new characters go, including Sikoa, Quinn, Breakker and Hayes, which shows that NXT does know how to do some things right. At the same time though, there are a bunch of things that are a bit less than thrilling, including Toxic Attraction, Duke Hudson's Poker Room, Tony D'Angelo and Lash Legend (egads). Those things are bringing the show down, because they do not exactly offer the greatest hope.

Overall, this show was a microcosm of what NXT is at the moment: a bunch of things happening, with some interesting prospects but a lot of people who are bordering on disaster because it isn't 1994. Why would I want to see a mobster on a talk show with a loud host when I could see more of the talented athletes getting to do their thing? This was a rough sit, but it did have some bright spots to keep some hope alive.

### Results

Dakota Kai b. Cora Jade – Running kick in the corner

Xyon Quinn b. Robert Stone – Jackhammer

Legado del Fantasma b. Kyle O'Reilly/Von Wagner – Rollup to Wagner

Bron Breakker b. Andre Chase – Gorilla press powerslam

Solo Sikoa b. Jeet Rama – Superfly Splash

Boa b. Grayson Waller – Kick to the head

Trick Williams/Carmelo Hayes b. The Way – Top rope ax kick to Lumis

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## **205 Live – October 22, 2021: I'm Looking Forward To It**

### **205 Live**

Date: October 22, 2021

Location: Capitol One Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

It's weird to be looking forward to this show but they have managed to make it happen. I have no idea what to expect from the show but the mere hint of effort and a purpose has turned this show into something with a bit of value for a change. What's next? An actual big name showing up around here? Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Amari Miller/Valentina Feroz vs. Katarina Cortez/Yulisa Leon

Leon is new. Feroz and Cortez go to the mat to start with Feroz's takedown not having any effect. It's off to Leon for a very spinning wristdrag and Cortez's missile dropkick gets two. Feroz has to fight out of a chinlock and Miller comes in for the first time, only to get clotheslined down. Everything breaks down and Miller cravates Leon onto her knee for the pin at 3:48.

**Rating:** C-. Not much to see with this one but Miller getting a win is not exactly surprising. It is clear that they want to do something with her and she has to start somewhere. Feroz and Leon weren't bad but this was about Cortez and Miller getting over, which worked well enough for this stage.

We see the Duke Hudson poker room from last week's NXT.

#### Duke Hudson vs. Malik Blade

Hudson runs Blade over to start and then tosses him outside with straight power. Back in and Blade cranks on a headlock but Hudson counters a dive into an overhead belly to belly. Some slams put Blade down again and Hudson is looking rather cocky. Blade hits a dropkick into a running corner clothesline but Hudson sends him flying again. The more serious Hudson puts him down and finishes by...grabbing Blade by the back of the head and shoving him face first onto the mat at 5:31. Not driving him down mind you, but just shoving him.

**Rating:** C. The match was pretty good, including Blade being treated more seriously this time, but Hudson is going to need a MUCH better finisher. That felt like the kind of thing you do to embarrass your opponent and get a one count but it finished here. Hudson is already a bit hard to take seriously and that didn't help things.

Post match, Hudson tosses him a poker chip.

Halloween Havoc rundown.

## Jeet Rama vs. Xyon Quinn

Feeling out process to start with Quinn grabbing a headlock until Rama sends him into the corner. A front facelock suplex gives Rama two and the armbar goes on. Back up and a hard whip sends Rama into the corner to give Quinn a breather. The armbar goes right back on, though this time Quinn muscles him up for a World's Strongest Slam. Quinn is back up to toss Rama around, setting up a running shoulder in the corner. The running forearm finishes Rama at 4:15.

**Rating:** C. Quinn has been treated as something of a big deal in recent weeks but this time it was more about Rama. I could see that going somewhere as Rama looks good enough in the ring to become a bit of a player. I'm not at all surprised that Quinn won though, as he could turn into one of the upcoming stars of NXT without much trouble.

Respect is shown post match.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was a bit of a downgrade, but it's nice to see this as the pretty firm new format of the show. Above all else, it gives you something to look forward to and that is a nice change of pace after so many years of nothing from 205 Live. If this can become something like NXT's Dark, WWE might be on to something for a change.

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# 205 Live – October 15, 2021: Star Power

## 205 Live

Date: October 15, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

I've started liking this show a good bit more as it feels like NXT without the color scheme making my head hurt. NXT has needed a show like this for a good while now and it could do a good job in building up some people who do not get the chance otherwise. Hopefully they can do that again this week so let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

## Jeet Rama vs. Boa

Mei Ying is here with Boa. Rama works on the wrist to start but Boa is back with some kicks to the leg. That doesn't work either so Rama takes him down for the quickly broken armbar. Back up and Boa works on Rama's arm for a change, including bending it around the top rope. Some kicks drop Rama and there's a knee to the arm. The armbar sets up a cobra clutch but Rama throws some suplexes. Boa goes right back to the arm though and kicks Rama in the head for the pin at 4:30.

**Rating:** D+. I sighed a bit when I saw Boa was in the match and then it got worse when he was actually in the ring. Boa has not been interesting since he debuted and it isn't getting

better. What he does in the ring is decent enough, but he is just so dull and uninteresting that it isn't worth the time more often than not.

### Josh Briggs/Brooks Jensen vs. Keagan Scott/Taylor Garland

Jensen punches Scott in the face to start and snaps off a powerslam. Briggs comes in to talk some trash and release side slams Garland, setting up a splash. An assisted sitout powerbomb finishes Garland at 1:50. I'm not sure about these guys seemingly wrestling as faces, but that was an effective squash.

### Roderick Strong vs. Odyssey Jones

Non-title, as the Cruiserweight Champion is on the show for the first time in months against a guy who weighs over 400lbs. The rest of the Diamond Mine is here too. Strong makes the mistake of going for an armdrag and is shoved away with ease. That means we need a bit of a breather, before Jones swats a flying shoulder out of the air. Jones pulls him back over the ropes and the confidence is rather high. Back up and Jones sends him head first into the corner over and over but Hachiman offers a distraction, allowing Strong to twist the knee around the rope.

A seated abdominal stretch goes on to put Jones in trouble and a kick to the face drops him again. The crossarm choke has Jones panicking but he powers to his feet, despite Strong telling him to stay down. Jones runs him over and hits a rolling senton and Strong's jumping knee is blocked. Strong slips out though and the jumping knee finally knocks Jones out for the pin at 8:58.

**Rating:** C. Not a great match or anything, but it was cool seeing some of the bigger names on here where there might have been a tiny bit of doubt about who was winning. You almost never have that on this show these days and it helps a lot to change things up a bit. Strong winning is the right move, but

it was nice to have someone who could give him a run for his money for a change.

**Overall Rating:** C. This show is starting to round into form and I'm rather pleased by some of the things that I'm seeing. There is certainly more of a structure around here and it is showing you just how worthless 205 Live was for so long. That's very nice to see and I'm glad that it is finally worth something. Now just find a name that actually makes sense and we could be on to something here.

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# Superstar Spectacle: Happy Republic Day

## **Superstar Spectacle**

Date: January 26, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves, Shahoz Ali



This is the start of WWE's latest attempt to make it into India, as we are getting a special (taped in Florida, like everything else) featuring WWE stars in the ring with Indian stars. Eventually we could be seeing an NXT India out of the whole thing so consider this getting the feet wet. Let's get to it.

This is being broadcast on television in India so there will be some commercials included despite it being a Network special. It is airing on Republic Day, which is the anniversary of the day India became a republic (seems like something similar to (I'm aware it's not the same) the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for Americans). Cool.

HHH narrates a video (I know this because we get a Narrated By Triple H graphic) about WWE's history in India, showing various wrestlers in the country over the years, including footage of Bret Hart with the Winged Eagle belt to show you how far back things go. Various stars of Indian descent talk about what this means to them and now it is time to start a new future. HHH talks over clips of new Indian wrestlers (complete with name graphics as these people are mostly making their debuts) and we're ready to go.

The fans on the Thunderdome screens are all from India.

We get a video on Guru Raaj, who is a high flier who came from a rough childhood, including being run over by a tractor. Well that's extreme.

### Finn Balor vs. Guru Raaj

Non-title. Balor armbars him down but Raaj snapmares his way to freedom and puts on an armbar of his own. Back up and we hit the standoff so Balor headlocks him down. Raaj is back up with a headlock takeover of his own but this time Balor rolls out and hits a basement dropkick. We take a break and come back with Raaj fighting out of an abdominal stretch. An elbow to the face sets up a backsplash, with Raaj getting up but then remembering he wanted to nip up instead.

Balor takes him into the corner and unloads with stomps before chopping Raaj into another corner. The Sling Blade connects

but the shotgun dropkick is countered with an enziguri for two. A bunch of kicks, capped off by a jumping shot to the head, sets up a high crossbody for two. That's enough for Ali to remember that he's on commentary and actually say something, but the shotgun dropkick quiets him down all over again. The Coup de Grace into 1916 finishes Raaj at 10:39.

**Rating:** C. All things considered, this was not bad at all. Raaj has not been training long (a year, which is nothing in wrestling) and while he looked a little unsure and rough at times, he certainly did not embarrass himself. There is no shame in losing to a former World Champion so this went as well as could be expected and gives me hope for what we're going to be seeing.

We get a post match handshake (side note: I'm not sure if it's the new 8k cameras, but there have been some shots that look like they're in either a movie or a video game and they're messing me up every single time).

We meet Giant Zanjeer, who, like many others on this show, was trained by Great Khali. He thinks if he trains hard, he can be champion too.

We meet Dilshar Shanky, who is 7' tall and wants to do this for his parents.

Rey Mysterio/Giant Zanjeer/Dilsher Shanky/Ricochet vs. Cesaro/King Corbin/Shinsuke Nakamura/Dolph Ziggler

So Nakamura is a heel again (or at least he's teaming with them) and Ziggler isn't even in there with his regular partner? Shanky goes 7' and is the second tallest member of the team, after the 7'2 Zanjeer. Well that should get them noticed somewhere. Ziggler goes for Shanky's leg to start and is tossed into the corner without much trouble. Nakamura tries a cheap shot and is thrown into the corner for the big running splash. Zanjeer comes in, tosses Corbin onto the pile, and adds a chop. Cesaro thinks better of fighting both giants on

his own and we take a break.

Back with Cesaro throwing Mysterio back inside and handing it off to Nakamura, who sends Mysterio into the corner. Corbin gets in a few shots and brings Ziggler back in as they take turns on Ziggler. All of the villains get together to knock the giants and Ricochet to the floor but Rey manages to hurricanrana Corbin into the corner. That's enough for the hot tag off to Ricochet, who grabs a spinning suplex. The standing shooting star gets two on Ziggler, who is right back with the Zig Zag.

Ricochet slips away and brings in Zanjeer, who cleans house with some big shoulders. Shanky comes back in and drops and elbow for two but gets swarmed by everyone else. Everything breaks down and Zanjeer throws Ricochet onto the pile on the floor. Cesaro dumps Zanjeer to the floor but gets booted in the face by Shanky. That sets up the 619 and the splash off of Shanky's shoulders lets Rey pin Cesaro at 9:58.

**Rating:** C+. Again, this worked because they aren't letting these guys out of their comfort zones. The giants are going to be limited because they're so big, but they didn't do anything outside of standard big man stuff. The key to that is they did the basic stuff well, which is WAY better than trying something complicated and screwing it up. They got in, did their stuff well, and got out to let the veterans do the main work. This went well and the giants looked pretty good at what they were doing.

Rey and Ricochet get on the giants' shoulders to celebrate.

WWE is working with a charity to help girls get scholarships. Nothing wrong with that.

Paul Heyman and Roman Reigns aren't happy but wish us a happy Republic Day.

Video on Jeet Rama, whose grandfather was a wrestler and

apparently has been with WWE for a good many years without ever making it to television.

### AJ Styles vs. Jeet Rama

Omos is here with AJ. Rama is a multiple time national champion in some form of grappling and has some size to him (not a giant, but fairly tall and has some muscle on him). AJ goes for the arm to start but gets taken into the corner for some shoulders to the ribs. Rama's armbar is broken up with a shot to the head and AJ knocks him to the floor for the slingshot forearm.

We take a break and come back with AJ holding a chinlock as Cole says Rama is following in the footsteps of stars like Runjin Singh. Rama gets in a pair of suplexes for two but AJ catches him on top for a drop onto the turnbuckle. It's too early for the Styles Clash so AJ settles for the Calf Crusher. The hold stays on for a good bit until Rama manages to drive AJ's head into the mat for the break. Rama gets in a belly to belly but Omos breaks up a belly to belly superplex. The Phenomenal Forearm finishes at 11:42.

**Rating:** C. You can tell that Rama has a lot more experience and a style that works for him, but the match was only ok. The lack of even a limp after spending that long in the Calf Crusher didn't help, but Omos interfering to (possibly) save Styles worked. Perfectly watchable match as this show continues to work out well.

Post match, AJ and Omos give Rama some applause.

Video on Indus Sher, who you might remember from a very brief run as a monster team in NXT. One of them was on a popular TV show and the other was a professional baseball player and the subject of the movie Million Dollar Arm.

Big E. and Xavier Woods to introduce a Bollywood dance but here are the Street Profits to help them. The four of them

introduce a musical dance troupe for a pretty cool performance. More men and women dance in the ring with the rest of the troupe joining them. This looked rather awesome.

Great Khali, surrounded by I'm assuming his students, says what sounds like something positive.

### Charlotte/Sareena Sandhu vs. Bayley/Natalya

Bayley and Sandhu have the same trainer. Charlotte's gear is in the colors of the Indian flag and she shrugs off Natalya's wristlock to start. Bayley comes in so Charlotte sends both of them into the corner. It's off to Sandhu for a double high crossbody and stereo baseball slides put Bayley and Natalya on the floor as we take a break (with Charlotte and Sandhu dancing a bit).

Back with Charlotte suplexing Bayley and hitting the backbreaker into the Downward Spiral into the corner. Sandhu gets two off a butterfly suplex and a small package gets the same on Natalya. Bayley offers a distraction though and Natalya kicks Sandhu to the floor. The leglock has Sandhu in trouble but she reverses into one of her own. That's enough to bring Bayley in for the save and she knocks Charlotte off the apron for a bonus. Charlotte kicks Bayley in the face but Natalya clotheslines Sandhu down. The Sharpshooter goes on but Charlotte makes the save with Natural Selection, giving Sandhu the pin at 6:08.

**Rating:** C-. Probably the weakest match of the night but it's not like it was anything bad. Natalya isn't going to give up anything by taking a fall here and it gives Sandhu a little credibility. They kept this moving and the match worked out fine enough and it's ok that Sandhu needed a bit of help to pin Natalya.

Video on Kavita Devi, who had to miss the show due to a family emergency in India. She has been in a few battle royals and the Mae Young Classics and wants to be a role model in India.

Here's Ric Flair (they really will put him on anything) to say how cool it is to have this many fans from India here and wishes everyone a happy Republic Day.

### Jinder Mahal/Bollywood Boyz vs. Drew McIntyre/Indus Sher

McIntyre's entrance cuts off Mahal's usual speech. Drew says he's glad to have Mahal back but you NEVER interrupt Ric Flair. Mahal has a nice three man team but McIntyre has his own three man band of destruction and introduces Indus Sher, who are about McIntyre's size. McIntyre and Mahal (now mostly bald) start things off but it's off to Sunil Singh, who hits McIntyre in the face.

That goes very badly for him and it's off to Rinku for a big elbow. Saurav comes in for a World's Strongest Slam so Samir comes in to get beaten up as well. Samir is tossed over the top and onto Sunil and it's the good guys clearing the ring as we take a break. Back with Samir slipping over Rinku's back and hammering away before handing it off to Mahal. Rinku goes shoulder first into the post and Sunil gets two off a top rope elbow.

Samir's armbar doesn't exactly work so he tries to pull on Rinku's leg instead. Mahal has some more luck with the armbar but he makes the misatke of going after Saurav, allowing Rinku to get in a shot to the face. The hot tag bring in McIntyre to clean house but a jumping knee cuts off the Claymore. Saurav comes in and wrecks the Boyz, leaving McIntyre to Claymore Mahal. A side slam/middle rope elbow combination (the replay was quite the relief as I had thought it was a horribly missed legdrop) finishes Sunil at 9:04.

**Rating:** C. They had the more experienced guys in the main event here and that was a good idea as it felt like a better match all around. McIntyre and Mahal having enough of a history worked out well and it means something to have Mahal in there, just due to the success that he had. Perfectly fine

main event here and McIntyre being in there makes sense as one of the faces of the company.

A bunch of people and the dance troupe come out to applaud to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. I'd call this a rather nice success as the whole point was just getting a little sample of what you could see in an NXT India. The wrestlers need a lot of experience (which is where a Performance Center can come into play) but they were far from terrible here. Granted it helps to be in there with some of the best workers in WWE, but that's the exact right idea. Have some veterans in there who can keep things as under control as possible. It's not a great show on its own, but it did what it was supposed to do and felt cool. There is a long way to go, but for a start, it worked out well.

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