



PROGRAMMANUS

PRODUCENT: MADELEINE NILSSON/STEVE HANKEY
PROJEKTLEDARE: RALF PERSSON
SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2018-12-08

NEWSREEL WORLD Saturday 8th of December 2018

Today's headlines

- **Fake News**
- **AI News Anchors**
- **Teaching science**
- **Palm oil**
- **Generosity**
- **Square poo**

AKSHAT: Hi, and welcome to Newsreel. I am Akshat Rathi [?? 0:00:03]. In this episode, we will hear how scientists are getting excited about animal droppings in Australia, and how you can help save an orangutang's home in Indonesia. But first, Fake news.

Fake News

Word list:

fabricated *made up*

combat *fight*

fear psychosis *a kind of paranoia*

perceive *regard as*

susceptible *impressionable, sensitive*

TRUMP: Fake news. It's fake, phony, fake. Fake news. You are fake news.

AKSHAT: Donald Trump made it famous as a phrase, and it has become the go to term for media that is fabricated to push



forward false facts. It has made a lot of us treat everything we read online with suspicion, and effected elections all over the world. But in India, it has had an even darker impact. For Newsreel, Rahul Tandon spoke to Pratik Sinha from Old News, a website that combats misleading information in India.

PRATIK: Recently we have had about 30 deaths in various parts of India where a particular rumor was pushed out, claiming that child kidnappers are on the prowl in your area, and they are going to kidnap your children, and they are going to traffic the kid's organs. And that caused a huge amount of fear psychosis in people. And they came out on the street and they started attacking people who they suspected, who fit a sort of social profile, the child kidnapper as described in the rumor. And then 30 people are killed [?? 0:01:33].

AKSHAT: 30 people killed because of fake news spread online?

RAHUL: At this point in time in India, what is happening is that there's a lot of misinformation slash disinformation which circulates on social media. And chat apps like Whatsapp. Especially the chat apps. A lot of this is politically motivated. Political parties having set up their huge networks through which they put out information which is often not entirely true. For a lot of first time Internet users, they perceive it as truth.

AKSHAT: Rahul Tandon spoke to young Indians in Calcutta to hear how they decide if something is real or fake.

RAHUL: There is of course this concern about fake news. If you see something that you are not sure about, how do you check it online? Can you check it online?



WOMAN 1: Honestly I just assume whatever has been written is not a lie. But if it so happens that it turns out to be something exaggerated, then I would obviously be disappointed. But so far, nothing like that has happened.

MAN 1: If you check three or four sources, then something will come up. But that depends on your own choice of ... if you at all want to know the truth, or something like that.

WOMAN 2: Of course the truth is important, but nowadays here in India there is a trend of the circulation of fake news through Whatsapp and Facebook, which is very harmful. And it affects people a lot, it effects teenagers a lot, and it should be stopped.

AKSHAT: So why are so many people susceptible to misleading information?

RAHUL: [inaudible 0:03:04] a lot of first time Internet users, and there is also a lack of education, which means that there are not many people who are going to tell them that “look, Internet is not the safest place, and you should not believe everything that comes on it”.

AKSHAT: Now, I am definitely human. At least I think I am. But in China, it’s no longer clear if the voice delivering you stories is man or machine.

AI News Anchors

AI: Hello everyone. I’m an English Artificial Intelligence anchor. This is my very first day in Xinhua News Agency. My voice and appearance are modeled on Zhang Zhao, a real anchor with Xinhua. The development of the media industry calls for



continuous innovation and deep integration with the international advanced technology.

AKSHAT: News agency Xinhua has introduced the newest members of it's news room, AI anchors who will report all day, everyday from anywhere in the country.

AI: I look forward to bringing you the brand new news experiences.

AKSHAT: Brilliant or terrifying? You decide. Around the world, many schools teach in English, even though it's not their native language.

Teaching science

TEACHER: Good morning, children. My name is mr [name 0:04:04] from Nigeria. And I am [inaudible 0:04:08] ...

AKSHAT: In southwest Nigeria, an experiment is about to start that may change all that. People will be taught science in Yoruba, their native tongue, as opposed to English. Academics believe teaching very young kids in their mother tongue helps them understand scientific concepts better. Our next story takes us to the rain forest of Indonesia via a British supermarket.

Palm oil

Word list:

habitat *place of living, suitable environment*

transparent *see-through, explicit, (here: that consumers scrutinize)*

deforestation *the destroying of forests*

WOMAN 3: There's an orangutan in my bedroom, and I don't know what to do. She plays with all my teddies and keeps borrowing my shoes.



AKSHAT: Supermarket chain Iceland have had their Christmas advert, which features cuddly orangutans, banned for being too political. But what has a banned Christmas ad in the UK have to do with orangutans in Borneo? The answer is a product that goes by many names. Sodium kernelate, vegetable fat, glycerol, but is best known as palm oil. Some estimates say that palm oil is in a staggering 50% of the packaged products we buy, from shampoo to chocolate. We spoke to Annisa Rahmawati, who works for Green Peace in Indonesia about what palm oil production is doing to the forest there.

ANNISA: In order to produce palm oil, huge areas of rain forest in Indonesia are torn down by bulldozers and burned to the ground.

AKSHAT: The loss of these trees means many animals are losing their homes.

ANNISA: The impact of the deforestation itself is not about that we only losing the trees, but it's also we destroy the home of orangutan. The habitat of orangutan. Sadly, around 24 million hectares of Indonesian rainforest have been lost between '99s until 2015.

AKSHAT: Annisa says that palm oil does not have to come from rainforest destruction. Palm oil production is actually really land efficient. However, certain companies that trade it are working with suppliers that destroy new areas of rainforest to grow it. But how can we help combat this issue when we live thousands of miles away?

ANNISA: If you go to supermarket, check the product you buy, because we challenge the brands to come up being more transparent and publish their suppliers. So when we see that they



are still sourcing palm oil from those forest destroyers, leave that brand and tell them that we need the product that not lead to deforestation.

Generosity

AKSHAT: Let's stay in Indonesia. The country has been named the most generous in the world in a study by the Charities Aid Foundation. Researchers across the globe asked people if they had donated money to a charity, volunteered or helped a stranger over the past month. The study found that people in Libya were the most likely to help a stranger, people in Myanmar were the most likely to donate money to a charity, and people in Indonesia were the most willing volunteers. Indonesians overall were ranked as the most generous people.

Square poo

Word list:

prominent *sticking out, conspicuous*

Intestine *bodily organ*

circumference *the distance around something, the edge*

AKSHAT: And finally, something unique in nature. Cube shaped poo and the only animal in the world that produces it. The poo comes from wombats, relatives of the kangaroo that burrow underground in Tasmania in Australia. Whereas most animals produce round droppings, the wombat's is a distinctive square. How they do it has remained a mystery until now. Scott Carver is one of the scientists who has been investigating.

SCOTT: Wombats have a really strong sense of smell, and they communicate with one another through senses of smell. And one of the ways that they appear to do this is that they pile up their poo in prominent places. The general belief is that wombat's have



cube shaped poo because it allows the poo not to roll away when they deposit it.

AKSHAT: But how does an animal produce a square shape out of their body?

SCOTT: It seems to be something to do with the intestine and how the intestine contracts and shapes their poos to form these cube shapes. And one of our key findings in this research has been that there is changes around the circumference. Some regions that are stiffer, and some regions that are more stretchier. And it seems to be this combination of stiffness and stretchiness that allows them to form sharper corners and form into these cubic shapes.

AKSHAT: This discovery has created a lot of excitement in the scientific community beyond lovers of the wombat.

SCOTT: So at the moment, if you are a manufacturer and you want to form some form of cube shaped object, there's two ways to do that. One of them is to inject material into an injection mold that is in the shape of a cube. Another way is to have a square aperture that you then push substance through and cut it, much like children do with Play-Doh. Forming a cube within essentially a tube or an intestine is a new way of forming a cube that hasn't been used in the manufacturing industry and may have some application in the future.

AKSHAT: Thanks very much for listening to Newsreel. I'm Akshat Rathi, and I'll be back with more stories soon.