

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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### Programmanus

*av Alanna Leslie*

**Alanna Leslie:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to another episode of Newsreel World. Today we're going to India, Jamaica and New Zealand.

#### **India**

**Alanna Leslie:** First India. As the coronavirus continues its spread across the globe, politicians and health professionals have found themselves battling another epidemic – the rapid spread of misinformation and fake news about the virus. In India, there have been 5 million cases of coronavirus. With so many cases, there has been a particular problem with the spread of 'fake medical news' such as vaccines made from mint, and that steam from the kitchen cooker kills the virus. In case you were wondering, neither of these are effective treatment methods. To combat this, the government has introduced new emergency measures to deal with anyone spreading any medical fake news about coronavirus. Here is Chhavi Sachdev with more...

**Chhavi:** Since March 2020, the police in India have arrested more than 500 people for the crime of spreading fake news about the coronavirus over social media – on Youtube, on Instagram, and on chat apps like Telegram and Whatsapp. They are shared as audio, video or text and the tone and content is usually sensational – like about celebrities dying from Covid-19 – or secret facts that big organisations or governments don't want the public to know. Some cause fear – there are not enough masks or test kits or hospital beds and some point blame at a particular community or country for spreading the virus. The majority though, are about a vaccine or some new miracle that either prevents or even reverses the sickness. [...] Kedara Sreedipti is 16 and she says she's seen quite a lot of news that she suspects is fake, but she doesn't have the time to crosscheck it all.

**Kedara:** This student in a university in Pondicherry, creating a cure for Covid over using pepper, and stuff like that. So that seemed really fake to me.

**Chhavi:** Siddharth is 19 and he tries to avoid information on social media.

**Siddharth:** So firstly, I tend to stay away from fake news as much as possible because of course... they're a waste of time. And it does not give any correct solutions.

**Chhavi:** But one piece of news he couldn't avoid was about drinking the urine of cows as a protection from Covid.

**Siddharth:** It was stupid to believe that... how can, eh, you know, piss from an animal like a cow cure Covid-19. And, eh, I came across this news on Instagram, one of the meme pages apparently shared this one and I instantly unfollowed that meme page.

**Chhavi:** This is the kind of news that Ekta Sharma deals with daily. Ekta runs check4spam, a fact-checking site that tackles fake news on the web and on messaging apps like Whatsapp.

**Ekta:** Since March, when this Covid and infection has started, we have received around 1,500 fake informations, fake messages and forwards on all kinds of social media.

**Chhavi:** Ekta's job is to check all the forwards and messages and then verify them or debunk them.

**Ekta:** In a week, we definitely get around 20-25 fake information about Covid. Every day I watch around 4 to 5 Covid-related fake information.

**Chhavi:** Ekta says her job is tough. There is so much fake news out there. But the work they do is necessary, and it's especially important for it to reach the youth. This is Chhavi Sachdev reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai in India.

### **Australian wildfires**

**Alanna Leslie:** Could traditional Aboriginal practices help combat wildfires in Australia? Last year, 26 people died and thousands of homes and livelihoods were destroyed by some of the worst bushfires in living memory. But, a group of people think they have an answer to preventing fires in the future. An organisation called Firesticks Alliance is promoting the idea of cultural burning. This is an ancient aboriginal practice which often involves lighting fires deliberately to create so-called "fire intervals" – depriving the blazes of the wood or grass they need to burn. Victor Steffenson, an indigenous land management expert says people can learn from traditional methods.

**Victor Steffenson:** Understand and become knowledgeable with your own backyard, start there first and understand these trees, understand the landscape, understand the wildlife so you get a better idea of how to look after the thing how to look after the place.

### **Jamaica**

**Alanna Leslie:** A young Jamaican Paralympian star has gone viral. Shauna-Kay Hines competes as a Taekwondo fighter in what's called the born amputee category. Her right arm is severely impaired - from her elbow downwards. She's now on her way to global fame after being selected by the International Paralympic Committee as part of an ongoing initiative to raise awareness among young people of next year's postponed Paralympic games, which are due to be held in Tokyo, Japan. Here is Giovanni Dennis with more. [...]

**Giovanni Dennis:** Jamaican para-athlete Shauna-Kay Hines singing a part of her favourite song, "I can" by reggae artist Chronixx during an interview with the International Paralympic Committee, IPC, on their Instagram page recently.

**Instagram interviewer:** What is the significance of that song for you personally?

**Shauna-Kay Hines:** Well, personally, it's just a reminder that I can do anything. You know, once I believe and trust and have faith and also with support, I can.

**Giovanni Dennis:** Shauna-Kay is one of 25 athletes from 22 sports, selected by the IPC to help promote the rescheduled 2020 Paralympics.

**Shauna-Kay Hines:** I was basically asked to go on Instagram live and talk about how Covid-19 has affected us for our participation in the Games and how we are coping and how our country is assisting us and our coaches.

**Giovanni Dennis:** Shauna-Kay is a para-Taekwondo athlete. It will be the first time para-Taekwondo will be among the disciplines at a Paralympic games since the first edition in 1960. Although Shauna-Kay still has to qualify for the Paralympics, she was chosen by the IPC because of her outstanding record.

**Shauna-Kay Hines:** Well, I am super elated. I am over-elated that I was, you know, given this opportunity to represent Jamaica on its global platform where IPC selected a Jamaican and of course, you know, encourage others. And, you know, this is like me inspiring other athletes not only para-athletes but special athletes and also able-bodied athletes.

**Giovanni Dennis:** Shauna-Kay has earned over 7 bronze and silver medals since starting the sport a little over 3 years ago. Sports talk show host Trishana McGowan wants opportunities like this to multiply.

**Trishana McGowan:** I think Jamaicans need to speak more about the Paralympics. We need to give more to the Paralympians and the sport itself. So with her getting this achievement, I think this is also another step in the direction in which we need to go as a country for the Paralympics.

**Giovanni Dennis:** Shauna-Kay, in the meantime, is already looking ahead to the Paralympic games in 2021. Giovanni Dennis, for Newsreel World.

## **New Zealand**

**Alanna Leslie:** Now to New Zealand. [...] Have you ever heard music sung in Te Reo? Te Reo is the official Maori language and is spoken by the indigenous people in New Zealand. Three brothers started a band called 'Alien Weaponry' as teenagers. They sing in Te Reo and have helped bring the language to a global audience. They've already played to packed crowds at a number of festivals in Europe and the United States. They believe that by listening to the lyrics in Te Reo, people can gain a deeper understanding of the indigenous population in New Zealand. Tūranga Morgan-Edmonds, one of the band's members says...

*"It's such a beautiful language, it fits the music and everything to do with music so well"*

That's all from me today. See you soon!