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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World...

Today we're talking about Nigeria, Australia and the Olympics

ALANNA LESLIE: But first...

India is seeing a worrying rise in anti-Muslim hate music online.

The genre, known as "saffron pop", is gaining millions of views on YouTube amongst right-wing Hindus and is being used to intimidate Muslims offline as well.

Ayushi Shah has this report.

Music

Ayushi: This song is just one of the many that have gone viral on social media.

The formula is the same; offensive lyrics, catchy tunes and hateful warnings to the Muslims of India.

Music

Loosely translated, they mean if you don't hail the Hindu god Ram, we will send you to the graveyard

This worrying internet phenomenon, often called 'saffron pop', is now causing deep trouble offline too, with multiple reports of even festival celebrations turning violent.



Crowd sounds

Ayushi: A video from the city of Bilaspur in India showed hundreds of people dancing and cheering in front of a mosque as hate songs featuring calls for violence against Muslims blared from loudspeakers

It quickly turned violent. As the two communities clashed, many people suffered serious injuries, and one of them even died.

Crowd Sounds

Ayushi: While communal tensions between Hindu-Muslim communities have been on a rise for the last few years these hate-filled soundtracks have further heightened tensions.

Navsharan Singh is a political scientist who is deeply concerned

Navsharan Singh : If you say that saffron music is becoming popular, I'll say that it is the politics of hate which is thriving. It appeals to a wide audience because the ground for it is paved by the Hindu right wing political leadership, and cultural products such as music, poetry and cinema also become the tools by which this politics of hatred is sustained

Ayushi: When asked about the consequences of their music, the singers say that they see their music as a form of dedication to their religion, and nothing else.

But some Indians disagree.

I asked **Umme Hani Zaki** about how she feels about this as a young Muslim woman in India.

Khomeini: They say that it's about singing praise to their gods, but the wording very explicitly states that the ones who don't preach to the same gods should not be living in this country. So, you know I am born in this country, I have a sense of patriotism and nationalism towards it; you can't just tell me that I don't belong here



Ayushi Shah: Mahima Mistry who is Hindu as well, says that her religion does not stand for this

Mahim: I'm so proud to be a Hindu but actually even more proud to be called as an Indian, which is a secular country respecting of all sorts of backgrounds and people. And I think for me all religions stand for peace, which is how it should be

Ayushi: Over the last few years, there has been a massive surge in communal tension in India. Communities that have lived side-by-side peacefully for decades are turning increasingly violent.

While inciting hate is an offence under the Indian constitution, so far there has been no strict action either by the government or the social media companies to control this.

This is Ayushi Shah reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai in India.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Ayushi.

Hackers have stolen data from Australian government officials and journalists using a fake news website.

The targets were invited via email to write for a made-up news organisation designed to look similar to the BBC. However, when they clicked the link to the website, malicious code was installed on their computers.

The US-based data security company Proofpoint said they are “almost certain” the hackers were spying for the Chinese government.

ALANNA LESLIE:

A swimming cap designed for afro hair has been approved for use in top-level competitions for the first time ever.



The cap – which is designed for thick, curly hair and styles such as braids and dreadlocks – was banned at the last Olympics after it was claimed it didn't fit "the natural form of the head".

Alex Dearing, the first black woman to represent Great Britain in an Olympic swimming event, said the decision "sets a precedent for the sport".

Music

ALANNA LESLIE:

That was a short clip of the 21-year-old indigenous singer Tia Wood performing a Cree Hand Drum Solo live.

Tia is Cree and Salish, two First Nation groups in North America.

Tia first rose to popularity on TikTok when she posted a video that incorporated indigenous singing into the "face zoom" trend. Since then she's gained over two million followers and regularly shares videos about her culture's music, dance, fashion and history.

ALANNA LESLIE:

A group of entrepreneurs in Nigeria have gone online to help preserve the Ekpeye language, which is spoken by fewer than 150,000 people in southern Nigeria.

The organisation, called The Speak Ekpeye Fluently Initiative, was founded by Umasoye Igwe and has a website where learners can find videos and online resources - and sign up for lessons.

To tell us more, here's Lucky Usamah

Lucky: I'm here at Nkpolu Oroworukwo, in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Walking around this city, you'll hear several different languages spoken - you'll hear standard English, pidgin English, and indigenous languages including Ijaw, Ikwerre and Ogoni. And over in this corner of the city, you'll also hear the sounds of Ekpeye being spoken.



Umasoye Igwe teaching

Lucky: That's Umasoye Igwe. She's a Nigerian born creative writer, tech enthusiast and an advocate for indigenous languages. Umasoye is the founder of The Speak Ekpeye Fluently Initiative. The project uses technology and media to preserve indigenous languages like Ekpeye.

I met up with Umasoye to learn more about her work.

Umasoye: The inspiration to start the Speak Ekpeye Fluently Language Initiative started in the year 2020 during the lockdown. Most of my work for the Ekpeye language has been online, basically, so it was more like a digital advocacy. And through this initiative I've had to connect with language experts in different parts of the world.

Lucky: And like any journey in life, Umasoye has encountered a few challenges along the way.

Umasoye: One of the obstacles I've faced so far in this advocacy journey is documentation. There are no proper materials on the Ekpeye language, like if there was material, maybe books, multimedia, texts that can aid the learning, it would be much easier.

Lucky: The issue that Umasoye and her team are raising goes beyond Ekpeye and what she is doing for Ekpeye can be replicated to preserve other languages that are in danger of being lost.

Umasoye: And the issue faced by minoritized languages in Nigeria is one that these languages are not properly looked at. If you go to schools, the major languages are spoken - you some schools teach Hausa, some schools teach Igbo, some schools teach Yoruba. That's why these languages have more speakers. But here minoritized languages have fewer speakers and they are not even encouraged to be taught in schools.

Lucky: I also spoke with other people like Oguamadi Faith Adah, Ewomah Ebeleogu, and Paul Hutton who share Umasoye's desire to preserve native indigenous languages.

Vox pops



My name is Oguamadi Faith Adah, I think preserving of language is important and key.

My name is Ewomah Ebeleogu and I believe that traditional language have a value to protect traditions, culture, even names. Like my names – any Ekpeye man identify with me that is my own culture.

My name is Paul Hutton. Our traditional system is going extinction because if you check Nigeria today, you realise that we are more divided than ever before. So we learn in each other's language you bring us much more closer. So I must say that is really a good thing and it should be encouraged.

Lucky: I'm **LUCKY USAMAH** reporting from Port Harcourt, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Lucky. That's all from me today, speak to you soon, bye!