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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 TikTok, South Africa and India.

But first...

Jamaicans are debating about whether to make the country's mother tongue, Jamaican Patois, an official second language alongside English.

Patois is an English-based language that was developed in the seventeenth century by enslaved people from West and Central Africa.

It has influences from aspects of African languages, Spanish, Portuguese, Irish and different Taino indigenous languages.

Traditionally, Patois has been stigmatised as a second-class language but now there's a growing movement to give it official recognition.

From Kingston Jamaica, here's Giovanni Dennis.

Mark Golding: It is time for Jamaica to formally recognise Jamaican as a language and give it its due respect.

GIOVANNI DENNIS: Jamaican opposition leader Mark Golding reigniting calls for the state to recognise its mother language, Patois, as a formal language alongside English.

The call comes amid a move by the Jamaican government to remove the monarchy as head of state. Mr. Golding believes that formally recognising Patois should be a part of that move.

Mark Golding: Part of the legacy of our colonial past is the belief that the Jamaican language, created by our own people, is somehow unworthy and only to be spoken by those who can't do better. It is time to move beyond that negative and backward way of thinking.



GIOVANNI DENNIS: Jamaican Patois is widely spoken across the island, and although it is English based, it also has traces of a number of African languages as well as Spanish, Portuguese and indigenous Taino. These are two examples:

Example 1: Wagwan

GIOVANNI DENNIS: Means “what’s up?” or “what’s going on?” Or,

Example 2: Everyting criss.

GIOVANNI DENNIS: Means “everything’s okay”.

Dr Joseph Farquharson is head of the Jamaica Language Unit at the University of the West Indies.

Dr Joseph Farquharson: Since the 1950s, UNESCO has been seeing that mother language education is the way to go. And over and over, in repeated studies, they found that children who are taught in their mother language acquire literacy much faster. And it makes sense because the child already speaks that language.

GIOVANNI DENNIS: In fact, a study by researchers at the University of the West Indies found nearly seven out of ten Jamaicans want Patois to be used formally. Debbie and Terrian are among the majority.

Debbie: The world has not appreciated Patois. If anybody at all want to be aligned with Jamaica, the first thing I try to do is to speak Patois. So why wouldn't we as a country embrace what we have and really nurture it as an asset, build it out, structure it, and let us gain what is there to gain from it?

Terrian: It's something that is unique, just like other Caribbean countries with their dialect. I think it's something that we should embrace. And why not introduce it on the international stage?

GIOVANNI DENNIS: But Derek wants things to remain as they are.

Derek: I don't think we need to have a formal second language. We all speak it. There's going to be pretty difficult to have an official Patois when if you go to Saint Elizabeth's or Montego Bay, you're hearing three distinctly different kinds of Patois. I think it's good as it is.



GIOVANNI DENNIS: Dr. Farquharson argues much of the resistance to Patois is based on a fallacy that most Jamaicans fully understand English. Therefore, he argues, making Patois official is a human right – having access to information.

Dr Joseph Farquharson: We tend to believe that access to information has only to do with people being able to access documents. But can they read what's in that document? When the state puts out an announcement, let's say its announcements about the budget, does the population that is financing that budget understand what is taking place?

GIOVANNI DENNIS: Dr Farquharson now wants the conversation to advance to concrete action. The Jamaica Language Unit has plans in place to train teachers in Patois. However, it lacks the funding and approval to introduce it in schools island wide.

Reporting for Newsreel World, I'm Giovanni Dennis.

ALANNA: Thanks Giovanni

News Bed

ALANNA:

Nepal has joined India in introducing a nation-wide ban on TikTok saying that its content is “malicious” and “detrimental to social harmony.”

But the decision has been criticised by opposition politicians who see it as an attempt to limit freedom of expression.

Tik Tok also faces restrictions in other parts of the world. The United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have banned use of the China-based social media app on the work phones of government officials.

They're worried that TikTok may be leaking personal data to the Chinese government, although the app's parent company has rejected the allegation.



ALANNA:

Scientists have found that young men who use their mobile phone more than 20 times a day could be damaging their sperm count.

A new study published in a fertility journal has found that exposure to the electromagnetic radiation from mobile phones is linked to a decreased total sperm count. But the trend was more prominent in older 2G and 3G phones compared to modern 4G and 5G versions.

ALANNA:

That was a short clip of 'Water' by the 21-year-old South African artist Tyla.

The song went viral on TikTok earlier this year as people tried to copy Tyla's distinctive choreography – her performances of which have amassed hundreds of millions of views on her own TikTok.

ALANNA:

In India, we've just entered the most popular time of the year to get married.

According to a recent report by the Confederation of All India Traders, about 3.5 million weddings will be celebrated between the end of November and the middle of December – and they're expected to bring in a whopping 51 billion US dollars into the country's economy.

Ayushi Shah has this report from Mumbai, India on the social significance of weddings.

AYUSHI SHAH: In India, weddings are like a week-long music festival. Elaborate decorations. Everyone is dressed in the latest fashion. And guest lists can sometimes go up to thousands of people. Amidst this glitz and glamour, one conspicuous element looms large: money and lots of it. Some of these weddings cost up to millions of dollars.



In most Indian weddings, family takes centre stage, particularly in a country where 90% of the weddings are arranged marriages.

Woman: So if you approach a matchmaker, the first thing they will actually ask you is how much are you ready to spend on the wedding?

AYUSHI SHAH: I spoke to a woman in her late 20s, she's from Mumbai, and is currently searching for a prospective groom through arranged marriage channels.

Woman: The reason behind this is, there are tiers. So if you are ready to spend between, say, \$200,000 to \$500,000, then it's like, I don't know, tier three. Then anything between half a million to a million you're tier two, above a million it's like tier one. And yeah, basically according to your tiers, they suggest potential grooms. So the whole topic of the conversation actually starts with how much you are ready to spend on a wedding.

AYUSHI SHAH: It is common for the bride's family to part away with a big chunk of their life savings on this one big event and they sometimes even take hefty loans for this.

I spoke to the 48-year-old Lakshmi Auraghanti, who works as a maid in Mumbai. She is diligently saving up for her daughter's wedding.

Lakshmi Auraghanti: I will have to spend at least \$1,200 on her wedding. Our family's monthly income is about \$240 and we already have rent and other expenses. So it is tough to save. No matter what we do, we will have to take a hefty loan and borrow money for her wedding.

AYUSHI SHAH: In India, traditions, expectations, and economic realities, they all intersect in the grand spectacle of a wedding, a celebration that often highlights the complex inequalities in Indian society instead of simply being a day for joy.

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

ALANNA: Thanks Ayushi.

That's all from me today. Speak to you soon - bye!