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# International Relations (2-minute series)

*January 2021 - April 2021*

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**Note:**

The YouTube links for all the topics are embedded in the name of the Topic itself

## 1. Internet Connectivity in Far Flung Areas

### Project Loon

- Google's parent company Alphabet has shut down project Loon in January 2021, that gave internet service from high-altitude balloons, after the unit failed to develop a viable business mode
- It was a part of Alphabet's X team, the moonshot factory
  - ✓ Loon was part of Moonshot until 2018 after which it moved on to become an independent company within Alphabet
- It was first unveiled in 2013 and aimed to give internet connections using giant helium balloons drifting on currents high in the stratosphere

### Facebook Aquila

- Aquila was Facebook's bold stratosphere internet project that imagined gigantic drones running partially on solar power that could remain in flight for long periods of time and beam down LTE service to remote parts of the world
- Facebook abandoned its project in 2018