

Hate speech in Facebook

- Facebook is letting violent hate speech slip through its controls in Kenya as it has in other countries, according to a new report from the non-profit groups Global Witness and Foxglove.
- It was the third such test of Facebook's ability to detect hateful language either via artificial intelligence or human moderators.
- There are two ways that hate speech can be flagged for review and possible removal. Users can report it manually, or AI algorithms can try to detect it automatically.
- Algorithmic detection is important not just because it's more efficient, but also because it can be done proactively, before any users' flag the hate speech.
- What matters to society is the amount of hate speech that is not removed from the platform.
- The best way to capture this is the number of hate-speech takedowns divided by the total number of hate speech instances.
- This "takedown rate" measures how much hate speech on Facebook is actually taken down and it's the number that Facebook tried to keep secret

- According to internal documents, more than 95 percent of hate speech shared on Facebook stays on Facebook.
- Unfortunately, there's no silver bullet when it comes to online hate speech.
- Content moderation is an incredibly challenging problem, and we need to admit that AI is very far from the panacea it is frequently hawked as.

THE HINDU

ETF

- Global gold demand has seen a drop of 8% during the April-June period to 948.4 tonnes and going ahead, further monetary tightening and continued dollar
- The year-on-year demand was affected by an increase in gold electronic traded funds (ETFs) outflow, decline in Central banks buying and lower demand from the technology segment,

Exchange-traded fund (ETF)

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trades on an exchange just like a stock does.
- ETF share prices fluctuate all day as the ETF is bought and sold; this is different from mutual funds, which

only trade once a day after the market closes.

- ETFs can contain all types of investments, including stocks, commodities, or bonds; some offer U.S.-only holdings, while others are international.
- ETFs offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually.

THE HINDU

Possible recession in US

- The U.S. economy contracted for a second straight quarter
- Gross domestic product declined at an annual rate of 0.9% in the second quarter, according to the Commerce Department.
- The slowdown was largely due to drops in government spending at all levels and in private investment on goods, including autos, and on residential buildings, despite an increase in exports.
- But personal consumption expenditures continued to increase, though at a slower rate.

Recession and causes

- Defines a recession as a widespread contraction in the economy that lasts more than a few months, with

each of the three criteria depth, diffusion, and duration

- More than two-thirds of the recessions Americans have experienced since World War II were caused by an increase in interest rates that was too fast for the economy to handle.
- The Federal Reserve increased interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point in June and again on July 27, though it will take several months before the effects of these changes are seen
- Inflation is currently at a 40-year high, reaching 9.1% in June.

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Revival of BSNL

- The story so far: To spur Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) overall competitiveness in the steep domestic telecom market and de-stress its balance sheet, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved yet another revival package worth ₹1.64 lakh crore.
- The second reform package after 2019 is meant to be utilised over the next four years.
- The revival package would initiate measures on three fronts, namely, infusing fresh capital for upgrading

the state-owned operator's services, strengthening its stressed balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) and BSNL.

- It is expected that the package could help with a turnaround in such a manner that BSNL starts earning profits in FY2026-27.

How does the latest package propose to help?

- The package has three broad components. Starting with the endeavour to upscale its services, BSNL would be allocated spectrum in 900/1800 MHz band administratively at the cost of ₹44,993 crore via equity infusion.
- Spectrum can be defined as invisible radio frequencies on which wireless signals travel, facilitating phone calls and internet usage.
- To put it simply, the allocation would help BSNL increase as well as consolidate its serviceable bandwidth.
- Thus, it would be able to provide high speed data utilising a vaster network presence, more importantly, in rural areas.
- Other than spectrum, in order to pursue its social objectives, the Government would provision

₹13,789 crores to the company to fund its operational viability gap in the commercially unviable rural wireline operations that it had undertaken between 2014-15 and 2019-20.

- Additionally, the Government would also be increasing the authorised capital from ₹40,000 crores to ₹1.50 lakh crore in lieu of its adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, provision of capital expenditure and allotment of spectrum.
- The AGR refers to the fee-sharing mechanism that computes the share in revenues that the telecom service providers (TSPs) are required to pay the government as annual licence fee and spectrum usage charges.

What makes the industry so competitive? Is there an untapped opportunity?

- As per the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, India's telecom industry is the second-largest in the world. The country's overall tele density is 84.88%.
- However, there exists a divide between rural and urban areas. While the urban market's tele-density is 134.70%, the rural market is largely untapped at about 58.2%.

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Genetic drift and Tiger conservation

- (July 29), which is Global Tiger Day (also called International Tiger Day), the world and India can celebrate the recovery of at least one endangered species.
- India is now reporting increased tiger numbers, and a recent International Union for Conservation of Nature assessment suggests that tiger numbers have increased by 40% since 2005.
- Populations that are smaller than 100 breeding individuals have a high probability of extinction.
- At the same time, for populations to persist, they should be part of larger landscapes with other such populations that are connected.
- Small and isolated populations face a high probability of extinction.
- This is because small populations are subject to chance/ random events. These chance events may cause them to lose advantageous genetic variants, while other, detrimental genetic variants might increase in frequency. This process is called genetic drift.
- Also, individuals in small populations are more likely to be related, leading to inbreeding.
- This exposes the many slightly disadvantageous genetic variants that are present in all genomes.
- Sets of tiger reserves that share less genetic variation must have barriers or landscapes that impede movement and connectivity.
- Our results showed that extinction could be avoided if corridors were safeguarded.
- What was striking was that fencing tiger reserves and isolating them resulted in high extinction?
- The future of such populations may depend on genetic rescue or even the introduction of novel genetic variants.
- We are fortunate that novel genome sequencing technology provides an opportunity to understand tigers much better in the context of their conservation.
- The future of tigers will require a 'dialogue' between such data and management strategies in order to ensure their survival. India is lucky to have so many wild tigers and we must work together to save them.

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