

## Twitter-open source

### What does twitter's algorithm do?

- At the heart of Twitter's business model is the recommendation algorithm.
- It is a set of rules that enables the platform to deliver content based on user's interests and preferences. It is with the help of this system that advertisers promote their brands. Content flows into a user's timeline through two channels.
- One pipeline channels content posted by people that the user follows and the other is filled with posts flowing from accounts that could potentially interest the user.
- The latter timeline called 'For You, acts as a predictive tool to suggest feeds that a user may be interested in

### How does the algorithm work?

- Twitter's recommendation algorithm runs on a three-step process. First, it fetches tweets from multiple recommendation sources. The platform calls this process 'candidate sourcing'.
- After sourcing these tweets, a machine learning model ranks them. After ranking, tweets are filtered to

remove those that a user may have blocked or has already seen.

- At the sourcing stage, the algorithm mixes tweets that eventually flow into a user's 'For You' timeline.
- Twitter says that for each request it attempts to extract the top 1,500 tweets from a pool of hundreds of millions.
- To do this, Twitter uses what it calls social graph and embedded spaces. The former creates a stream of candidates based on what content followers of a user engage with.
- And the latter matches the profile of a user with a cluster that exhibits similar interests and preferences as the user.
- Once this is done, using a 48M parameter neural network that is continuously trained on tweet engagement, the platform starts ranking feeds.

### What has been the reaction?

- After Twitter open-sourced its recommendation algorithm, many people flocked to GitHub to view the code.
- Some see this reveal as "a step in the right direction for the future of humanity."
- Others note that the code does not reveal much about how it is used by the platform.

- They also highlight that important bits of information have been left out.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Water conference 2023**

- The United Nations 2023 Water Conference held on March 22-24 was the first such meeting in 46 years.
- . In a recent report entitled ‘Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028’, the UN recognized the urgent need for action given that we are not on track to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for water “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

#### **What is the water conference?**

- The water sector is prone to fragmentation because water problems tend to be local.
- If a particular lake is polluted or a particular area is often flooded, it needs local solutions. Therefore, there is an inherent problem in mobilizing globally for local problems.”
- The last UN Water Conference, held in 1977, was ground breaking as it resulted in the first global ‘Action Plan’ recognizing that “all peoples,

whatever their stage of development and social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs.

#### **What are the current challenges?**

- Challenge is that improving access to water and sanitation no longer translates directly to sustained access to water and sanitation.
- For example, many drinking water projects have failed because they drew too much groundwater or the water sources were contaminated, leaving communities again with no access to water.
- Groundwater over- abstraction is mostly driven by agricultural pumping. The only way to solve this problem in heavily irrigated places like Punjab is to pump less.
- The remaining SDG targets pertain to sustainable agriculture, industry, and natural ecosystems.

#### **What are the key commitments?**

- This year’s conference resulted in 713 voluntary commitments by philanthropic donors, governments, corporations, and NGOs.
- This included a \$50-billion commitment from India to improve

rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

- On the technology front, apart from specific innovations in wastewater treatment, there were several proposals for incubation platforms focusing on water management.
- There are already many solutions for knowledge -sharing and thus, we need to accelerate cross-learning.
- A notable tool here was the W12+ Blueprint, a UNESCO platform hosting city profiles and case studies of programs, technologies, and policies that address common water security challenges.
- An effort called 'Making Rights Real' offered to help marginalized communities and women understand how to exercise their rights.
- Similarly, the 'Water for Women Fund' offered mechanisms for more effective and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene outcomes for women.

#### THE HINDU

### Nathu la Avalanche

- Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Dongkya Range of the Himalayas between China's Yadong County in Tibet, and the Indian states of Sikkim

and West Bengal in Bengal, South Asia.

- Nathu La is a mountain pass on the Dongkya Range that separates Sikkim and the Chumbi Valley at an elevation of 14,250 feet (4,340 m).
- Nathu La is one of the three frequently-used passes between Sikkim and the Chumbi Valley, the other two being Cho La and Jelep La.



#### THE HINDU

### Caste less society

#### The idea of a 'casteless' society

- The word 'casteless', simply refers to 'an individual who does not have a caste or is an outcaste'.
- Yet, its implications and manifestations as a social concept run much deeper.
- The term 'casteless' refers to the 'absence of caste' in society.
- It advocates for a society free of caste-based discrimination and oppression. It aims to create an

inclusive society that provides equal opportunity for every individual regardless of inheritance and birth.

- In a 'casteless' society, people from different backgrounds would be treated with dignity and respect.
- People would interact and work together freely, without caste-based discrimination or prejudices and everyone would have access to quality education, healthcare, and job opportunities irrespective of their caste or social status.
- Here a person's worth and success would be solely judged based on their abilities, character, and hard work rather than their social position
- The idea of such a casteless society has been a goal that many, including social reformists, have aspired to achieve.

#### **Dr. Ambedkar's vision**

- Dr. Ambedkar acknowledged that caste was deeply entrenched in Indian society and that it would require significant effort to uproot it.
- Education, according to him, was key to annihilating caste.
- Education could empower individuals socially, economically, and politically. It could help them escape the cycle of poverty and oppression through economic independence. Marriages“

- .It could also help them to be more politically represented, giving them a voice in the democratic process to advocate for their rights.
- Economic and political freedom would help them in challenging the existing social order and breaking down barriers that had been erected to maintain caste-based discrimination. According to him, another important step towards creating a casteless society was inter-caste.

#### **Economic challenges**

- The Indian government is grappling with three economic challenges at the same time.
- One is the management of inflation, interest rates, and exchange rates, for which the Reserve Bank of India is expected to find a solution.
- The second is negotiating bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that protect the interests of India's farmers and workers, for which coordination is required amongst the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture.
- The third problem that is affecting all citizens is secure employment with adequate incomes, which involves all Ministries and all State governments.

- The third one is linked with the other two: it has become a principal cause of social tensions and political conflicts in the country. Economists do not have a systemic solution for this “poly-crisis”. Consensus among them has broken down even about solutions to its separate parts.
- They are divided on whether central bankers should operate independently of governments; whether inflation should take precedence over employment; whether imports should be made less costly for consumers or protection of workers’ incomes should take precedence to increase their purchasing power; and who is hurt by the depreciation of the rupee.



**THE HINDU**

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