

Nigeria Artificial Intelligience Industry Collective



NIGERIAN AI COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY MONTHLY DIGEST

MONTH ENDING JULY 2025

Explore the Latest from Our Community: Key Resources, Insights, and Hot Topics in Al

This Week's Highlights:

Government Agencies Harnessing Al:

Nigeria Leads in 2025 Google AI Accelerator with Six Startups in Africa's Top 15

Nigeria has emerged as the dominant force in Google's 2025 Al Accelerator Programme (Africa Class 9), with six homegrown startups selected out of 15 Al-driven firms from across seven African nations more than any other country. The result underscores Nigeria's growing influence in digital innovation, powered by a youthful, tech-savvy population and a thriving startup ecosystem.

The selected cohort was drawn from a highly competitive pool of around 1,500 applicants and includes startups using artificial intelligence to solve real-world challenges in finance, agriculture, health, and logistics.

The six standout Nigerian startups are:

- E-doc Online: A compliance and credit intelligence
 tool
- 2. GoNomad: Enables freelancers and African enterprises to operate and get paid globally.
- 3. Midddleman: A sourcing and payments platform for purchasing from China.
- 4. Myltura: An Al-powered digital health platform.
- 5. Pastel: Provides enterprise-grade AI technologies for financial institutions, including anti-money laundering and fraud detection.
- 6. Scandium Systems Inc: Offers Al-powered quality assurance solutions for software teams.

Running from June to August 2025, the programme offers each selected startup up to \$350,000 in Google Cloud credits, alongside technical mentorship, product

development support, tailored AI adoption guidance, business scaling assistance, and valuable networking opportunities with global experts.

Since launching in 2018, Google's AI Accelerator has supported 153 entrepreneurs across 17 African countries, leading to the creation of over 3,500 jobs and more than \$300 million in capital raised.

Alongside Nigeria's delegation, other notable startups in this year's cohort include AFRIKABAL (Rwanda), Apexloads (Kenya), Rapidhuman AI (South Africa), Regulon (Ghana), Shamba Records (Kenya), Smartel Agritech Agri Tech (Rwanda), Tolbi (Senegal), YeneHealth (Ethiopia) and Zerone AnalytiQs (Ghana).

Nigeria's strong showing this year signals not only a national rise in Al-driven entrepreneurship but also a growing regional leadership role in Africa's fast-evolving tech landscape.



Government Agencies Harnessing Al: Revolutionizing Nigeria's Capital Market

In a bold move to reposition Nigeria's capital market for sustainable growth and resilience, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has called for the adoption of Al-driven surveillance systems. This initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing market oversight and enhancing regulatory capabilities.

SEC Director-General, Dr. Emomotimi Agama, highlighted the transformative potential of Al-driven oversight. According to Dr. Agama, this technology will enable regulators to monitor market activities in real-time, providing a more effective response to fraud and systemic risks. The shift from reactive oversight to predictive, tech-enabled regulation is expected to bolster market stability and investor confidence significantly.

Key components of this initiative include the implementation of regulatory sandboxes and Al-powered surveillance systems. These innovations are designed to create a more dynamic and responsive regulatory environment. Additionally, the SEC is emphasizing the importance of robust Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks to ensure comprehensive market oversight.

Drawing inspiration from the UK's successful fintech model, the SEC has recommended a phased licensing approach. This strategy aims to gradually integrate new technologies and regulatory practices, ensuring a smooth transition and minimizing disruptions. Furthermore, the SEC has proposed a potential partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to facilitate sandboxed crypto-fiat transactions. This collaboration is expected to attract sustainable investments and foster innovation within the capital market.

The adoption of Al-driven surveillance systems by the SEC represents a forward-thinking approach to market regulation. By leveraging advanced technologies, the SEC aims to create a more transparent, efficient, and resilient capital market. This initiative not only enhances regulatory capabilities but also positions Nigeria as a leader in the adoption of innovative financial technologies.

As Nigeria's capital market embraces these changes, stakeholders can look forward to a more secure and dynamic investment environment. The SEC's commitment to harnessing Al and other advanced technologies underscores its dedication to fostering sustainable growth and resilience in the capital market.



Nigeria Unveils Al-Powered Business Registration Portal to Fast-Track Startup Growth

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria has launched a groundbreaking Al-driven business registration portal, enabling companies to register within 30 minutes using only a director's National Identification Number (NIN). This move marks a major step forward in simplifying business formalisation, particularly for startups and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The new portal harnesses cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing,

and robotic process automation to streamline the traditionally cumbersome registration process. Key functions, including name reservation, document verification, and data validation, are now fully automated eliminating the need for manual intervention.

One of the system's standout features is its predictive analytics capability, which anticipates potential delays by analysing historical trends. This proactive approach not only boosts user experience with a more intuitive interface but also enhances fraud detection and safeguards the integrity of the registration process.

The benefits are far-reaching. Faster registration is expected to improve access to vital services such as bank accounts, credit facilities, and government grants—giving SMEs a significant leg-up. More broadly, officials anticipate a positive impact on economic growth, employment, tax revenue, and Nigeria's ranking in global ease of doing business indices.

However, experts caution that the Al portal alone cannot resolve all structural issues. With fewer than 10% of

Nigeria's estimated 40 million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) formally registered, challenges such as high share capital thresholds for foreign-owned businesses (currently set at \100 million) and sector-specific licensing bottlenecks persist.

While concerns around data privacy, system updates, and user support remain, the CAC's Al-powered platform is being hailed as a pivotal moment in Nigeria's digital transformation journey. If sustained by broader policy reforms, the initiative could become a blueprint for other nations seeking to modernise business regulation through artificial intelligence.



US Court Ruling on Anthropic and Meta Sets Global Benchmark for AI, Copyright, and Fair Use

A series of pivotal US court decisions in June have placed artificial intelligence, copyright, and digital ethics at the centre of global debate. These outcomes are already shaping legal and innovation strategies worldwide, with particular significance for Nigeria's rapidly developing Al sector.

On 24 June 2025, the US District Court for Northern California issued a landmark decision involving Anthropic, the developer of the Claude AI model. Judge William Alsup found that Anthropic's use of lawfully obtained copyrighted books for AI training was "exceedingly transformative", thus meeting the fair use standard. The court reasoned that training AI to create new, original content does not substitute or replicate the purpose of the original works, supporting innovation under the law.

However, the judgement drew a clear line: Anthropic's acquisition of over seven million pirated books from sites such as Library Genesis and Pirate Library Mirror was ruled as copyright infringement, not protected by fair use. While Anthropic may continue training its models with lawfully

sourced material, it now faces a separate trial over its use of pirated content, with potential damages reaching up to \$150,000 per title exposing the company to billions in liability. The court firmly rejected the notion that illegal acquisition of content can be excused by subsequent transformative use, underscoring the importance of both legality and innovation.

Anthropic welcomed the recognition of transformative use but disagreed with the court's stance on piracy, stating it is "evaluating its options". Meanwhile, authors' groups, such as the Authors Guild, criticised the decision for enabling what they see as large-scale commercial copying and signalled intentions to appeal.

On 25 June 2025, Meta, the parent company of Facebook, secured a notable victory in a copyright lawsuit brought by a group of authors, including Sarah Silverman and Ta-Nehisi Coates. The authors alleged that Meta had used their copyrighted books without permission to train its Al system, Llama. US District Judge Vince Chhabria ruled in Meta's favour, determining that the company's use of

the books constituted "fair use". This legal doctrine allows certain uses of copyrighted material without the owner's consent, provided specific conditions are met.

The judge's decision was based on the absence of evidence that Meta's AI would cause "market dilution" by producing content similar to the authors' works. However, the ruling was careful not to provide blanket approval for all AI training on copyrighted content. Judge Chhabria clarified that, in many cases, such use could still be unlawful. He also expressed sympathy for the authors' concerns about AI generating competing works and dismissed Meta's argument that restricting AI would harm the public interest.

These rulings are the first major judicial decisions on whether training AI on copyrighted content is fair use, and their influence is expected to extend far beyond the US. The European Union, for example, has already introduced stricter transparency and opt-out requirements under its

All Act and Copyright Directive. Other regions, including Australia and parts of Africa, are likely to feel the impact as well.

For Nigeria, these cases set important benchmarks. With fewer local legal precedents, Nigerian courts and policymakers may look to these rulings when addressing the grey areas of data sourcing and copyright in Al. As local developers race to build competitive models, the message is clear: relying on pirated or unlicensed content exposes organisations to serious legal and financial risks both domestically and abroad.

This watershed moment affirms that in the age of AI, how data is acquired is just as important as how it is used. For Nigerian innovators and regulators alike, it presents an opportunity to lead by example by embracing AI development that respects intellectual property rights, champions transparency, and aligns with international standards for ethical innovation.

Al in Healthcare: Microsoft's Diagnostic Breakthrough

Microsoft unveiled its Microsoft's Al Diagnostic Orchestrator (MAI-DxO, which it claims is four times more effective than doctors in diagnosing complex medical conditions.

It is an advanced system developed to emulate the collaborative approach of clinical teams by coordinating multiple AI agents, each with distinct roles such as hypothesis generation, test selection, quality assurance, and cost management. Unlike traditional single-model AI systems, MAI-DxO simulates the iterative reasoning process of real-world doctors, enabling more accurate and efficient diagnoses. In rigorous tests using complex case studies from the New England Journal of Medicine, it achieved diagnostic accuracy of up to 85% far surpassing generalist physicians, who averaged around 20%. It also

reduced diagnostic costs by between 20% and 70% through smarter, cost-effective test ordering.

Although still in the research phase, MAI-DXO holds strong potential for transforming healthcare, worldwide especially in places like Nigeria where access to specialists is limited and affordability is a major concern. Microsoft plans to integrate the tool into platforms such as Bing Health and Copilot, which already handle millions of health-related queries. With proper validation, regulatory oversight, and localisation to reflect local disease patterns and care pathways, MAI-DXO could support healthcare workers in making faster, more accurate diagnoses helping to close the gap in medical access and quality across under-resourced regions.

Meta Refuses to Sign EU's AI Code of Practice, Citing Regulatory Overreach

Meta has decided not to sign the European Union's Al Code of Practice, a move that has sparked significant debate and discussion within the tech and regulatory communities. The company's decision is rooted in its belief that the guidelines constitute regulatory overreach, which could potentially stifle innovation and growth within the Al sector.

The Code, set to take effect on 2 August 2025, is intended to guide the safe and transparent development of Al systems under the EU's broader Artificial Intelligence Act. It outlines best practices for general-purpose models, including provisions around transparency, copyright,

training data documentation, and risk management.

Meta's Global Affairs Chief, Joel Kaplan, has been vocal about the company's stance. Kaplan argues that the EU's implementation of the Al Act is overly restrictive and could throttle the development and deployment of advanced Al models in Europe. According to Kaplan, these regulations could also hinder European companies that are looking to build businesses based on Al technologies.

The EU's AI Code of Practice is designed to provide a framework for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence. It aims to ensure that AI systems are transparent, accountable, and fair. However, Meta contends that the current guidelines go beyond what is necessary and could impose unnecessary burdens on companies. The company has expressed concerns that the stringent requirements could lead to legal uncertainties and create an environment that is not conducive to innovation.

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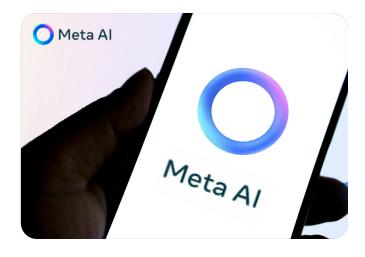
Meta's refusal to sign the code has put it at odds with other major tech companies that have committed to adhering to the EU's guidelines. For instance, OpenAI has already pledged to sign the code of practice, indicating a willingness to work within the regulatory framework set by the EU. This divergence in approach highlights the differing perspectives within the tech industry regarding the balance between regulation and innovation.

The European Commission has responded to Meta's

decision by stating that AI providers who do not sign the code will need to demonstrate alternative means of compliance. This could subject them to increased regulatory scrutiny, potentially leading to more stringent oversight and additional compliance requirements.

As the EU prepares to enforce its AI regulations, the tech industry is watching closely to see how this situation will unfold. Meta's refusal to sign the code could influence other companies to take a similar stance, potentially leading to a broader debate about the appropriate level of regulation for AI technologies. It remains to be seen whether Meta's decision will prompt a re-evaluation of the EU's AI Code of Practice or if it will stand firm in its regulatory approach.

In conclusion, Meta's decision not to sign the EU's AI Code of Practice underscores the ongoing tension between regulation and innovation in the tech industry. While the EU aims to ensure the responsible use of AI, companies like Meta are pushing back against what they perceive as overly restrictive guidelines. This debate is likely to continue as both sides seek to find a balance that promotes innovation while ensuring ethical and accountable AI development.





Home-grown Research with Global Recognition

Paper: Al and Music: Dissecting Nigerian Music Genres with Machine Learning

Authors: Sakinat O. Folorunso, Sulaimon A. Afolabi, Adeoye B. Owodeyi

In a groundbreaking study, researchers have introduced the ORIN Dataset, a unique and culturally rich collection of 478 traditional Nigerian songs spanning the Fuji, Juju, Highlife, Waka, and Apala genres. This dataset represents a significant step forward in the application of machine learning and explainable AI techniques to classify and preserve Nigeria's diverse musical heritage.

The study leverages advanced tools like Librosa for feature extraction and employs a variety of machine learning models, including k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forest, and XGBoost. Among these, the combination of XGBoost with SHAP (SHapley Additive explanations) explanations achieved the highest performance, boasting an impressive accuracy of 81.94% and a recall rate of 84.57%. This high level of accuracy

underscores the potential of AI in understanding and categorizing complex musical genres.

One of the key findings of the study is the distinctiveness of certain genres. Fuji, Apala, and Waka emerged as the most distinct genres, each with unique timbral and tempo features that set them apart. In contrast, Highlife and Juju exhibited significant overlap in their timbral characteristics, making them more challenging to classify. The study identified Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) and spectral features such as centroid and roll-off as crucial indicators in the classification process.

Beyond the technical results, this work highlights the importance of culturally grounded datasets in AI research. By focusing on traditional Nigerian music, the ORIN Dataset aligns with the mission of the Nigeria AI Collective to promote inclusive, localized, and explainable AI. This initiative not only advances the field of AI but also plays a vital role in cultural preservation, ensuring that Nigeria's rich musical heritage is documented and celebrated for future generations.

The ORIN Dataset and the insights derived from it represent a fusion of technology and culture, demonstrating how AI can be harnessed to preserve and understand the unique aspects of Nigeria's musical traditions. This study is a testament to the power of AI in cultural preservation and a step towards a more inclusive and diverse technological future.

Paper: Al in Nigeria: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategic Pathways

Co-authored by: Microsoft, Lagos Business School (LBS) and PwC

A recently published white paper titled "AI in Nigeria: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategic Pathways" explores the current landscape of artificial intelligence in Nigeria. The paper highlights numerous opportunities for AI integration and advocates for responsible and inclusive adoption across various sectors.

The opportunities for AI in Nigeria are vast and include diversifying the economy by optimising agriculture, enhancing manufacturing efficiency, fostering innovation in services, revolutionising healthcare diagnostics, supporting education delivery, driving financial inclusion, and bolstering fraud detection mechanisms.

Professor Olayinka David-West of LBS emphasises the necessity for ethical leadership and responsible AI systems. She notes that AI can amplify biases if the training data is exclusionary, underscoring the need for human intelligence to mitigate such risks.

Ola Williams from Microsoft highlighted Al's potential to accelerate growth and its increasing adoption among entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers. These stakeholders are actively exploring Al solutions to address local needs and challenges.

LBS is at the forefront of advancing ethical and sustainable AI adoption through various initiatives. These include skilling programmes aimed at public sector leaders and the launch of the AI Collective, which seeks to strengthen AI awareness and knowledge across research, media, and advocacy domains.

The report also references the work of Data Science Nigeria. Dr. Olubayo Adekanmbi stated that Al solves complex problems collaboratively with humans, enhancing fields like healthcare, agriculture, and governance. He also noted that collaborations with global organisations leverage Al for social impact.

Key recommendations from the white paper to drive AI adoption include integrating AI skills into school curriculum, enhancing AI governance frameworks, and strengthening digital infrastructure to support widespread AI implementation.

Opportunities and Events

An overview of upcoming events, available funding, proposal invitations, and other timely opportunities shared within the Community.

Women in AG Awards

Applications are open to women from all over the world who work in agriculture, agribusiness, animal farming, research and development, teaching, journalism or as bloggers and influencers.

Deadline - 31st July 2025

The Milken Motsepe Prize for AI and Manufacturing

This prize calls on established companies in Africa revolutionizing manufacturing value chains in emerging markets by leveraging AI and other emerging technologies. This prize offers \$2 million in total prizes, including a \$1 million Grand Prize. Participating companies will also gain access to exclusive networking and the opportunity to pitch to industry leaders and key decision-makers.

If your company is using AI and advanced data analytics to boost efficiency, reduce waste, and deliver scalable impact – this is your moment. They are looking for tech-powered solutions ready to drive job creation, unlock commercial growth, and ignite breakthroughs across the globe.

Deadline - 31st July 2025

Social Shifters Global Innovation Challenge 2025

Social Shifters Global Innovation Challenge is designed to give young impact founders a platform; providing project funding, unique leadership learning, and exclusive exposure through some of the world's biggest brands.

If you're a young founder (18-30 years) leading a project or startup with a focus on social impact, this Global Innovation Challenge is for you.

Deadline - 29th August 2025

Climate Justice Impact Fund for Africa (CJIFA)

The Climate Justice Impact Fund for Africa (CJIFA) was established to accelerate transformative climate action, the imperatives of climate justice and amplify voices of communities at the frontline of climate crisis in African countries and communities. It is aimed at producing lasting change that comes from the collective activism of those who are either structurally excluded, disempowered, exploited or stigmatized.

Deadline - 29th August 2025

Al4D Innovation Scaling Challenge: Supporting Responsible Al Innovations in Africa.

The Lab for Ethics, Policy and Scaling of AI (LEPSAI) at ACTS is calling for responsible AI innovations in Africa that are beyond proof-of-concept and ready to scale. Eligible projects in health, education, agriculture, gender inclusion, or climate resilience can receive up to \$100,000, technical support, mentorship, and visibility through AI4D networks.

Open to startups, researchers, universities, and consortia. Apply now to scale your impact.

Deadline - September 4, 2025

Vesalius Innovation Award 2025

Now in its sixth year, the Vesalius Innovation Award celebrates early-stage startups transforming scientific communication—especially in health, open science, and public engagement. The winner receives \$15,000, runners-up get \$5,000, plus exposure at the STM Innovator Fair 2025, mentorship, and investor access. This year's focus: research integrity, responsible AI, and sustainable knowledge transfer. Hosted by Karger Publishers, in honor of Andreas Vesalius.

Deadline - August 3, 2025

Dory Foundation Grant for AI-Driven Non-Profits

The Dory Foundation offers \$10,000–\$250,000 in unrestricted funding to early-stage non-profits. While there's no fixed theme, Al-led initiatives are of special interest. If your project uses Al to build a better future, you're encouraged to apply.

Deadline - No specified deadline yet

Upcoming Events

1. WAIE 2025 (World Al Industry Exhibition)

Date: 30 July - 1 August 2025

Location: Shenzhen, China

WAIE 2025 is one of the world's largest and most influential trade fairs dedicated to artificial intelligence and advanced industrial technologies. Now in its sixth edition, it serves as a central meeting point for global leaders in AI, robotics, manufacturing automation, and digital transformation.



2. Broadcasting and Digital Media **Convention: West Africa 2025**

Date: 6 -7 August 2025

Location: Marriott Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria

The upcoming Broadcasting and Digital Media Convention: West Africa 2025 will place a strong spotlight on the transformative influence of AI within the media and broadcasting sector. Themed "Broadcasting and Content Publishing in the Al Infused Digital Ecosystem," the event is designed as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and exploring new business opportunities. It will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions.



HELINA 2025: Africa's Premier Conference on Digital Health and Health Informatics

Date: 26 -28 August 2025

Location: Gaborone, Botswana

HELINA 2025 will take place at the University of Botswana Conference Centre. It brings together researchers, policymakers, implementers, and private sector leaders to share research, case studies, and best practices in health informatics. This year's event co-hosted by the Health Informatics Association of Botswana, UB's eHealth Research Unit, BoHIMA, and Botswana's Ministry of Health focuses on how digital technologies can transform healthcare delivery across the continent.











Deep Learning Indaba (DLI)

Date: August 17-22, 2025

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

Africa's largest AI and machine learning conference will gather top minds from across the continent. With workshops on AI for business, finance, and climate, plus keynotes from global leaders, DLI is the go-to event for forging crossborder partnerships and understanding Africa's evolving AI landscape.





5. GITEX Nigeria 2025

Date: September 1-4, 2025

Location: Abuja & Lagos, Nigeria

The summit unites policymakers, industry leaders, and tech experts to explore Al's transformative role in public services and digital transformation. With a focus on innovation and investment, the summit is a critical initiative for advancing Africa's digital leadership and aligning with the National Digital Economy Policy to drive sustainable governance solutions for West Africa's future.

6. Al in Health Africa Conference

Date: 23 -24 September 2025

Location: Kampala, Uganda

Organized by the Health AI for All Network and Makerere University, the second AI in Health Africa Conference will convene experts, policymakers, and innovators to explore AI solutions tailored to African healthcare systems. The event will focus on South-to-South collaboration, localization of AI technologies, integration of indigenous knowledge, and the role of generative AI in innovation and sustainability.



Thought Leadership



Dr. Olubayo Adekanmbi (CEO, Data Science Nigeria)

On the necessity of locally-rooted AI:

"Al is about people, not about technology. And if Al will serve the people, it must understand the people—the richness of their language, their culture, their epistemology, their value system."

"The data must be collected by the people, the models must be built by the people, and the product must be nuanced by the people."

(Panellist at the Gates Foundation's Goalkeepers, Lagos, 2025)

Read more: <u>Channels TV</u>



Johnson Chukwu (CEO, Cowry Asset Management)

On AI and Financial Inclusion:

"Artificial Intelligence is no longer futuristic, it's fundamental. From risk management to rural access, AI is transforming financial services into faster, smarter, and more inclusive systems."

(SUPERNEWS AI Conference, Lagos, 2025)

Read more: Blueprint



Judge William Alsup
(U.S. District Court, Northern District of California)

On Generative AI and fair use boundaries:

"Training AI on lawfully acquired books is like feeding a brain, it's transformative and legal. But uploading pirated content? That's not innovation. That's infringement." (Anthropic Copyright Case Ruling, June 2025)

Read more: The Guardian

Introduction to Our 13-week packed Learning Series

Are you a visionary business leader or a forward-thinking decision-maker ready to steer your organisation into the Al-powered future? Welcome to our exclusive and immersive 13-week learning series, meticulously designed to demystify the world of artificial intelligence and equip you with the knowledge and strategies to drive innovation, efficiency, and growth.

It is a deep dive into the heart of AI innovation. On the learning content, we will explore a comprehensive curriculum that covers the foundational aspects of AI, its role in business growth, efficiency, governance, ethics, and much more. You'll gain invaluable insights and practical strategies to harness the power of AI, transforming your organisation and staying ahead in the competitive landscape.















What You'll Gain:

Strategic Insight: Understand how AI can transform your business operations and strategic decision-making.

Practical Knowledge: Acquire the skills to implement AI solutions that drive efficiency and innovation.

Competitive Edge: Stay ahead of the curve by leveraging the latest Al technologies and trends.

Confidence: Equip yourself with the knowledge to lead your organisation confidently into the future.

Comprehensive Understanding: From AI governance and ethical considerations to its role in sustainability and social good, you'll gain a holistic view of Al's potential and challenges.

Join Us on This Exciting Journey!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be at the forefront of the AI revolution. Subscribe to our channel and hit the notification bell so you don't miss any updates.

Click the link below to access the complete playlist and embark on your learning journey:

Follow us on Our Social Media Pages

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