

India warns Zuckerberg to apologise to Modi

India's government has given Mark Zuckerberg an ultimatum to apologise for Facebook's brief removal of a video by prime minister Narendra Modi or lose the social platform's safe harbour protection. A parliamentary committee claimed that the removal of Mr Modi's video from Facebook last month was an "attack on democracy".

If Mr Zuckerberg did not apologise within three days, it said, the government would revoke Facebook's safe harbour clause, exposing the Meta platform and its executives to legal action, including criminal proceedings, over content posted on it. "Mark Zuckerberg will have to apologise," the committee said. "Otherwise, a case may be filed."

A video message by Mr Modi posted on Instagram on 23 July was temporarily restricted when it was later shared on Facebook. In what was his first selfie-style video on Instagram, Mr Modi addressed the "cockroach" protests that forced the resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. India summoned the American tech giant's executives to lodge a complaint after the video with more than 400 million views disappeared from Facebook.

"We have asked Meta to come in at the highest level and explain what is happening," S Krishnan, secretary at the ministry of electronics and information technology, said on 30 July.