



MINISTÈRE
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REVUE DE PRESSE SECTORIELLE NUMÉRIQUE

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En bref

NUMÉRIQUE :

- Les levées de fonds des startups indiennes ont chuté de 80 % en glissement annuel et certaines start-up retardent beaucoup leur introduction en bourse.
- Le producteur d'électricité indien TATA Power a été victime d'une cyberattaque, les systèmes essentiels restent fonctionnels et l'origine de l'attaque non identifiée.
- La CCI (*Competition Commission of India*) inflige une amende de 113 MUSD à Google pour abus de position dominante - les consommateurs étant obligés de recourir au système de paiement de Google pour les applications téléchargées sur l'Application Store.
- Le gouvernement indien annonce des changements dans les règles IT publiées en 2021 en introduisant des « Grievance Appellate Committees » pour régler à l'amiable les litiges liés aux médias sociaux, l'*Internet Freedom Foundation* craint que ces comités conduisent à un contrôle par le gouvernement de l'expression des citoyens sur les réseaux sociaux.

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- Mme Revathi Mannepalli, devient la première femme d'un pays asiatique à être élue membre du Conseil de réglementation des radiocommunications (RRB) de l'Union internationale des télécommunications, conseil en charge de la régulation mondiale des fréquences pour les télécommunications et de l'attribution des orbites pour les satellites.
- 42 entreprises, dont Samsung, Nokia, Jabil, Rising Star (Foxconn) et Flextronics, ainsi que des acteurs locaux comme HFCL, ITI, VVDN et Tejas Networks, ont été sélectionnés par le DoT (*Department of Telecommunications*) pour le programme *Production Linked Incentive Scheme* visant à soutenir la fabrication et le design en Inde d'équipements de télécommunication et de networking.

Revue de presse

1. NUMÉRIQUE

Funding in Indian startups shrinks by more than half

TechCrunch, 11/10/2022

We are getting a more realistic update on the startup funding landscape in India, and as is true elsewhere, all the figures are in red in the South Asian market.

Indian startups raised \$3 billion in the quarter that ended in September, down 57% from the previous quarter and 80% year-over-year, market intelligence platform Tracxn said in a report Tuesday. The figures are remarkable for many reasons, the most obvious being that startups are finding it difficult to raise capital at a time when most top tier funds in India — Sequoia India and Southeast Asia, Lightspeed Venture Partners, Accel, Elevation Capital, Matrix Partners India — have raised record large funds this year.

Second, the funding crunch appears to be more acute in India. Globally, funding was down 53% year-on-year and 33% quarter-on-quarter, according to data compiled by Crunchbase.

In Q3, the Indian startup ecosystem undertook 334 funding rounds, down from 674 in Q3 2021. The check sizes are also increasingly getting smaller for startups across all funding stages. Late-stage startups that raised capital secured \$42 million in funding on an average, down over 70% from \$142 million during the same period last year, Tracxn said.

Investors globally have become cautious in recent months as market reverses most of the gains from the 13-year-long bull cycle. As a result, startups are increasingly finding it difficult to raise new rounds of funding at a valuation higher than that of the previous round. Due diligence, which largely went out of fashion last year, has

made a strong return as most deals are taking weeks, if not longer, for evaluation.

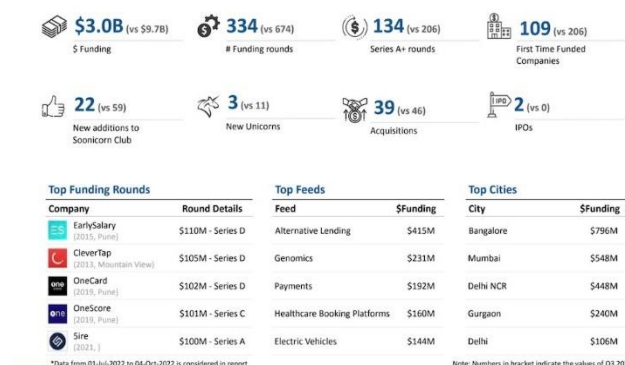
Masayoshi Son, founder of SoftBank, which deployed over \$3 billion in India last year, warned in August that the funding winter may continue for longer because some unicorn founders are unwilling to accept lower valuations.

It doesn't appear that things will be improving anytime soon. Byju's, India's most valuable startup, has postponed its plans to file to go public this year. Budget hotel chain Oyo, once valued at \$10 billion, is looking to list early next year, but its largest backer has cut its valuation to \$2.7 billion.

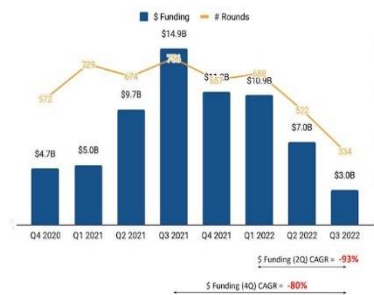
"India is currently experiencing a funding slowdown which is expected to continue for the next 12-18 months and the effects of the funding slowdown are expected to intensify going forward," said Neha Singh, co-founder of Tracxn, which on a separate note has just filed for an IPO.

Some charts and other interesting stats from the report:

India Tech Snapshot - Q3 2022



Q-o-Q Funding Trends



Top Funding Rounds in last 8 quarters

Company	Funding Round
Flipkart (2021, Bangalore)	\$3.6B - Series J
Swiggy (2021, Bangalore)	\$1.3B - Series J
Paytm (2021, Noida)	\$1.1B - Series H
BPOUS (2021, Bangalore)	\$965M - Series F
BPOUS (2021, Bangalore)	\$864M - Series F
VerSe (2021, Bangalore)	\$805M - Series J
PhonePe (2021, Bangalore)	\$700M - Series D
Swiggy (2021, Bangalore)	\$700M - Series J
Zomato (2021, Gurgaon)	\$660M - Series J
Endarius (2021, Mumbai)	\$650M - Series E

Most Active Investors: VC - Seed

#	Investor Name	Country	# Overall Investments	# Investments in Geo* - Q3 2022	Notable Investments in Geo*
1	Blume Ventures	India	227	17	Cashify (\$136M), Servify (\$119M), Yulu Bikes (\$105M)
2	Beenext	Singapore	202	14	ShipRocket (\$121M), Servify (\$119M), M2P Fintech (\$110M)
3	IPV	India	136	12	BluSmart (\$56.8M), Prescinto (\$10.0M), Wnuuail (\$7.0M)
4	Zone4 Capital	India	99	9	Yulu Bikes (\$105M), BetterPlace (\$53.7M), Kuku FM (\$47.3M)
5	Qed Innovation Labs	India	24	9	Curefoods (\$118M), M2P Fintech (\$110M), Deserv (\$28.0M)
6	Titan Capital	India	196	8	DotPe (\$93.5M), Vegrow (\$40.5M), Powerplay (\$18.0M)
7	Chiratae Ventures	India	159	7	Lenskart (\$1.0B), Biongo (\$214M), EarlySalary (\$174M)
8	Anicut Capital	India	69	7	SUGAR Cosmetics (\$131M), KYXX (\$93.0M), Wingreens (\$17.3M)
9	GrayCell Ventures	India	99	7	Yulu Bikes (\$105M), Mopscare (\$23.7M), Agrikul (\$14.8M)
10	SuSEED Innovation	India	33	7	CorrCent (\$2.3M), OckyPocky (\$1.2M), Seekho App (\$719K)

Most Active Investors: VC - Early Stage

#	Investor Name	Country	# Overall Investments	# Investments in Geo* - Q3 2022	Notable Investments in Geo*
1	Sequoia Capital	United States	1701	18	Rivigo (\$301M), OneScore (\$278M), OneCard (\$227M)
2	Accel	United States	983	15	Book My Show (\$328M), Biongo (\$214M), CleverTap (\$182M)
3	Elevation	India	158	10	Book My Show (\$328M), Rivigo (\$301M), SUGAR Cosmetics (\$131M)
4	Tiger Global Management	United States	752	10	Rivigo (\$301M), Upstox (\$218M), Biongo (\$214M)
5	Matrix Partners India	India	150	8	OneScore (\$278M), OneCard (\$277M), Vegrow (\$40.5M)
6	Kalaari Capital	India	128	8	Upstox (\$218M), Hiver (\$46.2M), Signzy (\$38.7M)
7	Temasek	Singapore	440	7	Lenskart (\$1.0B), ShipRocket (\$121M), OneScore (\$278M)
8	Bessemer Venture Partners	United States	739	5	Rivigo (\$301M), Rupeek (\$164M), Cashify (\$136M)
9	LightSpeed Venture Partners	United States	758	5	Pixel (\$88.8M), Vegrow (\$40.5M), Exponent Energy (\$20.6M)
10	Mayfield	United States	305	5	BluSmart (\$56.8M), Deep Rooted (\$18.0M), Agrikul (\$14.8M)

Most Active Investors: PE

#	Investor Name	Country	# Overall Investments	# Investments in Geo* - Q3 2022	Notable Investments in Geo*
1	Vista Capital	India	105	13	Rivigo (\$301M), WayCool (\$272M), Biongo (\$214M)
2	Lightrock	United Kingdom	83	3	ShipRocket (\$121M), WayCool (\$272M), Nyxo (\$179M)
3	Warburg Pincus	United States	415	2	Rivigo (\$301M), Avance (\$84.4M)
4	L Catterton	United States	262	2	SUGAR Cosmetics (\$131M), SUGAR Cosmetics (\$81.6M)
5	FMO	Netherlands	114	2	WayCool (\$272M), Innovo (\$130M)
6	Westbridge	Mauritius	125	2	Sunstone (\$68.1M), Hypertrack (\$33.5M)
7	Verinvest	Belgium	56	2	Kuku FM (\$47.3M), Eka Care (\$19.5M)
8	Schneider Adweq	Switzerland	27	2	Lenskart (\$1.0B), Biongo (\$214M)
9	Caspian	India	41	2	Cygnr Energy (\$28.6M), Ayekart (\$6.3M)
10	Agility	Morocco	11	2	ShipRocket (\$121M), Kibbea (\$245K)

Image Credits: Tracxn

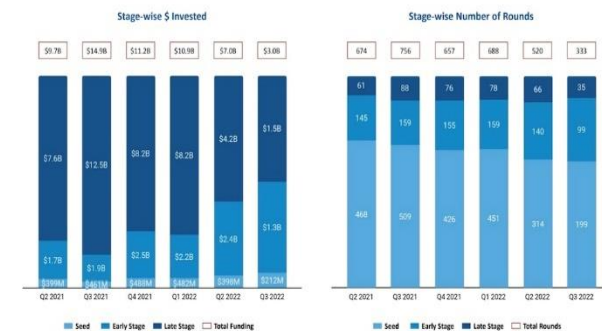
TATA Power, a top power producer in India, confirms cyberattack

TechCrunch, 15/10/2022

Tata Power, a leading power generation company in India, has confirmed it was hit by a cyberattack.

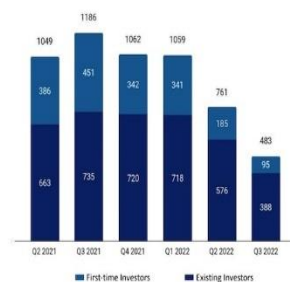
In a brief statement released on Friday, the Mumbai-based company said that the attack impacted some of its IT systems.

Q-o-Q Stage-wise Funding Trends



Q-o-Q Investors

Q-o-Q # of unique institutional investors in India Tech



Top Institutional Investors with in Q3 2022

Stage	Investor name	# Investments in Q3 2022
Seed Stage	Blume Ventures	17 (▲43%)
	Beenext	14 (▼30%)
	IPV	12 (▼48%)
Early Stage	Sequoia Capital	18 (▼68%)
	Accel	15 (▼58%)
	Tiger Global Management	10 (▼100%)
Late Stage	GIC	2 (▼67%)
	The Rise Fund	2 (-)
	Sofina	2 (▼75%)

Most Active Investors: VC - Seed

#	Investor Name	Country	# Overall Investments	# Investments in Geo* - Q3 2022	Notable Investments in Geo*
1	Blume Ventures	India	227	17	Cashify (\$136M), Servify (\$119M), Yulu Bikes (\$105M)
2	Beenext	Singapore	202	14	ShipRocket (\$121M), Servify (\$119M), M2P Fintech (\$110M)
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"The company has taken steps to retrieve and restore the systems. All critical operational systems are functioning; however, as a measure of abundant precaution, restricted access and preventive checks have been put in place for employee and customer-facing portals and touchpoints," it said in its filing (PDF) with local stock exchanges.

Tata Power did not share any further specifics on the matter. When asked by TechCrunch, a PR representative refused to answer questions related to the nature of the attack and its impact on the organization, and declined to say whether any data was stolen. "As stated in the Statement, the Company has taken steps to retrieve and restore the systems. All critical operational systems are functioning," the representative said.

The company generates, transmits and retails power in the South Asian nation and aims to double the share of clean energy in its portfolio to 60% in five years from about a third now, with a target to become net zero by 2045. It claims to have an installed and managed electricity generation capacity of 13,974MW, which is the highest in the country.

In the recent past, Tata Power has also shown interest in growing its business through rooftop solar and microgrids, storage solutions, solar pumps, EV charging infrastructure and home automation. The company serves more than 12 million consumers via its distributor companies.

The Indian government has highlighted the cybersecurity of the country's nationwide electricity network as a challenge in its public statements. A report by U.S.-based cybersecurity company Recorded Future in April alleged that Chinese state-sponsored hackers had targeted the Indian power sector in a long-term project. The Ministry of External Affairs of India spokesperson Arindam Bagchi responded to that report and said the country had not raised this issue with China, according to a media report. China's foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian reportedly refuted the allegation.

Google fined Rs 936 crore in second antitrust penalty this month

ET Tech, 25/10/2022

CCI fined Google \$113.04 million on Tuesday as it concluded yet another antitrust probe, finding the global tech giant guilty of abusing its dominant position to promote its payments app and in-app payment system.

India's anti-trust regulator, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), on October 25 imposed a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies. The commission has also issued a cease-and-desist order in which the regulator prescribed eight corrective measures that Google Play needs to implement to correct the anticompetitive practices.

This is the second CCI order against Google in the past week. The antitrust watchdog had on October 20 imposed a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets with its Android mobile operating system (OS), and prescribed a set of about a dozen key measures that the company has to comply with.

People with direct knowledge of the matter said that CCI is in process of issuing orders against Google in at least two more cases.

At the crux of the case is a policy of Google Play store that requires app developers to exclusively use Google Play's Billing System (GPBS) for all customer billings. This system has to be used not only for receiving payments from the apps but also for in-app purchases made by customers. Any App developer who doesn't use GPBS is not allowed to list his product on the Google Play store.

"Making access to the Play Store dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases is one-sided and arbitrary and devoid of any legitimate business interest," the CCI said in a press release on Tuesday.

"The app developers are left bereft of the inherent choice to use payment processor of their liking from the open market."

CCI directed Google to "not restrict app developers from using any third party billing/payment processing services".

Selling of in-app digital goods constitutes an important means for app developers to monetize their creations/innovations. However, for in-app digital goods to be distributed to purchasing users, developers must configure their apps so that all purchases of the digital goods go through Google's payment system, which processes the transactions.

In a release, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has also directed to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.

In the previous order, the CCI said Google forced app developers to use its in-app payment system, noting selling of in-app digital goods makes up an important means for developers to monetize their work.

The regulator said makers of devices that run on Android shouldn't be forced to pre-install Google services on their devices. It also asked Google to provide fair access to all stakeholders, among other things.

It had called CCI's previous decision "a major setback for Indian consumers and businesses", adding it will review the order and decide next steps.

Google has faced criticism globally for mandating that software developers using its app store must use a proprietary in-app payment system that charges commissions of up to 30% on purchases made within an app. Of late, the company has begun to allow alternative payment systems in more countries.

Google's Android operating system powers 97% of India's 600 million smartphones, according to Counterpoint Research.

Govt notifies changes to IT Rules 2021, grievance panel to hear complaints

ET Telecom, 29/10/2022

New Delhi: The government on Friday officially notified changes to the Information

Technology Rules of 2021, paving the way for the setting up of one or more centrally appointed grievance appellate committees (GACs).

"The Central Government shall, by notification, establish one or more Grievance Appellate Committees within three months from the date of commencement of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022," the notification said.

The idea behind setting up of the committees is to give users of social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter, recourse — other than approaching the courts — to settle complaints.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022, provide a shorter timeline of 24 hours to act on sensitive content, and require significant social media intermediaries to "respect all the rights accorded to the citizens under the Constitution, including in Articles 14, 19 and 21".

They also give a breather to intermediaries on some aspects, such as due diligence.

Commenting on the amended rules, Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the "privacy policy and user agreements of intermediary" would now be made available in all the official Indian languages and would "empower users". Minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the rules were the "next step" in the government's duty to ensure an "open, safe, trusted and accountable" internet for all digital citizens.

ET reported on Friday that the ministry of electronics and information technology was likely to notify the IT Rules in the next few days.

Criticism from Advocacy Groups

The government will go ahead with its plan to put in place government-appointed GACs within three months of the notification, ET had said. The move, however, drew sharp criticism from public policy and advocacy groups.

A centrally appointed GAC means the government has "control over content moderation decisions by social media companies", they said.

The GAC "is essentially a government censorship body that would hear appeals against the decisions of social media platforms to remove content or not, thus making bureaucrats arbiters of our online free speech", said advocacy group Internet Freedom Foundation in a series of tweets.

"This will incentivise platforms to remove/suppress any speech unpalatable to the government or those exerting political pressure and increase government control and power since the government will be effectively able to also decide what content must be displayed by platforms," the Foundation added.

Some experts welcomed the move to establish GACs but pointed out that it would be difficult for the government to "adequately staff" these committees.

"In addition, in order to keep the volume of appeals made to such committees within reasonable standards, the government should prescribe specific parameters which would entitle a user to appeal against the grievance redressal officer," said HIRAK Mukhopadhyay, principal associate at law firm Khaitan & Co.

The proposed amendments to the IT Rules were first released for public consultation in June.

Some Relief

The rules, however, provide some relief to social media intermediaries. While the IT Rules of 2021 mandated that social media intermediaries would be responsible for informing users not "to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information" not permitted under the law, the amended rules only say that intermediaries should take "all reasonable measures" to inform users of these rules.

"This means that the mandate is not a precondition for availing safe harbour and platforms are only required to take steps to obviate publication of harmful content on a best-effort basis," said Kazim Rizvi, founder of public policy advocacy group The Dialogue.

"As technology expands and the nature of online harms diversify, it is essential to ensure adequate accountability from the intermediaries to keep their platforms safe."

The GACs shall consist of one chairperson and two whole-time members appointed by the government. Of these, one member shall be ex-officio, while the other two shall be independent members, the notification read.

"Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Grievance Officer may prefer an appeal to the Grievance Appellate Committee within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of communication from the Grievance Officer," as per the notification.

ET has reported previously that the IT ministry had decided to go ahead with the contentious proposal to appoint multiple GACs despite the industry lobbying for a self-regulatory body.

2. Télécommunications

India's ITU win a diplomatic success

ETGovernment, 27/10/2022

NEW DELHI: India, led by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) won the coveted post of a board member at the Radio Regulation Board (RRB) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), perceived as a diplomatic win, and would enable the country to effectively work towards spectrum dispute resolutions among countries. Early this month, India's Representative Revathi Mannepalli became a member of the regulatory forum of the United Nations (UN)-led agency after a gap of eight years, with a record margin of 139 votes out of 180.

Of the three Asia and Australasia seats, two went to Majed Alkahtani from Saudi Arabia who secured support from 132 countries, and China's Jianjun Cheng who obtained 123 votes at Bucharest.

"During the recent G-20 meeting, all countries were aware of Revathi's candidature. She had good credentials," Minister of Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw Wednesday said during her felicitation ceremony.

"This is the time when satcom (satellite communications) is taking a big leap and India can effectively take regulations forward," the minister said, adding that the country would become a benchmark in regulatory regime worldwide in line with prime minister Narendra Modi's vision of technology leadership.

Vaishnaw further said that the time has come when India comes first in making global policies and ITU regulations.

The ITU's regulatory board deals with satellite and terrestrial spectrum related issues and interference resolutions.

Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India said that it had become an easier task for the ministry to do advocacy for her candidature due to her exceptional credentials.

External Affairs Ministry (EAM) channelised Indian missions and embassies overseas, seeking the win of India's candidate.

"Country's presence in RRB is not only of great value to India but for the board itself too. Officers worked hard to make this happen," K Rajaraman, secretary, Department of Telecommunications said.

Mannepalli heads the spectrum regulation division of the telecom department (DoT), and has more than two decades of experience in spectrum management, coordination with ITU-Asia, and contributed towards the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC).

She became the first women ever candidate for RRB in Asia region, and elected for 2023-2026 term.

"With convergence of satellite and terrestrial networks, it will be quite an interesting and challenging task. Regulations are also not evolved yet," she said, adding that the department would contribute to ITU that has a large expertise gap.

"We can work towards protecting the country's interests as well as other developing nations look towards India," Mannepalli added.

Early this year, ITU dismissed location sought for one of the satellites for India due to the absence of Indian representation in the 12-member board.

"This is a major diplomatic win for India, since the last time when India lost the RRB elections in 2014, and did not contest the 2018 elections," Bharat Bhatia, president, ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) said, adding that India was also

elected to be a member of the ITU management council with overwhelming majority.

India will effectively contribute to global spectrum regulations and satellite orbit allocation over the next four years, according to him.

She also played an instrumental role in obtaining orbital rights for the South Asia satellite launched by India in 2017, to offer essential services to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries.

With a B.Tech in Electronics and Communications from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Hyderabad, Mannepalli is also a post graduate in Public Policy.

Dot OKs 42 firms for telecom products PLI, incl 17 for design PLI

The Economic Times, 31/10/2022

The ministry of communications has expanded the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom and networking products with a total of 42 companies, including 28 medium and small enterprises (MSMEs), cleared for receiving sops for a total investment of Rs 4,115 crore.

Of the selected firms, 17 companies have applied for an additional incentive of 1% under design-led manufacturing criteria, the government said in a statement Monday. The selected companies under the scheme include global majors like Samsung, Nokia, Jabil, Rising Star (Foxconn) and Flextronics as well as local players like HFCL, ITI, VVDN and Tejas Networks etc.

"India is poised to emerge as a design and manufacturing hub for telecom and networking equipment," the government said in the statement.

Additional sales of Rs 2.45 lakh crore are expected to be generated while more than 44,000 additional jobs are likely to be created over the five-year scheme period, the government said.

For perspective, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had notified the PLI scheme for telecom and networking products in February 2021 with an outlay of Rs 12,195 crore. A total of 31 companies were given approval on October 14, 2021 for the scheme.

The scheme was amended in April this year to facilitate design-led manufacturing with an additional incentive rate of 1% over and above existing incentive rates. A sum of Rs 4,000 crore from the Rs 12,195 crore was set aside for it. The scheme was extended by a year as most selected companies failed to achieve the production targets due to Covid-related supply chain disruptions.

The existing companies under the PLI scheme were allowed to add more products and apply under design-led PLI scheme. They were also given the benefit of shifting their five-year PLI scheme period by one year. Twenty-two companies had availed this opportunity of shifting their first year, of which 13 companies have applied as fresh applicants.

The DoT, in its statement, said the enthusiastic response from domestic and global firms to manufacture telecom equipment in the country indicates strong confidence in initiatives of the government.

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