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An Institute for Civil Services

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FORTNIGHTLY COMPILATION

1st - 15th FEBRUARY, 2020

IAS MOCK INTERVIEW

India's Most Experienced Interview Panel is Here!

R.P. Aggarwal
IAS (Retd.)

Dr. N.K. Sahu
IES, Former Joint Secretary - HRD Ministry

Amb. Anil Trigunayat
Former Ambassadors & Secretary, Association of Indian Diplomats (Former Ambassadors)

Devi Prasad
IES, Celebrated Budget and Economic Survey Expert

S.B. Singh
Well known IAS Interview Mentor

S.B.S Tyagi
IPS (Retd.)

G.S. Patnaik
IAS, Former Vice Chairman - DDA, Former Adviser to Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

H. Bhusan
Serving Bureaucrat, Government of India

R.P. Sinha
IAS, Former Secretary - Govt of India

- and many other Senior Civil Servants and Academicians who will part of the board...

B.K. Pandey
IES, Former Adviser - NITI Aayog

K.D. Singh
IFoS, Former Principal Conservator of Forests - Arunachal Pradesh

HIGHLIGHTS

- Question on Debatable Topic for Self-paced Preparation
- Analysis of Controversial Topics & Tips to handle
- DAF Analysis
- 1 Mock Interview
- Mock Feedback
- Video Recording

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CONTENTS

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1 NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY

The government has announced that a National Logistics Policy will be released soon, which will clarify the roles of the Union Government, State Governments and key regulators.

India's Logistics Sector:

- India's logistics sector is highly defragmented and the aim is to reduce the logistics cost from the present 14% of GDP to less than 10% by 2022.
- The Indian logistics sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people and improving the sector will facilitate a 10 % decrease in indirect logistics cost leading to the growth of 5 to 8% in exports.
- Further, it is estimated that the worth of the Indian logistics market will be around USD 215 billion in the next two years compared to about USD 160 billion at present.

Significance of national policy:

- The policy will create a single-window e-logistics market and focus on the generation of employment, skills and make MSMEs competitive.
- It will improve India's trade competitiveness, create more jobs, improve India's performance in global rankings and pave the way for India to become a logistics hub.

2 IVRI RELEASES LIVE ATTENUATED CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF) CELL CULTURE VACCINE (INDIGENOUS STRAIN)

- The government has released the Live attenuated Classical Swine Fever Vaccine (IVRI-CSF-BS) Technology developed by **ICAR -Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar**.
- CSF is one of the most important diseases of pigs causing high mortality with an annual loss of approx. Rs.4.299 billion.

About the vaccine:

- The vaccine is safe, potent, does not revert to virulence and provide protective immunity from day 14 of the vaccination till 24 months studied so far.
- Since the cell culture vaccine is from a foreign strain (Weybridge Strain, UK), IVRI has further developed a new CSF Cell Culture Vaccine by attenuating an indigenous virulent CSF virus in cell culture.
- The vaccine virus has very high titre and lakhs of doses can be produced very easily in cell culture and country's requirement can be easily fulfilled using this new vaccine.

3 SOPHISTICATED ANALYTICAL & TECHNICAL HELP INSTITUTES (SATHI)

- To address the need for building shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in the country, the Department of Science & Technology has launched a unique scheme called "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)".

- These Centres are expected to house major analytical instruments to provide common services of high-end analytical testing, thus avoiding duplication and reduced dependency on foreign sources.
- These would be operated with a transparent, open access policy.
- DST has already set up three such centres in the country, one each at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and BHU at a total cost of Rs 375 Cores. It is planned to set up five SATHI Centres every year for the next four years.

4 MAJOR PORT AT VADHAVAN IN MAHARASHTRA

- The Union Cabinet has given its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra.
- Vadhavan port will be developed on the "landlord model". A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) as the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project.

It will be 13th major port. Currently, India has 12 major ports – **Deendayal, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar, V O Chidambaranar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia).**

5 INTERNATIONAL GANDHI AWARDS FOR LEPROSY

- The President of India presented the **International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy** to **Dr N.S. Dharmashaktu** under the Indian nomination (individual) category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category.
- Leprosy is an infectious disease that causes severe, disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage in the arms, legs, and skin areas around the body.
- The disease has been around since ancient times, often surrounded by terrifying, negative stigmas and tales of leprosy patients being shunned as outcasts.
- India has accomplished levels of leprosy elimination defined as less than one case per ten thousand population.

6 LUCKNOW DECLARATION

The first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave held in Lucknow adopted the Lucknow Declaration.

About the Declaration:

- The Lucknow Declaration is signed by the defence ministers and representatives of 50 African countries with Indian defence minister (Rajnath Singh) to recognise common security challenges such as terrorism, extremism, piracy and trafficking.
- Besides that, the agreement aims to increase cooperation in securing sea lines of communication, preventing maritime crimes, disaster, piracy, illegal fishing through the sharing of information and other measures.
- Under this agreement, India will provide Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Fast Interceptor Boats, body and vehicle armour, Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Dornier aircraft, and arms and ammunition to African counterparts.

7 SCIENCE AND APPLIED RESEARCH ALLIANCE AND SUPPORT (SARAS)

- Coal India's flagship subsidiary NCL has set up a centre named "Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support"(SARAS) to promote Innovation, Research & Development and skill development along with improving company's operational efficiency and utilize resources at an optimum level.

- The centre will help and enable the company in Integration of Innovation and Research for enhancing coal production, productivity, and safety in mines.

- Besides, the SARAS would also help establish centres of excellence to ensure technical support to R&D along with thrust on quality skill development and employment to local youths in and around the company's operational area.

8 EASE OF LIVING INDEX AND MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE INDEX 2019

- To help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives and empower them to use evidence to plan, implement & monitor their performance, two Assessment Frameworks, viz. **Ease of Living Index (EoLI)** and **Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019** have been launched by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.**

- Both these indices are designed to assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities.

  ◉ With the **Municipal Performance Index 2019**, the Ministry has sought to assess the performance of municipalities based on five enablers namely Service, Finance, Planning, Technology and Governance which have been further divided into 20 sectors which will be evaluated across 100 indicators.

  ◉ **Ease of Living Index** is aimed at providing a holistic view of Indian cities - beginning from the services provided by local bodies, the effectiveness of the administration, the outcomes generated through these services in terms of the liveability within cities and, finally, the citizen perception of these outcomes.

9 UTTARAKHAND'S FIRST HELI SERVICES UNDER UDAN FLAGGED OFF

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) operationalized the first-ever helicopter services from Dehradun's Sahastradhara helipad to Gauchar, and Chinyalisaur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Government of India.

- The inauguration of the helicopter routes in the Uttrakhand region is in line with the objective of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to enhance the aerial connectivity of the hilly areas in the country.

- UDAN, which stands for 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik', aims to make air travel affordable and widespread.

10	MT. ACONCAGUA

- Kaamya Karthikeyan, a class VII student of Navy Children School (NCS), Mumbai, became the youngest girl in the world to **summit Mt. Aconcagua**, **the highest peak in South America and outside of Asia.**
- She summited the mountain peak of 6962 m height on 01 Feb 2020 and unfurled the Indian tricolour.
- Aconcagua is located in **Argentina**, in the province of **Mendoza**, and lies 70 miles (112 kilometres) northwest of the provincial capital, Mendoza, and 9.3 miles (15 km) from the border with Chile.
- Part of the **Andes mountain range**, Aconcagua is the **second-highest of the Seven Summits** (the highest peaks on each continent), behind only Mount Everest in Asia.
- At 22,837 feet (6,961 meters), not only is it the highest mountain in South America, it is the tallest peak in all of the Americas, as well as the Southern and Western Hemispheres.

11	HUNAR HAATS

- The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs inaugurated the 'Hunar Haat' in Indore to promote artisans.
- These Haat aim to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.
- The first Hunar Haat was organized in Jaipur in August-September, 2019.

12	13ᵗʰ CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

- The **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the Convention on the **Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, an environmental treaty under the aegis of **United Nations Environment Programme**, is going to be hosted by India during 17th to 22nd February 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- **Theme:** The theme of CMS COP13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home". The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by 'Kolam', a traditional art form from southern India.
- As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years. The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals (CMS) since 1983.
- The Government of India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species.
- Seven species that include **Dugong, Whale Shark, Marine Turtle (two species),** have been identified for preparation of Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.

13	STAR RATING OF MINES

- In order to promote green, safe and sustainable mining practices using technology as a tool, Ministry of Coal (MoC) has launched a web portal for star rating of coal mines.

- The portal enables all operational coal mines across India for self-rating, their subsequent validation by Coal Controller's Organization (CCO), further evaluation and finally award of star rating.
- Based on the star ratings obtained through a well-defined mechanism on this web portal, the highest-scoring mines in the country will be awarded in a public ceremony.

14 NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY (NDD)

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducted the tenth round of National Deworming Day (NDD) on February 10, 2020.
- Launched in 2015, the NDD is the largest public health program implemented on a single day reaching crores of children and adolescents through two NDD rounds every year.
- As part of this campaign, children and adolescents aged 1-19 years are being administered Albendazole (400 mg) across government, government-aided schools, anganwadis, private schools and other educational institutions.
- The NDD is implemented with an objective to reduce the prevalence of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), commonly called the parasitic intestinal worms, among all children and adolescents.
- Infections with the main STH – roundworm, whipworm and hookworms – contribute to 50.1 lakh disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) worldwide (WHO, 2010).
- One DALY can be thought of as one lost "healthy" year from the life. In India, over 22 crore children under 14 years are at risk of STH infections (WHO, 2017).

15 KISAN CREDIT CARD (KCC)

- To enable universal access to Concessional Institutional credit, Government of India has initiated a drive in Mission Mode for saturating all PM-KISAN beneficiaries with Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- This will help all such farmers to get short term loan for crop & animal/fish rearing at a maximum interest of 4% on timely repayment.

What is KCC?

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was launched in 1998 with the aim of providing short-term formal credit to farmers.
- Owner cultivators, as well as tenant farmers, can avail loans to meet their agricultural needs under this scheme at attractive rates of interest.

16 e-OFFICE MISSION

The government recently organised the National Workshop on 'e-office' in New Delhi to create a nation-wide momentum for the creation of e-Office across the State Secretariats.

What is e-office?

- E-office is one of the key initiatives in the area of e-Governance.
- The e-Office solution enables core operations of the Government at all levels to be performed in a virtual 'paperless' environment.

- This application is, thus, a major step in realizing the objective of an open and responsive Government.
- The Government intends to make all its Departments near paper-free in the near future.

About the mission:

- The e-Office Mission Mode Project (MMP) was launched in 2011-12 in a phased manner and current phase-III is under implementation.
- So far a total of 79 Ministries / Departments have been covered under this programme.
- Out of these 79, a total of 57 have achieved the target of 80%. At present, there are 1485584 active e-files in all Ministries/Departments.

17 VAN DHAN KENDRAS

The government inaugurated the "Workshop on Van Dhan and Entrepreneurship Development" organized by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

What is Van Dhan Scheme?

- Van Dhan Scheme was launched in 2018 to help increase tribal income through **Value Addition**.
- This is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- Under the scheme, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra will be established for providing capacity building training and skill up-gradation and value addition facility and setting up of primary processing.

Progress so far:

- The process of establishment of Van Dhan Kendras has gained momentum in the States.
- TRIFED has so far sanctioned proposals for the establishment of 1101 Van Dhan Kendras in 26 States and 1 UT.
- Out of sanctioned 1101 Van Dhan Kendras, 406 Van Dhan Kendras have identified tribal beneficiaries, 174 have done the training of SHGs/VDVKs and 41 Kendras have initiated the process of value-addition and processing operations.

18 CONFERENCE ON COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING

- The government of India inaugurated the two-day 'Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking' for BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Partner Nations, in New Delhi, organised by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- The platform aims to provide the opportunity to all the member nations to deliberate on the increased threats posed by drug trafficking and the collective steps that are required to negate the threats by learning from the best practices adopted by member countries.

The need:

- In the changing drug trafficking scenario, Asian countries are increasingly being affected by drug trafficking and BIMSTEC, being the key link between South Asian and South-East Asian Nations is one of the most effective platforms to tackle this global threat.

The BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand besides India, constituting a contiguous regional unity.

- Regional maritime connectivity and trade through the Bay of Bengal are imperative for the shared prosperity and economic growth of the entire BIMSTEC region.
- However, while providing unhindered maritime access, security challenges at sea and coastlines are a threat.
- One of the most prominent of such challenges is the drug trafficking through the sea.
- It necessitates collaborative efforts at sea, including further strengthening of effective coordination in operations and information sharing amongst partner nations, to combat this menace.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the apex agency for exercising powers and functions of the Central Government under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act** and is also the nodal agency for matters pertaining to **drug law enforcement** in India. Further, NCB is also the nodal agency of the Government of India at **the international level in all matters pertaining to Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances.**

19 DTAA BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

The Union Cabinet has approved the Signing and Ratification of the Protocol amending the Agreement between India and Sri Lanka for the avoidance of **double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.**

BACKGROUND:

- The existing DTAA between India and Sri Lanka signed and entered into force in 2013.
- India and Sri Lanka are members of the Inclusive Framework and as such are required to implement the minimum standards under **G-20 OECD BEPS Action Reports** in respect of their DTAAs with Inclusive Framework countries.
- Minimum standards under BEPS Action 6 can be met through the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI) or through agreement bilaterally.
- India is a signatory to the MLI. However, Sri Lanka is not a signatory to the MLI as of now.
- Therefore, amendment of the India-Sri Lanka DTAA bilaterally is required to update the Preamble and also to insert Principal Purpose Test (PPT) provisions to meet the minimum standards on treaty abuse under Action 6 of G-20 OECD Base Erosion & Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.

Impact of the Amendment:

- Updation of preamble text and inclusion of Principal Purpose Test, a general anti-abuse provision in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) will result in curbing of tax planning strategies which exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

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IAS PRELIMS 2020

PRELIMS
TEST SERIES

BATCH: 10 - PT MAXIMA

DAILY TEST

Total 63 Tests: 10 NCERT + 29 Sub Sectional + 6 Sectional + 5 Current Affair + 10 Mock Test + 3 CSAT

STARTS
1 MARCH 2020

TEST SCHEDULE

Test No.	Date	Subject	Subject	Topics Covered
Polity (01 March to 08 March, 2020)				
Test 1	1 March, 2020	Polity 1	NCERT	Fundamentals (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 2	2 March, 2020	Polity 2	NCERT	Fundamentals (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 3	3 March, 2020	Polity 3	Sub-Sectional	Constitutional Development + Preamble + Union Territories + Citizenship
Test 4	4 March, 2020	Polity 4	Sub-Sectional	FR + DPSP + FD + Other Constitutional Provisions such as Emergency Provisions etc.
Test 5	5 March, 2020	Polity 5	Sub-Sectional	Executive + Legislature + Judiciary - 1
Test 6	6 March, 2020	Polity 6	Sub-Sectional	Executive + Legislature + Judiciary - 2
Test 7	7 March, 2020	Polity 7	Sub-Sectional	Governance + Socio Economic Development + Reforms + Bills + Welfare Schemes + Policies
Test 8	8 March, 2020	Polity 8	Sectional	Polity & Governance
Economy (12 March to 18 March, 2020)				
Test 9	12 March, 2020	Economy 1	NCERT	Fundamentals (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 10	13 March, 2020	Economy 2	NCERT	Fundamentals (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 11	14 March, 2020	Economy 3	Sub-Sectional	Basic Concepts of National Income
Test 12	15 March, 2020	Economy 4	Sub-Sectional	Budgeting + Fiscal and Monetary Policy Agricultural and Industrial Policy
Test 13	16 March, 2020	Economy 5	Sub-Sectional	External Sector + International Institutes
Test 14	17 March, 2020	Economy 6	Sub-Sectional	Money, Banking Financial Market and Other Provisions
Test 15	18 March, 2020	Economy 7	Sectional	Indian Economy
Environment (21 March to 27 March, 2020)				
Test 16	21 March, 2020	Environment 1	NCERT	Fundamentals of Environment (NCERT Biology 12th - Ch. 10 to 16)
Test 17	22 March, 2020	Environment 2	Sub-Sectional	Environment and Ecology
Test 18	23 March, 2020	Environment 3	Sub-Sectional	Biodiversity
Test 19	24 March, 2020	Environment 4	Sub-Sectional	Environmental Pollution and Management
Test 20	25 March, 2020	Environment 5	Sub-Sectional	Climate Change + Global Warming
Test 21	26 March, 2020	Environment 6	Sub-Sectional	Environmental Governance
Test 22	27 March, 2020	Environment 7	Sectional	Environment and Ecolog

Test No	Date	Subject	Subject	Topics Covered
HISTORY & CULTURE (30 March to 07 April, 2020)				
Test 23	30 March, 2020	History 1	NCERT	Fundamentals (Ancient +Medieval) (NCERT Old + New 11th & 12th)
Test 24	31 March, 2020	History 2	NCERT	Fundamentals (Modern) (NCERT Old + New 11th & 12th)
Test 25	1 April, 2020	Culture 3	Sub-Sectional	Visual Arts + Performing Arts
Test 26	2 April, 2020	Culture 4	Sub-Sectional	Religions + Languages + Literature + Institutions
Test 27	3 April, 2020	History 5	Sub-Sectional	Ancient India
Test 28	4 April, 2020	History 6	Sub-Sectional	Medieval India
Test 29	5 April, 2020	History 7	Sub-Sectional	Modern India (1757 – 1885)
Test 30	6 April, 2020	History 8	Sub-Sectional	Modern India (1885 – 1947)
Test 31	7 April, 2020	History 9	Sectional	History and Culture of India
GEOGRAPHY (10 April to 18 April, 2020)				
Test 32	10 April, 2020	Geography 1	NCERT	Fundamentals World Geography (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 33	11 April, 2020	Geography 2	NCERT	Fundamentals Indian Geography (NCERT 11th & 12th)
Test 34	12 April, 2020	Geography 3	Sub-Sectional	Geomorphology + Indian Physiography
Test 35	13 April, 2020	Geography 4	Sub-Sectional	Climatology + Indian Climate
Test 36	14 April, 2020	Geography 5	Sub-Sectional	Oceanography + Biogeography
Test 37	15 April, 2020	Geography 6	Sub-Sectional	Demography + Human Geography + Census
Test 38	16 April, 2020	Geography 7	Sub-Sectional	Economic Activities + Agriculture + Minerals + Energy
Test 39	17 April, 2020	Geography 8	Sub-Sectional	Industry + Transport + Trade + Communication
Test 40	18 April, 2020	Geography 9	Sectional	Geography of India and World
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (21 April to 25 April, 2020)				
Test 41	21 April, 2020	Science & Tech 1	NCERT	Biology + Everyday Science + + Institutions + Award
Test 42	22 April, 2020	Science & Tech 2	Sub-Sectional	Biotechnology + Health + Nuclear tech
Test 43	23 April, 2020	Science & Tech 3	Sub-Sectional	Space + Defence
Test 44	24 April, 2020	Science & Tech 4	Sub-Sectional	IT + Telecom + IPR + Nanotech + Robotics
Test 45	25 April, 2020	Science & Tech 5	Sectional	Science and Technology
CSAT (28 April to 30 April, 2020)				
Test 46	28 April, 2020	CSAT-1	Sectional	Reasoning
Test 47	29 April, 2020	CSAT-2	Sectional	General Mental Ability
Test 48	30 April, 2020	CSAT-3	Sectional	Reading Comprehension
CURRENT AFFAIRS (03 May to 07 May, 2020)				
Test 49	3 May, 2020	Current Affairs-1	Current Affairs	June + July + August 2019
Test 50	4 May, 2020	Current Affairs-2	Current Affairs	September + October, 2019
Test 51	5 May, 2020	Current Affairs-3	Current Affairs	Nov + Dec 2019 + Jan, 2020
Test 52	6 May, 2020	Current Affairs-4	Current Affairs	Feb + March + April, 2020
Test 53	7 May, 2020	Current Affairs-5	Current Affairs	Economy Survey + Budget + Indian Year Book 2020

FULL MOCK TESTS (08 May to 19 May, 2020)

Test No.	Date	Test
Test 54	8 May, 2020	MOCK 1PAPER 1 & 2
Test 55	9 May, 2020	MOCK 2PAPER 1 & 2
Test 56	12 May, 2020	MOCK 3PAPER 1 & 2
Test 57	13 May, 2020	MOCK 4PAPER 1 & 2
Test 58	14 May, 2020	MOCK 5PAPER 1 & 2
Test 59	15 May, 2020	MOCK 6PAPER 1 & 2
Test 60	16 May, 2020	MOCK 7PAPER 1 & 2
Test 61	17 May, 2020	MOCK 8PAPER 1 & 2
Test 62	18 May, 2020	MOCK 9PAPER 1 & 2
Test 63	19 May, 2020	MOCK 10PAPER 1 & 2

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