

Policy folly: On the terror attack on a mosque in Pakistan's Peshawar

Pakistan needs a **paradigm shift** in its approach to terrorism

When the Taliban captured Kabul in August 2021, **Imran Khan**, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, **said** Afghanistan had “broken the **shackles of slavery**”. **Pakistan**, which had **harboured** the Taliban leadership, **was** largely seen as one of the **victors** of the Afghan civil war. But the **celebratory** mood **faded** as the Taliban’s **triumph** also **emboldened** the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Pakistani version of the Sunni Islamist **insurgency**. Since then, Pakistan has **witnessed** a rise in terrorist attacks, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa **bordering** Afghanistan. Monday’s **blast** in a mosque in Peshawar’s highly **fortified** Police Line area, **claiming** at least 100 lives, **was** the **deadliest** in Pakistan in years and a sharp **reminder** of how its **strategy of backing** the “good Taliban” and fighting the “bad Taliban” **has backfired**. A TTP **faction** initially claimed responsibility, but a **spokesperson** denied any role. This **demonstrates** the **divisions** within the group rather than raising doubts about its involvement. The blast **bears** the **hallmarks** of a TTP attack — it **took place** in its **stronghold** and was targeted at security **personnel**. And no other group has claimed responsibility.

The TTP and the Afghan Taliban may be organisationally different, but they are **ideologically** brothers. What the TTP wants to do in Pakistan is what the Taliban have **managed** to do in Afghanistan. After the 2014 Peshawar school bombing, which killed over 150 people, mostly children, the Pakistani Army had **cracked down** on the group. But the Afghan Taliban’s return to power changed the **dynamics of insurgency** in the border region. Mr. Khan adopted a policy of **engagement** towards the TTP. The Afghan Taliban **hosted** talks between the TTP and Pakistan which **led to a ceasefire**. But the year-long **truce collapsed** in November last year. Many believe that **the TTP**, which used the ceasefire to **rearm** and reorganise itself, **is** now spreading terror with greater firepower. The Peshawar blast has come at a time of continuing political **instability**, with Mr. Khan leading a **relentless** campaign against the government, Pakistan’s currency **tanking**, its foreign reserves falling, **inflation soaring** and the power situation remaining **grim**. Unable to pay its **debts**, the government is in talks with the IMF for a **bailout package**. And now, there is a security challenge. Pakistan should realise that **its policy** of selectively fighting and selectively harbouring terrorism and **extremism has** done it more harm than good. It needs a paradigm shift in its approach towards terrorism, while, more urgently, **amassing** its resources and **going after** the TTP, which is **posing** the biggest internal security threat to the Pakistani **state**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Folly** (noun) – an act that is not sensible and may have a bad result
मूर्खतापूर्ण कार्य
2. **Mosque** (noun) – A Mohammedan church or place of religious worship.
मस्जिद
3. **Paradigm shift** (noun) – a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions. मूलभूत परिवर्तन
4. **Shackle** (noun) – Restriction, restraint, constraint, straitjacket, impediment
बेड़ी, बंधन
5. **Slavery** (noun) – Servitude, bondage, serfdom, enslavement, vassalage, thralldom गुलामी
6. **Harbour** (verb) – Protect, shelter, hide, give refuge to पनाह देना
7. **Victor** (noun) – Winner, champ, conqueror, defeater विजेता
8. **Celebratory** (adjective) – feeling or expressing happiness and pride. उत्सवी
9. **Fade** (verb) – Disappear, weaken, diminish, decline, dwindle, fail, die away हल्का होना, फीका पड़ना
10. **Triumph** (noun) – success, victory, succeed, win, prevail जीत
11. **Embolden** (verb) – encourage, bolster, recreate, inspire हौसला बढ़ाना
12. **Insurgency** (noun) – rebellion, insurgence, uprising, revolution, insurrection उग्रवाद
13. **Witness** (verb) – see, observe, watch, look on at, be a witness to, view देखना
14. **Border** (verb) – be next to, adjoin, be adjacent to, be bounded by से सटे होना
15. **Fortified** (adjective) – Reinforced, strengthened, hardened, buttressed, toughened, किलाबन्द
16. **Claim** (verb) – Take (of relating to lives) लेना
17. **Deadliest** (noun) – Lethal, fatal, poisonous, noxious, toxic सबसे घातक
18. **Reminder** (noun) – A thing that causes someone to remember something. की याद दिलाता है/ अनुस्मारक
19. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sanction, approve of समर्थन करना
20. **Backfire** (verb) – to have an unexpected and unpleasant result, often the opposite of what was intended उल्टा असर पड़ना
21. **Faction** (noun) – clique, bloc, group, party, section गुट

22. **Demonstrate** (verb) – exhibit, display, show, illustrate, दिखाना
23. **Division** (noun) – Split, rift, disagreement, discord, break, rupture, gulf, divide मतभेद, अलगाव
24. **Spokesperson** (noun) – a person who is chosen to speak for a group or an organization प्रवक्ता
25. **Bear the hallmarks of something** (phrase) –To have a typical characteristic or feature of a person or thing की पहचान होना
26. **Take place** (phrasal verb) – happen, occur, come about, transpire, come to pass घटित होना
27. **Stronghold** (noun) – Fortress, bastion, citadel, iron grip गढ़, दुर्ग
28. **Personnel** (noun) – Person, people, worker, staff, अमला, स्टाफ
29. **Ideologically** (adverb) – In a way that relates to ideas or an ideology, especially of a political or economic nature. वैचारिक रूप से
30. **Manage** (to) (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, especially with difficulty सफल होना
31. **Crack down** (phrasal verb) – to take strong action to stop something पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करना
32. **Dynamics** (noun) – the forces which stimulate growth, development, or change within a system or process.
33. **Insurgency** (noun) – rebellion, insurgency, uprising, revolution, insurrection उग्रवाद
34. **Engagement** (noun) – participation, taking part, involvement. सह-भागिता
35. **Host** (verb) – Hold, introduce, accommodate, present की मेजबानी करना
36. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
37. **Ceasefire** (noun) – a temporary suspension of fighting; a truce युद्धविराम
38. **Truce** (noun) – an agreement to stop fighting for a period of time (अस्थायी) युद्धविराम
39. **Collapse** (verb) – fail suddenly and completely टूटना
40. **Rearm** (verb) – provide with a new supply of weapons; upgrade, reequip फिर से शस्त्रसज्जित होना
41. **Instability** (noun) – unpredictability, variability, unsteadiness, volatility, flux, wavering अस्थिरता

42. **Relentless** (adjective) – persistent, continuing, constant, continual सतत
43. **Tank** (verb) – to drop sharply in price to the point of bottoming out गिरावट आना
44. **Inflation** (noun) – A general and progressive increase in prices मुद्रा स्फीति
45. **Soar** (verb) – Rise rapidly बहुत वृद्धि होना
46. **Grim** (adjective) – serious, severe, stern, depressing, hopeless गंभीर
47. **Debt** (noun) – Loan, credit, finance ऋण
48. **Bailout** (noun) – an act of giving financial assistance to a failing business or economy to save it from collapse खैरात
49. **Extremism** (noun) – fanaticism, radicalism, zealotry, zeal, fundamentalism उग्रवाद/ अतिवाद
50. **Amass** (verb) – gather, collect, assemble इकट्ठा करना
51. **Go after** (phrasal verb) – try to catch or stop someone पीछा करना
52. **Pose** (verb) – Cause, create, present, produce खड़ा करना (खतरा)
53. **State** (noun) – country, nation, राज्य/ देश

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

- the celebratory mood faded as the Taliban's triumph also **emboldened** the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
 - Exaggerate
 - Bolster
 - Soaring
 - Contract
- The year-long **truce** collapsed in November last year.
 - Stuttering
 - Muddling
 - Tumultuous
 - Ceasefire
- It needs a paradigm shift in its approach towards terrorism, while, more urgently, **amassing** its resources
 - Shrinkage
 - Gather
 - Glitch
 - Curb
- Idioms & Phrase**

I hate to **burst your bubble**, but I don't think he remembers you.

 - Make an accusation against someone
 - End someone's happiness by showing the truth
 - To take further action connected with it
 - To behave in a way intended to make people admire or support you
- Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
 - financial heft and fresh hopes.(A)/ the weekend at Bengaluru reflected (B)/ The Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held over(C)/
 - can cope with two pandemic years(D)/ a pointer to its marketing viability and strong financial underpinnings.(E) That a league, domestic in spirit and international in flavour,(F)/ and still remain economically robust is(G)/
 - CBA, EFDG
 - DGFE, BAC
 - BAC, FDEG
 - CBA, FDGE
 - None of the above

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. The actress believes in (A)/ being fit and feels that there (B)/ are too much hip around size zero (C)/ in the entertainment world. (D)/ no error(E)
7. While the actress wins fans for (A)/ herself on screen fireworks it's her (B)/ down to earth attitude and easy going manner (C)/ that wins her friends. (D)/ no error(E)
8. Even though the exchange attract (A)/ the attention of all those present at (B)/ the police station, the inspector continued (C)/ his tirade against the girl. (D)/ no error(E)
9. The market continues to be positive (A)/ and in the next quarter we expected (B)/ the trend to continue with (C)/ the faith of investors. (D)/ no error(E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Weird
 - B. Occurrence
 - C. Underrate
 - D. Distinguish

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Ready for the worst – Dec 14, 2022)

At one stage, it was expected to develop into a “severe cyclonic storm”, but did not gain much strength. **(1)**/ That Cyclone Mandous, which had its landfall near Mamallapuram, near Chennai, in the early hours of Saturday, did not cause much damage has come as a huge relief to the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. **(2)**/ Called a “textbook cyclone”, the storm, as predicted by the India Meteorological Department, crossed the coast with all the attendant features, to the satisfaction of professional meteorologists. **(3)**/ Though Cyclone Mandous was similar to Cyclone Vardah which made landfall in Chennai in mid-December 2016, this event dumped heavy rainfall that was far more than what occurred under Vardah. **(4)**/ This time, not only parts of north Tamil Nadu **(A)**/ but also areas in neighbouring **(B)**/ Andhra Pradesh experienced **(C)**/ heavy rainfall as well **(D)**/. For instance, Vembakkam in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu and Srikalahasti in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh **(a)**_____ the brunt, recording rainfall of 25 cm and 23 cm, respectively, during the 24-hour-period that ended at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. But more noteworthy was the way the official machinery in Tamil Nadu **(b)**_____ the disaster management system. Despite the cyclone crossing the coast at almost midnight and causing a number of trees and structures to fall, the response of the administration was swift and the common man's life hardly **(c)**_____. Five lives were lost, a count much lower than during disasters of a similar magnitude.

After drawing **(d)**_____ in November 2021, and, subsequently, when Chennai and its vicinity experienced **inundation** following spells of heavy rain, the Tamil Nadu government has been paying greater attention this time to improving the storm-water drain network and such other works. Though one of the reasons **cited(A)** for many areas being **preparedness(B)** of flooding was that the core parts of the city did not receive as much rain as the **interior(C)** parts of north Tamil Nadu, the State government's coordination with the Meteorological Department and its **spared(D)** in tackling the post-landfall situation made a difference to the situation this time.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. For instance, Vembakkam in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu and Srikalahasti in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh _____(a)_____ the brunt, recording rainfall of 25 cm and 23 cm, respectively, during the 24-hour-period that ended at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Bear
- (ii) Hear
- (iii) Bore
- (iv) Saw

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. But more noteworthy was the way the official machinery in Tamil Nadu _____(b)_____ the disaster management system.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Faltered
- (ii) Marked
- (iii) Steered
- (iv) Sought

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. Despite the cyclone crossing the coast at almost midnight and causing a number of trees and structures to fall, the response of the administration was swift and the common man's life hardly _____(c)_____.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Disrupted
- (ii) Blow
- (iii) Clocked
- (iv) Altered

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. After drawing _____(d)_____ in November 2021, and, subsequently, when Chennai and its vicinity experienced inundation following spells of heavy rain, the Tamil Nadu government has been paying greater attention this time to improving the storm-water drain network and such other works.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Nerve
- (ii) Headwind
- (iii) Flak
- (iv) Cloud

A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

This time, not only parts of north Tamil Nadu(A)/ but also areas in neighbouring(B)/ Andhra Pradesh experienced (C)/ heavy rainfall as well(D)/

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

At one stage, it was expected to develop into a “severe cyclonic storm”, but did not gain much strength.(1)/ That Cyclone Mandous, which had its landfall near Mamallapuram, near Chennai, in the early hours of Saturday, did not cause much damage has come as a huge relief to the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. (2)/ Called a “textbook cyclone”, the storm, as predicted by the India Meteorological Department, crossed the coast with all the attendant features, to the satisfaction of professional meteorologists.(3)/ Though Cyclone Mandous was similar to Cyclone Vardah which made landfall in Chennai in mid-December 2016, this event dumped heavy rainfall that was far more than what occurred under Vardah. (4)/

- A. 2341
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 ‘None of the above’ if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

INUNDATION

- (i) The dam saved the area from **inundation**.
- (ii) A debate over the best ways to deal with repeated **indundations**.
- (iii) The country consequently does not lose beachfront property through **inundation** but rather interior land.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (i), (ii), (iii)

18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**

Though one of the reasons **cited(A)** for many areas being **preparedness(B)** of flooding was that the core parts of the city did not receive as much rain as the **interior(C)** parts of north Tamil

Nadu, the State government's coordination with the Meteorological Department and its **spared(D)** in tackling the post-landfall situation made a difference to the situation this time.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. B – D
- D. A – C
- E. No arrangement

19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

- (i) He is very studious.
 - (ii) he is always there among the top students of the college.
- A. Unlike
 - B. Likewise
 - C. Even
 - D. In fact
 - E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Dogs which have been mistreated often remain very wary _____ strangers.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. Upon
- D. To

Answers

1. B 2.D 3.B 4. B 5. D 6.C 7. D 8.A 9.B 10.D 11. C
 12. E 13.A 14. C 15. D 16. C 17.E 18. C 19.D 20.A **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

- Embolden** (verb) – encourage, bolster, recreate, inspire होसला बढ़ाना
 - Exaggerate** (verb) – represent (something) as being larger than it really is. बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर पेश करना
 - Soaring** (adjective) – rising, mounting, climbing, spiraling, increasing, elevated बढ़ते
 - Contract** (verb) – reduce, decrease, diminish, lessen कम करना
- Truce** (noun) – an agreement to stop fighting for a period of time (अस्थायी) युद्धविराम
 - Stuttering** (adjective) – stammering, halting, faltering, stumbling लड़खड़ाता
 - Muddling** (noun) – Disorder, confusion, disorganizing, mess up गड़बड़, अव्यवस्था
 - Tumultuous** (adjective) – Turbulent, confused, chaotic, disorderly, noisy, agitated उथल-पुथल
- Amass** (verb) – gather, collect, assemble इकट्ठा करना
 - Shrinkage** (noun) – Reduction, decrease, decline, contraction, fall, drop कमी
 - Glitch** (noun) – Malfunction, bug, anomaly, problem, hiccup गड़बड़
 - Curb** (noun) – Restriction, limit, control, check रोक, प्रतिबंध
- Burst someone's bubble** (phrase) – to end someone's happiness by making them realize what is happening
- CBA, FDGE**
 The Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held over the weekend at Bengaluru reflected financial heft and fresh hopes. That a league, domestic in spirit and international in flavour, can cope with two pandemic years and still remain economically robust is a pointer to its marketing viability and strong financial underpinnings.
- (C) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'there' के साथ प्रयोग में आने वाला verb उसके बाद प्रयुक्त noun या pronoun के number तथा person पर निर्भर करता है और दिए गए वाक्य में 'there' के बाद आने वाला noun 'hip' singular है।
 - 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the verb used with 'there' depends on the number and person of the noun or pronoun used after that and what comes after 'there' in the given sentence The noun 'hip' is singular.
- (D) 'wins' के बदले 'win' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि relative pronouns 'who, which, that' के बाद आनेवाला verb उसके antecedent के number तथा person पर निर्भर करता है और प्रश्न में दिए गए वाक्य में relative pronoun 'that' का antecedent '...attitude and.... manner' plural है।

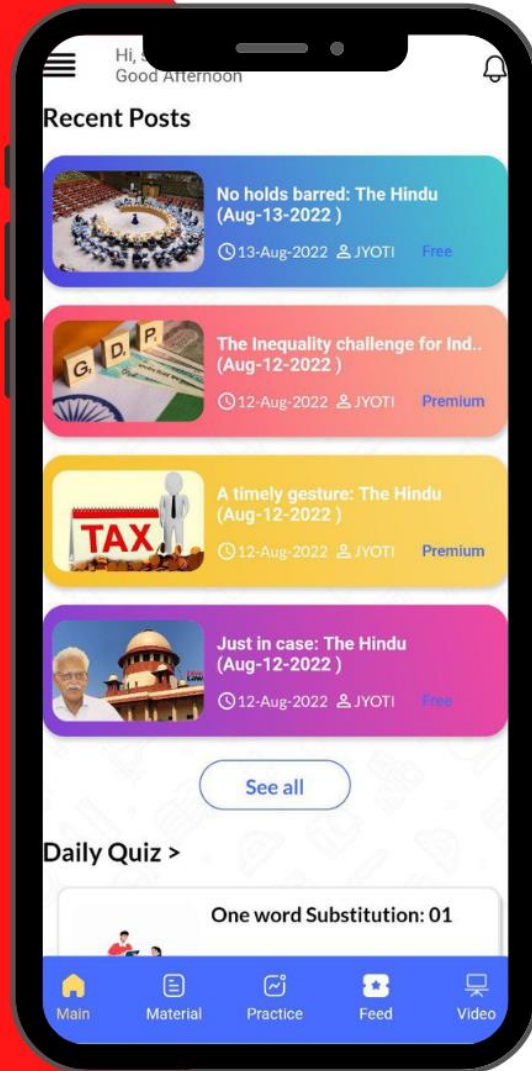
- 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the verb used with 'there' depends on the number and person of the noun or pronoun used after that and what comes after 'there' in the given sentence The noun 'hip' is singular.
8. (A) 'attract' के बदले 'attracted' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में दी गई घटना past की है और part(c) में प्रयुक्त verb 'continued' भी past tense में है।
- 'attracted' will be used instead of 'attract' because the event given in the sentence is past and the verb 'continued' used in part (c) is also in past tense.
9. (B) 'could' के बदले 'can' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि part(a) में verb 'continues' simple present में है और part(c) में 'in the next quarter' का प्रयोग future time का बोध कराता है, न कि past time का।
- 'can' will be used instead of 'could' because in part(a) the verb 'continues' is in simple present and in part(c) the use of 'in the next quarter' gives a sense of future time , not of past time.
10. **Distinguish** (verb) – Differentiate, discriminate, decide, extricate, separate पहचानना
11. **Bear the brunt** (phrase) – to suffer most as a result of a problem or difficult situation
खामियाजा भुगतना
12. **Steer** (verb) – Guide, direct, lead, manage मार्गदर्शन करना
- **Falter** (verb) – waver, weaken, fade, wane, abate, stammer, stutter, fumble लड़खड़ाना
 - **Mark** (verb) – indicate the position of. चिह्नित करना /बतलाना
 - **Seek** (verb) – Try, attempt, endeavour, effort, strive for प्रयास करना
13. **Disrupt** (verb) – disturb, interrupt, upset, disorder, unsettle बाधित करना
- **Blow** (verb) – cause (something) to move; propel हवा चलना(मंदी)
 - **Clock** (verb) – register, record, log दर्ज करना
 - **Alter** (verb) –change, amend, improve, modify, convert बदलना
14. **Flak** (noun) – strong criticism आलोचना।
- **Nerve** (noun) – worried, nervous feelings घबराहट, परेशानी
 - **Headwind** (noun) – a force or influence that inhibits/restrict progress विपरीत परिस्थिति
 - **Cloud** (noun) – used to refer to a state or cause of gloom, suspicion, trouble, or worry उलझन, संदेह
15. 'as well' का प्रयोग superfluous(अनावश्यक) है और इसे हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'not only' के साथ 'but also' का प्रयोग होता है।
16. (C) **2134**

That Cyclone Mandous, which had its landfall near Mamallapuram, near Chennai, in the early hours of Saturday, did not cause much damage has come as a huge relief to the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. At one stage, it was expected to develop into a “severe cyclonic storm”, but did not gain much strength. Called a “textbook cyclone”, the storm, as predicted by the India Meteorological Department, crossed the coast with all the attendant features, to the satisfaction of professional meteorologists. Though Cyclone Mandous was similar to Cyclone Vardah which made landfall in Chennai in mid-December 2016, this event dumped heavy rainfall that was far more than what occurred under Vardah.

17. **Inundation** (noun) – Flood, deluge, stream सैलाब

According to the given options all options are contextually correct.

18. Though one of the reasons **cited** for many areas being **spared** of flooding was that the core parts of the city did not receive as much rain as the **interior** parts of north Tamil Nadu, the State government’s coordination with the Meteorological Department and its **preparedness** in tackling the post-landfall situation made a difference to the situation this time.
19. He is very studious. **In fact**, he is always there among the top students of the college.
20. **Wary of** – showing caution about possible dangers or problems सावधान (किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु के प्रति अनिश्चय या भय के कारण), सतर्क



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