

Terror on the road: on the attack on defence forces in Jammu

India needs to **rethink** its Kashmir strategy and **attitude** to Pakistan

In another **spectre** of violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), five soldiers were killed and another **critically** injured in a terror attack on April 20 in the Rajouri-Poonch Sector, close to the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu division. **Preliminary** reports have suggested that **terrorists** — their numbers and **affiliations** are not known immediately — **attacked**, in **inclement** weather, an Army vehicle that was on a **counter-insurgency patrol** between Bhimber Gali-Poonch in the Rajouri sector. The attack also comes at a time when J&K is working **diligently** to **host** a G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting, in May. Separately, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is **likely** to attend a **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** meeting in Goa next month, which has **kindled** the possibility of fresh India-Pakistan **engagement**. The attack raises the question about the management of patrols in **sensitive** locations in the region which has seen a **spike** in **militant** violence in the recent past, including a terror attack on a village on January 1 this year that left seven **civilians** dead. **The fact** that the Army vehicle was on an **unaccompanied drive** and remained **unattended** immediately after the attack **is** a matter of serious concern.

The **images** of the Army vehicle on fire and **charred** bodies **have reignited** memories of and visuals from the Pulwama attack in 2019. On February 14 that year, a **convoy** of buses with Central Reserve Police Force jawans **was** on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway way in Pulwama's Lethpora area when a suicide bomber in an **explosive-laden** car **managed** to **breach** security. Forty personnel lost their lives in the terror attack that shocked the political class, the military **establishment** and the country. With Indian intelligence agencies **pointing to** the role of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), India sent its fighter jets across the Line of Control to strike JeM training camps in Balakot, Pakistan, **inflicting casualties** and damaging the terror **infrastructure** there. India's **strident** response to **cross-border** terror was noticed internationally, and became a topic of campaign during the Lok Sabha election soon after. However, **terror emanating** from Pakistan **has** failed to **ebb**, which is **evident** from the rising violence in J&K over the past three years, especially after the government decided to end the region's **semi-autonomous** status on August 5, 2019. **Claims** on the subject made recently by the then J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, in interviews, **have brought to the fore** fresh questions about the **intent** behind the political class while **approaching** the issue of terrorism in the country. **Perhaps** it is time India reviewed its strategy in Kashmir, including the current **freeze** on talks with Pakistan.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Rethink** (verb) – Reconsider, reevaluate, reassess, re-examine, revisit पुनर्विचार करना
2. **Attitude** (noun) – Stance, viewpoint, outlook, perspective, approach दृष्टिकोण
3. **Spectre** (noun) – Apparition, ghost, phantom, menace, threat काली छाया
4. **Critically** (adverb) – Seriously, severely, crucially, significantly, importantly गंभीर रूप से
5. **Preliminary** (adjective) – Initial, introductory, first, early, preparatory प्रारंभिक
6. **Affiliation** (noun) – Association, connection, alliance, linkage, attachment संबंध
7. **Inclement** (adjective) – Severe, harsh, stormy, rough, hostile कठोर, खराब
8. **Counter-insurgency** (adjective) – Anti-rebellion, anti-guerrilla, anti-insurgency, anti-subversion आतंकवाद विरोधी
9. **Patrol** (noun) – Guard, watch, surveillance, vigil, monitoring पहरा, गश्त
10. **Diligently** (adverb) – Carefully, attentively, conscientiously, thoroughly, meticulously सावधानी से
11. **Host** (verb) – Accommodate, entertain, receive, welcome, invite मेज़बानी करना
12. **Likely** (adjective) – Probable, possible, plausible, expected, anticipated संभावित
13. **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** (noun) – an international alliance that consists of 8 member states and 4 observers from Eurasia. It was established on 26 April 1996 as the Shanghai Five.
14. **Kindle** (verb) – Ignite, spark, trigger, stimulate, arouse प्रेरित करना
15. **Engagement** (noun) – Involvement, participation, interaction, commitment, undertaking सहभागिता
16. **Sensitive** (adjective) – Delicate, vulnerable, touchy, responsive, receptive संवेदनशील
17. **Spike** (noun) – Surge, increase, rise, upswing, escalation उछाल
18. **Militant** (adjective) – Aggressive, combative, confrontational, belligerent, assertive आतंकवादी

19. **Civilian** (noun) – Non-military, non-combatant, non-soldier, commoner, citizen नागरिक
20. **Unaccompanied** (adjective) – Alone, solo, unescorted, unattended, single अकेला
21. **Drive** (noun) – Campaign, crusade, अभियान
22. **Unattended** (adjective) – Neglected, ignored, overlooked, disregarded, forgotten बिना निगरानी के
23. **Charred** (adjective) – Burned, scorched, seared, blackened, singed जले हुए
24. **Reignite** (verb) – Rekindle, revive, renew, restore, reawaken फिर से जगाना
25. **Convoy** (noun) – a group of ships or vehicles travelling together, typically one accompanied by armed troops, warships, or other vehicles for protection काफिले
26. **Explosive-laden** (adjective) – Bomb-filled, detonator-packed, charge-carrying, explosive-packed, munition-loaded विस्फोटक-भरा
27. **Manage** (to) (verb) – succeed in achieving or producing (something difficult). सफल होना
28. **Breach** (verb) – Violate, break, infringe, transgress, contravene उल्लंघन करना
29. **Establishment** (noun) – Institution, organization, administration, system संस्था
30. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, imply, signal इशारा करना
31. **Inflict** (verb) – Impose, cause, bring about, force (चोट या कष्ट) पहुंचाना
32. **Causality** (noun) – a serious or fatal accident हताहत
33. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, structures, installations, systems संरचना
34. **Strident** (adjective) – Harsh, loud, forceful, insistent कठोर
35. **Cross-border** (adjective) – Transnational, international, inter-border सीमा पार
36. **Emanate** (from) (verb) – Originate, stem, arise, emerge उत्पन्न होना
37. **Ebb** (verb) – Recede, decline, diminish, dwindle कम होना
38. **Evident** (adjective) – Obvious, clear, apparent, manifest स्पष्ट

39. **Semi-autonomous** (adjective) – Partly independent, self-governing, self-ruling
अर्ध-स्वयंशासी
40. **Claim** (noun) – Assertion, statement, declaration, contention दावा
41. **Bring to the fore** (phrase) – Highlight, emphasize, underscore, make prominent
सामने लाना
42. **Intent** (noun) – Intention, aim, purpose, objective इरादा
43. **Approach** (verb) – Address, tackle, deal with, attend to निपटाना
44. **Perhaps** (adverb) – Maybe, possibly, conceivably, feasibly शायद
45. **Freeze** (noun) – Halt, hold, stop, विराम

Summary of the Editorial

1. Five soldiers killed, one critically injured in a terror attack in Rajouri-Poonch Sector, J&K.
2. Attack took place near the Line of Control in Jammu division.
3. Terrorists targeted Army vehicle on counter-insurgency patrol.
4. Affiliations and numbers of attackers unknown.
5. Attack coincides with preparations for G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in J&K.
6. Pakistan's Foreign Minister to attend SCO meeting in Goa, hinting at possible India-Pakistan engagement.
7. The incident raises questions about patrol management in sensitive areas.
8. Recent spike in militant violence in the region.
9. Unaccompanied and unattended Army vehicle is a serious concern.
10. Images of the attack reminiscent of the 2019 Pulwama attack.
11. Pulwama attack led to Indian fighter jets striking JeM camps in Balakot, Pakistan.
12. Despite India's response, terror from Pakistan continues.
13. Rising violence in J&K since revoking semi-autonomous status in 2019.
14. Former J&K Governor's recent claims raise questions about political intent regarding terrorism.
15. India needs to rethink its Kashmir strategy and attitude towards Pakistan.

SSC Based - Practice Exercise

1. **What aspect of the recent terror attack in the Rajouri-Poonch Sector raises concerns about the management of patrols in sensitive locations in Jammu and Kashmir?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The attack occurred during inclement weather
 - B. The Army vehicle was on an unaccompanied drive and remained unattended immediately after the attack
 - C. The terrorists' numbers and affiliations were not known immediately
 - D. The attack coincided with preparations for a G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting
2. **What is the main point suggested by the passage in relation to the ongoing issue of terrorism in India?**
 - A. To increase the military presence in Kashmir
 - B. To rethink India's Kashmir strategy and attitude towards Pakistan
 - C. To continue the current strategy in Kashmir without any changes
 - D. To focus solely on eliminating terrorist groups within India
3. **What tone can be inferred from the passage about India's approach to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Critical
 - D. Pessimistic
4. **What is a primary concern raised by the terror attack described in the passage?**
 - A. The number of terrorists involved
 - B. The affiliation of the terrorists
 - C. The impact on tourism in Jammu and Kashmir
 - D. The management of patrols in sensitive locations
5. **Which idiom best describes the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, as discussed in the editorial?**
 - A. A walk in the park
 - B. A hard nut to crack
 - C. An open book
 - D. A piece of cake
6. Which word is a synonym for "**spectre**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Recede
 - B. Vision
 - C. Menace
 - D. Entity
7. Which word is a synonym for "**inclement**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Severe
 - B. Pleasant
 - C. Agreeable
 - D. Gentle

8. Which word is an antonym for "ebb" as used in the passage?
- A. Decline
 - B. Decrease
 - C. Increase
 - D. Dwindle
9. Which word is an antonym for "strident" as used in the passage?
- A. Harsh
 - B. Muted
 - C. Aggressive
 - D. Forceful
10. Which of the following statements regarding the recent events in Jammu and Kashmir is **INCORRECT**?
- A. Five soldiers were killed in a terror attack on April 20 in the Rajouri-Poonch Sector.
 - B. The attack occurred as J&K is preparing to host a G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in May.
 - C. Pakistan's Foreign Minister is expected to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Goa, potentially opening the door for India-Pakistan engagement.
 - D. The terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir was carried out by a well-known militant group, which has claimed responsibility for the attack.
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**
- P. This is eminently sensible — and a recommendation the government must accept.
 - Q. The absurdity of demands made by aspirants towards the UPSC exam grows more apparent with their daily protests.
 - R. This panel states these questions test the most basic level of English, checking minimum standards an Indian administrative service officer must have.
 - S. Claiming that non-English-speaking students are being placed at a disadvantage, the aspirants' demand — that the UPSC's CSAT component, featuring eight to nine questions testing Class X-level English be dropped — has been rejected by the Arvind Verma committee.
- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS
12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**
- P. Western sanctions on Russia as marking the start of a new Cold War
 - Q. It would also pose new challenges for India and other formerly 'non-aligned' countries that would prefer to steer clear of great power confrontations
 - R. The ensuing isolation of Moscow might produce a diplomatic bonanza for China and make resolution of hot global issues more difficult
 - S. Future historians may view the July 17 downing of a Malaysian airliner and subsequent imposition of stringent
- A. PQRS B.PQSR C.RPSQ D.SPRQ
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**

- P. It has and in the process rained billions of dollars into India this year
- Q. Almost 15 years ago Jeff Bezos, founder of US online retail firm Amazon, said e-commerce was going to change the way the world shops
- R. Bansals who are former Amazon engineers — and Amazon itself show how fast India is changing
- S. Investment plans announced this week by homegrown Flipkart — founded by the

A. QRSP B.QPSR C.QSRP D.PQSR

14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. Kerry's message reflects a perceptible change in Washington's attitude towards India-US ties, which had hit a rough patch in recent years.
- Q. It's clear that the Obama administration now wants to turn the page on the phase of resentment that had marked bilateral relations.
- R. Furthermore, Kerry stressed that the new Indian government's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was praiseworthy and reiterated his government's support for India's place in an expanded UN Security Council.
- S. In interesting remarks ahead of the fifth India-US Strategic Dialogue, US secretary of state John Kerry has described India as an indispensable partner for the 21st century.

A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ

15. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. The latest to sail this ship are researchers who boast that their mathematical equation can calculate exactly how happy anyone is at any given time.
- Q. The gazillions of people who have seen Mona Lisa can't agree on whether she's happy or sad.
- R. But ignoring this infinite complexity of human emotions, some scientists continue — doomed like Captain Ahab — to seek out an empirical, universal formula for happiness.
- S. Because people define, experience and communicate happiness in a gazillion different ways.

A. RSPQ B.QPSR C.QSRP D.SPRQ

Comprehension

In 2017, the education ministry — then the Human Resource Development ministry — _____1_____ the Institutions of Eminence (IOE) scheme to develop "world-class" centres of higher education in the country. Universities that met the IOE criteria were promised autonomy in financial matters and guaranteed _____2_____ freedom to hire faculty and customise courses. Six years later, the project is yet to become the game changer it was intended to be. An investigation by this newspaper has revealed that the IOE scheme is _____3_____ by the very regulatory cholesterol from which it promised _____4_____. Four private institutes, which have received the all-clear from the government-empowered committee, are yet to get the IOE tag. Four others, which have received this recognition,

continue to face red tape on matters such as hiring foreign faculty and admitting foreign students. They find themselves _____5_____ by the UGC's heavy-handed approach.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. Compromised
- B. Conceived
- C. Charged
- D. Toppled

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. Triggered
- B. Squeezed
- C. Flawed
- D. Unprecedented

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Inspired
- B. Hobbled
- C. Undermined
- D. Struggled

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Caprice
- B. Persistence
- C. Deliverance
- D. Imbalance

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**

- A. Encumbered
- B. Rendered
- C. Neutered
- D. Countered

Answers

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

Explanations

- 1. Answer: B) The Army vehicle was on an unaccompanied drive and remained unattended immediately after the attack.**
 Explanation: The passage mentions that the attack raises questions about the management of patrols in sensitive locations, specifically highlighting that the Army vehicle was on an unaccompanied drive and remained unattended immediately after the attack. This aspect reveals a potential lapse in security measures and raises concerns about how patrols are managed in such high-risk areas
- 2. Correct Answer: B) To rethink India's Kashmir strategy and attitude towards Pakistan**
 Explanation: The passage highlights the ongoing issue of terrorism in India, particularly in the Jammu and Kashmir region. It mentions a specific incident - the Pulwama attack in 2019 - and how India responded with airstrikes on JeM camps in Pakistan. However, it also highlights that the violence in the region has not ceased, even after the government's decision to end the semi-autonomous status of J&K in 2019. The passage suggests that it may be time for India to review its strategy in Kashmir and consider resuming talks with Pakistan
- 3. Answer: C) Critical**
 Explanation: The passage criticizes India's strategy and approach to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, suggesting that it needs to rethink its strategy and attitude towards Pakistan.
- 4. Answer: D) The management of patrols in sensitive locations**
 Explanation: The passage raises questions about the management of patrols in sensitive locations in the region, as it mentions a spike in militant violence and the fact that the Army vehicle was on an unaccompanied drive and remained unattended immediately after the attack.
- 5. Answer: B) A hard nut to crack** (phrase) – a difficult problem that is hard to beat **ऐसी स्थिति या समस्या जिसे सुलझाना या दूर करना बहुत कठिन हो**
 Explanation: The editorial highlights the continuing terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the complex political landscape involving India and Pakistan. The phrase "a hard nut to crack" is used to describe a difficult problem or situation, which seems to be an apt description of the ongoing conflict and strategic challenges faced by India in the region. The other options (A, C, and D) imply that the situation is easy or straightforward, which is not the case in this context.
- 6. Answer: C. Menace**
Spectre (noun) – Apparition, ghost, phantom, menace, threat **काली छाया**

Explanation: In the passage, "spectre" is used to describe the occurrence of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The word "spectre" means something widely feared or seen as a source of terror, which is similar in meaning to "menace."

7. Answer: A. severe

Inclement (adjective) – unpleasant, bad, foul, nasty, filthy, severe, extreme, adverse खराब

Explanation: In the passage, "inclement" is used to describe the weather during the time of the terror attack. "Inclement" means severe, rough, or harsh, especially in reference to the weather.

8. Answer: C. Increase

Ebb (verb) – Fade, diminish, recede, disappear, abate, fail, decline

कमज़ोर पड़ना, कम होना

Explanation: In the passage, "ebb" is used to describe the failure of terror activities from Pakistan to recede. The word "ebb" means to decrease or decline, so its antonym would be "increase."

9. Answer: B. Muted

Strident (adjective) – shrill, harsh, raucous, grating, loud कठोर

Explanation: In the passage, "strident" is used to describe India's response to cross-border terror. The word "strident" means loud, harsh, or forceful, so its antonym would be "muted," which means quiet, subdued, or soft.

10. The passage describes a terror attack in the Rajouri-Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir that resulted in the death of five soldiers. It also mentions the upcoming G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting and the possibility of India-Pakistan engagement during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. However, the passage does not identify any specific militant group responsible for the attack or any claims of responsibility. Therefore, option (d) is incorrect.

11. **QSRP**

The absurdity of demands made by aspirants towards the UPSC exam grows more apparent with their daily protests. Claiming that non-English-speaking students are being placed at a disadvantage, the aspirants' demand — that the UPSC's CSAT component, featuring eight to nine questions testing Class X-level English be dropped — has been rejected by the Arvind Verma committee. This panel states these questions test the most basic level of English, checking minimum standards an Indian administrative service officer must have. This is eminently sensible — and a recommendation the government must accept.

12. **SPRQ**

Future historians may view the July 17 downing of a Malaysian airliner and subsequent imposition of stringent Western sanctions on Russia as marking the start of a new Cold War. The ensuing isolation of Moscow might produce a diplomatic bonanza for China and make resolution of hot global issues more difficult. It would also pose new challenges for India and

other formerly 'non-aligned' countries that would prefer to steer clear of great power confrontations.

13. **QPSR**

Almost 15 years ago Jeff Bezos, founder of US online retail firm Amazon, said e-commerce was going to change the way the world shops. It has and in the process rained billions of dollars into India this year. Investment plans announced this week by homegrown Flipkart — founded by the Bansals who are former Amazon engineers — and Amazon itself show how fast India is changing

14. **SRPQ**

In interesting remarks ahead of the fifth India-US Strategic Dialogue, US secretary of state John Kerry has described India as an indispensable partner for the 21st century. Furthermore, Kerry stressed that the new Indian government's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was praiseworthy and reiterated his government's support for India's place in an expanded UN Security Council. Kerry's message reflects a perceptible change in Washington's attitude towards India-US ties, which had hit a rough patch in recent years. It's clear that the Obama administration now wants to turn the page on the phase of resentment that had marked bilateral relations

15. **QSRP**

The gazillions of people who have seen Mona Lisa can't agree on whether she's happy or sad. Because people define, experience and communicate happiness in a gazillion different ways. But ignoring this infinite complexity of human emotions, some scientists continue — doomed like Captain Ahab — to seek out an empirical, universal formula for happiness. The latest to sail this ship are researchers who boast that their mathematical equation can calculate exactly how happy anyone is at any given time.

16. **Conceive** (verb) – Devise, formulate, design, envision, imagine, परिकल्पना करना, सोचना

- **Compromise** (verb) – jeopardize, endanger, threaten, weaken खतरे में डालना
- **Charge** (verb) – Accuse, indict, prosecute, arraign आरोप लगाना
- **Topple** (verb) – Overthrow, oust, unseat, bring down गिराना, बेदखल करना

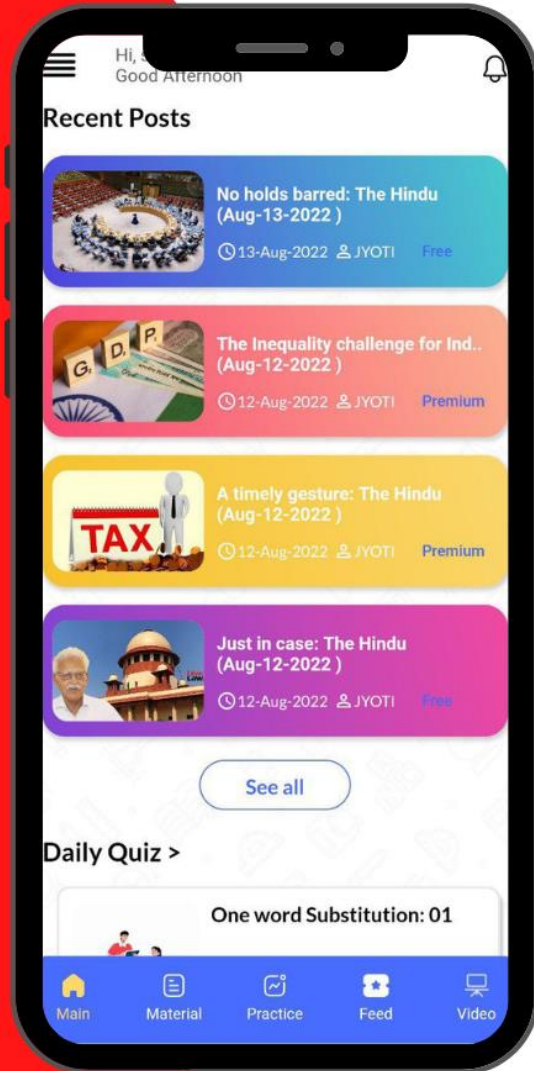
17. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – Unparalleled, unheard-of, extraordinary, unique, अभूतपूर्व

- **Triggered** (adjective) – caused, sparked, initiated, set off, activated प्रेरित
- **Squeezed** (adjective) – constrained, limited, tight, cramped, under pressure दबाव में
- **Flawed** (adjective) – Faulty, defective, damaged, blemished, imperfect दोषपूर्ण, त्रुटिपूर्ण

18. **Hobble** (verb) – Hinder, impede, hamper, obstruct, बाधा डालना, बाधित करना

- **Inspire** (verb) – motivate, encourage, stimulate, influence, spur on प्रेरित करना
- **Undermine** (verb) – weaken, sabotage, damage, subvert कमजोर करना

- **Struggle** (verb) – Grapple, battle, wrestle, strive, contend संघर्ष करना
19. **Deliverance** (noun) – Liberation, release, rescue, salvation, मुक्ति, छुटकारा
- **Caprice** (noun) – Whim, unpredictability, impulsiveness, fickleness, changeability सनक, अनिश्चितता
 - **Persistence** (noun) – Tenacity, determination, perseverance, steadfastness दृढ़ता, निरंतरता
 - **Imbalance** (noun) – Disparity, inequality, disproportion, unevenness असंतुलन
20. **Encumber** (verb) – Burden, weigh down, hinder, impede, बोझ डालना, बाधा डालना
- **Render** (verb) – make, cause to be, bring about, effect बनाना
 - **Neuter** (verb) – Spay, castrate, sterilize, desex, alter नसबंदी करना
 - **Counter** (verb) – Oppose, resist, combat, challenge. प्रतिरोध करना



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