

End the uncertainty: On the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu

Centre must adopt a **proactive** approach to resolve issues of Sri Lankan **repatriates**

The Madras High Court has **demonstrated** how the judiciary can provide **succour** to a person waiting for over 40 years to get Indian citizenship. In T. Ganesan vs The Government of India & Others, the **Madurai Bench** of the High Court, in its judgment on November 30, **directed** the authorities to treat the **petitioner** and his family as Indian citizens, thus **extending** to them relief measures that the Tamil Nadu government provides to repatriates from Sri Lanka. The 69-year-old **petitioner**, now a resident of a refugee camp in Karur, **reached** India in 1990 after having been issued an Indian passport in Kandy in August 1982 on **repatriation** under two **bilateral treaties** that **concerned** hill country Tamils or Indian Origin Tamils (IOT). He had **approached** the court as the authorities treated him only as a Sri Lankan refugee even though he is an Indian citizen. The government accepted the **genuineness** of his passport but doubted his identity because the photograph was the image of a “far younger” person. But the court rejected this position. Ganesan is not the only such person. The court has recorded that around 5,130 applicants (IOT category) have **sought** citizenship. In official data of March 2023, Tamil Nadu had about 91,000 refugees, with around 58,000 in camps.

This is not the first time that the **Bench**, especially Justice G.R. Swaminathan, **has** gone to the rescue of those in the camps. In the last 15 months, the judge had **established** that the petitioners **concerned** were Indian citizens, **interpreting provisions** of the Citizenship Act, and should be issued passports. Otherwise, the general legal **position** of the Union government **is** that every refugee is an illegal **migrant** though **entitled** to benefits. A DMK State government study found that nearly 8,000 refugees are eligible for Indian citizenship as they do not come under exclusions of the law. The Union government’s **stand** has been that despite not being a **signatory** to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol, it **adheres** to the principle of **non-refoulement**. The government also favours the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka. This was a reason why the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 did not include Sri Lankan refugees. The Centre should ensure **follow-up** action on the DMK government’s study. It should first identify those eligible for citizenship under the legal framework and **ascertain** their **consent**. For those who wish to **pursue** higher studies or go abroad for a **livelihood**, permission can be granted if the applicant has no criminal record. The Union government should initiate talks with Sri Lanka on voluntary repatriation and a **structured assistance** programme **worked out**. A proactive approach should be followed to ensure that those tagged as refugees are able to lead a life of **dignity**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Ambiguity, doubt, unpredictability, indecision, vagueness
अनिश्चितता
2. **Proactive** (adjective) – Preventative, anticipatory, preemptive, forward-thinking, active सक्रिय
3. **Repatriate** (noun) – Returnee, deportee, evacuee, exile, refugee वापस आया व्यक्ति
4. **Demonstrate** (verb) – Show, exemplify, illustrate, prove, display प्रदर्शित करना
5. **Succour** (noun) – Assistance, aid, help, relief, support सहायता
6. **Direct** (verb) – Guide, command, lead, instruct, manage निर्देशित करना
7. **Petitioner** (noun) – Applicant, supplicant, claimant, plaintiff, requester याचिकाकर्ता
8. **Extend** (verb) – to offer something to somebody किसी को कुछ पेश करना
9. **Repatriation** (noun) – Return, restoration, sending back, reintegration वापसी
10. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, joint, dual द्विपक्षीय
11. **Treaty** (noun) – Agreement, pact, accord, contract, convention संधि
12. **Concern** (verb) – Involve, relate to, affect, pertain to, interest संबंधित होना
13. **Approach** (verb) – Address, tackle, handle, deal with, confront संपर्क करना
14. **Genuineness** (noun) – Authenticity, sincerity, realness, legitimacy, truthfulness वास्तविकता
15. **Seek** (verb) – to search for or try to obtain something मांगना
16. **Bench** (noun) – Judiciary, court, tribunal, judicial body, panel न्यायपीठ
17. **Establish** (verb) – Set up, found, create, form, institute स्थापित करना
18. **Concerned** (adjective) – connected, related, involved सम्बंधित
19. **Interpret** (verb) – Translate, explain, decipher, elucidate, construe व्याख्या करना
20. **Provision** (noun) – Supply, provision, arrangement, preparation, stipulation प्रावधान
21. **Migrant** (noun) – Immigrant, emigrant, wanderer, traveler, nomad प्रवासी
22. **Entitle** (verb) – Authorize, qualify, empower, permit, grant अधिकार देना
23. **Stand** (noun) – Stance, position, standpoint, viewpoint, opinion रुख
24. **Signatory** (noun) – Endorser, subscriber, signee, participant, co-signer हस्ताक्षरकर्ता

25. **Adhere** (to) (verb) – Stick to, cling to, hold to, comply with, abide by पालन करना
26. **Non-refoulement** (noun) – Non-return, non-expulsion, asylum protection वापस न भेजने का सिद्धांत
27. **Follow-up action** (noun) – Subsequent steps, continuation, further measures, follow-on, sequel अनुवर्ती कार्य
28. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, system, scheme, setup, organization ढांचा
29. **Ascertain** (verb) – Determine, find out, discover, establish, verify पता लगाना
30. **Consent** (noun) – Agreement, permission, approval, assent, acceptance सहमति
31. **Pursue** (verb) – Carry out or participate in an activity; be involved in पीछा करना
32. **Livelihood** (noun) – Occupation, job, employment, living, means of support जीविका
33. **Structured** (adjective) – Organized, arranged, systematic, planned, ordered संरचित
34. **Assistance** (noun) – Help, support, aid, relief, backing सहायता
35. **Work out** (phrasal verb) – Solve, figure out, resolve, calculate, plan निकालना
36. **Dignity** (noun) – Respect, honor, pride, self-respect, decency गरिमा

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Judiciary's Role in Citizenship Grant:** The Madras High Court directed authorities to recognize the petitioner in T. Ganesan vs The Government of India & Others as an Indian citizen, showcasing the judiciary's role in resolving citizenship issues for Sri Lankan refugees.
2. **Case Background:** The 69-year-old petitioner, T. Ganesan, a resident in a refugee camp, was issued an Indian passport in 1982 but was still treated as a Sri Lankan refugee.
3. **Court's Decision:** The High Court rejected the government's doubt over Ganesan's identity and directed his recognition as an Indian citizen.
4. **Widespread Issue:** The case highlights a broader issue, with about 5,130 similar applicants seeking Indian citizenship.
5. **Refugee Statistics in Tamil Nadu:** Tamil Nadu hosts approximately 91,000 refugees, with around 58,000 in camps, as of March 2023.
6. **Justice Swaminathan's Previous Rulings:** Over the last 15 months, Justice Swaminathan has made several rulings affirming the Indian citizenship of petitioners from refugee camps.
7. **Union Government's Legal Stance:** The general position is that refugees are considered illegal migrants, though they are entitled to certain benefits.
8. **Eligibility for Citizenship:** A study by the DMK State government found nearly 8,000 refugees potentially eligible for Indian citizenship.
9. **Non-Refoulement Principle:** Despite not signing the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol, India adheres to the principle of non-refoulement.
10. **Voluntary Repatriation Policy:** The government supports voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka, influencing the exclusion of Sri Lankan refugees from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.
11. **Centre's Responsibilities:** The Centre should identify refugees eligible for citizenship and ascertain their consent.
12. **Facilitating Aspirations:** Refugees wishing to pursue higher education or work abroad should be assisted, provided they have no criminal record.
13. **Dialogues with Sri Lanka:** The Indian government should engage in talks with Sri Lanka regarding voluntary repatriation and assistance programs.
14. **Proactive Government Approach:** A more active approach by the government is needed to address the status of refugees and ensure dignified living conditions.
15. **Aim for Dignified Life:** The overarching goal is to enable those labeled as refugees to lead a life of dignity, transcending legal and bureaucratic hurdles.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Sympathetic
 - D. Indifferent
2. **Identify the antonym of 'proactive' as it is used in the passage?**
 - A. Reactive
 - B. Active
 - C. Energetic
 - D. Vigorous
3. **What is the antonym of 'adheres' in the context of this passage?**
 - A. Complies
 - B. Ignores
 - C. Abides
 - D. Follows
4. **Which of the following statements is correct based on the passage?**
 - A. The Union government considers all refugees as legal migrants.
 - B. The Madras High Court directed authorities to treat the petitioner and his family as Sri Lankan citizens.
 - C. Justice G.R. Swaminathan has been instrumental in establishing citizenship for refugees.
 - D. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, includes provisions for Sri Lankan refugees.
5. **Which of the following statements is incorrect based on the passage?**
 - A. The petitioner, T. Ganesan, arrived in India in 1990.
 - B. Around 5,130 applicants have sought Indian citizenship under the IOT category.
 - C. The Union government adheres to the principle of non-refoulement, despite not being a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
 - D. The Tamil Nadu government does not provide any relief measures to repatriates from Sri Lanka.
6. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the Indian government's approach towards Sri Lankan refugees?**
 - A. It actively encourages their return to Sri Lanka without legal recognition.
 - B. It is committed to granting all refugees citizenship regardless of their background.
 - C. It takes a cautious approach, distinguishing between refugees and eligible citizens.
 - D. It is indifferent to the plight of refugees and their citizenship status.
7. **In the context of the passage, which word is a synonym for "succour" as used in the first sentence?**
 - A. Hindrance

- B. Assistance
C. Indifference
D. Challenge
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
A haze of panic blurred my vision; something terrible was close to _____.
A. happened
B. happening
C. happens
D. has happened
9. **Identify the option that arranges the given parts in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph.**
P. Fasting also leads to a feeling of rejuvenation and extended life expectancy.
Q. This might be due to the detoxification effect of fasting.
R. A study was performed on earthworms that showed the extension of life thanks to fasting.
S. The experiment was performed in the 1930s by isolating one worm and putting it on a cycle of fasting and feeding.
The isolated worm outlived the other worms by 19 generations, while still maintaining its freshness and youthful physiological characteristics.
A. PQSR
B. PRSQ
C. PQRS
D. PSRQ
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**
The story explores the conflicting range of human emotions.
A. The conflicting range of human emotions had explored by the story.
B. The conflicting range of human emotions did explored by the story.
C. The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story.
D. The conflicting range of human emotions has explored by the story.
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
No matter how many times I try, I always end up in the same _____.
A. sauce
B. meal
C. pickle
D. account
12. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
He was quite rigid, almost like a religious fanatic
A. Militant
B. Moderate
C. Sectarian
D. Zealot
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**
To the manner born

- A. To have high manners
B. To do something as though it is coming naturally
C. To be sophisticated
D. To give a ride to someone
14. **Select the sentence that contains no spelling errors.**
A. You remiend me of somone I knew once.
B. You reminde me of someone I knew once.
C. You remind me of someone I knew onse.
D. You remind me of someone I knew once.
15. Select the word that is closest in meaning (**SYNONYM**) to the word given below
Decimate
A. mend
B. wreck
C. harbour
D. establish
16. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
P. To stop Caesar from gaining too much power, Brutus and the conspirators kill him on the Ides of March.
Q. Brutus and his friend Cassius lose and kill themselves, leaving Antony to rule in Rome.
R. Mark Antony drives the conspirators out of Rome and fights them in a battle.
S. The tale of Julius Caesar involves jealous conspirators who convince Caesar's most trusted ally Brutus to join their assassination plot against Caesar.
A. SQPR
B. SPRQ
C. QPSR
D. SQRP
17. Select the most appropriate **SYNONYM** of the underlined word.
The war has polarized the nation
A. Combine
B. Orchestrate
C. Conjoin
D. Segregate
18. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
A. Bloom
B. Gloomy
C. Shuot
D. Broom
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect/direct speech.**
The lawyer said, "Your case is very complicated."
A. The lawyer said that my case was very complicated.
B. The lawyer reported that my case is very complicated.

- C. The lawyer said that my case had been very complicated.
D. The lawyer warned that your case was very complicated.
20. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person or thing that precedes the coming or development of someone or something else
- A. Esoteric
B. Belligerent
C. Forerunner
D. Bottleneck
21. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
My coach said, "You should take a healthy diet."
- A. My coach told me that I should have taken a healthy diet.
B. My coach told me that I should take a healthy diet.
C. My coach told me that you should take a healthy diet.
D. My coach told me that I shall take a healthy diet.

COMPREHENSION

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

With the Tamil Nadu Assembly passing once again its earlier Bill seeking to exempt government seats in undergraduate medical and dental courses from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the ball is once again in the _____**1**_____ of Governor R.N. Ravi. The Governor had chosen to return to the House for reconsideration the Bill that was passed in September 2021, questioning the _____**2**_____ of the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee Report that had given its findings in favour of the passage of such a law. The DMK regime has thrown down the _____**3**_____ as the Constitution is clear as far as the Governor's course of action is concerned. If the Bill is presented to him again, Mr. Ravi is constitutionally bound to grant assent. It is a matter of _____**4**_____ whether the Bill will obtain presidential nod, but the episode raises a question whether the Governor could not have avoided the current situation by reserving the Bill for the President instead of returning it.

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. Favour
B. Court
C. Approval
D. Sanction
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. Tenability
B. Inequity
C. Briefing
D. Perspective
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Encounter
B. Gauntlet
C. Task

D. Undertaking

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

A. Secular

B. Magnitude

C. Speculation

D. Predict

Answers

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. D 6. C 7. B 8. B 9. C 10. C 11. C 12. B
 13. B 14. D 15. B 16. B 17. D 18. C 19. A 20. C 21. B 22. B 23. A 24. B
 25. C

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. C) The tone of the passage is sympathetic. It highlights the struggles of the Sri Lankan refugees and the proactive steps taken by the Madras High Court and the Tamil Nadu government to address their citizenship issues, demonstrating a sense of empathy and understanding towards their plight.
2. A) The word 'proactive' in the passage implies taking initiative or acting in anticipation of future problems or needs. The antonym is 'reactive,' which refers to responding to events or situations rather than initiating or controlling them.
3. B) In the passage, 'adheres' means to stick firmly to a belief, policy, or practice. The antonym in this context is 'ignores,' which means to refuse to take notice of or acknowledge something.
4. C) The passage clearly states that Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madras High Court has played a key role in the last 15 months in recognizing the citizenship rights of the petitioners, thereby making statement C correct.
5. D) The passage mentions that the Tamil Nadu government provides relief measures to repatriates from Sri Lanka, which contradicts statement D, making it the incorrect statement.
6. C) The passage indicates that the Indian government does not automatically consider refugees as citizens and has a legal framework to ascertain eligibility for citizenship. This suggests a cautious approach where the government differentiates between refugees and those eligible for citizenship, leading to the inference in option C.
7. B) In the passage, the term "succour" is used to describe the aid provided by the judiciary to a person seeking Indian citizenship. "Succour" generally means help or relief given to someone in a time of need. Therefore, the word that most closely matches this meaning is "assistance," making option B the correct synonym.
8. B) यहां 'happening' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य के प्रारंभ में 'was close to' अर्थात् 'Be (is/am/are/was/were) + close to' का प्रयोग हो रहा है। 'Be + close to' आमतौर पर 'एक क्रिया के घटित होने की संभावना' को दर्शाने के लिए उपयोग होता है और इसके बाद 'Gerund form (V+ ing)' का उपयोग होता है; जैसे-
 - i. The movie is close to ending.
 इसलिए यहाँ 'happening' शब्द का उपयोग होगा जैसे-
 A haze of panic blurred my vision; something terrible was close to happening.
9. C) **PQRS**

- Sentence P makes a general statement about fasting leading to feelings of rejuvenation and extended life expectancy. However, it refers to some specific facts or experiments that should be introduced before it is used. Thus, it cannot be the first sentence.
- Sentence Q, on the other hand, provides a potential explanation or reason why fasting could lead to such effects. But, it is based on some sort of experiment or evidence that should be provided before it is used. Thus, it also cannot be the first sentence.
- Sentence R introduces a study about fasting, and this study is performed on earthworms. This sentence could be a good start since it introduces a new idea.
- Sentence S provides further details about the experiment mentioned in Sentence R. Therefore, it should come immediately after Sentence R.
- Sentence P then comes in as a broader interpretation or extrapolation of the study results explained in Sentence S.

Finally, Sentence Q provides a conclusion or interpretation that ties back to the study results explained in Sentence S and Sentence R, and also aligns with the broader statement made in Sentence P.

10. C) The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story.

11. C) Pickle' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ की संदर्भ में 'end up in the same' का अर्थ होता है 'एक बार फिर मुश्किल में पड़ जाना'. 'Pickle' यहाँ पर 'मुश्किल' के रूप में उपयोग होता है, जो की अंग्रेजी भाषा में एक मुहावरा है. इसलिए, वाक्य का सही रूप होगा:

"No matter how many times I try, I always end up in the same pickle."

यानि, "मैं चाहे कितनी भी कोशिश कर लूँ, मैं हमेशा एक ही मुश्किल में फंस जाता हूँ."

अन्य विकल्पों 'sauce', 'meal', 'account' का इस संदर्भ में प्रयोग सही नहीं होता है क्योंकि वे इस वाक्य में निर्दिष्ट सांदर्भिक अर्थ को पूरी तरह से प्रकट नहीं करते हैं.

12. B) **Fanatic** (noun) – a person filled with excessive and single-minded zeal, especially for an extreme religious or political cause. कट्टर व्यक्ति

- **Militant** (adjective) – Confrontational, aggressive, radical, revolutionary लड़ाका
- **Moderate** (adjective) – Reasonable, modest, sensible, judicious मध्यम
- **Sectarian** (adjective) – Religious, sectional, factional सांप्रदायिक
- **Zealot** (noun) – Extremist, fanatic, bigot, dogmatist समर्थक

13. B) To the manner born (Phrase) – To do something as though it is coming naturally पैदाइशी, जन्मज

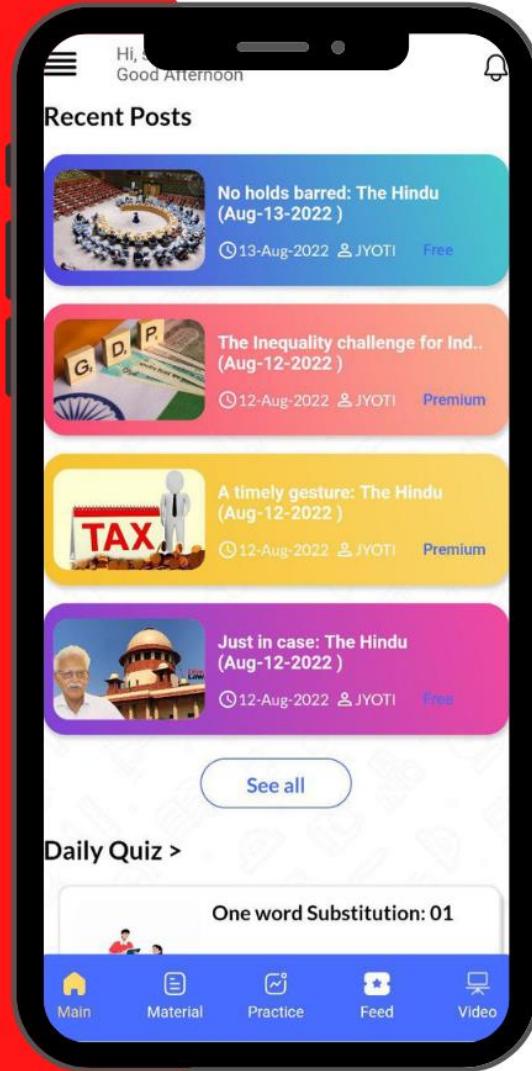
14. D) You remind me of someone I knew once.

Option (A) & (B) is incorrect because of wrongly spelling of Remind. Option (C) is incorrect due to wrong spelling of Once.

15. B) **Decimate** (verb) – Destroy, devastate, annihilate, ruin, demolish तबाह करना

- **mend** (verb) – Repair, fix ठीक करना
 - **wreck** (verb) –Ruin, destroy, demolish, break, shatter नष्ट करना
 - **harbor** (verb) – Protect, shelter, hide, conceal शरण देना
 - **establish** (verb) – Found, create, launch, institute स्थापित करना
16. B) **SPRQ**
- S.** "The tale of Julius Caesar involves jealous conspirators who convince Caesar's most trusted ally Brutus to join their assassination plot against Caesar."
- This sentence gives a broad overview of the story. It sets up the context about the conspirators and their plot, making it a good starting point.
- P.** "To stop Caesar from gaining too much power, Brutus and the conspirators kill him on the Ides of March."
- This sentence follows logically from the first one, as it provides details about the execution of the plan mentioned in the previous sentence.
- R.** "Mark Antony drives the conspirators out of Rome and fights them in a battle."
- This sentence describes the aftermath of the assassination. It shows Mark Antony's response to Caesar's death, which is a direct result of the actions in the previous sentence.
- Q.** "Brutus and his friend Cassius lose and kill themselves, leaving Antony to rule in Rome."
- This sentence concludes the story by detailing the outcome of Mark Antony's battle against the conspirators and the ultimate fate of Brutus and Cassius, which was the consequence of their actions described in the preceding sentences.
17. D) **Polarise** (verb) – Separate, differentiate, divide, split, diverge धुवीकरण करना
- **Segregate** (verb) – Separate, isolate, keep apart, set apart अलग करना
 - **Orchestrate** (verb) –Arrange, organize, coordinate, संगठित करना
18. C) The correct spelling of 'Shuot' is Shout which means – Cry, yell, scream, screech चिल्लाना
19. A) The lawyer said that my case was very complicated.
20. C) **Forerunner** - A person or thing that precedes the coming or development of someone or something else अग्रदूत
- **Esoteric** - Which is known by a few person गूढ़
 - **Belligerent** - Engaged in war/Fight युद्धरत
 - **Bottleneck** - A situation that stop an activity from progressing अत्रोध
21. B) My coach told me that I should take a healthy diet.
22. **The ball is in someone's court** (phrase) – it is time for someone to deal with a problem or make a decision.
23. **Tenability** (noun) – Acceptability समर्थनीयता
- **Inequity** (noun) – unfairness, injustice असमानता

- **Briefing** (noun) – A meeting for giving information or instructions. वार्ता
 - **Perspective** (noun) – outlook, viewpoint, point of view, standpoint दृष्टिकोण
24. **Throw down the gauntlet** (phrase) – To issue a challenge to someone चुनौती देना
25. **Speculation** (noun) – conjecture, hypothesizing, supposition, guesswork चिंतन/विचार
- **Secular** (adjective) – not connected with religious or spiritual matters. धर्मनिरपेक्ष
 - **Magnitude** (noun) – immensity, hugeness, expanse मात्रा
 - **Predict** (verb) – forecast, foresee, envisage पूर्वानुमान करना



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