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SIKHS PRESENT TO PARLIAMENT

Sangeeta Anand

Auckland's Sikh Centre presented their opinion about the proposed Aviation Security Legislation bill to a New Zealand parliamentary committee.

Auckland-based Verpal Singh, who is the chairman of The Sikh Centre,

remove his/her turban by the security officer during a search, the Sikh is bound to refuse as removing a turban in public for a Sikh is akin to exposing an intimate part of the body."

"Sikhs could be unfairly targeted by security profiling as a result of the legislation"

passengers, which exposed aviation staff's cultural ignorance.

Earlier in March, Qantas deported one of its passengers, Harminder Singh Mavi, from its Queenstown flight, after passengers became concerned. Earlier this year, some Sikh priests were required to deposit their swords to the pilot of the aircraft. Last year, another Sikh passenger, Surinder Singh, was



was connected to the committee via a video link.

He expressed concern that Sikhs could be unfairly targeted by security profiling as a result of the legislation, the NZPA reported.

"If a turbaned Sikh is asked to

Their submission recognised the need for kirpans to be placed in check-in luggage, but were unhappy at the implication a Sikh was committing a crime by wearing a kirpan.

The submission follows some recent incidences involving Sikh

charged for carrying a kirpan at the Auckland airport.

Verpal expressed his appreciation of National Party MP Pansy Wong, for her efforts to arrange a meeting between the Sikh community and Qantas management, following the Mavi incident.



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Pansy says that the Centre's submission highlighted that Sikhs can be unfairly targeted because of the lack of understanding towards the religious importance of the turban and Kirpan. The Centre also suggested protocols that could be adopted by relevant authorities and made offers of assistance for training.

"I am pleased of the progress that has been made on this issue, which became a 'hot topic' following two recently reported incidents involving Sikhs who were undertaking domestic travel," Pansy told The Global Indian magazine.

Pansy says that the Civil Aviation Authority has indicated a willingness to undertake an information campaign to avoid unnecessary confrontation in the future.

"These outcomes wouldn't have been successful without the support of the Sikh community who have been prepared to stand up and speak up – good on you!"

UK IS NZ'S LARGEST SOURCE OF MIGRANTS

Vaibhav Gangan

With 10,324 British migrants coming to New Zealand in the year to 31 March, the UK has continued to be the largest source of migrants, while Philippines and India were the next two largest sources, with 2884 and 2731 respectively.

A desperate National Party is using rubber numbers with its claim that Kiwis going to Australia are being replaced with Asians, says Immigration Minister David Cunliffe.

David was commenting on the remarks of National Party's immigration spokesman Lockwood Smith who reportedly said, "To be losing good New Zealanders to Australia, Europe and the Americas, and to have to survive by having more Asian people come to New Zealand is a little bit troubling."

David said Dr Smith's statement showed the sheep's clothing was falling off National's wolf. "Not since the dark days of Dr Brash at Orewa have the 'hollow men' stooped this low.

"Asian New Zealanders are some of the hardest-working members of our community. To single them out in a negative fashion, like Dr Smith does, is disgraceful."

Net migration from India increased to 2536 from 2044 during the 2006-2007 year. The number of Indians permanently leaving New Zealand also increased from 613 to 624 during the same period. In other words, one Indian is leaving New Zealand for every five Indians arriving here on a long-term basis.

In the coming year, the Department of Labour expects net migration inflows to remain slightly above the annual average of the previous 10 years of about 10,000. Inflows are expected to be between 10,000 and 12,000.

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Staff correspondent

Exploiting vulnerable new migrants and robbing them of their dreams will not build a sustainable new business for Skycity says the Problem Gambling Foundation.

Chief executive, John Stansfield, says that young Asian students are often treated like high rollers to make them feel important but it all ends in disaster.

"We see young people who come to Auckland from remote provinces in China and end up broke and in trouble because of the gambling problems they develop," he says.

"It is not unusual for extended families to save for a long time to send a young person here for further education. These young people can be naïve and lonely. Often they have never seen a casino before."

"The casino is an exciting place for them. They are treated like kings and offered access to high roller privileges to make them feel



important."

"Then the money runs out and they are no longer welcome. They are likely to end up with a trespass notice against them because they have become identified as problem gamblers."

"These unfortunate young people are left in an awful situation. They have to try to explain to their families back home what happened to the money and why they cannot complete their

studies."

Mr Stansfield says that the feelings of shame and guilt that people in this situation are left with can be overwhelming for some while others turn to crime as they desperately seek a solution to their problems.

"A significant proportion of young Asians in our prisons are victims of the casino. This pathway to crime and prison cannot be tolerated by a civilised society - we all lose," he said.

"We had a young man in here awhile ago who came to this country full of life and hope. All his money went into the casino. He turned to crime and ended up in jail. His life has been destroyed."

Mr Stansfield says that he is seeing growing anger at the casino in the Asian community.

"The casino doesn't seem to understand that this is a relatively small community and eventually they will have enough of picking up the pieces after lives are destroyed by gambling."

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INDIA-NZ TO EXTEND DEFENCE PACT

Sangeeta Anand

“Building people-to-people links between our defence forces will help us to enjoy a close and productive relationship in the future,” New Zealand’s defence minister, Phil Goff told a delegation from the Indian National Defence College, at the Defence House in Wellington . The delegation was headed by India’s Vice Admiral Kaushiva.

This delegation follows New Zealand defence minister’s visit to India. Phil visited India earlier this year for the first time as defence minister.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, Phil welcomed the dialogue which is taking place over Kashmir.



“Positive indications have been coming from the talks between the Pakistani and Indian governments.

“Resolution of this issue is of importance to the entire Asian region.

“Any deterioration in Pakistan/India relations obviously poses a serious risk to both countries and has broader regional and international consequences.

“We look forward to working with India to develop our relationship further to better pursue objectives that we have in common.

“We expect that our links with the Indian Armed Forces will continue to grow in the future. I hope that you take away with you a positive image of New Zealand, not only as a friend but also as a nation that is a committed and principled international actor,” he told the delegation.

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NEW FUNDING FOR BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Budget 2007 expands the government's work with New Zealand's ethnic communities with extra funding for the Office of Ethnic Affairs.

"At 23 percent, New Zealand now has one of the highest rates in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of people born overseas. Our society is becoming more complex and throughout this period of change we need to take sensible, pragmatic steps to nurture strong community relationships," Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter says.

Earlier this year, the government announced the Connecting Diverse Communities programme, an initiative that seeks to draw together government programmes concerned with promoting social cohesion. Budget 2007 adds to this programme by providing \$2.4 million new funding over four years to the Office of Ethnic

Affairs for its work with ethnic New Zealanders.

The new funding will allow the Office to expand its Ethnic Advisory service to Hamilton. The services facilitate strong relationships between government and ethnic communities.

It will also help in expanding Intercultural Awareness (IAC) training in government organisations. The IAC programme is designed to build inter-cultural competency that will contribute to a more efficient public service.

The funding is further expected to expand the Building Bridges programme, which helps ethnic groups build relationships with the wider community and support ethnic communities to participate in government policy-making.

"New New Zealanders are making a considerable contribution to New Zealand culturally and economically, and Budget 2007 recognises that fact," the minister added.

THEY SAID IT



“ In the 12 economies IMF studied, housing price increase has averaged 4.5% during 2002-06. Only three countries — China, India and New Zealand — experienced real annual price rise of more than 8% during the period.”

The Economic Times

“ If we had farms like New Zealand, then, we would need only 100,000 farmers to produce all of India's milk. But then what about the livelihood of the balance 69.9 million farmers?”

The managing director of Mumbai-based Devashree Foods Pvt Ltd, Deepak Jain told a dairy industry conference in Mumbai.

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LOW SCORES FOR ASIA COMPETENCY - REPORT

The low ratings for New Zealanders' ability in Asian languages and cultural sensitivity are areas of concern, says a new Asia:NZ Foundation report.

The Reality Check: Asian Perceptions of New Zealand Business People report says learning how to operate in different business cultures is a key piece of advice from successful New Zealand business people but it appears that the country is slow to take it up.

The report is based on research into how New Zealand business people are perceived in Asian economies such as China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Its release comes at a time when a number of iconic New Zealand manufacturers like Fisher and Paykel and Sleepyhead are establishing production in or considering moving it to Asian countries, highlighting the need for New Zealand companies to internationalise production to remain competitive.

While the report finds that New Zealanders may be well perceived in many areas, it is essential that the country

does not "relax in light of this fast-changing and dynamic economic environment in Asia".

"New Zealanders need to develop their business skills to take advantage of opportunities in Asia," the report says.

It also recommends the development of stronger university and research institutional relationships between New Zealand and Asia if the country is to "leverage capability and acquire technological expertise".

The Reality Check report will be one of the focal points for the Action Asia Business Summit being held by the Asia:NZ at the Sky City Convention Centre in Auckland on July 9-10.

A keynote speaker for the summit is the internationally respected economist Clyde Prestowitz, president and founder of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington and author of Three Billion New Capitalists: The Great Shift of Wealth and Power to the East.

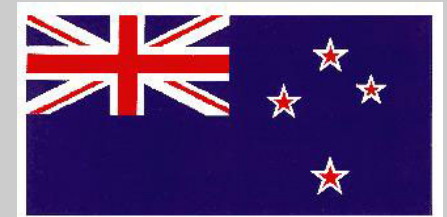
For more information about the Action Asia Business Summit, visit: www.actionasia.co.nz

(This article was first published in Asia:NZ Foundation's May media newsletter.)

INDIANS TOP THE LIST OF NEW CITIZENS

The list of New Zealand's new Kiwis is lead by Indians this year. In one of the biggest citizenship ceremonies in New Zealand, 1020 new citizens were welcomed last month.

At the top of this list were Indians with 1719 new citizens, followed by China with 1089. South Africa—1007 and the UK—1002.



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JODHAA-AKBAR

It has all the ingredients for a winner – a Hindu-Muslim love story, an Oscar-nominated director, a legendary music composer and two of the biggest actors in Bollywood.



Jodhaa-Akbar is a period film

portraying the love story of Mughar emperor Akbar and his Hindu wife Jodhabai.

In his attempt to win over Hindu empires and expand his reign,

Akbar marries Jodhabai, a Rajput princess. The plot changes when he falls in love with Jodhabai and hopes to win her love.

The Ashutosh Gowariker-directed movie is already controversial, as some Rajputs are challenging the historic accuracy of the movie, which is based on the 16th century emperor's married life. The centre of debate is whether Akbar and Jodha were married at all. The movie will provide a treat of 12 A R Rahman composed songs. The lead actors, Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai will be an added attraction. The movie is expected to be released in over two dozen countries in October.

PREVIEW

HRITHIK ROSHAN

This 33-year old superhero has probably fewer movies to his credit compared to his peers in the industry. But Hrithik never played the numbers game. He has been choosy with his films after his father successfully launched him in the lead role in "Kaho Na... Pyar Hai" in 2000. The movie won him two Filmfare awards—Best Newcomer and Best Actor. Of course, this was not the first time the star-son was facing the camera.

At the age of six, Hrithik acted in his first film—Aasha. Since then he has



won three Filmfare awards—two Best Actor awards for Koi Mil Gaya (2004), and one for Dhoom 2 (2007).

Hrithik is married to Suzanne Khan, daughter of former Bollywood actor Sanjay Khan. The couple has a one-year old son—Hrehaan.

STAR OF THE MONTH

Written by Seema Patel. Seema is a Malaysia-based freelance writer and a movie buff. Starting this issue, she brings an exclusive Bollywood feature for The Global Indian readers.

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WHEN A MAORI LOVES AN INDIAN

Staff correspondent

It's happened in the UK and USA, but this is the first time a leading Bollywood actress has signed up to star in a New Zealand feature film. This confirms our earlier report in The Global Indian May issue that Celina Jaitley, a former Miss India Universe (2001), will play opposite New Zealand's Ben Mitchell, who will divide his time between the film and acting in his well-known role as the handsome Maori Doctor "TK" Samuels in Shortland Street.

With the working title Love Has No Language, the film is now nearing the end of pre-production phase.

This movie tells a cross-culture tale of love between a Maori heart-throb (Ben Mitchell) and a beautiful Indian migrant (Celina Jaitley).

Fascinated by each other's cultures, the pair fall into a love spiral which springs many surprises on them and those around them. The film, produced by Pan Pacific Pictures New Zealand, is poised to highlight to the world the diverse range of communities that live in New Zealand.

"It is our intention to incorporate the diversity of New Zealand's cultures into the film and present to the global audience what New Zealand is all about," says producer Sue Moses.

Filmed mainly in Auckland, but featuring some scenes in Queenstown, Love Has No Language will address a number of social issues, including breast cancer and smoking.



Celina Jaitly
Photography Mahender Soni

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SKILLS SHORTAGE

Vaibhav Gangan

Yes, there is a skill shortage, and no, we are not talking about New Zealand. As the economic growth continues its strong performance, India's strong economy is facing skills shortage.

Companies in India should brace up for a shortage of five million to six million people in the next five years, India's industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) said. The services and manufacturing sectors will be the hardest hit, a Asia Times report said.

"Every quality guy we approach has two other offers in his pocket," says Rajeev Vasudeva, a partner at Egon Zehnder International, a leading headhunter firm. He was talking to Paran Balakrishnan of the Telegraph.

"There are signals of manpower shortages already on the horizon with

the growth rate picking up in recent years and wage rates getting overheated," the chamber president Sanjay Bhatia said.

Manufacturing in India is turning highly digital and requires skilled professionals, the chamber said, adding that the government-subsidised industrial training institutes are still churning out manpower with redundant skill sets.

But this is not a recent development. In 2005, the Business Week, a leading Indian business weekly, reported that leading businesses were finding it difficult to find skilled employees.

"Companies worldwide are rushing to take advantage of the country's cheap and abundant labor force. But now India's domestic growth is taking off, creating unprecedented demand for workers," the report said. It also quoted Shirish Sankhe, a partner with consultancy McKinsey & Co., to explain the shortage. "The engines of

the services and manufacturing sectors are going simultaneously."

The signs appeared first in the information technology industry before spreading on to outsourcing and then the overall economy. A BBC report back in 2004 had forecast a skills shortage of 262,000 in the IT industry alone, according to NASSCOM forecast, India's association for the IT professionals.

India's leading software companies, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Satyam and HCL Technologies alone hired over 23,000 employees in just three months ending December 2006. But that's not all. This year, these five companies alone will be hiring 100,000 more, according to the Asia Times. This skills shortage exists despite many NRIs (non-resident Indians) returning back to their homeland. In the last two years alone, close to 2000 Indians living in New Zealand left this country permanently.



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CHANGING MEDIA

Pranab Sarkar, Kolkata

Who do you rely on for your news? If you ask this question to anyone from an Indian metro city, the answer will be complex. Today, Indians are spoilt for choices. The news flows around the clock, and the channels are many – newspapers, Internet, mobile phones, television and radio. Some ten years ago, a major source of news used to be print and electronic media, and news used to flow

only in the morning and evening. Not anymore!

A more important trend in India and worldwide, is that media houses are loosing their monopoly as news-providers. I receive about five “email

The concept of blogging has spread like wildfire in India, with Chennai being the most blogged state in India.

forwards” every week from my friends sharing important news with me. Then there are email discussion groups on the Internet that share news, views and information.

The concept of blogging has spread like wildfire in India, with Chennai being the most blogged state in India. Something that started merely as an online journal of people who wanted to talk to the world, has become a legitimate platform to publish opinion and share information, and has given rise to ‘citizen journalism’. If media

does not want to tell a story, it is easy for a victim to adopt one of these channels to spread their message.

This has redefined the way media reports stories. Because blogs are reporting both ‘commodity’ news and

news analysis, newspapers will have to do better research for their stories.

It also puts an added impetus on social responsibility of bloggers and citizen journalists. A common occurrence of people forwarding emails without authenticating information is a good example of Internet tools fallen in incompetent hands.

The other fallout of growing use of Internet (blogging, email, chat) to communicate is that personal interaction is missing from our lives. Though we are communicating with more people via Internet, the personal touch is lacking. Our social skills are deteriorating.

But overall, Internet and new telecommunication channels have provided more benefits than barriers. One thing for sure, our media habits (both production and consumption) won't be the same again!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“(Mahatma) Gandhi accomplished, through the influence of faith, something that the strongest military

power on earth could not, and never will, achieve through soldiers and military equipment. He accomplished the astounding feat of influencing 200 million minds to coalesce and move

in unison, as a single mind.” Napoleon Hill, in ‘Think and Grow Rich’.

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GRILLED LIME CHICKEN

Ingredients (four servings)

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves

1 teaspoon grated lime peel

2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

1 tablespoon finely minced fresh gingerroot

1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro

1 teaspoon honey

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1/4 teaspoon salt

Method

Wash and trim chicken breasts. Place between 2 sheets of waxed paper and flatten. Spray both sides of chicken with cooking spray and place in shallow pan.

Mix together lime peel and juice, gingerroot, cilantro, honey, pepper and salt. Coat both sides of chicken breasts with lime mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and chill 2 to 6 hours.

Remove chicken from pan. Spray both sides again with cooking spray.

Grill over hot grill, turning just once, 10 to 12 minutes, or until browned and done through. (Or broil under a preheated broiler, close to the heat source, turning just once.)

Contributed by Bharati Brindal, Singapore

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GOOD ON US, KIWIS!

Vaibhav Gangan

Charity knows no regional boundaries. Hamiltonian Cherie Mason, who now lives in London, travelled thousands of miles, to meet Phudo Kumari in the northern Indian state of Bihar. The 12-year old girl in the village of Dumaira in Bihar is the recipient of dollar-a-day donation made by Cherie.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," says Cherie, who travelled around India, a Waikato Times report said.

"I had the picture of my sponsored child on my mantelpiece, knowing the day would come I would travel and visit her."

Cherie has been sponsoring the child for the last six years through World Vision, who provide yearly updates



about the progress of the child to the sponsor.

"It's so affordable, \$30 a month automatically comes out of my bank account, I don't even notice," she told

the newspaper.

Cherie's visit to India was organised by World Vision.

The villagers were waiting for the World Vision group. As the group arrived, the villagers put garlands around their necks and women touched their feet.

World Vision's New Zealand branch currently supports more than 70 projects in 18 countries. Over 80,000 New Zealanders donate dollar a day to World Vision. Half of the donations go to Africa, about a third to Asia, and the rest to the South Pacific.

Donations over \$5 are eligible for a tax rebate.

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Dr Sandeep Reddy

Since being first clinically identified in San Francisco in 1981, HIV [Human Immunodeficiency Virus] infection has spread its tentacles all across the globe with 40 millions HIV patients presently. HIV is a retrovirus which mainly infects immune cells. Upon long term infection, the immunity of a person declines and eventually the person acquires AIDS [Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome] – The end stage of HIV infection.

India is facing a challenge in the HIV disease. Presently India has more than 4 million HIV infected patients. The HIV disease is now mainly restricted to high risk groups like commercial sex workers, truck drivers, and intravenous drug users. However it has been cautioned by health experts that complacency on part of health authorities could mean that the infection spread from these high-risk groups to the general population. Hence the importance of well planned and implemented HIV prevention campaigns and programmes not only to raise awareness but also to promote safe



sex methods.

In India, the Government run National AIDS Control Organisation [NACO], set up in 1992, has been the main body responsible for coordinating the response to the HIV infection in the country. Along with NACO, there are State AIDS Control Organisations [SACO] which are responsible for coordination at the state level. Along with these there are many non-governmental organisations [NGO] and private bodies, which are involved in HIV prevention programmes and provision of ART.

What does this mean to overseas Indians?

We all should be concerned with the spread of HIV disease. HIV has not

only clinical implications but also social and economic implications. Unwarranted stigma associated with HIV infection leads to social isolation of HIV patients and also death of HIV infected breadwinners leads to economic hardship for the rest of the family members.

We can support NGOs or other agencies. Many of these NGOs or agencies are dependent on external funding for proper functioning and implementation of their programmes. This is where overseas Indians come into the picture. After identifying a NGO that we can be involved with, we could either contribute to their efforts by providing financial support or health advice if we are qualified to. We could raise awareness with other overseas Indians and also have fundraising drives to support the work of NGOs. Thus, overseas Indians can in their own way contribute to the fight against HIV in India.

Donate: www.giveindia.org

Dr Sandeep Reddy is a practicing fellow at Dunedin School of Medicine, New Zealand. Views expressed are his own. (Image courtesy: Massachusetts Institute Of Technology)

MONTH SPECIAL

SIKHS PRESENT TO PARLIAMENT
MOST MIGRANTS FROM THE UK
TARGETTING ASIANS UNFAIR

MONTH IN NEWS

IND-NZ TO EXTEND DEFECT PACT
NEW FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES
LOW ASIA COMPETENCY

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MOVIE PREVIEWS
WHEN MAORI LOVES INDIAN
CULTURE, LIVING

SKILLS SHORTAGE

CHANGING MEDIA

GOURMET ZONE

GOOD ON US, KIWIS

THEY NEED AID

TEA TIME/EVENTS

ABOUT US

DID YOU NOTICE?

Whenever I find the key to success, someone changes the lock.

The road to success is always under construction.

Alcohol doesn't solve any problems, but if you think again, neither does milk.

To get a loan, you first need to prove that you don't need it.

All the desirable things in life are illegal, expensive, fattening or married!

Since light travels faster than sound, people appear brighter before you hear them speak.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you ever tried.

You can never decide which side of

the bread to butter. If it falls down, it will always land on the buttered side.

When in a queue, the other line always moves faster and the person in front of you will always have the most complex of transactions.

Irrespective of the direction of the wind, the smoke from the cigarette will always tend to go to the non-smoker.

THINK AGAIN

Once there was loving couple travelling in a bus in a mountainous area.

They decided to get down at some place. After the couple got down at some place the bus moved on.

As the bus moved on, a huge rock fell

on the bus from the mountain and crushed the bus to crumbs.

Everybody on board was killed.

The couple upon seeing that, said, "We wish we were on that bus" !

Why do you think they said that?

Think again!

If they had remained on the bus instead of deciding to get down, the resulting time delay could have been avoided and the rock would have fallen after the bus had passed!

Think positive in life always and look for opportunities when you can help others.

Contributed by Brian DeSilva, Auckland

AUCKLAND WORKSHOPS

Auckland-based Rasheed Memorial Tawah Trust is organising two seminars to address important family issues. Afroz Ali, an international

motivational speaker, will speak on work-life balance and parenting. Sydney-based Afroz is also a fellow of Steven Covey Training System.

Life-Balance: 7.30pm 15 June Ranui Masjid, Auckland

Parenting—Pointers and Pitfalls: 2.45pm-4.45pm 17 June Kelston Girls College, Auckland

Contact Rasheed Trust on 09 620 5996, 627 5677, 027449 4954 or email rasheedtrust@paradise.net.nz

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