CURRENT AFFAIRS — 26 OCTOBER 2026

Monday, 26 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Bhararisain (Gairsain)** Assembly session from **27 Oct**; **426 questions** from **31 MLAs**.
- Supplementary budget of about **₹5,000 crore** (FY **2026-27**) expected.
- Cabinet notifies **Civil Code (Amendment) Rules, Uttarakhand, 2026**.
- Free coaching for SC/ST: income cap **₹2 lakh → ₹8 lakh**.
- **100-mile Himalayan Ultra Run**: **Mana Pass → Auli**, **May 2027**.
- **Kainchi Dham** logged **45,000+** pilgrims in a single day; **Amritpur Bypass** under review.
- **21st Uttarakhand S&T Congress** (UCOST) at **Science City, Dehradun**.
- **Operation Trident**: **38** raids, **18** arrests, **1,424** accounts frozen in NE.
- RBI's **₹169-cr** data centre opened at **Jatni (Odisha)**.
- **Vigilance Awareness Week** (26 Oct–1 Nov): **'Probity for Prosperity'**.

SECTION A • UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — Governance, Schemes, Tourism & Science

Bhararisain (Gairsain) Assembly Session Opens 27 Oct; ~₹5,000-cr Supplementary Budget Expected

UTTARAKHAND — **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance — Uttarakhand)**

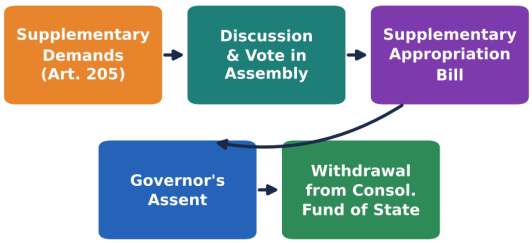
Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand polity — **State Legislature (Art. 168–212)**, state budget (**Art. 202–205**), ordinances (**Art. 213**); Prelims: summer capital, Speaker, Assembly strength.
Context	The third session of the **Fifth Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly** in 2026 begins tomorrow (**27 Oct, 11 AM**) at **Vidhan Sabha Bhawan, Bhararisain (Gairsain, Chamoli)** after the Governor's approval. The government is expected to table a supplementary budget and convert recent ordinances into Bills.
Key Facts	■ **31 MLAs** have submitted **426 questions** — roads, drinking water, health, education, employment. ■ Supplementary budget of about **₹5,000 crore** for **FY 2026-27** reported (**₹5,315 crore** in 2025-26). ■ **Uttarakhand GST (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026** (promulgated **3 Sept**) to come as a Bill — aligns with **CGST Act, 2017** changes. ■ State Human Rights Commission report (**2019-22**): **16,388** cases, **15,075** disposed — to be laid in the House. ■ Speaker **Ritu Khanduri Bhushan** — Uttarakhand's **first woman Speaker**.
Way Fwd	Longer, regular sittings at Gairsain to give hill districts a stronger voice; time-bound replies to members' questions.
Concept	**Art. 205** — supplementary grant when sanctioned money falls short; **Art. 213** — Governor's ordinance must be laid before the House and lapses **6 weeks** after it reassembles. Assembly: **unicameral, 70 seats**; **Gairsain** declared **summer capital** in **2020**.

Cabinet Notifies UCC Amendment Rules 2026; SC/ST Free-Coaching Income Cap Raised to ₹8 Lakh

UTTARAKHAND — **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity, Governance & Social Justice — Uttarakhand)**

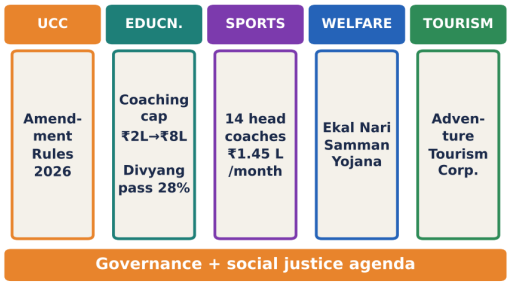
Syllabus Linkage	State schemes & welfare of vulnerable sections; **UCC — Art. 44 (DPSP)**; education & sports policy. Prelims: scheme names, income limits.
Context	In its last meeting before the Gairsain session (**22 Oct**), the **Dhami cabinet** cleared **25 proposals**, including revised rules for the **Uniform Civil Code**, which Uttarakhand began implementing on **27 Jan 2025** — the first state to do so after Independence.
Key Facts	■ **Civil Code (Amendment) Rules, Uttarakhand, 2026** to implement the **UCC, Uttarakhand (Amendment) Act, 2026**; they fix implementation hurdles and clerical errors. ■ Free coaching for **SC/ST** students: family income limit **₹2 lakh → ₹8 lakh**. ■ Students with disabilities: **5% relaxation** — pass at **28%** in **Uttarakhand Board** exams. ■ **One District, One Sport**: **14 head coaches** (13 districts + Directorate), **3-year** contract, **₹1.45 lakh/month**. ■ Maintenance grant renamed **Mukhyamantri Ekal Nari Samman Yojana**; new **Uttarakhand Adventure Tourism Corporation Ltd.**; **OTS** for **~3,600** stamp-duty cases.
Way Fwd	Village-level awareness camps on UCC registration; track whether higher coaching limits translate into selections.
Concept	**Art. 44 (DPSP)**: State shall endeavour to secure a **UCC**. **Goa** follows the **Portuguese Civil Code, 1867**. Uttarakhand's UCC Act (**2024**) exempts **Scheduled Tribes**; **27 Jan** is observed as **UCC Diwas**.

How a Supplementary Budget Passes (Art. 205)



Session: Bhararisain from 27 Oct • ~₹5,000 cr (FY 2026-27, reported)

Cabinet, 22 Oct 2026 — 25 Proposals



Adi Kailash Run 2.0 Ends at Gunji; CM Announces 100-Mile Mana Pass–Auli Ultra Run for May 2027

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand geography — **Himalayan passes, border districts**; tourism & **palayan (migration)**; **Vibrant Villages Programme**. Prelims: passes, valleys, peaks.
Context	At **Gunji (Pithoragarh)** on **25 Oct**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** awarded winners of the **70-km** and **42-km** races of the **Adi Kailash Parikrama Run 2.0** (24–26 Oct, from **Dharchula**) and announced a new high-altitude ultra-marathon.
Key Facts	■ **100 Miles Himalayan Endurance Ultra Run** — **first week of May 2027**, from **Mana Pass (~5,600 m)** via **Badrinath–Joshimath** to **Auli** (Chamoli). ■ Open to Indian and foreign runners; previous edition drew **700+** runners. ■ Support from **Army, ITBP and SSB** in the border belt. ■ Goals: adventure tourism, jobs for local youth, checking **migration** from border villages. ■ Linked to **Vibrant Villages Programme** — border villages as the "**first villages**", not the "last".
Way Fwd	Carrying-capacity limits, waste plans and medical evacuation protocols for high-altitude events; tie-ups with local homestays.
Concept	**Adi Kailash (Chhota Kailash)** & **Om Parvat** lie in the **Vyas valley** near **Lipulekh Pass** (Kailash-Mansarovar route). **Mana Pass** (Chamoli) — on the India–Tibet border, near the source of the **Saraswati**. **VVP** approved **Feb 2023** for northern border villages.

Border Tourism in Uttarakhand — Theme Map



21st Uttarakhand State Science & Technology Congress Opens in Dehradun

SCI-TECH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Environment — Uttarakhand)

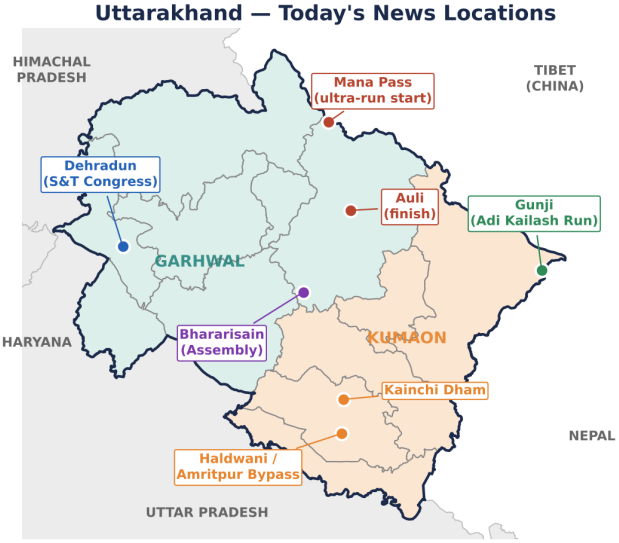
Syllabus Linkage	Science & technology in Uttarakhand; state institutions (**UCOST**); STI policy. Prelims: organisers, venues.
Context	**USSTC-2026**, organised by the **Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST)**, opened on **25 Oct** at **Science City, Dehradun**; a science-communication session is held today (**26 Oct**).
Key Facts	■ About **1,000** scientists, researchers and policymakers; **260+ papers** in **13 technical divisions**. ■ Brainstorming on **STI Policy 2026** — "**Developed India, Empowered Uttarakhand 2047**". ■ UCOST DG **Prof. Durgesh Pant** introduced **Vigyan Setu** to link science with society. ■ Exhibition by **60+** institutes and start-ups; 2nd **Science & Technology Premier League**; chief guest S&T Minister **Pradeep Batra**.
Way Fwd	Channel research into mountain problems — landslide early warning, springshed revival, hill farming and disaster-resilient housing.
Concept	**UCOST** (est. **2005**, Dehradun) is the state's nodal S&T body. **STI** = Science, Technology & Innovation; national policy anchor — **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

CM Reviews Amritpur Bypass to Ease Tourist Jams on Kumaon Circuit

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy — **tourism, hill infrastructure, urban carrying capacity**; Prelims: Kumaon/Garhwal divisions, religious sites.
Context	On **25 Oct**, CM Dhami inspected the under-construction **Amritpur Bypass** (Nainital district), meant to relieve tourist-season and weekend jams across Kumaon, and ordered priority completion.
Key Facts	■ **Kainchi Dham** recorded **45,000+** pilgrims in a single day during the **2–4 Oct** long weekend (usual: **20,000–25,000**). ■ Sanctioned: **₹1.75 crore** (Phase I) + **₹4.69 crore** (Phase II); work **15%** complete. ■ Rising footfall at **Nainital, Ranikhet, Kausani, Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh**. ■ Kumaon Divisional Commissioner **Deepak Rawat** presented progress.
Way Fwd	Town-wise carrying-capacity studies, park-and-ride shuttles and online slot booking on the lines of the Char Dham registration model.
Concept	**Kainchi Dham** — ashram of **Neem Karoli Baba**, est. **1964** (fair on **15 June**). **Kumaon division: 6 districts**; **Garhwal division: 7 districts** (total **13**).

Uttarakhand — Today's News Locations



Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

Recruitment Freeze Lifted in Aided Non-Government Secondary Schools

SOCIETY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Governance — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Education in Uttarakhand; **RTE**, **NEP 2020**; service delivery in hill schools.
Context	The state said on **25 Oct** that management committees of **aided non-government secondary schools** may now fill vacant teaching and non-teaching posts, ending a long-standing freeze.
Key Facts	■ Only **sanctioned vacant posts** formally **revived/restored** by the competent authority can be filled. ■ Teaching posts to be aligned with **student enrolment**. ■ Some management committees had approached the **High Court**; many schools ran with very few teachers. ■ Announced by School Education Minister **Dhan Singh Rawat**; rules-based, transparent selection ordered.
Way Fwd	Rationalise pupil-teacher ratios across hill schools and use digital monitoring of appointments.
Concept	**RTE Act 2009** PTR norm — **30:1** (primary), **35:1** (upper primary); **NEP 2020** — PTR under **30:1** (**25:1** in disadvantaged areas). Education moved to the **Concurrent List** by the **42nd Amendment (1976)**.

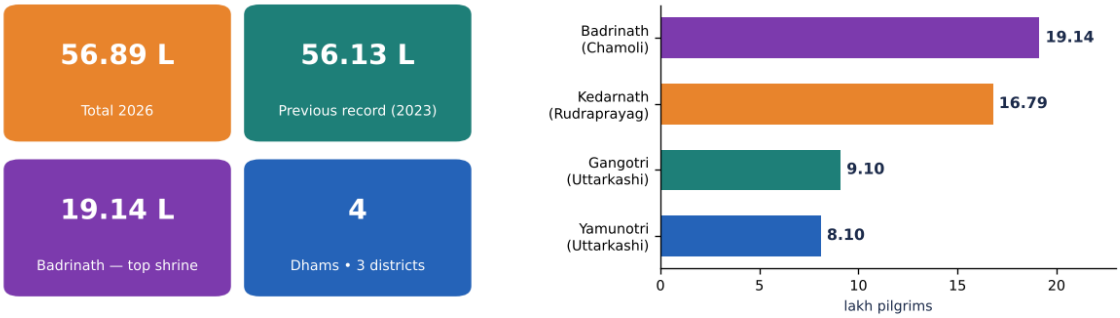
SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

56.89 lakh

Char Dham Yatra 2026 — record pilgrim season

Footfall up to **7 Oct 2026** (state tourism data) crossed the **2023** record of **56.13 lakh**. Shrine-wise: **Badrinath 19.14 lakh**, **Kedarnath 16.79 lakh**, **Gangotri 9.10 lakh**, **Yamunotri 8.10 lakh**. Portals close for winter in the Diwali week.

Char Dham Yatra 2026 — Record Season (pilgrims up to 7 Oct 2026, lakh)



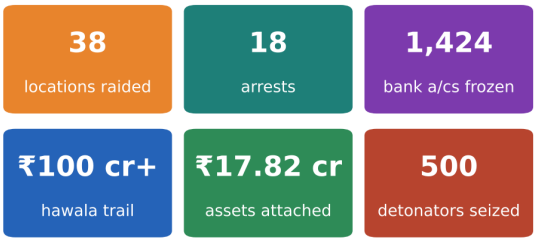
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Security, Environment

Operation Trident: NCB-led Strike on Drug–Hawala Network in the Northeast

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Internal Security & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Internal security — **narco-terror, money laundering, border management**; Prelims: NDPS Act, NCB, Golden Triangle.
Context	The **Union Home Ministry** announced on **25 Oct** the results of **Operation Trident** — simultaneous raids by the **NCB** with State police and the **ED** on an international drug cartel.
Key Facts	■ Raids at **38 locations** in **Assam, Mizoram and Manipur**; **18 arrests**. ■ **₹100 crore+** hawala trail; **1,424 bank accounts** frozen; assets of **₹17.82 crore** attached; **500 detonators** and **₹12 lakh** cash seized. ■ ED flagged a counter codenamed "**Nuniang**": **2,947 transfers** worth **₹175.03 crore** (2024–June 2026). ■ Home Minister **Amit Shah** set **31 Dec 2029** as target to wipe out drug networks.
Way Fwd	Secure the Myanmar border, tighten financial intelligence sharing and scale up de-addiction under Nasha Mukt Bharat.
Concept	**Golden Triangle** — Myanmar–Laos–Thailand; **Golden Crescent** — Afghanistan–Iran–Pakistan. **NDPS Act, 1985**; **NCB** set up in **1986**; **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** launched **15 Aug 2020**.

Operation Trident — By the Numbers



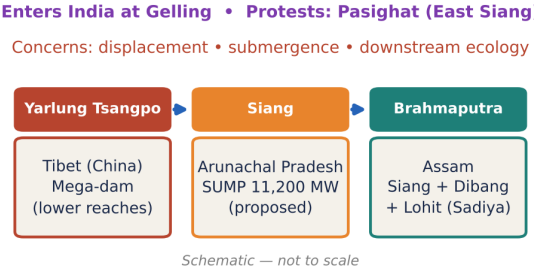
PM Opens RBI's ₹169-crore Data Centre & Cybersecurity Training Institute in Odisha

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy & Science-Tech)

Syllabus Linkage	Banking, **digital payments**, **cyber security**; Prelims: RBI facts, CERT-In.
Context	On **25 Oct**, PM **Narendra Modi** inaugurated RBI's **data centre** and **Cybersecurity Training Institute** at **Info Valley-II, Jatni**, near **Bhubaneswar**, saying the banking system must be shielded from cybercriminals.
Key Facts	■ Cost **₹169 crore**; campus **18.55 acres**; foundation stone laid by Governor **Shaktikanta Das** on **22 March 2023**. ■ Will host **mission-critical payment and settlement systems**; second such facility after **Navi Mumbai**. ■ Site chosen for **low seismic risk** and distance from high-risk border areas. ■ Present: FM **Nirmala Sitharaman**, RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**, Odisha CM **Mohan Charan Majhi**.
Way Fwd	Geo-redundant disaster-recovery sites, zero-trust security and a trained cyber workforce down to co-operative banks.
Concept	**CERT-In** — national nodal agency for cyber incidents under **Sec. 70B, IT Act 2000**. **RBI** est. **1 April 1935** (RBI Act 1934), nationalised **1949**.

Visual for the Siang dam story (next page)

Yarlung Tsangpo → Siang → Brahmaputra



Schematic — not to scale

Centre Rushes RAF to Arunachal as Siang Dam Protests Turn Violent

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography, Environment & Internal Security)

Syllabus Linkage	Hydropower & Himalayan ecology; **displacement and R&R**; India–China river issues. Prelims: rivers of the Brahmaputra system.
Context	After violence in **Pasighat** following a **12-hour bandh** in **Siang, Upper Siang and East Siang** districts, the Centre sent **two Rapid Action Force companies** (~**250** CRPF personnel) to Arunachal Pradesh on **25 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ **Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP)** — proposed **11,200 MW**, India's largest planned hydro project; developer **NHPC**. ■ Local communities (mainly **Adi**) fear **displacement, submergence** and ecological damage. ■ Centre's rationale: buffer storage against China's mega-dam on the **Yarlung Tsangpo**. ■ RAF airlifted from **Navi Mumbai** on an **IAF** aircraft.
Way Fwd	Free, prior and informed consent, cumulative downstream impact studies and fair rehabilitation — lessons from Uttarakhand's Tehri and Pancheshwar debates.
Concept	**Yarlung Tsangpo** (Tibet) → enters India as **Siang** → joins **Dibang & Lohit** near **Sadiya** to form the **Brahmaputra**. Uttarakhand link: **Tehri Dam** (Bhagirathi, **260.5 m**, India's tallest); **Pancheshwar** (Mahakali, **Mahakali Treaty 1996**).

Swavlamban 2026: Navy's 5th Innovation & Indigenisation Seminar Begins

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Defence)

Syllabus Linkage	Defence technology & **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**; Prelims: iDEX, DIO.
Context	The two-day (**26–27 Oct**) Indian Navy seminar at **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, showcases indigenous naval technologies from start-ups and MSMEs.
Key Facts	■ **5th edition**; series began in **2022** (~800 participants); **100+** stalls this year. ■ Focus: **maritime surveillance, counter-UAS, AI, quantum, NBCD defence**; highlights include **quantum positioning** and **high-power microwave** weapons. ■ **iDEX**: **4,000+** proposals; AoN **₹3,500 cr+**; contracts **₹1,900 cr+**. ■ Navy: **42 platforms** on order; AoN for **78 more + 120 Fast Interceptor Craft** (~**₹2.41 lakh crore**).
Way Fwd	Assured orders and faster trials for start-ups so prototypes become inducted systems.
Concept	**iDEX** launched **April 2018**, run by the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** — a Section 8 company of **HAL & BEL**.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 (26 Oct–1 Nov): 'Probity for Prosperity'

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity, Governance & Ethics)

Syllabus Linkage	Anti-corruption bodies, **probity in governance** (Ethics paper); Prelims: CVC.
Context	The **CVC**-led week begins today, capping a three-month **preventive vigilance campaign** (**17 Aug–16 Nov 2026**) across ministries, public sector banks and PSUs.
Key Facts	■ Theme: **"Probity for Prosperity"** (Satyanishtha se Samriddhi). ■ Held in the week of **Sardar Patel's** birth anniversary (**31 Oct**, **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**). ■ Campaign focus: pending complaints, **cyber hygiene**, transparent buying on **GeM**, contract management.
Way Fwd	Move from punitive to preventive vigilance with tech audits and stronger whistle-blower protection.
Concept	**CVC** set up **Feb 1964** on the **K. Santhanam Committee**'s advice; statutory under the **CVC Act, 2003**; CVC + up to **2 VCs**, chosen by **PM, Home Minister, LoP (Lok Sabha)**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. India at **Asian Para Games 2026** (Aichi–Nagoya, Japan): record **114 medals** (**30 G, 35 S, 49 B**), **4th** in table.

2. **Mona Agarwal** set a **world record (357.5)** in women's 50m rifle 3P SH1; **Sumit Antil** led a javelin podium sweep.

3. **26 Oct 1947**: Maharaja **Hari Singh** signed the **Instrument of Accession** — **79th J&K Accession Day** today.

4. Uttarakhand formed on **9 Nov 2000** as India's **27th state**; Assembly is **unicameral** with **70** seats.

5. **Om Parvat & Adi Kailash** — **Vyas valley, Pithoragarh**; base village **Gunji**, near **Lipulekh Pass**.

6. **Tehri Dam** on the **Bhagirathi** — **260.5 m**, India's tallest dam.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC PATTERN)

Q1. Consider the following statements about Gairsain (Bhararisain):
1. It lies in Chamoli district.
2. It was declared the summer capital of Uttarakhand in 2020.
3. The Uttarakhand Legislature is bicameral.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Gairsain is in **Chamoli** and was declared **summer capital** in **2020**; Uttarakhand has a **unicameral** legislature of **70** members.

Q2. Mana Pass, the starting point of the proposed 100-mile Himalayan ultra run (May 2027), lies on Uttarakhand's border with:
(a) Nepal (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Tibet (China) (d) Uttar Pradesh
Answer: (c) — **Mana Pass** in **Chamoli** district is on the **India–Tibet (China)** border, beyond Badrinath and Mana village.

Mains Practice: Pilgrimage and adventure tourism are both a lifeline and a stressor for Uttarakhand's hill economy. Discuss with reference to border-area tourism and carrying capacity. (UKPSC Mains, 125 words)

Hint: Intro: record **Char Dham** footfall, **Kainchi Dham** surge. Body: benefits — jobs, homestays, checking **palayan**, **Vibrant Villages**; stresses — congestion, waste, slope instability, disaster risk. Way out: carrying-capacity caps, registration and slot systems, bypasses, eco-tourism corporation, local skilling. Conclude with sustainable mountain tourism.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bhararisain session 27 Oct • UCC Rules 2026 • Mana Pass–Auli run (May 2027) • Char Dham 56.89 lakh • SUMP 11,200 MW • Probity for Prosperity

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