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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

LPAI wishes all its readers a very happy and productive new year!

I am pleased to bring to you the second issue of the 'LPAI Connect' Newsletter. This issue aims to disseminate the recent developments and activities undertaken by the Land Ports Authority of India across all operational and upcoming Integrated Check Posts to augment our country's trade across international land borders during the period of September 2020 to February 2021.

On 9th December 2020, the Integrated Check Post at Srimantapur along the India-Bangladesh Border in the state of Tripura was operationalized. LPAI is also in the process of developing ICPs at Sabroom in the South Tripura district along the India-Bangladesh border; at Sunauli in the Maharajganj district in Uttar Pradesh along the

India-Nepal border, at Kawrpuichhuah, in the Lunglei district of South Mizoram along the India-Bangladesh border; at Bhittamore in the Sitamarhi district of Bihar along the India-Nepal border. Construction activities are ongoing to build a new Passenger Terminal Building at Petrapole, West Bengal; to develop a new ICP at ICP Rupaidiha in the Bahraich District of West Uttar Pradesh along the India-Nepal border; to develop a new ICP at Dawki in the West Jaintia Hills District in Meghalaya along the India-Bangladesh border. This newsletter highlights these updates and many more.

I hope you take out some time from your busy schedule and glimpse through these updates.

Shri Aditya Mishra Chairman LPAI

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I. Recent Developments

Operationalization of ICP Srimantapur

The Integrated Check Post at Srimantapur was operationalized on 9th December 2020. Spread over 3.51 acres of land along the India-Bangladesh Border, ICP Srimantapur is located at a distance of 4 kms from Sonamura Sub- Division town and 63 kms from the city of Agartala in the state of Tripura. The ICP is located at a short distance of 8-10 kms from the neighbouring country's Comilla district making it an extremely viable and cost-efficient route to trade between India and Bangladesh. The ICP has a wide range of trade-facilitative infrastructure in place such as customs processing hall, immigration clearance hall, cargo clearing office, warehouse, quarantine office, port health unit, parking facility, security and surveillance, weighbridge, separate area for loose cargo, electric sub-station, etc. The ICP Srimantapur terminal also has one floating jetty on the Gomati river which flows through Tripura and the district of Comilla in Bangladesh. With the opening of the floating jetty, Tripura has also joined the Inland Water Transport map, which is expected to further boost bilateral trade between the two countries.



Sabroom: India's Gateway to South-East Asia

LPAI is in the process of developing an Integrated Check Post at Sabroom in South Tripura district along the India-Bangladesh border. The total area identified for the development of ICP is 49.08 acres, while the planned built-up area is 4.47 acres (18,100 sqm). In January 2021, LPAI transferred the funds for land acquisition to the Government of Tripura. The construction is expected to commence in May 2021.

The proposed ICP is strategically located at the southern-most tip of Tripura State and has a vital role in linking India and Bangladesh, both through the road and railway link. A road bridge has recently been constructed on Feni River that separates India's landlocked northeastern states and Bangladesh. The 150-meter bridge will connect the town of Sabroom in Tripura and Ramgarh in Bangladesh and will shorten the cargo travel time and distance between Sabroom to Chittagong. Consequent to the operationalization of the bridge on river Feni, the NH-44 shall be directly connected to Chattagrom port of Bangladesh which is about 75 km from Sabroom. This will enable cargo to move directly till the Chattagrom port which is 75 kms (as opposed to moving to Haldia Port in West Bengal which is nearly 1700-1800 kms away) and ease the movement of trade / cargo upto Chattagrom Port. ICP Sabroom will also have direct connectivity with Sabroom railway station which is at a short distance of 2 kms. Tripura's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ), is also coming up Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom and considering the proximity of Sabroom to the Chittagong Port and construction of the new bridge across river Feni, this will open up new avenues to attract private investment.

Once the ICP developed in Sabroom, it will be the third ICP in the state, after ICP Agartala and ICP Srimantapur. The development of ICP Sabroom will not only enable direct and cost-efficient access to Chittagong port in Bangladesh, but also boost the exporting capacity of the Northeastern states, proximity to SEZ will facilitate greater investment and employment generation and will contribute to overall development of the region. This new gateway will ease the transportation of goods to and from the North-eastern states from various parts of the country and abroad using the Chittagong sea port, Kolkata port and other ports in India and Bangladesh.

Proposal for Development of an ICP at Nischintapur, Tripura

An Integrated Check Post is proposed to be developed at Nischintapur, the junction point of Agarta-la-Akhaura railway link. The railway link that connects Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India is 10.6 kms and from Nischintapur to Agartala railway station is 5.46 kms and is expected to be completed by September 2021. Upon completion of the railway line project, distance between Agartala to Kolkata will be reduced by around 500 kms (as opposed to the current distance of 1600 kms) with a travel time of approx. 16 hours (as opposed to the present time of 38 hours). The link is expected to provide a boost to trade and connectivity between India and Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Railways is funding the development of railway line and railway yard. Upon completion and transfer of the railway yard by the authorized government department, LPAI will set up the ICP there with all passenger and cargo facilities. LPAI has already initiated the process for appointment of an architecture firm for preparing master plan for ICP Nischintapur.

Proposed Railway Station at Nischintapur, Tripura (Indo-Bangla Border)



ICP Attari Serves as an Important Port for India's Trade with Afghanistan

ICP Attari serves as an important port for importing goods from Afghanistan to India. Being a landlocked country, Afghanistan relies on Pakistan for granting transit access to trade with India. As per the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, while export of goods from Afghanistan to India via ICP Attari is allowed, the import of goods from India into Afghanistan is not allowed via the land route. Since 2015–16, ICP Attari has been recording an average annual turnover of Rs 2920 crores for India's trade with Afghanistan.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, this transit trade had come to a standstill for a few months accruing losses to the entire stakeholder community relying on this trade. However, in July, at the special request of the Government of Afghanistan to facilitate Afghanistan's transit trade, the Pakistan government decided to resume Afghanistan exports through the Attari-Wagah border after implementing all COVID-19 related safety protocols. Since then, on an average 600 trucks are crossing the ICP every month. The major items of import that India receives from Afghanistan through ICP Attari include dry fruits, apple, onion, mulethi, garlic and seed jeera.

II. Ongoing Construction Activities

ICP PETRAPOLE

The largest land port in South Asia, ICP Petrapole is located along the international border between India and Bangladesh, at a distance of about 80 kms from the city of Kolkata. Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh) is an important land border crossing for India-Bangladesh both in terms of trade and passenger movement. Nearly 30 percent of bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh takes place through ICP Petrapole. Since its operationalization in February 2016, the ICP has been witnessing an increasing number of passenger movement with an average of 22 lakh people crossing the border post on either sides each year.

The surge in the passenger traffic necessitated upgradation of the infrastructure facilities for facilitating the seamless movement of passenger movement. In this regard, a new Passenger Terminal Building was proposed and approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Construction work is ongoing for developing a new state-of-art Passenger Terminal Building which is planned to cater half a million handling capacity. The construction work commenced in February 2020 and is expected to be completed by May 2022. The total planned built-up area for the new Passenger Terminal Building is 14.55 acre (58,900 sqm).

Proposed Passenger Terminal Building at ICP Petrapole



ICP RUPAIDIHA

LPAI is in the process of developing an ICP at Rupaidiha which is located in the Bahraich District of West Uttar Pradesh adjoining the town of Nepalgunj in Nepal. The total area identified for ICP development is 116.15 acres while the planned built-up area is 5.58 acres (22575 sqm). The ICP site is located at a distance of 185 kms from the city of Lucknow. It is presently under construction and is expected to be completed in April 2022. Construction of a complementary facility on the Nepal side is also being undertaken by the Government of Nepal.

Once developed, this ICP will be the first in the state of Uttar Pradesh and third along the Indo-Nepal border and is expected to further boost bilateral trade between the two countries.

Proposed ICP at Rupiadiha, UP (India- Nepal Border)





ICP DAWKI

LPAI is in the process of developing an ICP at Dawki which lies in the West Jaintia Hills District in the state of Meghalaya on the India-Bangladesh border. Dawki is connected by NH 44 (extension) and NH 40 (erstwhile Shillong Sylhet road) and is about 84 Kms from Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya. Sharing its border with Tambail Town in Bangladesh, Dawki is one of the major revenue export points of Meghalaya. It is used for export of major items like coal, limestone, raw hide, and boulder stone. Besides trade, a lot of citizens from India and Bangladesh cross through Dawki for the purpose of business, education, medical and religious tourism. A lot of third-country nationals also enter into India or exit from India through Dawki.

Dawki is connected by an all-weather road to Shillong and will be at a vantage point for the tourists of Bangladesh who regularly come to India for visiting Shillong, popularly known as 'The Scotland of the East' and its neighbouring places of tourist interest. The proposal for development of the ICP at Dawki has already been approved by the MHA. The construction work is ongoing and expected to be completed by May 2022. The total area identified for ICP development is 23 acres while the planned built-up area is 1.83 acres (7420 sqm).

Proposed ICP at Dawki, Meghalaya (India- Bangladesh Border)



III. Development of New ICPs

ICP SUNAULI

LPAI is in the process of developing a new Integrated Check Post at Sunauli, situated in the Maharajganj district in Uttar Pradesh, to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Nepal. The Ministry of Home Affairs approved setting up of an ICP at Sunauli in December 2018. The process of acquisition of 46.78 hectares of land for development of the ICP is under progress and expected to be completed by February 2021.

The location of the proposed ICP at Sunauli is extremely significant as it is situated along the historical route connecting the two countries. It is an important exit point in the Buddhist circuit and its proximity to popular Buddhist tourist sports such as Lumbini i.e birthplace of Gautam Buddha, which is in Nepal, has also inspired the architecture of the ICP.

Proposed ICP at Sunauli, Uttar Pradesh (India- Nepal Border)





PTB View

PTB View



Main Entrance



Central Plaza

ICP KAWRPUICHHUAH

LPAI is in the process of developing a new Integrated Check Post at Kawrpuichhuah, situated in the Lunglei district of South Mizoram, to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh.

Although Kawrpuichhuah has a functional LCS with cargo and passenger handling facilities in place, the existing facilities are insufficient to cope up with growing trade and passenger movement across this border point. In view of this, the State Government of Mizoram requested LPAI to develop an ICP. Inprinciple approval for development of the proposed ICP, land acquisition and detailed engineering report was approved by MHA on 17th December 2018. Around 70 acres of land has been identified by LPAI and same has been communicated to the State Government of Mizoram. In December 2020, the State Government of Mizoram transferred 21.4

acres of land to LPAI. On 16th December 2020, the Commerce & Industries (C&I) Minister, Mizoram, Dr R. Lalthangliana along with Col Raman Kumar Sharma, Director (Projects), LPAI and state dignitaries also visited the proposed ICP site to assess and analyse the on-ground situation.

Once developed, the ICP at Kawrpuichhuah has the potential to become a major trade corridor between India and Bangladesh. The tender action for the appointment of architect has been initiated and ICP construction is expected to be completed within two and a half years.

ICP BHITTAMORE

LPAI is in the process of developing a new Integrated Check Post at Bhittamore, situated in the Sitamarhi district of Bihar to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Nepal.

Although Bhittamore has a functional LCS with cargo handling facilities in place, the existing facilities are insufficient to cope up with growing trade and passenger movement across this border point. Given this, a new Integrated Check Post was approved for development by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 17th December 2018. Presently, LPAI has been assigned to prepare a design engineering report for the proposed ICP. Twenty seven acres of land has already been identified by LPAI for development of the proposed ICP and the communication for release of the said land for construction of ICP has been sent to the State Government.

In January 2021, Director (Projects), LPAI inspected the proposed ICP site and held discussions with DM Sitamarhi and Commissioner Officer, Muzaffarpur to initiate the process of land acquisition for building of the ICP.

Director (Projects), LPAI in discussions with DM Sitamarhi



IV. Other Activities

India-Bangladesh Subgroup Meeting on Infrastructure of ICP/LCS

India and Bangladesh held the third meeting of India-Bangladesh Subgroup on Infrastructure of ICP/LCS in Cumilla, Bangladesh on 9-11 February 2021. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. K.M. Tariqul Islam, Chairman, Bangladesh Land Port Authority.



During the two-day meeting, both sides of the delegation visited two land ports at Bibirbazar-Srimantapur and Belonia-Muhurighat and inspected

the ongoing infrastructure development activities at these land ports. Extensive discussions were held on a variety of issues of mutual cooperation like upgradation of existing port infrastructure facilities, establishment of quarantine facilities at land ports/ICPs/LCSs, construction of development works within 150 yards of international border, development of new port infrastructure, capacity enhancement at the land ports, joint training of port officials, synchronize ports operation timings and regular information sharing between the port officials.

Both the sides appreciated the progress made in the bilateral trade and commercial relations between India and Bangladesh and agreed to further strengthen the existing cooperation. The next meeting of the Subgroup on Infrastructure is scheduled to be held in September 2021 in India.

Visit of Consul General, Consulate General of Nepal to ICP Petrapole

H.E. Eshor Raj Poudel, Consul General, Consulate General of Nepal (Kolkata, West Bengal) visited ICP Petrapole on 10th February 2021 to assess the possibility of movement of goods by road between Bangladesh and Nepal through the Petrapole-Benapole corridor. H.E. Mr. Eshor Raj Poudel, Consul General of Nepal was accompanied by Mr. Sebantak Pokharel, Deputy Consul General of Nepal and Mr. Tarka Raj Bhatta, Deputy Consul General of Nepal.



H.E. Poudel and his team were briefed about the procedures being followed by ICP Petrapole for facilitating trade and passenger movement. They inspected the wide range of facilities available at the ICP and appreciated the state-of-art infrastructure available to facilitate the movement of cargo and passengers. The team was also apprised of the ongoing construction activities being undertaken at the Passenger Terminal Building at ICP Petrapole.

Visit of High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh to ICP Petrapole

The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Shri Vikram Doraiswami visited ICP Petrapole on 3rd December 2020 to oversee the Passenger Terminal Building and entire gamut of facilities available for facilitating cargo and passenger movement.

H.E Doraiswami emphasized the need to integrate rail and road passenger transport solutions with the well-designed passenger terminal building. He underscored the importance of providing a seamless transport experience between Petrapole and Kolkata by running an air-conditioned chair car every 30 minutes. This could make Petrapole and Kolkata a hub for transportation and particularly be useful for citizens of Bangladesh who are visiting India either for shopping purposes or availing medical services etc. He also stressed upon the importance of having a more coordinated multi-agency functioning between India and Bangladesh to facilitate seamless passenger and goods movement.

Visit of Secretary, LPAI and MD-NHIDCL to ICP Moreh

Shri Dipak Kumar Gupta, Secretary, LPAI, along with Shri K.K. Pathak, MD-NHIDCL visited ICP Moreh on 20th and 21st of January 2021 to oversee the functioning

of ICP and progress of work on Asian highway bypass road. Applauding the infrastructure facilities in place at ICP Moreh, MD-NHIDCL remarked that, 'It was a great experience to visit and see the infrastructure facilities of ICP aimed to boost Indo-Myanmar trade.' It was acknowledged that the major part of road work connecting Imphal-Moreh Highway has been completed. The Asian Highway by-pass work is also under progress with remaining work expected to be completed by June 2021. There is a proposal for construction of bridge near ICP Moreh that will enable connection of the National Highway to IMT Highway. Upon completion of the concrete bridge and the road connectivity with the Asian Highway, Moreh will be connected to Mae Sot in Thailand via Mandalay and Yangoon in Myanmar. The road will be further linked to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

During the visit, Secretary, LPAI also met Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur and apprised him of the developments at ICP Moreh.

Secretary, LPAI Visit to ICP Moreh



Shri K. K. Pathak (MD-NHIDCL), being briefed about ICP Moreh by Shri Robin Gangte (Manager-ICP Moreh)

LPAI Team Visit to Kandla and Mundra Port

The LPAI team led by Chairman Shri Aditya Mishra visited the Kandla and Mundra ports on 6-7 February 2021. The objective of the site visit was to understand the best practices adopted by the port management of Kandla and Mundra for seamless cargo and port terminal operations. On 6th February 2021, the team visited the Kandla Port which is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled. During their visit the team learned about high-quality techniques adopted by the Kandla port management for reducing cargo shipment delays. The team inspected the terminal operating system and other modern cargo handling facilities installed at the port and appreciated the usage of several advanced digital technologies such as RADAR based vessels tracking system, mechanized container handling system and RFID based entry/ exit system being followed for Kandla port for seamless handling of port terminal operations.

On 7th February 2021, the team visited the Mundra Port which is the largest private port of India located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch near Mundra, Kutch district, Gujarat. The LPAI team appreciated the world class security and surveillance system supported by artificial intelligence software installed across the entire facility for real-time monitoring. The entire facility of Mundra port is highly secured by Drone cameras are used for second-level surveillance monitoring of the entire port.

The visit to these ports was instrumental in learning lessons for usage of various digital interventions that can be employed for facilitating seamless cargo handling and vehicle management system at the ICPs.

India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade

The India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade was held on 7th December 2020 through video-conference. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary, Government of India and the Nepal delegation was headed by Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Secretary (Commerce and Supplies), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal. From LPAI, Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman and Shri Dipak Kumar Gupta, Secretary were part of the Indian delegation.

The Indian side underlined the importance of synchronized development of land border infrastructure for optimal benefit to both countries and sought the cooperation of Nepal in synchronized development of ICP infrastructure at identified future locations. It was noted that India is in the process of constructing ICP at Rupaidiha-Nepalgunj. Extensive discussions on the upgradation of border trade infrastructure were held during the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) meeting held on 3-4 December 2020. Issues related to trade infrastructure pertaining to the development and upgradation of customs entry points, construction and operationalization of ICPs and upgradation and maintenance of roads and other infrastructure connecting borders especially at Jogbani, Raxaul, Nautanwa, Nepalguni road and Gauriphanta and infrastructure development at border trade points, joint survey of proposed new trade routes, cross-border railway connectivity and improvement of railway line from Kolkata/Haldia to Birguni ICP and electrification of railway line upto Birguni ICD were discussed.

Fire Audit of ICPs

To carry out a systematic, critical appraisal of all potential fire hazards involving personnel, premises, services and operation methods, LPAI has recently on-boarded Shri Yogesh Babu Dwivedi as a fire consultant for conducting internal fire audits at all the ICPs. The consultant will be responsible for providing technical support to architects, engineers, ICP Managers and experts to strengthen all fire protection designs at ICPs.

Shri Yogesh Babu Dwivedi has recently inspected the ICP facilities and examined the fire equipment installed at ICP Raxaul on 18th December 2020 and ICP Attari and ICP Dera Baba Nanak on 6th January 2021. Under his supervision, the ICP Managers and technical staff were trained to conduct weekly/ monthly routines check of the condition of the firefighting equipment such as the water supply pressure of the fire hydrants and sprinklers installed at the ICPs.

The ICP Managers and technical experts were trained by the fire consultant to follow the fire evacuation plan during any course of fire accidents at crowded areas like vehicle parking zones. In order to avoid any chaos, the necessary guidelines have been issued for parking of queued vehicles in such a way that an empty space is created so that the vehicle can be taken away from the site of fire accident immediately. Also, it was proposed during the visit to construct a U-turn at every 200 metres inside the ICPs for quick and easy evacuation of vehicles during any course of fire accidents.

Member (Finance), LPAI Participates in India Public Sector Summit

Shri CV Prasad, Member Finance, Land Ports Authority of India participated in a panel discussion on

'Connected & Secure Transportation: Improve Safety, Mobility and Operational Efficiency' at the India Public Sector Summit organized by CISCO in association with ETGovernment.com on 29th January 2021. The objective of the panel discussion was to understand the challenges being faced in cross-border transportation at land ports, the role technology can play in addressing these challenges and the international policy frameworks in place to ease movement of cargo. After discussing the prevailing challenges at India's land borders such as manual loading and unloading of cargo, congestion, lack of basic infrastructure, high dwell time and lack of a single window platform for all relevant stakeholders, Mr. Prasad apprised the audience about the wide range of digital transformation initiatives being undertaken by LPAI to facilitate safe and seamless movement of cargo and passenger movement.

Other eminent panelists in the panel discussion included Amita Prasad, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India; Akhilesh Srivastava, CGM (IT&Highway Ops), National Highways Authority of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India; Vijay Devnath, General Manager (Infra & Security) & CISO, Center for Railway Information Systems and Daisy Chittilapilly, MD, DTO, Cisco India and SAARC. The session was moderated by Sameer Bhatnagar, Partner, KPMG.



LPAI Welcomes New Joint Secretary (Border Management-II), MHA

On behalf of all the members and staff of LPAI, we would like to extend our warmest welcome and good wishes to Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal (JH:1997) for assuming charge as Joint Secretary, Border Management-II Division under Ministry of Home Affairs on 3rd December 2020.

Upon taking over the charge as Joint Secretary, Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal was briefed by Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman LPAI about the genesis and mission of LPAI, organizational structure, operational ICPs and its facilities and details of other key projects ongoing at LPAI. On 20th December 2020, Shri Barnwal along with Chairman, LPAI and Director (Projects), LPAI visited ICP Attari and ICP Dera Baba Nanak to oversee the operations and functioning of both the ICPs. Shri Barnwal appreciated the state-of-art infrastructure facilities available at both ICP Attari and ICP Dera Baba Nanak. The LPAI team apprised the Joint Secretary about the upcoming projects at both these ICPs.



[From Left to Right: Col Raman Kumar Sharma, (Director-Projects, LPAI), Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal (Joint Secretary-BM II), Shri Aditya Mishra (Chairman, LPAI), Sukhdev Singh (Manager, ICP Attari)]

Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Joint Secretary BM-II Visit to ICP Attari



[From Left to Right: Shri Aditya Mishra (Chairman, LPAI), LPAI), Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal (Joint Secretary-BM II), Col Raman Kumar Sharma (Director-Projects,LPAI), Shri Dalvir Singh (Manager, ICP Kartarpur)]



Welcoming New ICP Managers

LPAI warmly welcomes two of its newest ICP Managers, Mr. Gyandendra Kumar Singh and Mr. Kamlesh Saini. Mr. Gyandendra Kumar Singh joined LPAI on deputation from the Border Security Force on 5th October 2020 and has taken over the charge of ICP Raxaul on 26th October 2020. Mr. Kamlesh Saini joined LPAI on deputation from AFHQ (CS) cadre on 6th October 2020 and has taken over the charge of ICP, Petrapole on 1st February 2021.

On behalf of all of us at LPAI, welcome onboard! We believe you will be an invaluable asset to our team and we look forward to your inputs and contribution!



Farewell Message to

Mr. Suvajit Mandal

LPAI bids farewell to Mr. Suvajit Mandal (West Bengal Cadre, 2003). Mr. Mandal served five years at LPAI and was posted as the ICP Manager, Petrapole. Under his leadership, ICP Petrapole achieved many significant milestones and has turned out to be one of India's most efficient land ports.

It was a pleasure working with you, Mr. Mandal, and your absence will be greatly felt. Thank you for your time and dedication while you worked for us. Best wishes as you embark on a new challenge!







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