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POLICY & REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delhi Cabinet Approves EV Policy to Transition to Zero-Emission Transport by 2030

The Delhi government has approved an ambitious electric vehicle (EV) policy. As per the new policy, EV cars priced up to 30 lakh rupees have been exempted from registration fees and road taxes. The new policy also offers a 1 lakh rupees incentive for purchasing new EVs while scrapping old vehicles, and mandates that only electric two-wheelers can be registered starting April 2028. Set for a phased four-year rollout starting from 1st of July, the ambitious framework commits a massive fiscal outlay of 15 thousand crore rupees to completely transition the national capital toward zero-emission transit by 31st March 2030.

According to reports, the policy focuses entirely on electric vehicles, specifically zero-emission vehicles with the ultimate goal of gradually transforming Delhi into a pollution-free city for the benefit of its residents. The government has devised a comprehensive plan to execute this in phases over the next four years. The government is planning to invest Rs 8,000 crore in creating EV infrastructure and waiving road taxes year-on-year. In total, the people of Delhi will receive benefits worth approximately Rs 15,000 crore rupees through this policy.

Centre Constitutes National Road Safety Board

The Central Government has formally constituted the National Road Safety Board (NRSB) for India's road safety framework ahead of a Supreme Court deadline. The newly formed board will be chaired by former IAS officer Nitin Gokarn, who previously served in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, where he handled transport and road safety matters.

Alongside Gokarn's appointment, the government has also nominated independent experts and senior professionals from the fields of policing, transport administration, public health, road engineering and road safety advocacy to serve on the board. The panel will also include government officials to facilitate coordination across departments. The establishment of the NRSB follows the notification of amended rules in October 2025, which revised the structure and appointment process for the statutory body.

NITI Aayog Drafting Policy to Recover Critical Minerals from Mining Waste, Fly Ash, E-Waste and Spent Batteries

NITI Aayog is preparing a comprehensive policy framework to unlock critical minerals from mining waste and secondary resources, as India looks to reduce its dependence on imports and build a more resilient supply chain for strategically important minerals. The government's policy think tank has constituted a technical committee to evaluate the feasibility of extracting critical minerals from mine overburden, tailings and other waste generated during mining operations.

The panel has already held consultations with major industry stakeholders, including Coal India, Singareni Collieries, Jindal Steel and the Adani Group, to assess technological capabilities and commercial viability. Speaking at the 15th India Minerals & Metals Forum in New Delhi, NITI Aayog Programme Director (Minerals) Anupam Lahiri said the committee is examining the potential of recovering valuable minerals that remain

trapped in mining waste. The policy initiative extends beyond conventional mining. NITI Aayog is also evaluating opportunities in urban mining by recovering critical minerals from electronic waste and discarded batteries.

Government to Launch Rs 5,000 Crore Green Steel Scheme within Three Months to Cut Emissions

The Indian government is preparing to introduce a Rs 5,000 crore scheme to promote clean technologies in steelmaking processes, with officials indicating a launch within the next three months. The initiative, named the National Strategy for Sustainable Secondary Steel, aims to reduce carbon emissions from one of India's most polluting industrial sectors.

According to reports, the scheme may soon be submitted for union cabinet approval. Whilst the programme will cover all steelmakers across the country, a major share of the funds will be earmarked for secondary steel producers, who contribute nearly half of India's total steel output. The move comes as India's steel industry accounts for 10 to 12 per cent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, with an emission intensity of 2.55 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of crude steel—higher than the global average.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/PROGRAMMES

India Achieves Major Milestone with Approval of Country's First PinS Instrument Approach Procedure for Helicopter Operations

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is pleased to announce a significant milestone in India's aviation sector with the approval of the country's first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure for helicopter operations at Undavalli Heliport. Developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the PinS procedure has been designed in accordance with DGCA regulations and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices.

PinS (Point-in-Space) procedures use advanced satellite-based navigation technology to enable helicopters to conduct safe and precise instrument approaches to heliports that do not have conventional instrument landing infrastructure. This is particularly beneficial during adverse weather conditions and in areas where ground-based navigation aids are not available.

The approval is expected to pave the way for the development of similar PinS procedures across the country, benefiting emergency medical services, disaster relief operations, tourism, offshore activities, pilgrimage services, corporate aviation, and regional connectivity. It will enable safer Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations to remote and strategically important locations, improve operational reliability, and reduce weather-related disruptions.

NHAI to Empanel IITs and Technical Institutions for Independent Proof Checking of Major Bridge Designs

To strengthen safety, quality and long-term durability of the National Highway network, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken an initiative to empanel Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other reputed technical institutions for independent proof checking of hydraulic studies and design of major bridge structures across National Highway projects in all new projects. The initiative is aimed at ensuring that major bridges, which are designed for a service life of 100 years or more, undergo rigorous independent technical review before construction. Around 12 IITs, including IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kharagpur and several other premier institutions have expressed willingness to collaborate with NHAI.

The initiative will enable NHAI to create a nationwide institutional framework for design vetting of critical bridge projects. The framework will help to strengthen quality assurance practices and promote better design and execution of bridge projects. The initiative will include reviews of structural design calculations, engineering drawings, construction methodologies, geotechnical investigations, and hydraulic studies.

The framework will be uniformly applicable across projects being implemented under various modes of construction, thereby creating a consistent quality assurance mechanism across different project delivery formats. This initiative will significantly enhance structural safety, improve design reliability as well as minimise long-term operational risks. The initiative aligns with NHAI's broader objective of adopting best-in-class engineering practices and institutional mechanisms to support the development of high quality and future-ready National Highway network.

India Targets Recycling 16,000 Ships over Next Decade; Commits \$8 Billion to Expand Shipbuilding

India has set a target to recycle nearly 16,000 ships over the next 10 years while committing \$8 billion to accelerate the growth of shipbuilding and environmentally sustainable ship recycling. The announcement came as India and the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in green ship recycling during discussions between Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Jessika Roswall.

A key focus of the meeting was the ongoing process of securing recognition for Indian ship recycling yards under the European Union Ship Recycling Regulation (EUSRR). Both sides reviewed the progress of technical audits and regulatory compliance required for Indian facilities to be included under the European framework.

Sonowal said increasing the number of globally recognised recycling yards in India would strengthen the international circular economy by encouraging environmentally responsible recycling practices while generating employment and reinforcing the country's maritime capabilities.

NEW PROJECTS

Cabinet Approves Construction of 4/6 lane Access-Controlled Kanpur-Kabrai section of NH-34

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of 117.7 km Kanpur–Kabrai Access-Controlled Greenfield Highway, a four-lane

access-controlled corridor with structures designed for future six-laning, forming a key segment of the Bhopal–Kanpur Economic Corridor under the National Highways (O) Programme. With an estimated total capital cost of Rs.7145.14 crore, the project will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on BOT (Toll) mode, together with the operation and maintenance of the existing Kanpur-Kabrai section of NH-34.

The project will provide seamless, high-speed connectivity between Kanpur and Kabrai, while strengthening onward connectivity to Sagar, Bhopal and other parts of Madhya Pradesh, thereby creating a modern access controlled economic corridor linking the industrial and commercial centres of Uttar Pradesh with mineral-rich, manufacturing and agricultural regions of Madhya Pradesh thereby improving.

Designed for operating speeds of 80–100 kmph, the corridor will reduce travel time between Kanpur and Kabrai from 3.5 hours to 1.5 hours (58%), while improving road safety, reducing vehicle operating costs and facilitating efficient movement of passenger and freight traffic. The project will also provide strategic connectivity with NH-34, NH-35, the Bundelkhand Expressway, Kanpur Ring Road, and State Highways SH-46, SH-91, SH-10B and SH-42, thereby strengthening integration with the regional highway network. The corridor further strengthen connectivity to the Kabrai mining belt, improving the movement of minerals, industrial goods, construction materials and agricultural produce, thereby enhancing logistics efficiency, supply chain resilience and regional economic development.

Cabinet approves Construction of 6 Lane Road Tunnel For NH-148AE in Delhi on HAM mode

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of 6 Lane Road Tunnel For NH-148AE connecting Dwarka Expressway (NH 248 BB) with Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj in Delhi with a total project length of 8.1 Km and total capital cost of Rs.6969.67 crore on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) under NH (O) scheme.

Project will provide faster connectivity between West and South Delhi connecting UER 2/ Dwarka Expressway with Vasant Kunj in South Delhi. NHAI is also proposing Elevated Corridor between AIIMS and Mahipalpur. This link will connect Tunnel with Barapullah elevated road thereby connecting West Delhi, South Delhi with East Delhi, Ghaziabad and NOIDA.

The proposed tunnel passes through Rangpuri (Southern Delhi) Ridge, designed as a twin-tube tunnel (to be constructed through TBM), takes off from Shivmurti Interchange and terminates before the intersection of Nelson Mandela Marg and Mahipalpur Chhatarpur Road.

To mitigate congestion at this intersection an elevated road is also proposed (1.8 Km) along the Nelson Mandela Marg. Additional flyover from Chhatarpur towards Mahipalpur is also proposed along the existing flyover. For facilitating right turn traffic from towards Chhatarpur, an elevated U Turn is also proposed. Length of the Main Carriageway is 6.3 Km. Considering proposed flyover and elevated U Turn along Mahipalpur Chhatarpur Road, the total project length is 8.100 km, including 3.140 km of tunnel, 0.980 km of tunnel approach ramp, 0.554 km Approach with RE Wall, 2.556 Elevated Portion and 0.870 km of at-grade road.

Indian Railways Approves ₹200 Crore OFC Project Covering 1,700 RKM across SER

Indian Railways has approved the provision of Balance 48-Fibre Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) across South Eastern Railway at a cost of ₹200 crore. The project will provide 48-fibre OFC connectivity over 1,696.2 Route Kilometres (RKM) across four major divisions of South Eastern Railway, reinforcing the communication network that supports safe, efficient and technology-driven railway operations.

The sanctioned work covers installation of OFC across the following divisions:

- Adra Division: 545.4 RKM
- Chakradharpur Division: 392.3 RKM
- Kharagpur Division: 339.9 RKM
- Ranchi Division: 418.6 RKM

Together, these works will strengthen communication infrastructure over 1,696.2 Route Kilometres of South Eastern Railway.

Indian Railways Sanctions ₹432 Cr EI Project on HDN and HUN Routes of ER

Indian Railways has sanctioned a project worth ₹432 crore for the replacement of relay-based interlocking with Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 27 stations/cabins (including 1 IBS location) on the High Density Network (HDN) and Highly Utilised Network (HUN) routes of Asansol Division of Eastern Railway. The sanctioned work includes the replacement of 28 relay-based interlocking installations (27 PI/RRI and 1 IBS) with state-of-the-art Electronic Interlocking systems, significantly enhancing the safety, reliability and operational efficiency of train operations.

The project forms part of Indian Railways' ongoing programme for the provision of Electronic Interlocking on HDN/HUN routes where advanced signalling systems such as Kavach, Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) and Centralised Traffic Control (CTC) are being implemented.

Indian Railways Approves ₹499 Crore Mansi-Saharsa Doubling Project in Bihar

Indian Railways has approved the doubling of the 44.40 km Mansi-Saharsa section of East Central Railway at a cost of ₹499 crore. The project will augment line capacity, improve operational efficiency and cater to the growing demand for passenger and freight movement on this important route.

The Mansi-Saharsa section is presently a single-line corridor on the Mansi-Saraigarh route, handling heavy passenger and freight traffic. The section operates 24 pairs of passenger trains in each direction while also facilitating transportation of essential commodities such as wheat, maize, ballast, boiled rice, cement, fertilisers, rice, salt, sand, stone and sugar. Upon commissioning, the project is expected to facilitate handling of an additional 1.764 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of freight traffic, strengthening logistics for agriculture, construction and other key sectors of the regional economy.

Indian Railways Approves ₹226 Crore EI Project for 13 Stations of Raipur Division in SECR

Indian Railways has approved the provision of Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 13 stations on the Durg-Taroki section of Raipur Division in South East Central Railway (SECR) at a cost of ₹226 crore. The project involves replacing the existing Panel Interlocking (PI) system with Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 13 stations, enabling safer, more reliable and technology-driven train operations.

The sanctioned project covers the installation of Electronic Interlocking at the following stations of the Durg-Taroki section of Raipur Division:

Marauda (MXA)
Risama (RSA)
Gundardehi (GDZ)
Latabor (LBO)
Balod (BXA)
Kusumkasa (KYS)
Dalli Rajhara (DRZ)
Gudum (GUDM)
Bhanupratappur (BPTP)
Keoti (KETI)
Antagarh (AAGH)
Taroki (TDOK)
Raipur Store Depot (RSD)

The transition from Panel Interlocking to Electronic Interlocking will significantly modernise signalling infrastructure on this important section, improving operational flexibility and system reliability.

Indian Railways Approves ₹274 Cr EI Project across 20 Locations in Malda Division

Indian Railways has approved the replacement of relay-based interlocking with advanced Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 20 locations in Malda Division of Eastern Railway at a cost of ₹274 crore. The project will replace the existing Relay Room/Panel Interlocking (PI/RR) system with Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 18 railway stations and 2 Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) locations situated on High Utilisation Network (HUN) routes of Eastern Railway.

The sanctioned project covers the replacement of conventional relay-based signalling systems with state-of-the-art Electronic Interlocking technology across 20 operational locations, comprising 18 stations and 2 IBS locations in Malda Division.

The modernisation will significantly improve the reliability, efficiency and maintainability of signalling systems while creating a robust technological foundation for handling increasing passenger and freight traffic on one of Eastern Railway's busiest corridors.

Indian Railways Approves ₹135 Crore Rail Flyover Project at Bondamunda

Indian Railways has approved the construction of a 4.59 km rail flyover from Bondamunda 'A' Cabin to Bondamunda Link 'B' Cabin in South Eastern Railway at a cost of ₹135 crore. The project is aimed at

decongesting the important Rourkela-Bondamunda section, an industrial corridor witnessing rapidly increasing freight traffic due to expanding mining and steel production activities.

The Rourkela-Bondamunda section is expected to experience substantial growth in freight movement owing to the expansion of SAIL's Barsua-Taldih-Kalta mining complex, enhanced production at Rourkela Steel Plant, and the planned doubling of this High-Density Network (HDN) route. To accommodate the anticipated increase in rail traffic, Indian Railways has sanctioned construction of the new rail flyover, which will facilitate seamless train movement while minimising crossing conflicts between passenger and freight services.

Upon commissioning, the project is expected to facilitate handling of an additional 8 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of freight traffic, strengthening evacuation of minerals and industrial products while supporting future growth in freight transportation. The project has been identified under Indian Railways' Energy, Mineral and Cement Corridor, reinforcing the national objective of strengthening rail infrastructure to support industrial development, faster freight movement and enhanced logistics efficiency across the country.

Odisha Cabinet Sanctions Rs 949 Crore Jaydev Vihar–Nandankanan Corridor Project

The Odisha Cabinet has approved a Rs 949.35 crore infrastructure project to transform the heavily congested Jaydev Vihar–Nandankanan Road into a high-capacity urban corridor. The project covers the 9.5 km stretch between Kalinga Stadium Gate No. 4 and Raghunathpur Bridge, which will be upgraded into an eight-lane corridor designed to improve traffic flow between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The Works Department has already accorded administrative approval, paving the way for construction to begin. Planned as a critical mobility corridor, the upgraded route will connect major residential areas, educational institutions, commercial districts and business centres while addressing the city's rapidly growing transport requirements. A series of grade-separated junctions will be developed to minimise delays at key intersections.

Maharashtra Government Approves Changes for Versova–Dahisar Coastal Road Corridor

The Maharashtra government has given its approval to amend DP-2034 for the proposed Versova–Dahisar Coastal Road. The Urban Development Department (UDD) has formally accepted revisions proposed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), enabling the incorporation of key sections of the project into the city's statutory development plan.

The proposed northern coastal road will stretch 22.03 km, linking Versova with Dahisar. It comprises a 17.57 km coastal alignment extending from Versova to the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) connector, along with a 4.46 km GMLR connector. As part of the revised DP-2034, an additional 11.37-km coastal stretch between the GMLR connector and Dahisar, together with 3.54 km of interchanges and connecting roads, has now been formally incorporated into the development framework.

The state government has also approved the removal of the previously proposed alignment between the GMLR connector and Valnai Metro station, replacing it with a revised configuration that requires corresponding changes to land reservations and public amenities.

FUNDING

Maharashtra Government Releases Fresh Equity Funds for Nagpur Metro Phase-2 Project

The Maharashtra government has released another Rs 30 crore towards its equity contribution for the Nagpur Metro Phase-2 project, taking its total funding support to Rs 607 crore. The latest allocation means the state has now contributed more than 60 per cent of its committed equity share of Rs 998.20 crore under the tripartite agreement signed with the Centre and Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MahaMetro) in September 2023.

The fresh funding has been sanctioned from the 2026-27 state budget as an unconditional equity contribution and is expected to support the project's ongoing civil works. Earlier contributions included multiple instalments released between October 2023 and 2025, while the remaining Rs 391.20 crore is yet to be disbursed.

Nagpur Metro Phase-2 is steadily progressing across its 43.8 km network comprising 32 stations spread over four corridors connecting Kanhan, Hingna, MIDC ESR and Transport Nagar.

COMPANY/PROJECT UPDATES

Approval of Merger scheme by Board of Directors of PFC and REC

The Board of Directors of Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) and REC Limited (REC) approved the Scheme of Merger (Scheme) for merger of REC (Transferor Company) into PFC (Transferee Company) and their respective shareholders and creditors, under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. The merger of REC into PFC shall create a financing entity with an aggregate loan book of over INR 11 lakh crore.

The Scheme is conditional upon and subject to, inter-alia receipt of all requisite approvals and consents required under applicable law including, approvals from the respective shareholders and creditors of both the companies, and all relevant regulatory and governmental authorities; and the Merged Entity continuing to qualify as a 'Government Company' under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Government of India continuing to retain majority voting rights and control in the merged entity (directly or indirectly).

Pursuant to the Scheme and valuation report, the Share Exchange Ratio for the Proposed Merger of REC into PFC shall be 88 equity shares of PFC of INR 10/- each fully paid up for every 100 equity shares of REC of INR 10/- each fully paid up to be issued to the shareholders of REC as existing on a record date to be determined by the Boards of PFC and REC (as may be applicable) at a future date.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP is acting as Transaction and Tax Advisor and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas as the Legal Advisor, to both PFC and REC. Further, RBSA Valuation Advisors LLP was appointed by PFC and Ernst & Young Merchant Banking Services LLP was appointed by REC, for providing joint valuation reports. SBI Capital Markets was appointed by PFC and Nuvama Wealth Management was appointed by REC, for providing their respective fairness opinions on the joint valuation reports.

MECON Achieves Miniratna Category-I Status

The Ministry of Steel has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited, a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel. MECON has achieved significant financial milestones in recent years. The Company has reported continuous profits during the last three financial years, recording a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 77.62 crore in FY 2023-24 (restated), Rs. 32.08 crore in FY 2024-25 (restated), and Rs. 104.53 crore in FY 2025-26. The Company also reported a positive net worth of Rs. 535.42 crore as on 31 March 2026, thereby fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for grant of Miniratna Category-I status.

The Miniratna Category-I status provides enhanced financial and operational autonomy to the Board of MECON Limited. The enhanced delegation of powers will enable the Company to undertake investments, modernization initiatives, technological upgradation and business expansion projects with greater flexibility and speed, thereby supporting its future growth trajectory.

MECON Limited, established in 1959 and headquartered in Ranchi, is one of India's premier engineering, consultancy, project management and contracting organizations. The Company has made significant contributions to the development of the country's steel sector and has diversified its operations across mining, infrastructure, power, oil & gas and other core sectors of the economy.

The decision underscores the Government's continued commitment to empowering high-performing CPSEs through enhanced autonomy and operational flexibility. It is in line with the broader objective of strengthening public sector enterprises, improving their efficiency and competitiveness, and enabling them to play a greater role in India's economic growth and infrastructure development.

UPMRC Invites Rs 1,887 Crore Bid For Lucknow Metro Phase 1B Underground Corridor

The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation has invited bids for a major underground construction package worth Rs 1,887 crore for Lucknow Metro Phase 1B, marking a significant milestone in the state capital's urban transit expansion. The civil construction tender covers a 6.52 km underground corridor stretching from Charbagh Metro Station to the ramp after Chowk Metro Station, along with seven underground stations and associated infrastructure.

The ambitious project includes construction of seven underground metro stations - Charbagh, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aminabad, Pandeyganj, Lucknow City, Medical Chauraha and Chowk Chauraha - complete with civil works, architectural finishes, water supply systems, drainage, fire-fighting arrangements and ancillary structures.

The tender also encompasses a crucial ramp connecting the underground section to the elevated viaduct section, ensuring seamless integration across the corridor. Phase 1B represents the East-West corridor of Lucknow Metro, which will span approximately 11.165 km from Charbagh to Vasant Kunj.

Maharashtra to Conduct Pre-Feasibility Study for a Proposed Offshore Airport near Vadhvan Port

The Maharashtra government will conduct a pre-feasibility study for a proposed offshore airport near Kore Beach in Palghar district. The state has directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this new aviation project.

The proposed airport forms part of the wider Vadhvan Port development programme and is being planned under the Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation. The proposed location offers significant strategic advantages due to its proximity to several major transport projects already under development. The airport site lies around 4.75 km from the planned Uttan-Virar Sea Link.

Foundation Laid for Rs 8,200-Crore SAEL Solar Manufacturing Facility in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone for SAEL Industries' integrated solar manufacturing facility in Jewar, marking a significant step towards India's renewable energy self-reliance. The Rs 8,200 crore project will be developed across 200 acres in Gautam Buddha Nagar's Sector 8, with capacity to produce 5 gigawatts (GW) of solar cells and 5 GW of solar modules.

The facility aims to create around 20,000 direct and indirect jobs whilst reducing India's dependence on Chinese solar technology imports. The Jewar region would emerge as India's solar manufacturing hub, supporting the state's target of generating 20,000 MW of renewable energy within the next two to three years. Currently, Uttar Pradesh generates approximately 6,000 MW of renewable energy.

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InfraCon Weekly Review is an industry newsletter by FIRST Construction Council, delivering curated insights on India's infrastructure and construction sector—covering policy developments, project updates, investments, company updates, and industry perspectives.

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