Indian Geography

Q1. Explain the role of geographical factors in the development of Ancient India.

Introduction
- Discuss Ancient India geographically.

Body
- Bring out the Geographical Factors that led to Ancient India's Development.

Conclusion
- Conclude accordingly.

Introduction

Geographical factors played a crucial role in the development of Ancient India, influencing its culture, economy, and society. Here are some key aspects of this influence.

Body

Geographical Factors in the Development of Ancient India.

1. **Topography:**
- Varied topography influenced settlement patterns and agriculture.
- Example: The fertile Gangetic plains supported early civilizations like the Indus Valley and Vedic societies.

2. **Climate:**
- India's diverse climate zones impacted agricultural practices and resource availability.
- Example: Monsoon rains determined the agricultural calendar in many regions.

3. **Rivers:**
- Major rivers like the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra were crucial for trade, agriculture, and transportation.
- Example: The Indus River facilitated trade in the ancient Indus Valley civilization.

4. **Natural Resources:**
- Economic activity was impacted by abundant resources like wood, minerals, and fertile soil.
- Example: The metallurgical industry expanded as a result of the mineral abundance of the Deccan Plateau.

5. **Isolation:**
- Geographic barriers, such as the Himalayas and Thar Desert, isolated India from external influences.

6. Coastline:

- A long coastline encouraged maritime trade and cultural exchange.
- Example: Ports like Lothal were pivotal in the Indus Valley civilization's trade with Mesopotamia.

7. Biodiversity:

- Agriculture, traditional medicine, and eating habits have all been influenced by a rich biodiversity.
- Ayurveda, the traditional medical system of India, used a variety of plants and medicines.

8. Accessibility:

- Natural pathways and mountain passes determined invasion routes and trade links.
- Example: The Khyber Pass facilitated trade and invasions between India and Central Asia.

9. Ecological Adaptations:

- People adapted to their surroundings, leading to distinct regional cultures and lifestyles.
- Example: Desert communities like the Jains in Rajasthan developed water-conservation techniques.

10. Religious and Cultural Significance:

- Geographical features often held religious and cultural significance.
- Example: The Ganges River is considered sacred, leading to numerous rituals and pilgrimages.

11. Defensive Advantages:

- Natural barriers and fortifications influenced the location of cities and forts.
- Example: The fort of Daulatabad was strategically positioned on a volcanic hill for defense.

12. Trade Routes:

- Crossroads of trade routes influenced economic prosperity and cultural exchange.
- Example: The Silk Road passing through northern India boosted trade and cultural diffusion.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, Ancient India's development was significantly shaped by **geographic conditions**, which also had an impact on trade, culture, and history. These elements are still crucial for comprehending India's rich and dynamic heritage.

Q.2 Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya" (easterly) in the Bhojpur region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?

Introduction

- In the beginning, a brief description of the location of the Bhojpur region must be provided.

Body

- One can use a map to show the location of the Bhojpur region.
- Briefly discuss the characteristics of the Southwest monsoon in the Bhojpur region and
- Discuss the influence of seasonal winds on the cultural ethos of the region.

Conclusion

- By summarizing the above content, you can conclude by showing environmental influence on cultural aspects.

Introduction

The **directional seasonal wind system** (South-West monsoon) has influenced the Bhojpur region due to its location which lies in the path of the South-west monsoon before entering the western part of the country. These are called **'Purvaiya'** as they come from the eastern part of the Bhojpur region and spread across the state.

Body

Characteristics of the South-West Monsoon (Purvaiyas).

These are **moisture-laden winds** that shower rainfall, thunderstorms, and rain-bearing clouds affecting the cultural and economic activities of the region.

Its impact on the cultural ethos of the region.

- **Primary activities:** Moderate to high rainfall occurs in the region where paddy is the main cultivated crop. Apart from paddy, the other crops grown here are **chickpeas, lentils, pigeon peas, field peas, toria, mustard, linseed**, etc.
- **Language and Folklore:** The term 'Purvaiya' is deeply ingrained in the local language and folklore. Proverbs, songs, and stories often revolve around the significance of the monsoon winds in the lives of the people.
- **Traditional Practices:** Traditional farming methods, like **'Dahi-Chura' and 'Khichdi'** (curd and flattened rice), are consumed during the monsoon season as they are believed to provide strength and vitality to withstand the rains.
- **Social Interactions:** The monsoon often limits outdoor activities, leading to increased social interactions within homes. This **fosters a sense of community and togetherness.**

- **Ponds and Reservoirs:** Bhojpur's villages have historically relied on ponds and reservoirs to capture and store rainwater from the monsoon. These **traditional water management systems** ensure a sustainable water supply for agriculture and daily use.
- **Nourishing local culture:** one of the prominent festivals of the Bhojpur region is **Chhath Puja** which coincides with the monsoon season and depicts local culture beautifully.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the Purvaiya has played a significant role in shaping the cultural ethos of the Bhojpur Region, influencing various aspects of life, including primary activities, language and folklore, social interactions, water management systems, etc.

Q.18 Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?

Introduction
- Define urbanization, reasons behind rapid urbanization.

Body
- State the reasons leading to segregation and marginalization of Poor in urban areas.
- Mention latest examples.
- Mention schemes and Programmes of government to deal with ill effects of urbanization.

Conclusion
- Mention how Inclusive policy making can help deal with the issue.

Introduction

Urbanization in Indian metropolises has witnessed rapid growth in recent decades, driven by factors such **as industrialization and rural-to-urban migration**. While cities offer opportunities and economic prospects, they also raise concerns about the potential for increased segregation and marginalization of the poor.

Body

Factors contributing to Spatial Segregation of Poor

Limited Access to Resources

- **Education:** limited access to quality education, **perpetuating intergenerational poverty**.
- **Healthcare:** Disparities in **healthcare access,** with the poor facing challenges in accessing medical facilities in metropolises.

Housing Segregation

- **Slums and Informal Settlements:** Rapid urbanization has led to the proliferation of slums and informal settlements where poor communities **reside in substandard living conditions.**
- **Example: Gated Communities -** Urbanization has witnessed the growth of gated communities and exclusive neighborhoods that are inaccessible to the poor.

Economic Disparities

- **Income Inequality:** Poor struggling to access decent livelihood opportunities.
- **Job Market:** Poor urban dwellers are employed and face exploitation and low wages.

Factors contributing to the Marginalization of the Poor

Land Displacement

- **Gentrification Pressures:** Urbanization can lead to gentrification, where affluent individuals and businesses invest in previously marginalized neighborhoods, driving up property prices and displacing the poor.
- **Example: Delhi's Kathputli Colony** faced gentrification pressures due to urbanization, leading to protests and evictions.
- **Disaster Vulnerability:** Poverty leads to greater disaster impact and inadequate resilient housing, as seen in E.g.: **Chennai's flooding-prone low-income areas during monsoons.**
- **E.g. - Forced Eviction:** The demolition of Kolkata slums without providing proper alternative housing options, leaving residents displaced.

Lack of Representation

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- **Political Marginalization:** Despite their significant numbers in metropolises, the poor may face political marginalization, leading **to inadequate representation in decision-making processes.**
- **Example:** In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**, only 22% of the winning candidates** came from poor households. This is despite the fact that the poor make up over 60% of the Indian population.

Social Stigmatization

- **Discrimination:** Poor in metropolises may face discrimination and stigmatization, **making it challenging to access opportunities and services.**
- **Social stigma:** hindering **their integration** into the broader urban community.

Government Policy Interventions to mitigate ill effects of rising urbanization

- **PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana):** Provides affordable housing to impoverished individuals.
- **One Nation One Ration Card:** Ensures food security for the poor, allowing access to subsidized food across states.
- **Skill India:** Offers skill training and employment opportunities, enhancing livelihoods for urban poor.
- **NULM (National Urban Livelihoods Mission):** Empowers urban poor with skill training and job prospects.
- **Smart Cities Mission:** Aims to enhance urban living, benefitting all, including the impoverished, in 100 designated cities.

Conclusion

Urbanization in Indian metropolises presents a complex landscape where the poor can face both segregation and marginalization. **To ensure inclusive urbanization,** policymakers must address these challenges and work toward creating cities that **accommodate the needs and aspirations of all residents,** regardless of their economic status.

Q.14. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.

Introduction

- Introduce with India has a coastline stretching over 7,500 kms.

Body

- Resource Potentials of India's Long Coastline.
- Status of Natural Hazard Preparedness in Coastal Areas.
- Government Initiatives to Control Natural Hazards in Coastal Regions and gaps.

Conclusion

- Continued investment and proactive planning are crucial to harness the potential of the coastline.

Introduction

India has a coastline stretching over 7,500 km. This vast expanse along the **Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal is not only home to a rich tapestry of cultures but also harbors significant economic and environmental potential.** Home to bustling ports, thriving fisheries, and renewable energy opportunities, India's coastal regions play a pivotal role in the nation's development. However, these areas also confront the ever-present challenges of natural hazards, making coastal management and preparedness crucial.

Resource Potentials of India's Long Coastline

- **Fisheries:** India's coastline supports a thriving fishing industry. It is a major source of livelihood for coastal communities and contributes significantly to the country's seafood exports. The potential for sustainable aquaculture and marine resource utilization is vast.
- **Tourism:** India's coastal regions, with their scenic beaches, attract millions of tourists annually. These areas offer substantial opportunities for tourism-related businesses, including resorts, water sports, and ecotourism.
- **Trade and Ports:** Several major ports and harbors along the coast facilitate trade and commerce, contributing significantly to India's economy. They play a crucial role in both domestic and international trade.
- **Renewable Energy:** India's coastline offers abundant potential for harnessing renewable energy, particularly wind and solar power. Offshore wind farms and solar installations can contribute to the country's renewable energy goals.
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- **Mineral Resources:** Coastal areas often host valuable mineral resources, including sand, limestone, and salt. These resources are vital for construction, manufacturing, and chemical industries.

Status of Natural Hazard Preparedness in Coastal Areas

- **Cyclones:** The government has made significant strides in cyclone preparedness through early warning systems and disaster management plans. **The Cyclone Phailin** response in 2013, for example, demonstrated improved preparedness, leading to reduced casualties.
- **Tsunami Awareness:** After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, India has enhanced its tsunami warning and monitoring capabilities. **Early warning systems** have been established, and public awareness campaigns conducted in coastal areas.
- **Flood Management:** Coastal regions are prone to flooding, particularly during monsoon seasons. **India has invested in flood management infrastructure, including embankments and flood shelters, to mitigate the impact of floods.**
- **Coastal Erosion:** Coastal erosion is a concern in several areas, impacting communities and infrastructure. India has initiated projects for coastal protection and erosion control, including the **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) program.**
- **Climate Adaptation:** Given the climate change-induced sea-level rise, India is increasingly focusing on climate adaptation in coastal regions. Strategies include building resilient infrastructure and relocating vulnerable communities.

Government Initiatives to Control Natural Hazards in Coastal Regions

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** NDMA formulates disaster management policies and strategies specifically tailored for coastal regions. It ensures coordination and monitors disaster preparedness and response efforts
- **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Policies:** CRZ policies play a vital role in regulating coastal development to minimize vulnerability to natural hazards. These policies restrict construction in sensitive coastal areas, preserving natural buffers against disasters.
- **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP):** Launched by the Union government to reduce cyclone risk in coastal states. Encompass measures such as enhancing cyclone forecasting and warning systems, constructing cyclone shelters, and conducting community awareness programs.
- **West Bengal's Riverbank and Coastal Protection: West Bengal's 'Sundarbans Development Program'** places a strong emphasis on mangrove conservation and the

construction of protective embankments along the riverbanks and coastal areas to mitigate the impact of cyclones and coastal erosion.

Gaps in Natural Hazard Preparedness in Coastal Areas

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Critical infrastructure, including cyclone shelters, flood protection, and dependable transportation networks, is lacking in many coastal areas, leaving communities highly vulnerable during natural disasters.
- **Limited Early Warning Systems:** Some coastal regions face challenges in accessing timely and accurate early warning information, resulting in delayed evacuations and inadequate preparedness, exacerbating disaster risks.
- **Community Awareness:** Despite engagement efforts, there remain gaps in raising awareness and educating coastal residents about disaster preparedness, impeding their ability to take effective actions during emergencies.
- **Resource Allocation Disparities:** Unequal distribution of resources among states and regions leads to disparities in disaster preparedness, with certain areas receiving more attention and funding than others, leaving some communities at a disadvantage.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** While efforts to enhance climate resilience are underway, comprehensive and accelerated adaptation measures are imperative to address long-term climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and intensifying cyclones, which pose substantial threats to coastal areas.

Conclusion

India's long coastline offers a **wealth of resource potentials, from fisheries and tourism to renewable energy and trade.** Continued investment and proactive planning are crucial to harness the potential of the coastline while safeguarding the well-being of coastal communities.

Q15. Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India, Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India.

Introduction

- India, with its expansive geography and diverse environmental tapestry, stands as a testament to diversity.

Body

- Write India's remarkable diversity of natural vegetation can be attributed to several factors.
- Highlight the significance of Wildlife Sanctuaries in Rainforest Regions.

Conclusion

- While negative impacts are evident, socialization, family, and educational institutions can collaboratively mitigate these effects.

Introduction

India, with its expansive geography and diverse environmental tapestry, stands as a testament to diversity. The **country's rich tapestry of natural vegetation thrives,** reflecting the myriad ecosystems shaped by India's diverse landscapes and climatic conditions.

Natural Vegetation of India

- **Tropical Rainforests:** Primarily situated in the Western Ghats, these vibrant forests are characterized by abundant rainfall, dense canopies, and remarkable biodiversity.
- **Tropical Deciduous Forests:** These forests are prevalent in central and southern India and undergo distinct wet and dry seasons. They are home to a variety of hardwood trees, including teak and sal.
- **Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs:** Found in arid and semi-arid regions in northwestern India, these ecosystems have adapted to harsh conditions, featuring drought-resistant vegetation like acacia and cacti.
- **Mangrove Forests:** Nestled along coastal regions, mangrove forests boast salt-tolerant trees and support unique ecosystems that serve as critical nurseries for marine life.
- **Alpine and Tundra Vegetation:** Thriving in the Himalayan region at higher altitudes, alpine meadows and tundra vegetation host a different set of cold-adapted plants, uniquely adapted to the challenging mountain environments.

India's remarkable diversity of natural vegetation can be attributed to several factors

- **Geographical Extent:** India's vast geographical expanse, encompassing various climatic zones, altitudes, and landscapes, fosters a wide range of ecosystems. From the towering Himalayas in the north to the tropical rainforests in the south, the country spans diverse ecological regions.
- **Climatic Variations:** India experiences diverse climatic conditions, including the monsoon-driven wet season and dry season. These climatic variations create distinct ecosystems, such as deciduous forests, grasslands, and deserts, each adapted to its specific climatic regime.

- **Altitude and Topography:** Altitude and topography play a crucial role in shaping vegetation. The Himalayan region supports alpine meadows, while the Western and Eastern Ghats harbor unique biodiversity due to their elevational gradients.
- **Monsoon Influence:** The Indian monsoon, with its seasonal winds and heavy rains, has a profound impact on vegetation. It supports the growth of lush tropical rainforests along the Western Ghats and the northeastern states, while creating arid conditions in parts of Rajasthan.
- **River Systems:** The presence of major river systems, such as the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Godavari, creates fertile alluvial plains conducive to the growth of diverse vegetation, including dense forests and agricultural lands.

- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** India hosts several biodiversity hotspots, including the Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma region. These areas are characterized by high species diversity and unique ecosystems.
- **Historical and Cultural Influences:** Human activities, such as agriculture, grazing, and deforestation, have shaped India's vegetation over millennia. Traditional practices, such as shifting cultivation, have contributed to the mosaic of landscapes.

Significance of Wildlife Sanctuaries in Rainforest Regions

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Rainforests are rich in biodiversity, harboring numerous endemic and endangered species. Wildlife sanctuaries in these regions serve as vital protected areas where rare and threatened species can thrive, contributing to their conservation.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Rainforests provide essential ecosystem services like climate regulation, water purification, and soil fertility. Protecting these ecosystems in wildlife sanctuaries ensures the continued provision of these services, benefiting local communities.
- **Research and Education:** Wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions serve as natural laboratories for scientific research and environmental education. They offer opportunities for studying complex ecosystems and understanding the impacts of climate change.
- **Tourism and Economy:** These sanctuaries promote sustainable eco-tourism, attracting visitors interested in experiencing pristine natural environments. This tourism contributes to the local economy and encourages conservation efforts.
- **Cultural and Indigenous Value:** Many indigenous communities inhabit rainforest regions and have deep cultural and spiritual connections to the land and its biodiversity. Wildlife sanctuaries protect their traditional territories and ways of life.

Conclusion

India's diverse natural vegetation is the result of a combination of geographical, climatic, and ecological factors. Wildlife sanctuaries in **rainforest regions are crucial for conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services,** facilitating research and education, boosting the economy through eco-tourism, and preserving cultural and indigenous values. **These sanctuaries play a vital role in both conservation and sustainable development efforts.**

Q.16 Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?

Introduction
- Can mention facts related to India's current economic status like 5th largest economy.

Body

- Reasons for disparity in economic and human development.
- Give examples and latest reports, and can quote economic surveys.
- What measures to take to bridge the gap?

Conclusion

- Focus on basic infrastructure like education and health is key to inclusive growth.

Introduction

India has witnessed remarkable economic growth, making it the **world's 5ᵗʰ largest economy.** However, this economic success has not translated proportionately into human development. While economic indicators have surged, human development metrics lag behind, revealing a significant gap.

Body

Reasons for Disparities Between Economic and Human Development in India

Population Pressure

- Rapid population growth **puts pressure on resources and infrastructure**, affecting overall development.
- **Example: According World Bank**, India's population growth rate is **1.05% per year**. This means that India's population is increasing by over **14 million people each year.**

Income Inequality

- **High Income Inequality:** India struggles with substantial income inequality, with a significant portion of wealth concentrated in the hands of a few.

- **Example: According to Human Development Report 2022 -** The **richest 1% of Indians** possess **over 40% of the country's wealth**, while a large population struggles with poverty.

Regional Disparities

- The **per capita income** in the **richest state, Goa**, is over three times higher than the per capita income in the poorest state, Bihar **(Economic Survey 2023)**
- The **literacy rate** in the most literate state**, Kerala, is over 96%,** while the literacy rate in the least literate state, **Rajasthan, is just over 69%.**

Gender Inequality

- **Workforce Participation:** Gender disparities limit women's participation in the workforce and overall development.
- **Example:** Gender **wage gaps** and limited opportunities for women in rural areas persist.

Infrastructure Deficits

- **Basic Infrastructure:** Insufficient infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and sanitation, hampers overall development.
- India's internet penetration rates vary greatly by state, with **Kerala at 79.1%** and **Bihar at 31.4%.**

Inadequate Healthcare Systems

- **Low Public Spending**: Insufficient public spending on healthcare, quality healthcare are often inaccessible to marginalized populations.
- **According to the World Health Organization**, the maternal mortality rate in India **is 145 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.**

Corruption and Governance Issues

- **Corruption:** Corruption in public services and inefficiencies in governance impede human development efforts.
- **According to a 2022 report by Transparency International**, India ranks 85th out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perception Index.
- **According to a 2020 report by the World Bank, corruption costs India around 30% of its GDP each year.**

Agricultural Dependency

- **Economic Vulnerability:** A significant population relies on agriculture, which is vulnerable to factors like climate change and market fluctuations.
- **With more than 50% population dependent on agriculture,** the agriculture sector's contribution to India's GDP is estimated to be 18.3% **(Economic Survey 2023)**

Measures to Ensure Human Development with Economic Development

- **Inclusive Growth:** Economic benefits must reach all segments of society to address income inequality**. (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for financial inclusion)**

- **Education and Skill Development:** Investment in quality education and vocational training is essential **(Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)**
- **Healthcare Enhancement:** Expanding healthcare access and introducing universal coverage is critical. **(Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana)**
- **Job Creation:** Promoting entrepreneurship and focusing on sectors with high employment potential can boost human development. **(Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana)**
- **Gender Equality:** Empowering women in education and the workforce is crucial**. (National Mission for Empowerment of Women Mahila Shakti Kendra)**
- **Regional Development:** Balancing urban-rural disparities through infrastructure and industry development is essential**. (North Eastern Region Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme)**
- **Social Welfare:** Expanding safety nets and targeting subsidies to vulnerable populations can improve human development. (**National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana)**

Conclusion

While India's economic development has achieved remarkable progress, addressing the gap between economic growth and human development is essential for sustainable and inclusive development. **NITI Aayog's "Strategy for a New India @75" report,** recommends comprehensive efforts are required in education, healthcare, income distribution, and governance reforms. Bridging this divide is crucial for India to ensure equitable development and social well-being for all its citizens.

Q. 17 From being a net food importer in the 1960s. India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.

Introduction
- Give data on India's import and export for foodgrains in last 6 decades.

Body
- Mention various factors that led to growth in food grain production.

Conclusion

- In summarizing the above factors, conclude on a positive growth of food grains.

Introduction

India has transformed from being a net food importer in the 1960s to a net food exporter today. India's food grain production has reached record levels, **with 315.7 million tonnes produced in 2021-22.** This increase in production has allowed the country to meet domestic demand and export surplus food.

Body

The surge in India's growth in crop production is attributed to multiple factors such as

- **Diversification of agriculture:** The importance of crop diversification lies in the fact that it effectively **increases soil fertility and controls pest** incidences thus in turn increasing crop production.
- **Green Revolution:** The use of a high-yield variety of seeds, helped increase the production of food grains (especially rice and wheat) and other agricultural products. As a result, in 1967–68, the production of food grains in India increased by about 25% from the previous year.
- **Advancement in technologies:** Usage of monstrous machines that can do very arduous energy-intensive work, conduct irrigation, harvesting, crop processing, and preservation, and apply chemical fertilizers led to an increase in crop production.
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- **Government's efforts to increase crop production:** Efforts such as the National Agricultural policy (2000), Per drop more crop, PM Krishi Sinchayi Yojana, Soil Health Card, etc. all led to an increase in soil productivity and increased agricultural production.
- **Food processing industry:** The food processing industry in India has been growing at an average annual growth rate of around 8.3% over the last five years, contributing to the country's food export potential.
- **Export competitiveness**: India has developed export competitiveness in a range of specialized agricultural and related products, making it the world's 9th largest exporter. Leading exports include Basmati rice, spices, pulses, and buffalo meat.
- **LPG Reforms 1991**: After the liberalization of the market, Indian farmers got more opportunities, increased competitiveness, and thus improved efficiency.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, India's approach to becoming self-sufficient in food grains is **attributed to the setting up of the food processing sector, export competitiveness, LPG reforms in 1991, government efforts, diversification of food grains, etc.** Through adopting these measures India not only became a food surplus country but also ensured its food security and also become a crucial player in global food.

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