

# A Report on MERI Dialogue 6.0

**MERI**  
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities


February 14, 2026

MERI Campus, New Delhi



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# MERI

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**A Report on**  
**MERI Dialogue 6.0**  
**“BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities”**  
**February 14, 2026**  
**MERI Campus, New Delhi**  
**Organised by**  
**MERI Centre for International Studies**  
**(CIS),**  
**New Delhi**

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## INTRODUCTION

The MERI Centre for International Studies, , New Delhi, organised **MERI Dialogue 6.0**, an international conference on “BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities” on 14 February 2026. The Dialogue brought together senior diplomats, policymakers, academicians, industry experts and scholars from India and abroad to deliberate on the evolving relevance of BRICS in a rapidly transforming global order. The conference aimed to examine BRICS’ role in global governance, economic cooperation, technological innovation and sustainable development, with a particular focus on advancing the interests of the Global South. The event also assumed significance in view of India’s chairmanship of BRICS in 2026.



## 2. INAUGURAL SESSION

The conference commenced with a traditional invocation and ceremonial lamp lighting. In his welcome address, **Prof. Lalit Aggarwal**, Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions traced the evolution of MERI Dialogue as a platform linking academia, policy and industry. He emphasised inclusive growth, digital equity and people-centric development as core priorities for BRICS cooperation. **Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi**, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies, outlined the objectives of the Dialogue, underscoring BRICS as a vital mechanism for South-South cooperation



The inaugural address was delivered by **Ambassador Ashok Kumar Sharma** who highlighted BRICS' strategic importance in reforming global governance institutions, strengthening economic integration and promoting technology sharing. He also identified institutional constraints, geopolitical tensions and implementation gaps as major challenges facing the Grouping. **Mr Mikhail Pontser**, First Secretary from the embassy of the Russian Federation in New Delhi and BRICS liaison officer underscored the relevance of BRICS in addressing today geopolitical challenges and realities. **Shri I. P. Aggarwal**, Chairman, MERI Group of Institutions highlighted India's leadership responsibilities as BRICS Chair in 2026, emphasising priorities such as digital growth, climate action and enhanced economic cooperation while acknowledging the challenges of consensus-building within the BRICS.

# 3. POINTS FROM THE PAPERS AND SPEECHES

The first technical session focused on the role of BRICS in enhancing cooperation among member countries and the Global South. Chaired by **Prof. S. D. Muni**, the session emphasised that BRICS must move beyond symbolic unity towards functional synergy based on mutual understanding and tangible outcomes. Speakers underlined the need for reforms in global governance institutions and stressed that BRICS' credibility depends on its ability to deliver concrete developmental benefits.



Discussions covered regional and global security challenges, cyber threats, climate change, energy and food security, disaster management and Africa's expanding role within BRICS, particularly following the inclusion of new members such as Egypt and Ethiopia. Geopolitical dynamics, including China's role within BRICS and debates on de-dollarization, were also examined.

The second technical session on "BRICS: Technology and Innovation" and was chaired by **Lt. Gen. P. J. S. Pannu (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, VSM**



The session highlighted technology as a central pillar of global relevance and economic resilience. Discussions focused on cyberspace, space technologies, satellite communications, digital infrastructure and the expanding global space economy. Speakers identified opportunities for collaboration among BRICS nations in technology development, manufacturing and market access. With the BRICS accounting for nearly half of the world's population and a combined GDP of approximately USD 31 trillion, the bloc was recognised as a potential technological force. Particular emphasis was placed on semiconductors, including supply chain vulnerabilities, carbon footprint concerns and the need to move from design capability to fabrication capacity through coordinated policy efforts and talent development.

The third technical session on "Contribution of BRICS to supply chains, sustainability, and economic partnership in the Global South" was chaired by **Prof. V. K. Jain**. The session highlighted BRICS' responsibility in promoting green growth, renewable energy, resilient supply chains and sustainable infrastructure financing. The role of the New Development Bank in supporting green and development-oriented projects was emphasised. Speakers highlighted artificial intelligence as a critical enabler of modern supply chains, enhancing efficiency, transparency and resilience. The discussions stressed that sustainability in the Global South requires practical technology transfer, strategic economic planning and strengthened institutional cooperation.



## 4. KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Dialogue underscored BRICS' continued relevance as a platform for multipolarity, inclusive growth and South-South cooperation. However, it highlighted the need for institutional coherence, policy coordination and timely implementation. Technology, innovation and sustainability emerged as cross-cutting priorities. The importance of human development, digital resilience and equitable access to technological opportunities was repeatedly emphasised. The inclusion of new members has expanded BRICS' global footprint but also increased the need for effective consensus-building mechanisms.

MERI Dialogue 6.0 generated valuable insights relevant to India's engagement with BRICS, particularly in the context of its 2026 chairmanship. The discussions reinforced the importance of BRICS in amplifying the voice of the Global South, advancing global governance reforms and promoting sustainable and technology-driven development. The conference outcomes contribute to informed policy thinking and underscore the role of academic dialogue in supporting India's foreign policy objectives within BRICS in particular and global south in general.

## MERI DIALOGUE 6.0

on

# BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities

Saturday • February 14, 2026



### VENUE

## Management Education and Research Institute

Affiliated to GGSIPU, New Delhi; Approved by AICTE, Ministry of Education,  
NAAC Accredited & 'A+' Grade Institute by GGSIPU & Govt. of NCT of Delhi

## About MERI Group of Institutions

MERI Group is a premier academic institution providing quality education in India for the past 38 years. MERI-Group is an ISO 9001:2015 certified & NAAC-accredited institution. It has established itself as a Centre of Excellence in education with a focus on providing quality education in the fields of International Affairs, Engineering, Management, Law, Journalism, Information Technology, Teachers' Training and School Education. Presently, five academic institutions are being operated by the said Group in New Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).

Presently, MERI-Group has about 30 global partnerships with reputed universities and Educational institutions from Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany, South Korea, Tajikistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan for students and faculty exchange, research and related academic activities. MERI Group of Institutions is striving to help youth to develop their skills and values by not just letting them go through life but grow through life.

**MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS)** strives to make a pioneering contribution in promoting the study of international relations, international business and economic studies, science & technology and use of digital techniques in international affairs and diplomacy. It aims to advance knowledge and understanding of international affairs through theoretical and interdisciplinary lenses.

## About MERI Dialogue 6.0

MERI Dialogue 6.0 is being organised in the context of India assuming the BRICS Presidency in 2026 and the official theme of the 18th BRICS Summit, "Humanity First." The Dialogue seeks to reinterpret BRICS: Partnerships in a Multipolar World through a people-centric lens, shifting the focus from purely economic metrics to human welfare, equity, resilience and inclusive development as the foundations of global governance. Since its inception, BRICS has evolved from an investment-related acronym into a significant political, economic and strategic coordination forum of the Global South. The grouping currently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Iran. With its expanded membership, BRICS today represents nearly half of the world's population and contributes close to one-third of global GDP in purchasing power parity terms, underscoring its growing geopolitical and geo-economic relevance in a rapidly transforming multipolar world.

Beyond political coordination, BRICS has developed a robust institutional ecosystem, including the New Development Bank (NDB), the BRICS Business Council, and multiple sectoral mechanisms that promote cooperation in energy, transport, digital connectivity, finance, infrastructure, social development, labour and sustainability. These platforms strengthen economic partnerships, enable development financing, support green and resilient supply chains, and enhance South-South cooperation across the wider Global South.

At a time of increasing geopolitical fragmentation, economic uncertainty, climate stress, and non-traditional security challenges, BRICS advocates multi polarity, sovereign equality, strategic autonomy and reform of global governance institutions such as the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Anchored in the theme Humanity First, MERI Dialogue 6.0 will explore how BRICS partnerships can bridge the gap between high geopolitics and the everyday needs of citizens by leveraging technological innovation, financial resilience, cooperative multi literalism and sustainable practices.

The Dialogue will bring together scholars, policymakers, diplomats, technocrats, entrepreneurs and practitioners to deliberate on BRICS' contribution to the Global South and its role in shaping a more balanced, inclusive, humane, and cooperative international order.

## Key Themes

- **Session One:** Role and Significance of BRICS in Enhancing Cooperation among Member Countries and the Global South
- **Session Two:** BRICS - Technology & Innovation
- **Session Three:** Contribution of BRICS in Supply Chains & Sustainability, Enhancing Economic Partnership and Development in the Global South

## Objectives

- To examine the evolution of BRICS as a strategic partnership platform and assess its role in advancing people-centric and inclusive development in a multipolar world.
- To analyse BRICS' contribution to strengthening multipolarity, sovereign equality, and strategic autonomy, while advocating reforms in global governance institutions.
- To explore how BRICS-led cooperation in finance, trade, technology, and digital public infrastructure can improve human welfare, equity, and resilience across the Global South.
- To assess the role of the New Development Bank and other BRICS mechanisms in supporting human-centric infrastructure, sustainable development, and green transitions.
- To deliberate on BRICS' response to non-traditional security challenges, including climate change, pandemics, energy insecurity, and climate-induced displacement.
- To advance inclusive development in BRICS by scaling India's Digital Public Infrastructure for digital financial inclusion and promoting ethical AI governance to bridge the digital divide in the Global South.

- To strengthen BRICS cooperation in space technologies through joint satellite initiatives for climate monitoring, disaster management and sustainable development.

## Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced academic and policy understanding of BRICS
- Strengthened dialogue on multi-polarity and Global South cooperation
- Research-based policy recommendations
- Publication of selected papers in an edited volume

## Who Should Attend

The MERI Dialogue will bring together scholars, policymakers, diplomats, technocrats, entrepreneurs and practitioners to deliberate on BRICS' contribution to the Global South and its role in shaping a more balanced, inclusive, humane, and cooperative international order.

## Chief Patrons

**Shri I.P. Aggarwal**

Hon'ble Chairman, Triveni Educational and Social Welfare Society, New Delhi

**Prof. Lalit Aggarwal**, Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi

## Chief Coordinators

**Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Khurana**, Advisor, MERI Group of Institutions

**Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi**, Head, MERI CIS & Director, ICAF, New Delhi

**Prof. (Dr.) Deepshikha Kalra**, Dean, MERI

## Organising Committee Members

**Prof. Sadanand Pandey**

**Dr. Gurpreet Kaur Chhabra**

**Dr. Sangeeta Yadav**

**Dr. S.S. Misra**

**Dr. Beena**

## Conference Rapporteurs

**Dr. Pooja Singh Negi, Dr. Simranjeet Kaur Bagga & Dr. Arkin Chawla**

## Contact Person

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**MERI CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES****International Conference  
on  
"BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities"  
MERIDIALOGUE 6.0****Date: February 14, 2026****Venue: Auditorium**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>1000 h – 1100 h:</b>			<b>Inaugural Session</b>
	Introduction of the event by the Anchor	1000 h - 1005 h	Ms Ritu Sawanni, Assistant Professor
	Lamp Lighting	1005 h - 1010 h	All the Dignitaries
	National Anthem	1010 h - 1013 h	-
	Welcome Address	1013 h - 1020 h	Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions
	About the Conference	1020 h - 1025 h	Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies, and Director, India Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi
	<b>Inaugural Address</b>	1025 h - 1035 h	Amb Ashok Kumar Sharma, Former Indian ambassador to Kazakhstan & Finland, IFS (Retd.), Member, MERI CIS Advisory Committee. New Delhi, India
	<b>Guest of Honour</b>	1040 h - 1045 h	Mr.Mikhail Pontser, First Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation in New Delhi
	<b>Address by the Guest of Honour</b>	1045 h - 1055 h	Shri I.P. Aggarwal, Hon'ble Chairman, Triveni Educational & Social Welfare Society, New Delhi and President MERI Group of Institutions
	Introduction & Release of the Book– <b>"India and Europe: Opportunities and Challenges"</b>	1055 h - 1100 h	Dr. S S. Misra, Associate Professor, MERI
	Felicitation of Dignitaries	1105 h - 1110 h	
	Vote of Thanks	1110 h - 1115 h	Prof (Dr) Deepshikha Kalra, Dean, MERI

**Tea Break: 1115 h - 1130 h****Venue: MERI Atrium**

<b>1130 h -1300 h Session One: Role and Significance of BRICS in Enhancing Cooperation Among Member Countries and the Global South</b>	
<b>Chairperson:</b> Professor S D Muni, Professor Emeritus, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), former ambassador and Special Envoy, Government of India	1130 h – 1135 h
<b>Dr Vadim B. Kozyulin</b> , Center for Contemporary Studies, Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow, Russia  <b>Topic:</b> BRICS in Non-Traditional Security: An Analytical Assessment	1135 h - 1145 h <b>Online Presentation</b>
<b>Prof Srikanth Kondapalli</b> , Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	1145 h – 1155 h
<b>Dr Yonas Adaye Adeto</b> , Peace Studies & Commissioner, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Ethiopia  <b>Topic:</b> Role of BRICS in Strengthening Cooperation among Member States and the Global South	1155 h - 1205 h <b>Online Presentation</b>
<b>Prof. Abdusamat A Khaydarov</b> , Director, Diplomatic Academy at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  <b>Topic:</b> A New Impetus for Multipolarity: BRICS as a Driver of Cooperation with the Global South and Uzbekistan’s Strategic Vector	1205 h – 1215 h
<b>Dr Rachael M. Rudolph</b> , Professor of Social Science and Global South Researcher, Bryant University-Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China & Adjunct Professor of Counterterrorism & Cultural Intelligence Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts  <b>Topic:</b> From Rio to “Humanity First”: Mapping BRICS Security Consensus in 2026 Through Tiered National Security Agendas	1215 h – 1225 h <b>Online Presentation</b>
<b>Prof Ajay Dubey</b> , Former Rector and Professor of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	1225 h - 1235 h
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
Felicitation of Chairperson& Speakers	
<b>Lunch: 1300 h-1400 h</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Venue: MERI Atrium</b></span>	

<b>1400 h -1500 h</b>		<b>Session Two: BRICS: Technology &amp; Innovation</b>	
<b>Chairperson:</b> Lt. Gen. PJS Pannu (Retd.), PVSA, AVSM, VSM, Chief Mentor, MERI Department of Space Studies (DSS)		1400 h – 1405 h	
<b>Col Anurag Awasthi</b> , CEO & Founder, Escape Velocity Media works Pvt Ltd, New Delhi		1405 h - 1415 h	
<b>Mr. Ravi Ailawadhi</b> , Director, Space Industry Association of India		1415 h – 1425 h	
<b>Topic:</b> India at the Global Satcom Frontier			
<b>Ms Lakshmi Mini</b> , Director, NCORE Foundation		1425 h – 1435 h	
<b>Topic:</b> Cyber Safety as Human Security: Innovating for Humanity-First Digital Resilience in BRICS Economies			
<b>Shri Radhacharan Shakya</b> , Additional Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India		1435 h – 1445 h	
<b>Q &amp; A</b>			<b>15 Minutes</b>
Felicitation of Chairperson & Speakers			

<b>1500 h -1630 h Session Three: Contribution of BRICS in Supply Chains, Sustainability, Enhancing Economic Partnership and Development in the Global South</b>	
<b>Chairperson:</b> Professor V.K. Jain, Former Vice-Chancellor of Doon and Tejpur Universities and currently Member, MERI CIS Advisory Committee, New Delhi	1500 h - 1505 h
<b>Mr Bibin Babu</b> , BRICS Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi - President SMEs/Startup	1505 h – 1515 h
<b>Dr Raj Kumar Sharma</b> , Senior Research Fellow, NatStrat	1515 h - 1525 h
<b>Topic:</b> Strategic Autonomy: A Case Study of India’s BRICS Membership	
<b>Prof. Preeti D Das</b> , Chairperson, Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU	1525 h - 1535 h
<b>Topic:</b> Civilizational States in a Changing Global Order: India’s Emerging Role in BRICS	Online Presentation
<b>Shri Anil Sharma</b> , Economist and Former Member of National Financial Reporting Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India	1535 h - 1545 h
<b>Topic:</b> Interlinking of CBDCs of BRICS member countries Potential Trade Growth Medium?	
<b>Prof Rakesh Khurana</b> , Advisor, MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi	1545 h - 1555 h
<b>Topic:</b> BRICS Initiatives since 2023: Geopolitical, Trade, and Economic Implications	
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
Felicitations of Chairperson & Speakers	
<b>GROUP PHOTO</b>	
<b>High Tea: 1630 h onward</b>	<b>Venue: MERI Atrium</b>

**LIST OF PAPER PRESENTERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>University/Institute/Diplomatic Mission</b>
1.	Sh. I.P. Aggarwal	Chairman	Triveni Educational and Social Welfare Society, New Delhi
2.	Prof. Lalit Aggarwal	Vice-President	Management Education and Research Institute (MERI) Group of Institutions, New Delhi
3.	Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi	Head	MERI Centre for International Studies, and Director, India central Asia Foundation, New Delhi
4.	Prof. (Dr.) Deepshikha Kalra	Dean	MERI College, New Delhi
5.	H.E. Mr. Sardor Rustambaev	Ambassador	Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
6.	H.E. Mr. Yeskarayev Azamat	Ambassador	Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
7.	Mr. Dimash Syzdykov	Dy Head of the Mission	Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
8.	Mr. Sadriddin Suyarov	First Secretary (Press Attaché)	Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
9.	H.E. Mr. Lukmon Bobokalonzoda	Ambassador	Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan
10.	Amb. Ashok Kumar Sharma	Former Indian Ambassador to Kazakhstan and Finland  Currently President ICAF	India Centre Asia Foundation (ICAF), New Delhi
11.	Mr.Mikhail Pontser	First Secretary	Embassy of the Russian Federation in New Delhi
12.	Dr. S S. Misra	Associate Professor	MERI College, New Delhi

*Conference Report*

13.	Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli	Former Dean,	School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
14.	Professor S D Muni	Professor Emeritus	School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), former ambassador and Special Envoy, Government of India
15.	Dr Vadim B. Kozyulin	Center for Contemporary Studies	Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow, Russia (Online Presentation)
16.	Dr Yonas Adaye Adeto	Peace Studies & Commissioner	Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Ethiopia (Online Presentation)
17.	Prof. Abdusamat A Khaydarov	Director,	Diplomatic Academy at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
18.	Dr Rachael M. Rudolph	Professor of Social Science and Global South Researcher	Bryant University-Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China & Adjunct Professor of Counterterrorism & Cultural Intelligence Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts
19.	Prof Ajay Dubey	Former Rector and Professor of International Studies	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Online Presentation)
20.	Lt. Gen. PJS Pannu, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)	Chief Mentor	MERI Department of Space Studies (DSS)
21.	Col Anurag Awasthi	CEO & Founder	Escape Velocity Media works Pvt Ltd, New Delhi
22.	Mr. Ravi Ailawadhi	Director	Space Industry Association (SIA) of India
23.	Ms Lakshmi Mini	Director	NCORE Foundation
24.	Shri Radhacharan Shakya	Additional Deputy Director General	Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India
25.	Professor V.K. Jain	Former Vice-Chancellor of Doon and Tejpur	Member MERI CIS Advisory Committee, New Delhi

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		Universities	
26.	Mr Bibin Babu	BRICS Chamber of Commerce	New Delhi - President SMEs/Startup
27.	Dr Raj Kumar Sharma	Senior Research Fellow	NatStrat, New delhi
28.	Prof. Preeti D Das	Chairperson	Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi
29.	Shri Anil Sharma	Economist	Former Member of National Financial Reporting Authority Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India
30.	Prof. Rakesh Khurana	Advisor	MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi
31.	Prof. Sadanand Pandey	Professor	MERI College, New Delhi
32.	Dr. Pawan Kishore Jha	Assistant Professor	MERI College, New Delhi
33.	Prof Devendra Bahadur	Professor	MERI College, New Delhi
34.	Adv Anand Mishra	Advocate	Supreme Court of India
35.	Shri Sanjay Shrotriya	Scholar	International Affairs
36.	Dr. Punit Gaur	Senior Fellow	Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi
37.	Air Marshal (Dr.) Rajeev Sachdeva, AVSAM,VSM(Retd)	Member	United Services Institution of India (USI), New Delhi
38.	Maj Gen (Dr.) Sandeep Sharma	Member	United Services Institution of India (USI), New Delhi
39.	Shri Amitabh Ranjan	Managing Director	India Divina LTDA
40.	Maj Gen Manjeet Singh Mokha, SM,VSM(Retd.)	Professor	MERI Department of Space Studies (DSS)
41.	Dr. Rajesh Mehta	Member, Advisory Committee	MERI, CIS
42.	Prof. Shahid Tasleem	Professor	Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi
43.	Dr. Pramod Kumar	Associate Professor	SIS, JNU, New Delhi
44.	Shri Rahul Gupta	Senior Research Fellow	SIS, JNU, New Delhi
45.	Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed Kaw	Professor	Former Director, Centre for Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
46.	Prof. A. Sharma	Principal	Mata Sundari College, University of Delhi

2026



**BRICS**

**MERI  
DIALOGUE 6.0**

**DATE :**  
14 February 2026

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