

**MINUTES OF THE 226<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020, AT 4:00 P.M., ONLINE THROUGH ZOOM APPLICATION.**

**PRESENT:**

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ar. Habeeb Khan             | : Chairman      |
| 2. Ar. Sapna                   | : Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Ar. N. K. Negi              | : Member        |
| 4. Ar. Kapil Setia             | : Member        |
| 5. Ar. Ramesh Kumar            | : Member        |
| 6. Ar. Bansan Singh Thangkhiew | : Member        |
| 7. Ar. Sadiq Ali               | : Member        |

**In attendance:**

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.K. Oberoi  | : Registrar-Secretary    |
| 2. Shri Deepak Kumar | : Administrative Officer |

The chairman welcomed the members of the Committee and officials of the Council and thanked them for attending the online meeting.

ITEM NO. 1	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 225<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020.</b>
	<p>The Minutes of the 225<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Committee were circulated to the members on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. No comments were received on the minutes.</p> <p>The Minutes were discussed again and Ar. N.K. Negi and Ar. Kapil Setia suggested that in items 4, 5, 6 of the minutes the details of Members attended the meetings and financial implication should be mentioned and also the details of work and efforts put in by the NATA Coordination Committee be elaborated in the Minutes.</p>
ITEM NO. 2	<b>ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF 225<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee perused the action taken report as attached with the Agenda and noted the same.</p>
ITEM NO. 3	<b>TO CONSIDER THE REPLY DATED 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020 RECEIVED FROM AR. HARSHIT SADH REGARDING HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZING MASS CHEATING IN NATA 2020 EXAMINATION AS A FACULTY OF PARUL UNIVERSITY.</b>



	The Executive Committee perused the reply received from Ar. Harish Sadh and decided to defer the matter to its next meeting since the Writ Petition filed by the Parul University regarding reduction of intake in B. Arch Course on account of mass cheating in NATA 2020 examination is listed for hearing 16.12.2020.
<b>ITEM NO. 4</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-2020.</b>
	The Executive Committee perused the Annual Report of the Council of Architecture and Audited Statement of Accounts of the Council of Architecture for the financial year 2019-2020, Council of Architecture Employees Group Gratuity Scheme and Council of Architecture Contributory Provident Fund, and after deliberations recommended that the same be placed before the Full Council for its consideration and approval so that the same can be sent to the Central Government and publish in the Gazette of India.
<b>ITEM NO. 5</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITORS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.2019 of 31.03.2020.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee perused the Audit Report of the Internal Auditors of the Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations on the same desired that the remarks/ suggestions of the auditors regarding mentioning of PAN No. in the scrutiny sheet, Maintenance of proper stocks of books published by the Council and other issues be implemented at the earliest.</p>
<b>ITEM NO. 6</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER CASES OF STUDENTS WHO WERE ADMITTED INTO B.ARCH. COURSE OVER AND ABOVE THE SANCTIONED INTAKE UNDER NRI CATEGORY IN TS01-SCHOOL OF PLANNING &amp; ARCHITECTURE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY (JNA&amp;FAU), HYDERABAD</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council is in receipt of request from TS01- School of Planning &amp; Architecture, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNA&amp;FAU), for issuance of enrolment numbers of B.Arch. students who were admitted under NRI Quota over and above the sanctioned intake in the B.Arch. course during 2013-2014.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted that the Council, vide letter dated 19.09.2019, had directed the Institution to submit the fine Rs.20,000/- per annum per student (i.e. Rs.1,00,000/- per student) and also for reduction of intake in B.Arch. course proportionately for 2020-2021. Further, an affidavit towards the willingness of the institution for reduction of the B. Arch seats was also sought.</p>





	<p>The Executive Committee perused the letters dated 09.06.2020 and 16.09.2020 of the Institution requesting the Council to consider waiving off the penalty and also to drop the condition of submitting affidavit towards reducing the intake in B.Arch. course.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations in the matter decided that the institution is required to pay penalty for the excess admission made by it in the B.Arch. course for regularization of such students. The Council has been imposing such penalty uniformly on all institutions who do not adhere to the intake sanctioned by the Council.</p>
<b>ITEM NO. 7</b>	<p><b>PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL FOR NATA 2020 EXAMINATION.</b></p> <p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Council has been conducting National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) every year for admission to B. Arch Course. The NATA 2020 was conducted online two times in HBT/CBT modes all over India. All the officers and employees of the Council has carried out assigned work for conducting NATA 2020 examination online over all India.</p> <p>The NATA 2020 was conducted at a time when there was pandemic and chaotic situation all over India and even lockdown restrictions were imposed. All the officers and employees of the Council carried out this additional activity by working beyond office hours, attending office on Saturday &amp; Sunday and on gazetted holidays and even working from their residence.</p> <p>Therefore, all the officers and employees of the Council i.e. Regular as well as Contractual staff be paid two months' salary as Honorarium to compensate them for carrying out the additional duties and responsibilities for the successful conduct of NATA 2020 examination.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted that the Council is functioning with a very skeleton staff and payment of honorarium for the laborious activity spread out to almost 6-7 months of the year, would motivate and keep their moral high and compensate them for the contribution made by them by leaving aside their social and family life and working tirelessly day and night for successful conduct of the examination and announcement of result.</p> <p>It was further noted that activities of Council increased manifolds for NATA 2020 due to delay in conduct of test on account of Covid-19 pandemic, conduct of the two tests in multiple shifts in single day in HBT/CBT mode and also because of incidences of network failure, lockdown restrictions and change of centres, monitoring of conduct of exam at various stages, monitoring and dealing with the complaints received from candidates, appointment of several centre observers, city observers, state observers to monitor and supervise the conduct of examination, use of unfair means by students mostly in Home based Test, investigation of videos, supporting</p>



	<p>conduct of inquiry and compilation and collation of data of students by the Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after detailed deliberations in the matter approved the payment of Honorarium of Two months' salary as on November 2020 to all the office Employees of Council, as a special case, as a one-time exception, looking at the remarkable services rendered by the officers and employee of the Council during COVID-19 pandemic in conduct of NATA 2020 examination.</p>
<b>ITEM NO. 8</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS COMMITTEE.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee constituted a Committee of consisting Ar. Kapil Setia, Convenor, Ar. N.K. Negi as Member and other members for considering the report of the ARC Committee.</p> <p>The Chairman requested the members of the Committee about the status of the same, Ar. Kapil Setia informed that the committee shall submit its report within 15 days.</p>
<b>ITEM NO. 9</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE PROGRESS MADE ON AMENDMENT TO THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION REGULATIONS 1999 AFTER RECEIPT OF THE CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS/REMARKS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL, FOR ACCORDING ITS APPROVAL.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Full Council vide in its 67<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11.03.2017 vide Resolution no. 484 approved the creation of several posts proposing in the Council by amendments in the Council of Architecture Recruitment and Promotional Regulations 1999. The proposal of the Council was submitted to the Central Government for according its approval.</p> <p>The Ministry of H.R.D., Government of India vide their letter dated 18.12.2019 made certain observations on the Council's proposal for according its approval. The Executive Committee constituted a Committee consisting of Ar. Kapil Setia, Convenor Ar. N.K. Negi, Member and other members for considering observation of the Central Government for preparing the revised proposal.</p> <p>The Chairman requested the members to expedite the report so that the posts created by the Council are approved by Central Government and further action can be taken up in the matter.</p>

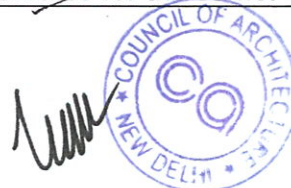




ITEM NO.10	TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE VENDOR FOR PROVIDING MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE WEB PORTAL AND WEBSITE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE ALONG NEW FUNCTIONALITIES FOR SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNCIL.
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that presently, the web portal and Website of the Council is without any maintenance and support. The tenure of the previous vendor of the Council, M/s Akal Information Systems Limited, Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi – 110049 expired in March 2020 and the same could not be renewed due to Covid-19 situation. Due to increase in number of users accessing website, COA web portal has not been able to meet the current needs &amp; take adequate load of all concurrent users during peak time.</p> <p>He further informed that as a result, the website &amp; portal requires constant support. Further, the work of various departments has been severely affected due to unavailability of any service provider. The website and application require constant upgradation/ support and maintenance for its proper functioning and therefore, a vendor is required for the same.</p> <p>Therefore, cost estimation for upgradation/ maintenance, new functionality, and support for the website and portal, conducting Security Audit, removal of website vulnerabilities and integration of additional payment gateway at the portal etc. was sought from the authorized NIC vendors, empanelled with National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI - A Govt. of India enterprise under NIC).</p> <p>He further informed that quotations were sought together with the quotes submitted by them for upgradation/ maintenance and support to the Council's web portal and site are attached herewith at <b>Appendix-G</b> of the Agenda</p> <p>The EC perused the office note and the quotations received from various vendors and after detailed deliberations in the matter decided that the quotation of M/s. Velocis Systems Pvt. Ltd. be accepted and work be awarded with requisite conditions to ensure stage-wise timely completion of work awarded to them with onsite employment of staff for carrying out the work of the Council.</p>
ITEM NO.11	TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 09.11.2020, RECEIVED FROM PRINCIPAL, GOA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, GOA, REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF 2 YEARS FULL-TIME M.ARCH. COURSE.
	The Executive Committee perused the letter dated 09.11.2020 received from Principal, GOA College of Architecture and noted that the institution is not having the required faculty for imparting the M. Arch course for the academic session 2020-2021. The Executive Committee also noted that institution has stated that it will take about six months to fill up the created posts.



	Executive Committee after detailed deliberations decided that the institution may apply next year after filing up the required faculty.
<b>ITEM NO.12</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL REGARDING CLOSURE OF SHRI DATTA MEGHE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, NAGPUR (MH83).</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that in terms of the decision of the Executive Committee, the Council appointed Ar. P. S. Ahuja as Administrator for three months to oversee the academic affairs of the Institution during academic session 2020-2021 and to ensure compliance of the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the report dated 01.12.2020 of Ar. P.S. Ahuja, Administrator, and noted that all the requirements prescribed by the Council, mainly NOC from all the students for transferring to other institutions have been obtained, online classes were conducted to complete the syllabus and other formalities as detailed in the reports have been completed. The students have expressed their willingness to transfer in the nearby institutions in Nagpur.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after detailed deliberation decide that the concerned authority/University be requested to transfer the student to concerned institutions as per choice of students so that the college can be closed.</p> <p>The Executive Committee also appreciated and thanked Ar. P.S Ahuja for his detailed report and taking all steps and efforts for ensuring proper studies of the students in the institutions and decided that a letter of appreciation be sent to Ar. P.S Ahuja in the matter.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.13</b>	<b>ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION FOR TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that it is proposed to conduct an Annual International Essay Writing Competition for faculty members in schools of architecture.</p> <p>This annual essay competition is an effort to engage the energy, creativity and vision of the educators in architecture in promoting a culture of nation building. It also aims to inspire the architecture fraternity to appreciate and learn from the educators, ways to harness the benefits of the available facilities and train young architects to make society a better place to live in.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the detailed proposal as submitted by Director, TRC, Pune and the proposed Budget Estimates for the same. The</p>





	<p>Committee after deliberations approved the conduct of Annual International Essay Writing Competition for teachers of School of Architecture in India.</p> <p>The Committee further desired that suitable international jury be identified for assessment of the competition entries.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.14</b>	<b>REPORTING OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AGAINST FARZI ARCHITECTS.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed that the Council has hosted on its website a complaint form for making complaints online/ offline against violation of the Architects Act, 1972, by non-architects.</p> <p>The Council has received 97 complaints against unregistered persons/ quacks during the period from 26.05.2020 to 14.12.2020. Appropriate action has been initiated on these complaints.</p> <p>The Executive Committee appreciated the action taken and desired that status of the complaints be placed on website of the Council for information of general public and other stake holders.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.15</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER TAKING APPROPRIATE DECISIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF NATA 2021 EXAMINATION.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council is conducting National Aptitude Test in Architecture every year for admission to first year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course. The appropriate steps for conduct of NATA 2021, finalization of modes/ methods of examination, dates of examination, service provider etc. have to be taken in advance so that the Test can be announced to the students and conducted as per scheduled date and time.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations decided to constitute NATA 2021 Co-ordination Committee with existing members and any other members which the Chairman may deem fit so that they can initiate further steps for conduct of NATA 2021.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.16</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER APPROVING ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2021-22.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council is required to <del>announce its Academic Calendar</del> to facilitate institutions to apply for the academic session 2021-2022, for imparting B.Arch. and M.Arch. Course and fix last dates for submission of applications, conduct of inspections by the Council, grant of approval etc.</p> <p>The Executive Committee <del>perused</del> the draft Academic calendar as attached with the agenda and after some modifications approved the same for hosting on the Council's website. The Committee decided that no new institution will</p>



	<p>be permitted in States falling in category IV of the Prospective Plan of the Council.</p> <p>The Committee further decided if inspections not feasible in physical mode the same may be held in online and virtual mode. Wherever required local inspections may also be undertaken to ensure compliance of the norms and standards prescribed by the Council of Architecture.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.17</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE REVISED ACADEMIC SCHEDULE FOR IMPARTING B.ARCH. COURSE BY THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that as decided by the Executive Committee the Revised Academic Schedule for imparting B.Arch. Course by the Architectural Institutions has been prepared to ensure that the students are imparted required numbers periods of studies as per regulations of COA and to cover up the loss of class on account of the delay in admissions First year of 5-year B.Arch. Course in Institutions on account of Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the academic schedule as attached with the agenda and after detailed deliberations approved the same for compliance by the architectural institutions so that the studies of the students can be carried out in a time bound manner and no loss of studies happen on account of COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.18</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 06.07.2020 RECEIVED FROM REGISTRAR, ANNA UNIVERSITY, REGARDING ADMISSION OF NRI/PIO, ETC, CANDIDATES IN B.ARCH. COURSE.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that Council is in receipt of a letter dated 06.07.2020 from the Registrar, Anna University, Chennai, requesting the Council to approve the allotment of 15% seats for NRI/PIO/ CIWGC categories of candidates over and above the sanctioned intake.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the letter dated 06.07.2020 and also the Madras High Court order in the matter and noted that it has been practice of the Council that all institutions must admit students belonging the NRI/PIO/CIWGC, etc. categories within the sanctioned intake.</p> <p>The Executive Committee, therefore, decided that the Anna University be informed that the candidate belonging to NRI/PIO/CIWGC etc. categories be admitted within the sanctioned intake only.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.19</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE WRIT PETITION NO.9694 OF 2020, FILED BY PARUL UNIVERSITY BEFORE HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT AGAINST REDUCTION OF ITS INTAKE BY THE COUNCIL.</b>





	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the members that the Parul University has filed a Writ Petition No.9694 of 2020 before Hon'ble Delhi High Court, challenging the decision of the Council to reduce its intake from 80 to 20 on account of organizing cheating in NATA 2020 examination through its faculty.</p> <p>The Executive Committee also perused that proceedings of the Hon'ble High Court held on 03.12.2020 and noted that matter is now listed for hearing on 16.12.2020.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.20</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF ADMISSIONS IN B.ARCH. COURSE FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-2021.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Council has received several requests for extension of last date for admission to B.Arch. course from various authorities on account of pandemic of Covid-19. Therefore, looking at the interest of students the last date for admission to B.Arch. Course was extended upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations ratified the decision taken by the Chairman, Executive Committee.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.21</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020 IN THE CHAMBER OF ADG (STATISTICS) REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP.</b>
	<p>The Registrar Secretary informed the members that the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, held on 09.12.2020, inter alia regarding restructuring of Council of Architecture in accordance with the provisions of the National Education Policy, 2020. The meeting was held in the chamber of ADG (HE).</p> <p>He further invited the attention of the members towards at Appendix-O of Agenda and informed that the minutes did not reflect the following viewpoints expressed by the representatives of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Architectural Education and Profession are interlinked and thus education cannot be separated from the Council of Architecture. Just like Medical Council, Bar Council and Pharmacy Council, which are regulating their respective education, the Architectural Education should remain with the Council;</li> <li>ii) The registration with the Council of Architecture is directly linked with the standards of education undergone by the individuals who apply for registration as an architect since mere holding a recognized degree entitles a person to get registration as an architect. Thus, taking away the power to regulate education would completely obliterate the objects and purposes of the Architects Act, 1972.</li> </ul>



- iii) The Architects Act, 1972 provides for a schedule of recognized qualification by the Central Government in consultation with the Council of Architecture. This schedule is the basic feature of the Architects Act, 1972 and in the absence of any regulatory power in the education the schedule cannot be made functional.
- iv) Sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 are very important provisions which lay down the basic objects of the Architects Act and make the COA an independent authority to regulate architectural education in order to grant registration as an architect to persons who hold recognized architectural qualifications.
- v) The entire scheme of the Architects Act, 1972 makes i.e., admissions to the course the COA to regulate Architectural Education right from entry into architectural education till award of Degree by the concerned authorities as in the case with the bodies like BAR Council Medical Council, etc. Thus, the Architects Act, 1972 is a complete code in itself.
- vi) The proposed General Education Council would be a statutory body like Council of Architecture only and hence the Council cannot be made as a subservient to another statutory body.
- vii) The Supreme Court judgement dated 08.11.2019 emphatically lay the down the important role of Council in Architectural Education and thus regulation of Architectural Education should be the mandate of the Council.
- viii) The Council of Architecture has submitted its views on the NEP several times and those were not considered. Further, no consultation was done with Council while formulating NEP.

He further informed that the para 6 of the minutes states about the decisions taken in the meeting. However, no such decisions were taken. Rather the Ministry officials were informed that the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 and the matter would be discussed there in detail.

Though, it was agreed in the meeting that information as may be desired by the Ministry would be provided to them by the Council from time to time.

The Committee authorized the Chairman to have detailed discussions in the Ministry at appropriate level in the matter so that the role of Council as it exists today is not tinkered with.





ITEM NO.22	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO ENQUIRE INTO MISUSE OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE BY AR. VIJAY GARG, THE THEN ACTING PRESIDENT.
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the Executive Committee in its 225<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 03.11.2020, constituted an Enquiry Committee, consisting of Dr. Kavita D. Rao, Convenor and Ar. R. Ramesh Kumar, Member, to enquire into misuse of office of President, COA by Ar. Vijay Garg, the then Vice-President and Acting President, COA.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the report dated 14.12.2020. The Committee after having detailed discussions in the matter decided the legal opinion be obtained in the matter as to what action can be taken in this case by the Council against the concerned person i.e., disciplinary action as provided for public servants, professional misconduct as provided for architects and criminal complaint or any other action.</p> <p>The Committee decided that the matter be placed before the full Council for its consideration and appropriate decision in the matter.</p>
ITEM NO.23	ANY OTHER ITEM WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.
1)	THE RELEASE OF THE PAYMENT OF NATA SERVICE PROVIDER.
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that the sum of Rs. 1,01,14,128/- i.e. 70% of the total bill has been approved by him for releasing payment of NATA service provider M/s. Gingers Webs Pvt. Ltd., Noida pending recommendations of the NATA Co-ordination Committee, about making full and final payment.</p>
	The meeting ended at 6:45 P.M. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
**रजिस्ट्रार / REGISTRAR**  
**वास्तुकला परिषद्**  
**Council of Architecture**  
 A statutory authority constituted by Ministry of HRD  
 Govt. of India, Under the Architects Act, 1972  
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**President**  
**Council of Architecture**  
 (A statutory body constituted by Govt. of India)  
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