GAPIO Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

GLOBAL INDIAN PHYSICIANS IN THE NEWS

(SEPTEMBER 2026)

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DR. RAMESH KHANNA HONOURED WITH ANIO 2026 AWARD IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

***Dr. Ramesh Khanna**, a distinguished nephrologist and academic leader at the University of Missouri, has been honoured with the ANIO 2026 Award in Academic Excellence for his outstanding contributions to nephrology, peritoneal dialysis, medical research, and education.*

Dr. Khanna completed his medical education and postgraduate training in Internal Medicine (MD) at Seth G. S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, followed by nephrology training at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. He joined the University of Missouri in 1983 and served for 27 years as Director of the Division of Nephrology.

Internationally recognised for his pioneering work in peritoneal dialysis, Dr. Khanna co-developed the Peritoneal Equilibration Test (PET) in 1987. He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, contributed over 75 book chapters, and delivered more than 500 presentations worldwide.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Khanna has trained over 160 nephrologists and taught physicians across 67 countries. His achievements include the National Kidney Foundation's J. Michael Lazarus Distinguished Award and the University of Missouri Alumni Association's Gold Standard Distinguished Faculty honour in 2026.

The ANIO 2026 Award recognises Dr. Khanna's remarkable contributions to kidney care, scientific innovation, and medical education, highlighting the significant impact of Indian-origin physicians on global healthcare.

***Source**: : ANIO, 21/09/2026*

***Link**: https://an-io.com/2026/09/21/anio-2026-award-in-academic-excellence/*

DR. DEVINDER SINGH RANA HONOURED WITH ANIO 2026 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

***Dr. Devinder Singh Rana**, a distinguished nephrologist and Chairman of the Institute of Renal Sciences and Sir Ganga Ram Trust Society at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, has been honoured with the ANIO 2026 Award for Excellence in Community Service for his outstanding contributions to rural healthcare and kidney care.*

An alumnus of Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, Dr. Rana completed his MD in Chandigarh and advanced training in kidney transplantation at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. He served as Chairman of the Department of Nephrology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital from 1981 to 2019, playing a significant role in advancing kidney transplantation and dialysis services in India.

In 2005, Dr. Rana founded the Parvati Education & Health Society to improve healthcare access in rural Himachal Pradesh. His initiative led to the establishment of Parvati Hospital, a 30-bed charitable facility serving approximately 80 villages with affordable medical services. In 2009, the hospital established rural India's first standalone haemodialysis unit, bringing essential kidney care closer to underserved communities.

Dr. Rana's contributions have earned him several national honours, including the Padma Shri in 2009 and the Dr. B.C. Roy National Award in 2017. His sustained commitment to providing accessible and affordable healthcare has significantly benefited rural populations.

The ANIO 2026 Award recognises Dr. Rana's dedication to community service, rural healthcare development, and nephrology, highlighting the meaningful contributions of Indian physicians towards improving healthcare access and patient care.

***Source**: : ANIO, 21/09/2026*

***Link**:https://an-io.com/2026/09/21/anio-2026-award-for-excellence-in-community-service/*

DR. MUKUL ARYA HONOURED WITH INAUGURAL GLOBAL HEALTHCARE LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Mukul Arya, *a distinguished Indian-American gastroenterologist and healthcare leader, has been honoured with the inaugural Global Healthcare Leader of the Year Award by Worldwide Community First Responder (WCFR) in recognition of his contributions to healthcare, professional excellence, leadership, and community service.*

The award was presented during WCFR's 15th Anniversary and Fundraising Gala held on 19 September 2026 at Hotel Nyack, New York. The event brought together healthcare professionals, philanthropists, community leaders, and public officials to celebrate the organisation's commitment to lifesaving services.

Dr. Arya recently completed the Harvard Medical School Global Healthcare Leaders Program alongside WCFR Founder and President Dr. Jacqueline Cassagnol. His dedication to advancing healthcare and promoting compassionate, innovative leadership was acknowledged during the ceremony.

The award was presented by entrepreneur Roni Mazumdar. The event also recognised the Arya Family Foundation and Unapologetic Foods as Premier Sponsors for their support of WCFR's healthcare education, first-aid training, and community initiatives.

This recognition highlights Dr. Arya's commitment to healthcare leadership and community service, reflecting the valuable contributions of Indian-origin physicians to improving healthcare and supporting communities worldwide.

Source*: : The Indian EYE, 28/09/2026*
Link*: https://theindianeye.com/2026/09/28/dr-mukul-arya-honored-as-wcfrs-inaugural-global-healthcare-leader-of-the-year/*

DR. MINAL MOHIT APPOINTED WELLNESS CHAMPION OF ACP INDIA CHAPTER

Dr. Minal Mohit *has been selected as a Wellness Champion of the American College of Physicians (ACP) India Chapter in December 2025, recognising her contributions to preventive healthcare, lifestyle medicine, and mental and physical wellness education.*

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Royal Colleges of Physicians (Edinburgh and Glasgow), Dr. Mohit combines clinical expertise with a strong focus on lifestyle modification, clinical nutrition, yoga, and preventive health. She also holds additional certifications in foot care, retinopathy screening, and male infertility management.

Dr. Mohit actively conducts patient education sessions addressing stress management, emotional well-being, metabolic health, physical activity, and healthy lifestyle practices. Her initiatives aim to promote preventive healthcare and improve overall patient well-being.

Through the Sashakt Endocrine Trust, she organises free health camps, diabetes screening programmes, women's health sessions, and public awareness workshops across Rajasthan, benefiting thousands of individuals.
This recognition highlights Dr. Mohit's commitment to holistic healthcare, community wellness, and preventive medicine, reflecting the significant contributions of Indian physicians towards promoting healthier communities.

Source*: : Times of India, 28/06/2026*
Link*https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/city-doc-awarded-usscholarship/articleshow/132041881.cms*

TWELVE INDIAN PHYSICIANS RECOGNISED AS NEW FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

The American College of Physicians (ACP) India Chapter has announced the recognition of 12 physicians as new Fellows of the College (FACP) in September 2026, acknowledging their professional achievements, excellence in internal medicine, and contributions to the medical community.
The newly recognised Fellows include Milind Desai, Jay Singh Rathore, Shiva Shankara KN, Amit Kumar Sharma, Mohsin Ali, Abdul Rehaman Pathan, Sandeep K Mishra, Vikash Goyal, Meghanad Meher, Supriya Datta, Jyoti Bajpai, and Dilawez Shamim.

Fellowship in the American College of Physicians is a professional distinction awarded to physicians whose accomplishments extend beyond routine medical practice. The FACP designation recognises excellence in medicine and meaningful contributions to the broader community.
The selection for ACP Fellowship places particular emphasis on professional accomplishments, contributions to internal medicine, and service to society, reflecting the College's commitment to recognising dedicated physicians.
This recognition highlights the achievements of Indian physicians in advancing clinical excellence, professional standards, and community healthcare, further strengthening their contributions to the medical profession.

Source*: American College of Physicians (ACP), 09/2026*
Link*: https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/chapters-regions/global-chapters/india-chapter/news-meetings*

DR. GEETA SWAMY APPOINTED DEAN OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

***Dr. Geeta Swamy**, a distinguished obstetrician-gynaecologist, women's health researcher, and academic leader, has been appointed Dean of Boston University's Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine. She will assume the position on 1 January 2027, bringing over two decades of experience in medical research, education, and institutional leadership.*

Dr. Swamy currently serves as the Haywood Brown, MD Distinguished Professor of Women's Health, Associate Vice President for Research, and Executive Vice Dean for Clinical Sciences and Research Administration at Duke University School of Medicine, where she has served for 22 years.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Swamy completed her residency in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Pittsburgh and a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at Duke University. Her research focuses on maternal immunisation, perinatal infections, pregnancy complications, and improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Dr. Swamy received the National Institutes of Health Young Investigator Award for Perinatal Research in 2008 and has contributed significantly to vaccine research, including studies evaluating COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy in pregnant women. She has also held several senior academic and research leadership positions at Duke University.

Her appointment recognises her contributions to women's healthcare, medical research, and academic leadership. As Dean, she will help strengthen medical education, biomedical research, and collaboration between Boston University and Boston Medical Center Health System.

***Source**: : BU Today, 17/09/2026*

***Link**: https://www.bu.edu/articles/2026/prominent-womens-health-researcher-and-academic-leader-named-dean-of-bu-chobanian-avedisian-school-of-medicine*

AIR MARSHAL SANDEEP THAREJA APPOINTED 47TH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES

***Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja**, a distinguished physician and gastroenterologist, assumed charge as the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) on 1 September 2026. In this role, he will oversee comprehensive medical support to the Indian Armed Forces, focusing on healthcare modernisation, operational preparedness, medical research, and innovation.*

An alumnus of Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Air Marshal Thareja was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1986. He completed his MD in Medicine from Delhi and DM in Gastroenterology from AIIMS, New Delhi.

With a career spanning nearly four decades, he has held several key clinical, academic, and administrative positions, including Commandant of 167 Military Hospital, Base Hospital Delhi Cantt, and Command Hospital (Central Command). His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to managing complex healthcare challenges.

As Director and Commandant of AFMC Pune, he spearheaded initiatives to strengthen medical education and research. During his tenure as DGMS (Air), he supported the Gaganyaan Mission's astronaut selection and training initiatives and oversaw humanitarian medical assistance through BHISHM cubes provided to several countries.

His appointment reflects his extensive contributions to military medicine, medical education, healthcare leadership, and humanitarian service, strengthening the Armed Forces Medical Services' commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare to serving personnel, veterans, and their families.

***Source**: : Force India, September 2026*

***Link**:https://forceindia.net/blog/air-marshal-sandeep-thareja-takes-over-as-dgafms*

DR. MANISHA MEHTA HONOURED WITH CLINICAL EXCELLENCE LEGEND AWARD AT ISAR ART EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

***Dr. Manisha Mehta**, Co-founder of Apex Hospital, Sirsa, and ReproLearn, has been honoured with the Clinical Excellence - Legend Award at the ISAR ART Excellence Awards 2026 for her outstanding contributions to reproductive medicine, clinical excellence, and patient care.*
The award was presented by the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction (ISAR) on 19 September 2026 at Hotel Marriott, Udaipur, Rajasthan, during the Embryology ISAR 2026 conference, which brought together leading embryologists, clinicians, and scientists from across India.

The prestigious Legend Award recognises Dr. Mehta's longstanding dedication to assisted reproductive technology (ART), clinical leadership, and compassionate fertility care. Her contributions reflect a commitment to advancing reproductive healthcare through evidence-based practices and patient-centred treatment.

Expressing gratitude, Dr. Mehta dedicated the honour to her colleagues, healthcare team, and the families who have entrusted her with their fertility journeys, emphasising the importance of continuous learning and collaborative patient care.

This recognition highlights Dr. Mehta's contributions to reproductive medicine and her commitment to improving fertility care, reflecting the significant role of Indian physicians in advancing assisted reproduction and women's healthcare.

***Source:** Apex Hospitals, 19/09/2026*
***Link:**https://apexhospitalsirsa.com/dr-manisha-mehta-wins-clinical-excellence-legend-award-at-isar-art-excellence-awards-2026/*

DR. MEERA NARASIMHAN HONOURED WITH SOUTH CAROLINA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

***Dr. Meera Narasimhan**, a distinguished Indian-American psychiatrist and academic leader, has been honoured with the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honour, for her outstanding contributions to mental healthcare, telepsychiatry, and improving access to psychiatric services in underserved communities.*
The award was presented by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster at the State House, recognising Dr. Narasimhan's nearly three decades of dedication to advancing mental healthcare. She currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Carolina's Floyd School of Medicine and Senior Medical Director for Behavioral Health at Prisma Health Midlands.

An alumna of Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal, Dr. Narasimhan completed her psychiatry residency and neuroscience fellowship at Yale University. She has pioneered telepsychiatry initiatives, including the ICARE programme, which integrates mental health services into rural primary care to address healthcare disparities.
Her contributions have earned numerous honours, including the Hind Rattan Award and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Exemplary Psychiatrist Award in 2014, alongside the University of South Carolina School of Medicine's Career Achievement Award in 2024.

The Order of the Palmetto recognises Dr. Narasimhan's exceptional commitment to mental health innovation, healthcare equity, and community service, highlighting the significant contributions of Indian-origin physicians to improving access to quality healthcare worldwide.

***Source**: : Indian American Community, 29/09/2026*
***Link**: https://indianamericancommunitynews.com/2026/09/29/meera-narasimhan-receives-south-carolinas-highest-civilian-honor/*

DR. VANLALSIAMA CHHANGTE BECOMES FIRST INDIAN RECIPIENT OF US CONSULATE'S CITIZEN LIAISON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Vanlalsiama Chhangte, *Medical Director of Ebenezer Medical Center in Aizawl, Mizoram, has become the first recipient in India of the Citizen Liaison Volunteer of the Year Award instituted by the US Consulate General in Kolkata, recognising his contributions to medical assistance and humanitarian healthcare services.*
The award was presented by Warren Newton, US Vice Consul, on 7 September 2026 at Hotel Regency, Aizawl. The recognition included a memento and a certificate signed by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor.
Dr. Chhangte received the honour for the medical assistance provided by Ebenezer Medical Center to a US citizen who sustained injuries in Myanmar in December 2025. The patient underwent surgery performed by orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Lalrinliana Varte and received approximately one month of treatment before recovering and returning to the United States.

Dr. Chhangte emphasised the hospital's commitment to providing healthcare services to patients regardless of their nationality or economic background. He also acknowledged the dedication of doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals in delivering compassionate patient care.

This recognition highlights Dr. Chhangte's commitment to humanitarian service, accessible healthcare, and international medical assistance, reflecting the valuable contributions of Indian physicians to patient care beyond national boundaries.

Source*: India Today NE, 10/09/2026*
Link*:https://www.indiatodayne.in/mizoram/story/mizoram-doctor-becomes-first-india-recipient-of-us-consulates-citizen-liaison-volunteer-of-the-year-award-1448830-2026-09-10*

MAJOR (DR.) JACQUELINE DIAS HONOURED WITH FELLOWSHIP OF ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

Major (Dr.) Jacqueline Dias, *an Indian Army Dental Corps officer, has been conferred the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCSEd) in recognition of her professional excellence, clinical expertise, and contributions to military dental healthcare.*

A gold medallist and university topper in dental studies, Major Dias has demonstrated academic distinction alongside her service in the Indian Army. The prestigious fellowship recognises her achievements in dentistry and commitment to maintaining high professional standards.

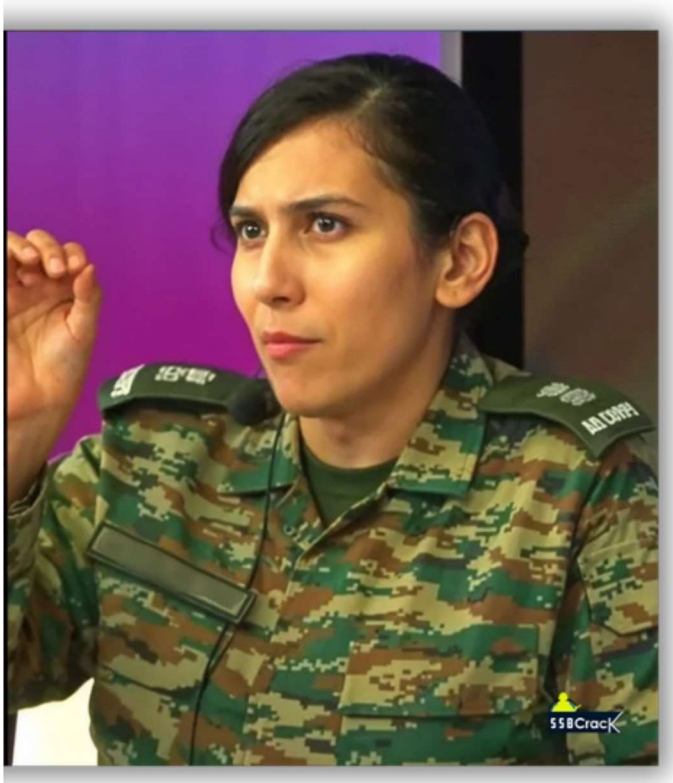
Throughout her military career, Major Dias has undertaken clinical and administrative responsibilities within the Army Dental Corps, contributing to dental healthcare services for Armed Forces personnel and their families.

Her achievement reflects the growing recognition of Indian military medical professionals within international academic and professional institutions, highlighting their dedication to clinical excellence and continued professional development.

The fellowship marks an important milestone in Major Dias's career and underscores the contributions of Indian Armed Forces healthcare professionals to dentistry, medical education, and patient care worldwide.

Source*: SSB Crack, 26/09/2026*

Link*:https://www.ssbcrack.com/2026/09/major-jacqueline-dias-becomes-first-army-dental-corps-officer-to-earn-fellowship-of-royal-college-of-surgeons-of-edinburgh.html*



SURGEON VICE ADMIRAL MANISH HONWAD APPOINTED DIRECTOR AND COMMANDANT OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL COLLEGE, PUNE

Surgeon Vice Admiral Manish Honwad, *VSM, has assumed charge as Director and Commandant of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, on 1 September 2026, bringing over 37 years of distinguished experience in military medicine, clinical care, medical education, and healthcare administration.*

An alumnus of AFMC Pune, he completed his MBBS in 1989 and MD in Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in 1998. He is a WHO Fellow in Neuro-Anaesthesiology from NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and holds an M.Phil in Public Administration from the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

Throughout his career, Surgeon Vice Admiral Honwad has held several important leadership positions, including Additional Director General Medical Services (Navy) at Naval Headquarters and Commanding Officer of INHS Sanjivani and INHS Asvini. He is also a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator and an international speaker on healthcare simulation.

In recognition of his contributions to patient care and military medical services, he was conferred the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2025. He has also received the Chief of Naval Staff Commendation twice, in 2006 and 2013, along with FOC-in-C Commendations in 2007 and 2011.

His appointment reflects his extensive contributions to military healthcare, medical education, and institutional leadership, further strengthening AFMC Pune's role in training future generations of medical professionals.

Source*: American Bazaar Online, 01/06/2026*

Link*:https://americanbazaaronline.com/2026/06/01/samir-parikh-named-ut-southwestern-internal-medicine-chair-481870/*

DR. AMIT GOVIL HONOURED WITH ANIO 2026 AWARD IN CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

***Dr. Amit Govil**, a distinguished nephrologist and kidney transplant specialist at the University of Cincinnati, has been honoured with the ANIO 2026 Award in Clinical Excellence by the American Nephrologists of Indian Origin (ANIO) for his outstanding contributions to kidney transplantation, clinical innovation, and improving access to patient care.*

Dr. Govil serves as the Robert G. Luke Endowed Chair in Nephrology, Director of the Division of Nephrology, Clinical Professor of Medicine, and Medical Director of the Kidney Transplant Program at the University of Cincinnati. An alumnus of Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, he completed specialised training in nephrology and kidney transplantation in the United States.

Under his leadership, the University of Cincinnati's kidney transplant programme quadrupled its transplant volume. He established an extensive network of outreach clinics across Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, improving access to transplantation services. His innovative telemedicine initiatives received national recognition from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in 2021.

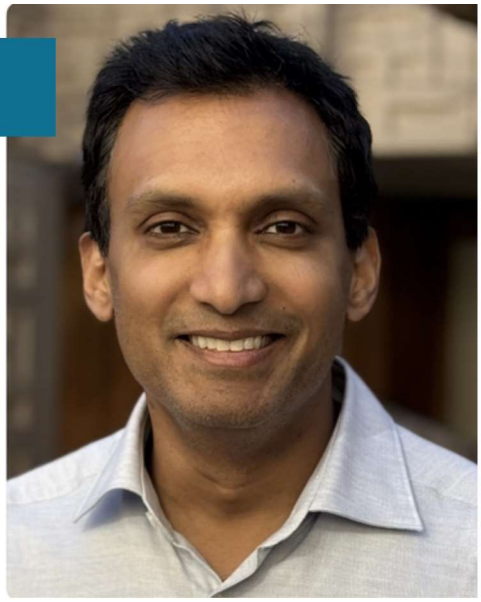
A dedicated educator and leader, Dr. Govil established Ohio's first transplant nephrology fellowship programme. He has also served as President of ANIO, Chair of the National Kidney Foundation Board in Cincinnati, and co-founder of the Society of Transplant Nephrology, promoting medical education and international collaboration.

The ANIO 2026 Award recognises Dr. Govil's exceptional commitment to clinical excellence, transplant innovation, and patient-centred care, highlighting the significant contributions of Indian-origin physicians to advancing kidney healthcare worldwide.

***Source**: : ANIO, 14/09/2026*

***Link**: https://an-io.com/2026/09/14/anio-2026-award-in-clinical-excellence/*

DR. SIDHARTHA R. SINHA HONOURED WITH 2026 SHERMAN EMERGING LEADER PRIZE



Dr. Sidhartha R. Sinha, *an Indian-American physician-scientist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, has been awarded the prestigious 2026 Sherman Emerging Leader Prize, carrying a cash award of $25,000, for his innovative contributions to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) research and patient care.*

Dr. Sinha serves as Director of Digital Health and Innovation at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is among three physician-scientists recognised by the Bruce and Cynthia Sherman Charitable Foundation for advancing research and treatment approaches for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

His pioneering research includes developing a thermosensitive drug delivery system targeting affected intestinal tissue, which has progressed to human trials. He has also introduced swallowable capsule technology to study the small intestinal microbiome and metabolome, earning the 2024 Rainin Foundation Innovator Award.

Dr. Sinha's research further explores the potential of statins in preventing intestinal fibrosis and innovative breath-based biomarkers for monitoring ulcerative colitis, offering possibilities for improved diagnosis, treatment, and disease management.

The Sherman Emerging Leader Prize recognises Dr. Sinha's contributions to medical innovation and patient-centred research, highlighting the growing impact of Indian-origin physician-scientists in advancing gastroenterology and improving healthcare outcomes worldwide.

Source*: : American Bazaar Online, 22/09/2026*

Link*: https://americanbazaaronline.com/2026/09/22/stanford-professor-sidhartha-sinha-wins-25000-sherman-emerging-leader-prize-488587//*

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20 & 21 | March 2027

Kolkata

Hyatt Hotel, Kolkata

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