

MLAs ready for last battle BJD roasts Union Ministers for breaking bread with poor

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): Frustrated over large scale migration of Congress leaders to BJP and BJD, the Lawmakers have decided to go for last battle to oust PCC Chief Prasad Harichandan.

They will also demand to remove AICC Odisha In Charge B K Hariprasad, whom the Lawmakers blame for mess in the party.

This comes a day after closed-door meeting of Congress Legislators held at the official residence of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Narasingha Mishra here.

Congress Lawmakers have time and again raised the issue of Change of Guard in Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) as the leadership has failed to save Congress from disaster.

They have met AICC Bosses at least four times and now it is their last bid, said another Lawmaker.

Sources with Congress Chief Whip in State Legislative Assembly Taraprasad Bahinipati have said this move is to save Congress from total collapse.

Senior MLA from Jeypore

Taraprasad Bahinipati, two other MLAs Prafulla Majhi and Jogesh Singh have demanded a change in the state

said that the decision to bring about any change in the party's present rank and file was always the prerogative of the party's

The State unit of the Congress had also faced a major jolt after party's former Nayagarh District Chief Lala Manoj Ray joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Similarly, two prominent leaders of the state unit of the Congress- Surendra Panda of Dharmasala and Pradip Balsamant of Sukinda - had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with their hundreds of supporters.

Congress District President of Dhenkanal Sudhir Samal left the party to join BJD along with large number of followers.

Demand for the Change of Guard in the PCC got louder reportedly in the wake of party's debacle in this year's Panchayat polls.

After the poor results in Rural Poll, they went to meet AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi and Mr.Gandhi promised them to change PCC Chief by 31 May.

However with no change in Leadership now they have decided to move to Delhi and demand for change of both PCC Chief and AICC Odisha In Charge, said sources.



unit and have sought time from AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi on 16-17 June to discuss the matter with him.

As Mr.Gandhi will not be available on both the days at Delhi, they may meet him on 18 June, sources said.

Mr.Bahinipati recently suggested that not just the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Leadership needed to be changed and structural changes in the party's existing rank and file were also imperative for its revival.

However, the senior Congress Lawmaker had further

High-command.

Interestingly, a couple of days back the former Chairperson of Nabarangpur Zilla Parishad and senior Congress leader Manjula Majhi had joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) citing 'in-fighting' as the main reason behind her decision.

Manjula, the grand-daughter of tribal freedom fighter Bagga Pujari, is an influential tribal woman leader of Nabarangpur district.

Earlier, Congress leader Chhabi Mallick, and party's two times former MLA from Aul, Dolagobinda Nayak had joined the BJP.

Opposition attacks Naveen Patnaik on 'PC' remark

BHUBANESWAR(K-CN): Opposition political parties on Monday trained their guns at Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his "PC" remark in the Collectors' confer-

and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said this proved that collection of percentage, popularly known as PC, from contractors on Government work orders is preva-

tails of work orders issued by the four departments without inviting tenders and the quantum of commission collected from contractors in the last 17 years.

about prevalence of corrupt practices in his Government.

President of Utkal Bharat Party Kharabela Swain said instead of directing the district Collectors,



ence with the BJP demanding a White Paper on Government contracts awarded without inviting tenders.

Hitting out at the CM for instructing district Collectors to stop the practice of collection of commission at block level after 17 years at the helm of government, Union Minister of State for Petroleum

lent. Pradhan said the CM is in the charge of two major engineering departments - Works and Water Resources - where collection of PC is rampant. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj are the two other departments famous for collection of PC from contractors on every work order.

It is incumbent on the CM to provide de-

The Union Minister further alleged that the CM's directive to the Collectors which was deliberately leaked to the media was nothing but a publicity stunt. But, people are fully aware how clean is the BJD Government, he added.

Congress Chief Whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati said even though it is too late, the CM has admitted

the CM should ask his party leaders including MLAs and MPs to stop demanding commission from contractors and Government officers.

As several MLAs and MPs of the ruling BJD are facing criminal charges for their involvement in chit fund scam, Swain said the CM must cleanse the system from within his party first.

BHUBANESWAR(K-CN): The BJD on Monday hit out at BJP over the manner in which MODI Fest and 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' (SSSV) programmes are being celebrated with Union Ministers eating and sleeping in houses of poor families during their visits to Odisha in this connection.

"Union Ministers visiting Odisha in connection with MODI Fest are taking food in houses of poor families and even sleeping inside their huts for publicity. Have they ever thought how to help the poor families?" BJD spokesperson Prashanta Nanda asked at a media conference here.

The BJD was reacting to Union Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu having food in the house of Suchitra Behera, a dalit woman at Salia Sahi slum in the Capital

City. Earlier last week, Union Agriculture Minister Radhamohan Singh and Union Rural Development Minister

lems," he said. "People in rural areas now ask only one question: What has the BJP Government done for them in

promise made by BJP in its manifesto for 2014 elections to try for special category State status for



Ramkrupal Yadav had taken food in the houses of people during their visits to Odisha.

Nanda said in the past, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and vice-president Rahul Gandhi had also taken food in the houses of many tribal families during their visits to the State. "But they failed to win the hearts of the poor people as they were not concerned to solve their prob-

the last three years? But the State BJP has failed to answer the people," he said.

Nanda demanded that the Centre should give details about its achievements during the last three years. "Eight schemes have been delinked from Central support whereas the budget of 33 schemes in the State has been cut down. This is a joke on poverty," he said.

Referring to the

Odisha, Nanda alleged that the party has now forgotten about its promise.

BJD spokesperson Samir Ranjan Das alleged that the Centre is spending money of public sector undertakings (PSUs) for organising MODI Fest. He also criticised the Centre for not paying any heed to Odisha's demand on the Mahanadi water dispute with Chhattisgarh.

Raja Sankranti 2017 date in Orissa

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): Raja Sankranti is a three-day festival dedicated to girls and women in Orissa. Raja

ing monsoon season and people do not indulge in farming. Mother earth is given three days rest. The third day of the fes-

There is a popular belief that the three-day period of Raja Sankranti is meant for unmarried

ciated with fertility cult. Women observe for three days all the rules that they observe during the menstruation period.



Sankranti 2017 date is June 15. It is a three-day festival and the first day is known as Pahili Sankranti (June 14, 2017). The festival also welcomes the impend-

tival is known as Basi Raja (June 16, 2017).

A major highlight of the festival is the special swings prepared for women and girls on huge banyan trees in vil-

girls who will be getting married in the coming year. Women are seen in colorful dresses and well-groomed on all the three days.

The festival is asso-

Young women are equated with Mother Earth during Raja Sankranti.

Basumati Raja festival is observed on the last day of the festival.

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Rakul Preet Singh dons a nerdy avatar



Murgadoss' upcoming film, SPYder, plays a nerdy character in the spy-thriller. Interestingly, the director isn't quite known for his portrayal of actresses in his films. Except for Akira and Ghajini, rarely have the heroines in his films had anything important to do except to play the

love interest of the lead character, dance and look glamorous. "Rakul's role too won't be of key importance in the plot of the film. However, this film could mark a great leap for her as it would mean a large audience in both the Tamil and Telugu lands. Actresses in the director's films

may not win awards, but their career takes a great commercial turn post the release. It will likely be the same scenario for the actress too," shares a source. Meanwhile, the film's shoot is nearing completion with just two songs left to be shot in the ongoing final schedule.

'We are not promoting sex'

Do you think the film industry is welcoming to newcomers like you?

It's really difficult to get into Bollywood - it's a matter of time and the luck factor counts too. It's tough; and it was tough for me. It has been a very long and difficult struggle for me, I have enjoyed my journey though because it was not like I was just struggling and doing nothing ... I have taken a little long to do the kind of film I really wanted and desired. But it has finally happened and I am here.

Wajah Tum Ho

can be termed as your proper debut film. What are your expectations from it?

My expectations are very high because this film has given me everything that I have ever dreamt of. I feel amazing as I have experienced everything I wanted in this film - being a solo lead, performing to the best songs, playing a very strong character. The first teaser poster was my solo poster! Moreover, I have good chemistry with director Vishal Pandya - at most times, newcomers lack this when you cannot match up with the director. Like we

say - uparwala jab bhi deta hai, chhappar faad ke deta hai.

The steamy scenes in the film have created a major buzz. What is your reaction?

It's no big deal in the industry. Every film has a kiss - no matter how big the names in the film. It's according to the requirements. It's necessary to show a little romance because a pure thriller gets boring. It's okay and there should be no big halla as if people have never seen anybody kissing on screen before.

Some people are just overreacting. I

Just Go To Hell Dil: Dear Zindagi's breakup song



Gentle, soft and relatable, Dear Zindagi's new song is out!

Sung by Sunidhi Chauhan, the second single track features Alia Bhatt, who is trying to do away with her emotions.

Beautifully written by Kausar Munir and composed by Amit Trivedi, the song has a unique melody that gets you hooked to it. Just Go To Hell Dil is a feeling we all have gone through in our lives and it is very well portrayed by Alia.

A budding cinematographer, Alia plays Kaira, who is in search

of a perfect life. A chance encounter with Jug, an unconventional thinker, helps her gain new perspective about life. She discovers that happiness is all about finding comfort in life's imperfections.

Dear Zindagi has been helmed by Gauri Shinde, the director of the critically acclaimed English Vinglish, Gauri Shinde and has been jointly produced by her along with Gauri Khan, Karan Johar.

The film will woo movie buffs on November 25.

don't care as long as We are not promoting



it is creating a buzz. Once people watch the film in the theatre, they will understand that whatever is done, is done rightly. It's not like there's nothing to do so we are doing those scenes.

sex. The film has lots more to offer.

So many people come on social media and say 'What did you do!' Arrey why are you wasting your time by coming to my

page and following me? Just do your own work. If you don't like it, keep it to yourself.

Which hero would you like to work with next?

The only dream in my life is to work with Shah Rukh Khan that's it. He is my childhood love.

You said you are a very animated person. Tell us more about what you are like in real life? I am the way people have seen me in Bigg Boss - there is not even one percent difference between me and the girl on that show.

No break for the 'Breakup Song' singer

Bombay (KCN): 'Mental Manadhil' from OK Kanmani, 'Mei Nigara' from 24, and now, 'The Breakup Song' from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil... Jonita Gandhi is on the crest of a wave. Over

telephone from Mumbai, the 27-year-old says with a laugh, "My phone has been buzzing with messages ever since the ('Breakup') song released. Many were quite surprised when they came to know that I had sung it. I am not sure why." As for Jonita, it was one of the most fun projects that she had done. "We were partying and recording... it was dramatic," she says.

Jonita has a lot on her plate, from recording for movies to performing live gigs. But she also talks about a dream that she has been holding on to for sometime now. "Writing music... I want to sing something that I have written from scratch. How cool would that be," she

says, a little lost in thought. "I have written in the past, but I am just very picky. So I am not sure whether many of those will see the light of day," she adds after a pause.

Meanwhile, she is consciously making sure that her YouTube channel (Jonita Music has over half a lakh followers) thrives - given that's where she began her journey as a musician. "I used to record my song videos, all covers, on my phone and post them," she recalls. Later, as her channel continued to gain visitors, she started making professional videos, self-produced videos and collaborating with different artistes. "This was way back in 2011, and that's how far I could reach Bollywood from Toronto. But it helped me get a foot in the door, as several music composers recognised me, and next thing I know, I was doing a tour with Sonu Nigam in North America,"

she says. Following the tour, Jonita debuted in Bollywood with Chennai Express.

"Till then, I had only performed in live shows. I hadn't recorded a Bollywood song from scratch. Understanding and learning a composition on the spot was new to me. So I was extremely nervous," she recalls. The first song she recorded was the title song of Chennai Express for Vishal-Shekhar. "The song was already done, and the male voice was by SPB sir. There was a small part in the song that features Deepika Padukone in the visuals and they wanted a female voice. I just happened to be around then, so they told me to try it out, and it all came out well," she says.

She was then spotted by A.R. Rahman, with whom she worked on the album Raunaq and Tamil film OK Kanmani, among others. "I was

in Chennai once, so he asked me to come to

completely on who ever was directing the

were recording for. But I was just happy to be working with him. He is an amazing person and makes people super comfortable, and while most think that he is quiet, in reality, he is a very funny person," says Jonita, who is trained in Western Classical music.

Looking back, while her academic degrees (she has two undergraduate degrees in Health Sciences and Business) did little to contribute to her career as a singer, she says, "Music was always there on the side. I used to come home from school during weekends and perform at events. It was already my part-time job. Even at home, there were always old Hindi songs - those of Rafi, R.D. Burman, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle - and 90s Bollywood music by Shreya Ghoshal and Sonu Nigam - playing. I grew up listening to them."



his studio and record in Tamil. Thankfully, I had people around me who really supported me. I had no idea how well I was singing the words. I had to rely

videos to visually set everything right," she says with a laugh. "On my first trip to Chennai, while working with Rahman sir, I had no idea who we

Sensex ends in green on lower inflation

MUMBAI (KCN): The benchmark Sensex, which today jumped nearly 165 points at one point because of inflation cheer, ended the day with marginal gains, weighed down by a rush to book profit at the fag end. Global cues remained positive.

The Sensex started lower, but quickly rebounded to hit the day's high of 31,260.77 after data showed retail inflation is on the way down, opening up space for RBI to lower rates.



The gauge closed with a marginal rise of 7.79 points, or 0.03 per cent, at 31,103.49. It had lost 166.36 points in the previous session.

The NSE Nifty ended down 9.50 points, or 0.10 per cent, at 9,606.90.

Great relationships have greater challenges, says former Australia captain Michael Clarke on rifts

BIRMINGHAM(KCN): "Great relationships have greater challenges", feels former Australia captain Michael Clarke. But no, he isn't playing agony uncle to

anyone, this is merely his take on the speculated rift between India captain Virat Kohli and coach Anil Kumble. "Any relationship in this world needs openness and

honesty. It's no different in cricket teams where there is a captain and coach. You need to be honest," Clarke told PTI during an exclusive interview when asked about the

alleged rift between Kohli and Kumble. "There are bound to be disagreements but that can be sorted in closed environments. In any great relationship, you get challenged," he said.

England have edge over Pakistan in first semifinal of Champions Trophy

CARDIFF(KCN): England will fancy their chances of extending the search for an elusive major global ODI silverware

years to lay claim to a trophy in a major 50-over tournament.

In Eoin Morgan's well-balanced unit, the world sees a

will take to the field at Sophia Gardens with their nose ahead.

England have come a long way in a short space of time

score of 444 for three at Trent Bridge, which provides ample proof of their resurgence in recent times in a format they

nothing the Durham player was paid a handsome USD 2.16 million to take part in the lucrative Indian Premier League

openers Alex Hales and Jason Roy have the ability to be devastating at the top. Roy, though, has not been in the best of form and could be replaced by Jonny Bairstow for the lastfour clash.

Pacers Jake Ball and Liam Plunkett have been doing the job with the ball, while a fired-up Mark Wood revelled in his role as Morgan's strike bowler, propelling the side to the semifinals. Wood has returned this summer after three bouts of ankle surgery but his pace remained intact, often bamboozling opposition batsmen with his 90mph missiles. England have by far been the best team in the tournament.

They are the only team still unbeaten in the competition as they sailed into the semifinals with three victories on the trot in the group stage.

Even as Sarfraz Ahmed's unpredictable Pakistan stand between them and a second straight Champions Trophy final appearance, En-

gland will fancy their chances. Pakistan will be boosted by Sarfraz's match-winning knock in the team's three-wicket win over Sri Lanka, which put them into the semis.

That they managed to hold their own in a match where there was quite a few twists and turns, should boost Pakistan's morale.

The green shirts are also excited about the explosive entry of opener Fakhar Zaman, who slammed 50 off 36 balls against the Sri Lankans. Another round of enterprise at the top by the new man would do Pakistan a world of good.

While the middle order batting remains a concern, Sarfraz said Pakistan will address it so that the likes of Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik click when the situation demands.

Pakistan have a potent pace bowling attack in Mohammad Amir, Junaid Khan and Hasan Ali with Faheem Ali adding a fourth dimension to the triumvirate.

England are aware that the Pakistani pacers are adept at exploiting helpful seaming conditions.

And Sarfraz, too, knows too well the opposition they are up against.

"England is a very good team, a very, very good team.

They've been playing really good cricket for the last two years. If you're playing a world class team, definitely, you play more positive cricket against England," Sarfraz said.

England: Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Jake Ball, Sam Billings, Alex Hales, Jos Buttler, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Steven Finn. Pakistan: Sarfraz Khan (capt.), Ahmed Shahzad, Azhar Ali, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, Junaid Khan, Mohammed Amir, Mohammed Hafeez, Shadab Khan and Shoaib Malik.



despite drawing a mercurial Pakistan in the first semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy here tomorrow.

Three-time World Cup finalists England have been trying for the past 42

chance for England to realise their dream.

Notwithstanding Pakistan's remarkable turnaround after a embarrassing loss to arch-rivals India in their tournament opener in Birmingham, hosts England

since a humiliating first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

They thrashed Pakistan 4-1 in a bilateral ODI series last year at home, including a world record

are still in the process of mastering.

In Ben Stokes, they have one of the world's best allrounders, who can inflict damage on the opposition with both bat and ball.

It was not for

(IPL) this season.

Joe Root is a world-class batsman and is the fulcrum around whom the England batting revolves.

Morgan and Jos Buttler complete the middle order, while

INDORE (KCN): Traders in several mandis (wholesale markets) in Madhya Pradesh have stopped purchase of food-grains, pulses and oil-seeds following the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's announcement that purchasing below the minimums support price would be considered an offence. The announcement should be withdrawn, traders demanded today.

Chouhan's announcement was one of the measures he promised in a bid to mollify the farmers in west Madhya Pradesh who were on the warpath since June 1, demanding better prices for farm produce among other things.

"The business has become difficult for traders as it has become mandatory to



purchase the farm produce at MSP. So we have decided to shut the mandis till the withdrawal of this announcement," Sakal Anaj Dalhan-Tilahan Vyapari Mahasangh Samiti president Gopaldas Agrawal told.

The Samiti had a state-level meeting earlier today.

Agrawal said that business in almost 85 percent of mandis has

come to a standstill in response to the call given by his organisation.

The farmers' protest has already curtailed inflow of farm produce in mandis.

Agrawal said the traders are also upset over other rules which the government has announced, such as farmers should be paid half the sale proceeds in cash and the balance

through Internet banking.

The Centre has set a limit of Rs 2 lakh for cash transactions while the state government is asking the traders to make cash payments, he said.

"This is contradictory and impractical. Traders will have to face penalties from the Income Tax Department for cash transactions," Agrawal said.

ICC Champions Trophy 2017: Senior players will not give any input unless the captain asks, says Mohammad Hafeez

Sri Lanka (KCN): No senior member of the Pakistan cricket team, which is cur-

and head coach will decide on the selection and strategy affairs of the team. Se-

space to Sarfraz and the freedom to take independent decision.

According to reports, Sarfraz received a call from one of his mentors who told him



rently playing the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 in England, is allowed to give any input to the captain Sarfraz Ahmed unless he himself approaches the player, senior batsman Mohamaad Hafeez revealed in Cardiff.

"The fact is that this was a policy decision taken during the time when Waqar Younis was our head coach," Hafeez said. "It was decided then that only the captain

senior players will not give any input unless the captain approaches anyone for their advice."

Hafeez was of the opinion that media was making a big deal of the issue. Earlier, the Pakistan media had reported that the decision to not

give any advice to Sarfraz was of head coach Mickey Arthur. Hafeez on Tuesday explained that it was a decision by the team management to give

"It was done to ensure that the captain was solely responsible for all decisions without any input from any senior players and if required he could himself ask for advice from other players," Hafeez added.

Sarfraz was criticised for his captaincy in the first game of the Champions Trophy against India, especially for his decision in the bowling department.

to take his own decisions on the field.

Hafeez also explained why the captain did not give him the ball against India, a decision criticised by many and cited as the reason for Sarfraz's defensive mindset.

"I was there available but it is the captain who is the one who calls the shot and he does what is best for the team in any given match," he said.

Everyone wants to see an India-England Champions Trophy final: Virat Kohli

LONDON (KCN): Done with the tough part of making it through the league phase, Indian captain Virat Kohli says opposition hardly matters in the Champions Trophy semifinal and final even though an India-England final is what everybody seems to want.

India will take on Bangladesh in the second semifinal on Thursday after England and Pakistan play out the first lastfour clash tomorrow.

The Indian cricket captain was joined by some of his teammates, including former captain M S Dhoni, and coach

bowler Anil Kumble at a special reception at the Lord's Cricket Ground last evening.

The event was hosted by the Indian High Commission to mark the UK-India Year of Culture.

"It would not have mattered who we were playing in the semis. The league phase is the toughest. We have an opportunity to win one game and enter the finals. Everyone wants to see an India-England final. If both teams play well, people might get what they want to see," he said.

Asked which team he would prefer to come up against in the finals, he added:

"Anyone. We would just be happy to be in the finals."

Kohli said it was a treat to be welcomed by "massive crowds wherever we play".

"If there is a sunny day in England, there is no better place to play cricket. The white ball hasn't historically swung as much here. When the clouds comes in, the conditions become a bit more difficult," he said.

"You have to respect the conditions here regardless of what score you are batting at. That is the beautiful thing about playing here, it chal-

lenges you as a batsman," he added.

The reception marked the launch of 'Cricket Connects' exhibition, which opens at the Nehru Centre in London and will be touring Edinburgh and Birmingham as a celebration of cricketing ties between India and the UK.

"What better way to connect than cricket. Everyone is hoping for an India-England final at The Oval in this special UK-India Year of Culture. May the better team win," said Indian high commissioner to the UK, Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha.

Pakistan players told not to give unsolicited advice to skipper Sarfraz Ahmed

KARACHI (KCN): Senior members of the Pakistan team,

"It was decided then that only the

ensure that the captain was solely re-

captain before the match against South Africa and told him to



which is currently playing in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy, have been told not to give any unsolicited advice to captain, Sarfraz Ahmed.

Pakistan's former captain and senior player, Muhammad Hafeez revealed this while talking to the media in Cardiff.

He said a big deal was being made out of the fact that seniors had been told not to give advice to captain, Sarfraz.

"The fact is that this was a policy decision taken during the time when Waqar Younis was our head coach," Hafeez said.

captain and head coach will decide on the selection and strategy affairs of the team.

Senior players will not give any input unless the captain approaches anyone for their advice."

The Pakistan media had reported that head coach, Mickey Arthur had instructed the players not to give any advice or tips to Sarfraz and he would do this himself if required.

Hafeez explained it was a policy decision taken in Waqar's time to give space to the captain and allow him to take his own independent decisions.

responsible for all decisions without any input from any senior players and if required he could himself ask for advice from other players," Hafeez added.

A lot has been made in the Pakistani media about the complete hold Arthur has over the national team and captain, Sarfraz.

After the heavy defeat to India, Sarfraz was criticized for not taking the right and bold decision on the field and for blindly following the plan laid out by the head coach.

In fact, a mentor of Sarfraz reportedly called up the Pakistan

start taking his own decisions instead of listening to the coach all the time or else it would be his head on the line if things went wrong in the Champions Trophy.

Hafeez and Shoaib Malik who appeared in his 250th ODI against Sri Lanka are the two senior most players in the team.

Hafeez also defended Sarfraz for not giving him a bowl against India.

"I was there available but it is the captain who is the one who calls the shot and he does what is best for the team in any given match," he said.



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