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INDIAN SCHOOLS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

INSAF PROJECT EFFORT IN 2017 BACK DOWN TO TYPICAL LEVEL

Year 2016 was an exceptional year in terms of total project effort. A total of \$213,670 was spent in support of various projects — an all time record. The total in 2016 included \$80,354 contributed by Sh. Anop Vora family to the Kanchan Foundation, also an all time record of donation to an organization.

Year 2017 total project effort as of this Newsletter is \$125,106, out of which \$57,920 is for the Kanchan Foundation, contributed by Sh. Anop Vora family The Kanchan Foundation helps the disadvantaged in the areas of education, medical assistance and poverty relief (see Page 2).

The second largest financial support in the Year 2017 so far has gone to the Divya Deepa Trust, which has received an year-to-date amount of \$47,000. The Project Leaders are INSAF Board Members Dr. Harshavardhana and Sh. Joginder Kundra. The Trust's Kaliyuva Mane is dedicated to helping "out-ofthe-system" children get educated and become self-sufficient (see Page 4).

The above 2 projects add up to about 84% of the total project effort. Third in the order was the final contribution of \$6,875 for building a primary school in the Selang village in Nepal (see Page 3).

We have our first ever project in West Bengal/Jharkhand, thanks to Sh. Joginder Kundra, who is initiating it with a \$1,500 contribution for Nanritam which is based in Purulia, West Bengal (see Page 6).

In addition, 8 other projects have received support so far including one run by INSAF co-founder Surinder Maheshwary and family (see Page 5). Also in this Newsletter is an update from Andhra Pradesh where a pre-school classroom has been constructed in collaboration with Sodhana (see Page 5). The other projects could not be covered in this Newsletter either for lack of availability of details or for lack of space.

This brings us to a number of dormant projects (see Page 8). If you see your project listed on Page 8 but forgot to support it, there is still time within 2017. Same goes for any new projects you wish to support — still can do it this year. However, please do send an email to the editor if you no longer intend to do something on your past project — and help keep the Page 8 list up-to-date. Here is wishing each of the INSAF members and your extended families a very happy holiday season and a great year in 2018.

THE KANCHAN FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Kanchan Foundation is a charitable foundation based in Mumbai, and started more than 25 years ago by INSAF member Shri Anop Vora and his brothers. It was formally set up in 2010. The Foundation provides aid without any discrimination in the fields of education, medical assistance and poverty relief.

During 2016-17, the Foundation spent about \$24,000 on these activities.

In the education area, about \$18,500 was spent during 2016-17. Some of the highlights are as follows.

- 200 students from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, and Rajkot were awarded scholarships for their educational expenses.
- Notebooks, footwear and sweaters were distributed among the students from 5 schools of Dediyapada area under the Rajpipla district of Gujarat. Notebooks were also distributed to students from several other schools in Gujarat.
- An ashram in Rajpipla hosting students from tribal communities was provided with mattresses.
- Blue Star coolers for the supply of chilled drinking water were donated to the girls school in village Pachhegam, in Valbhipur Taluka of Bhavnagar District of Gujarat. Some of the students were also provided with the traditional dress, chanya choli, for the celebration of cultural functions.



The photo above is from one of the functions to distribute notebooks to students.

In the medical assistance area, the Foundation spent

about \$5,500 during 2016-17. Cancer patients seeking treatment from Tata Memorial Hospital, and their relatives, were provided with food grains and supplies. In addition, individual medical assistance was provided to nearly 50 patients.

Several activities were conducted in village Pachhegam, in Valbhipur Taluka of Bhavnagar District of Gujarat for poverty relief. Under this effort:

- A Chaas Kendra (buttermilk centre) was set up where on average, daily 200 families were given buttermilk during the summer of 2016.
- Wheat, oil, jaggery and basic items to more than 100 people, three times a year, were provided by the Foundation.

In addition, household necessities like sugar, tea, etc. were provided to 50-55 widows in Ahmedabad. And monetary relief was provided to nearly 50 families.



A Kanchan Foundation Chaas Kendra in-progress in village Pachhegam in Gujarat during 2016-17.

During 2017, Shri Anop Vora, family & friends have sent a total of \$57,920 — the largest amount contributed this year for a single organization. The all-time high in the 46 year old history of INSAF was a \$80,354 contribution in 2016 to the Kanchan Foundation. Bravo.

REBUILDING A SCHOOL IN NEPAL AFTER A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE

An April 2015 earthquake in Nepal destroyed most of the schools in the Sindhupalchok area. Subsequently, INSAF members and friends undertook the humanitarian task of building a primary school in the Selang village area of Sindhupalchok.

The previous issue of the Newsletter shared some photos of the almost finished school building. Although classes began to be held in the new building in April, the project was officially concluded in May when the finished school building was handed over to the school administration.



View just before the final hand-off ceremony at the newly finished Selang Primary School Building



Attendees at the final hand-off ceremony. The banner on the wall notes the INSAF contribution.

Thank you letter (translated from Nepali):

" After the devastating earthquake of April 2015 that completely destroyed the school structure of Shree Selang Primary School, Indian School Alumni and Friends or INSAF along with Ne:KALP constructed a permanent school comprising 6 classrooms, three toilets and a drinking water facility. We here at Jugal Rural Municipality and specially people from Selang-1 are very humbled and thankful for your support.

Signed by: Mr. Kamal Thapa (Elected Representative)"

A total of about \$47,800 was contributed by about 33 families for this project, all of whom deserve to feel a sense of satisfaction for having made a real difference in the lives of hundreds of children and for having created some goodwill in one village in Nepal for both India and the USA.

ONLINE AND MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TO INSAF

Some of you already know that one may contribute online to INSAF through a Paypal account. At INSAFWEB.ORG, there is a button at the top of the home page which says "DONATE" via Paypal. This option has the advantage of convenience — you are all done with just a few clicks anytime 24/7. No need to write and mail a check. The flip side is that although 100% of your contribution is tax deductible, a fee will be deducted by Paypal. In most cases, about 97.5% of the funds will be available for your project.

Does your employer have a charitable contribution matching program? Examples of those which already have matching employee contributions for INSAF are: AT&T, Exxon Foundation, Gap, Google, Macy's, McGraw Hill, The Christensen Fund, and Tyco. Congratulations to all those who have successfully accomplished this match from their employers — thus doubling the funds they can use to help those in need.

PLEASE INTRODUCE INSAF TO OTHERS

As an FYI, no new members have joined INSAF this year. The previous two years saw one new family join INSAF each year. Please introduce INSAF to others who may be interested in supporting the causes of education and community development in India. If you have an idea on how the rest of us can do a better job of bringing new members onboard, please drop an email to the editor.

DIVYA DEEPA TRUST / KALIYUVA MANE UPDATE

Kaliyuva Mane is a residential school, located near Mysuru, run by the Divya Deepa Trust. Kaliyuva Mane is dedicated to helping "out-of-the-system" children get educated and become self-sufficient mainstream citizens.

"Out-of-the-system" children are those children who, due to poverty or other circumstances, drop out of regular schools,. Kaliyuva Mane provides such opportunity deprived children love, care, empathy & education based on the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo's views on integral education.

Divya Deepa and Kaliyuva Mane were founded by and are run by Mr. Ananth Kumar and his wife Padma, Ananth gave up an engineering career for this community service.

Some notable successes in 2017 at Kaliyuva Mane are:

- Y. Hemanth, a Kaliyuva Mane alumnus, has completed a diploma in engineering with 78% marks, and has obtained an admission to a B.Tech. program.
- Dhanush, a Kaliyuva Mane alumnus, has completed his B.Com degree securing 76% marks.
- All six 12th Standard Kaliyuva Mane students cleared the exam and did so with good marks.
- 10 of the twelve 10th Standard Kaliyuva Mane students cleared the exam also with good marks.
- Construction of a boundary wall has been completed as a part of a project to transform Kaliyuva Mane into a residential school. Currently, 45 out of 100 students are residents. A new dormitory, a new kitchen, a larger dining hall and new staff rooms are being constructed.

A more substantial project is to build a training center to provide industrial training to most of the children following their high school completion. The trades could include electrical, mechanical, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and computer skills, and accommodate both the boys and girls. This work would be spread over approximately two years in 2017 and 2018 and could cost \$125,000 to \$150,000 according to preliminary estimates.

INSAF Board Member Joginder Kundra visited Kaliyuva Mane in October and led a collective campus-cleaning exercise with the students and staff. New yard tools were purchased. Scrap materials along with stones, debris, leaves, and plastics were removed and placed in designated areas. Even some grading of the ground was done by the students to fill some low lying spots. Children really enjoyed the work and did not want to quit. Going forward, the students and staff plan to make this a part of their life style. They will be divided into several teams and will spend 2-3 hours every Saturday keeping their campus beautiful. The Kundra family plans to allocate \$1,000 annually for this activity.

INSAF Project Leaders for this project are Board Members Dr. P. Harshavardhana and Sh. Joginder Kundra. In 2017, total funding to date through INSAF for this project is \$47,000. More funding is needed as the long term vision includes the building of an industrial training center.



Students and staff of Kaliyuva Mane during a campus clean-up exercise in October 2017. 1st from left: INSAF Board Member Joginder Kundra. 5th from left: Kaliyuva Mane Founder Sh. Ananth Kumar

The INSAF Board has made Kaliyuva Mane a priority. Please contribute what you can.

More information about the Trust is available at http://divyadeepatrust.org/"



Akanksha at SOS Children's Village Rajpura taking a selfie with 3 "Bh"s: Bhavna, Bharti and Bhav (July 2017)

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INSAF Newsletter

SODHANA

Nine INSAF families have consistently for many years been supporting the work of Sodhana, an NGO based in Chipurupalli, Andhra Pradesh, . Sodhana was founded over 35 years ago by and is run by Dr. P. D. K. Rao, a Ph.D. in Physics from Rutgers University in New Jersey. In recent years, the following activities have been funded through INSAF:

- Two pre-schools in the villages of Ramalingapuram and Purreyavalasa, serving a total of 50-60 children. This takes a contribution of only \$3,200 per year which covers the teachers/assistants stipend, and a mid-day meal for the children for a full school year.
- 2. Women's empowerment activities by providing a modest stipend for 4 coordinators at a total of \$1,200 per year.
- 3. Cultural activities with an annual stipend of about \$750 for two coordinators.
- Medical and educational aid for the needy with about \$500 annually.

During 2017, an additional one-time contribution of \$4,000, and land donated by the village, made possible the construction of a room for the pre-school in Purreyavalasa. Previously, the pre-school operated in a hut.



One-room pre-school building constructed with \$4,000 and some volunteer support in Purreyavalasa, Andhra Pradesh.

The pre-school program has been considered a model. Sodhana has trained teachers for other pre-schools at the request of the government and others.

SMT DWARKI DEVI INSAF VIDYA MANDIR TRUST (DIVM)

INSAF co-founder Surinder Maheshwary and his family run the DIVM and the Maheshwary Charitable Trusts based in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. During 2016-17, a number of activities were accomplished, some of which are highlighted below:

- Free tutoring was provided to poor students (Grade LKG to 5th) as an after-school program. Daily refreshments/snacks were provided to all attending students from a poor rural neighborhood of Hoshiarpur.
- Over 1200 notebooks/stationary were provided to students at the DIVM Shiksha Sansthan and the S.D. Girls Senior Secondary School. Annual merit scholarships were provided to boys & girls of the S.D. Sr. Sec, School.
- A computer lab (Smt. Dwarki Devi Maheshwari Learning Center) was upgraded to 15 computers. Over 850 girl students receive computer education there.
- Awards were given to the four top winners of a speech contest on SWABHIMAAN-SANSKRITI- SEHYOG-SEVA (the four founding principles/pillars of Smt DIVM Trust). This is done annually on Republic Day.

During 2017, a contribution of \$800 was sent to the S.D. Girls Senior Secondary School in the current fiscal year. Additional funding for the DVIM Trust is planned, pending an approval from the Government of India under the Foreign Currency Registration Act (FCRA).



Photo at a DIVM Shiksha Sansthan Classroom

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A NEW FIRST: NANRITAM, PURULIA, W. BENGAL

INSAF Board Member Joginder Kundra has added the distinction of another first — that of starting a project in West Bengal, by supporting a nonprofit named Nanritam (an internet search suggests it is a Sanskrit word meaning truth).

Nanritam, which started in 2002, operates in the underserved districts on the West Bengal and Jharkhand border. It has an 80 member workforce in addition to140 field workers from the community. Nanritam focuses on providing health-related services, quality education, and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

The major services of Nanritam include:

Lokeswarananda Eye Foundation: A 100 bed tertiary level Referral Eye Hospital which started functioning in 2012. Free of charge services are provided such as Biometry and Keratometry Cataract Surgery with IOL Implantation, Phaco Surgery with Foldable Lens, and YAG Laser Capsulotomy. Diagnostics services include slit-lamps, Direct & Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Auto Refractometery, tonometers, and Gonio & 90D Lens. Synoptophore (Orthoptics exercise) and Squint Surgeries and vitreo retinal treatments are also performed.

Nanitram's endeavor is to take eye care to the doorsteps of people in the underserved areas, and make eye care accessible to vulnerable groups.

During the Year 2014-15, a total of 46,473 patients were served under the above eye care services.

Filix School of Education: A facility where children from poor families are receiving quality education in English medium side by side with children of more affluent members of the society.

The school was started in 2014 as a pre-school on 3acres of land and since that time has been upgraded to a Primary School. In 2017, a total of 348 children (213 boys, 135 girls) attend the school. Teaching is conducted using innovative methods similar to those used in the USA and Canada. The school also gets international volunteers from time to time. A 12,000 sq ft facility is under construction but 14 rooms have already been completed at a cost of about \$231,000. Plans are to upgrade to a secondary school.

Krishi Kendra: About 4,000 subsistence farmers, who have to work on marginal land, are being assisted with paddy and jute seeds as well as with training. In

INSAF Member Funds the Building of an Anganwadi School in his Native Village

Over the past 2-3 years, INSAF Member Sh. Chani Sra has been the sole sponsor of building a Model Anganwadi Center for preschool age children in his native village of Berchha, district Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

The project on the ground has been implemented by a 7-member Berchha Anganwadi Committee, ably led by retired teacher Sh. Gurdip Singh. The project has been constructed in phases and is essentially complete. In 2017, a contribution of \$2,750 has been sent, bringing the total contribution to \$16,750.

The project is a wonderful example of giving back to our roots.



A photo of the nearly completed Model Anganwadi Center, Berchha (near Hoshiarpur), Punjab

addition, the farmers receive help in getting their product to market.

Using the data from a subset of 6 farmers, an average increased income of about Rs. 9,000 (about \$138) was achieved by the farmers in one year after receiving the support from the Krishi Kendra.

Udbhass: Under this program, diagnostic and interventional services are provided to children with difficulties in physical, mental or language development and learning & behavioral problems, through an interdisciplinary approach. Over 10,000 children have been served in the last 6 years.

Sh. Joginder Kundra, who had seen the poverty in Purulia during his college days in Jamshedpur, is contributing \$1,500 to support the work by Nanritam.

	Your Choice	Your 2017 Contribu- tion	Type of Project	Example of Current or Recent INSAF Projects (Partial Listing only)
				Divya Deepa/Kaliyuva Mane, Mysuru, Karnataka
		\$	Community Development Build a school-room or some durable facility	Saraswathy Vidyalam, Eagandiyur, Kerala
1				Dwarka Devi-INSAF School, Hoshiarpur, Punjab Kaliyuva Mane (Divya Deepa), Mysore, Karn. Govt. Girls School, Alduka, Haryana
				Anganwadi School, Bercha, Punjab Sri Selang Primary School, Nepal
2		\$	Teacher Staff Support	Ramalingapuram area schools, AP
2				Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti, UP
		\$	Community and Health Services	O.P. Soni Charitable Trust, Jagraon, Punjab
3			Provide needed services for the poor	Arpana Charitable Trust, Haryana/Himachal Manav Kalyan Trust, Navsari, Gujarat
4		\$	Women's Empowerment	Sodhana, Chipurupalli, AP
4			Fund awareness seminars for rural women	Vatsal Chhaya
5		\$	Literacy Improvement Fund efforts to increase literacy	Pratham, Mysore, Karnataka Ekal Vidyalaya
		\$	Hunger Alleviation	Maheshwary Charitable Trust,
6				Mother Teresa Home for Children, Haryana
	Α□	\$	Child Sponsorship (School Education)	
7			Sponsor a specific child's primary thru 12th grade education (6-10 yr commitment)	SOS Children's Village Rajpura, Punjab
	B 🗆	\$	Child Support for Higher Education	Balabhavan, Paduapuram, Kerala
			Help a student for higher Ed (2-4 yr commitment)	Divyadeepa, Kenchalagudu (Mysore), Karnatak
	C□	\$	Education Support	OAS DAV School, Kaithal, Haryana
			Grant to a school for operations or tuition/ books/scholarship for students as an incentive to perform better or to award a teacher	Shmt. Dwarki Devi INSAF Vidya Mandir, Punjab
				Daya Ghar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Bhaee Rupa, Punjab
		\$	Animal Welfare	Animal India Trust, New Delhi
8			Grant funds for care of stray animals in major urban centers	Friendicoes, New Delhi
9		\$		Start a new project based on your idea. Please describe your idea in an e-mail to: sharma7336@gmail.com
	-	ontribution:		
			10/Single Life-Membership = \$15/Couple Annual-Meml rors and omissions as well as additional ideas so we c	
				E-MAIL
<u>от</u> ,	AL TAX I	DEDUCTIBLE CON	NTRIBUTION (payable to INSAF):	\$
			5. Please mail your check and this she	
le	Padma	shri Lad, INSAF V	. P. Finance, 137 Seagate Drive, San A	Nateo, CA 94403

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

INSAF PROJECTS: Recent projects and Leaders/Coordinators are listed below. More information may be obtained through the Editor.

- Arya Samaj, Houston, TX [Community Service] Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra
- Arya Samaj, Unnao, UP [Community Service]
 Sh. Sikandar Tuli
- Adivasi Unnati Mandal, Mumbai [Community Service] Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- Balabhavan Nazareth Student Support, Paduapuram, Kerala [College Education of Disadvantaged Youth]: Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Sh. Ashok & Ms. Darshan Mehan, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- Bercha (Hoshiarpur) Anganwadi School [Community Dev] Sh. Chani Sra
- DECC Trust Saraswati Vidyalam, Engandiyur, Kerala [Education]: Sh. K. Vasudevan, Family & Friends
- Divya Deepa Charitable Trust, Mysore, Karnataka [Education]: Dr. P. Harshavardhana and Friends, Dr. Soma & Padma Murthy, Dr. Raj & Padmashri Lad, Dr. B. & K. Sharma
- Ekal Vidyalay [Education] Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Sh. Kumar & Ms. Sudesh Kapur
- Friendship Foundation, Ahmedabad [Community Service] Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- Govt. Girls Middle School, Village Alduka (Mewat), Haryana [Upgrade of Educational Institution]
 Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Dr. Bhav Sharma
- Govt. Senior Secondary School, Bhaee Rupa (Bhatinda), Punjab [Motivation of Students] Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Kataula, H.P. [Education] Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- Innerwheel Club, Unnao, UP [Community Service] Sh. Sikandar Tuli
- Jain Swetamber M.V. Mitra Sangh, Ahmedabad, Gujarat [Community Service] [Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati, Sh. Pankaj & Ms. Rupa Nanavati
- Jeevan Prabhat Children's Home Pondicherry [Education] Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra
- Jeevantirth, Gandhinagar, Gujarat [Community Service]
 Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti, Sh. Pankaj & Ms. Rupa Nanavati,
- Kanchan Foundation, Bhavnagar, Gujarat [Community Service] Dr. Anop & Ms. Renuka Vora
- Manav Kalyan Trust, Navsari, Gujarat [Community Service] Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti, Sh. Pankaj & Ms. Rupa Nanavati,
- NIT Hamirpur Literacy Mission, H.P. [College Education of Disadvantaged Youth]
 Dr. Amrit & Ms. Shashi Chadha, Dr. Bhav Sharma
- Sh. O.P. Soni Charitable Trust, Jagraon, Punjab [Community Service] Sh. Ashok & Ms. Sanju Soni, Sh. Ashok & Ms. Usha Sachdev

- OSDAV School, Kaithal, Haryana [Motivation of Students] Ms. Manju Chexal
- Parishram Parimal Trust, Ahmedabad [Community Services]
 Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- Polio Foundation, Ahmedabad [Health Services]
 Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti, Sh. Pankaj & Ms. Rupa Nanavati
- Pratham Mysore, Karnataka [Literacy]
 Sh. Arun & Ms. Padma Cariappa, Family and Friends
- Punjab University, Chandigarh [Scholarships]
 Chem. Eng. Class of 1969 Alumni c/o Dr. Bhav Sharma
- Sh. Raj. Adhyatmik Sadhana Kendra, Koba, Gujarat [Community Service] Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati, Dr. Bipin & Ms. Kalpana Shah
- Rotary Club, Ahmedabad [Community Service] Dr. Mahendra & Ms. Jyoti Nanavati
- Sankara Eye Foundation, USA [Health Services] Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra
- Satem Vibhag School, Ahmedabad [Education] Sh. Ramesh & Ms. Jyoti Patel & Family
- Seva Bharti, Abohar, Punjab [Community Service]
 Sh. P.K. & Ms. Suresh Malhotra & Family and Friends
- SODHANA Chipurupalli & Ramalingapuram, A.P.
 [Education] Dr. Santosh Chokhani, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Dr. AJ & Ms. Thankamma Poulose, Dr. Jay & Ms. Shashi Shetty, Dr. Manoj & Ms. Maneesha Shrivastav, Sh. Ashok & Ms. Darshan Mehan, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- SOS Children's Home, Rajpura, Punjab [Children without Family] Sh. Kumar & Ms. Sudesh Kapur, Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra, Dr. Raj & Ms. Padmashri Lad, Sh. Ashok & Ms. Darshan Mehan, Dr. Ashok & Ms. Usha, and Ms. Sucheta Sachdev, Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma
- UNICEF, USA [Children's Rights] Sh. Joginder and Ms. Meera Kundra
- Sri Vankaner Kelavani School, Ahmedabad [Education] Sh. Ramesh & Ms. Jyoti Patel
- Arya Girls High School, Bhatinda, Punjab [School Upgrade] Dr. Krishan and Dr. Vimal Goyle
- Shmt. Dwarki Devi INSAF Vidya Mandir, Hoshiarpur, Punjab [Education] Sh. Surinder & Ms. Nirmal Maheshwary & Family
- Govt. Schools in the Banbhouri, Dhuri area [Education] Dr. Sudershan Bhateja
- Friendicoes of SECA, New Delhi [Animal Welfare] Ms. Aruna Marathé
- Arpana Trust Foundation, Karnal, Haryana [Women Empowerment] Dr. Nirmala Bidani
- DISHA, Bareilly, UP [Handicapped Children] Sh. Rakesh & Ms. Geeta Kapur

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