



Mega medical camp by Renault Nissan Over 400 underprivileged people benefit

RNAIPL (Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Limited) organised a Mega Medical Camp at Chennakuppam Community Hall, located in Chennakuppam Village, Kanchipuram district, on 8th November 2023. Sevalaya was the implementation partner.

The Chief Guest for the event was J Swaminathan, Director - PC and CSR Head, RNAIPL.

Here's a quick rundown of the amazing services provided:

Eye Care: Sankara Netrayala conducted an eye check-up for 80 patients. Some were advised for cataract surgery.

Dental Check-up: Karpaga Vinayaga Dental College facilitated a dental camp, catering to 50 patients. Immediate treatments were offered.

General Health Check-up: Sevalaya's Mahatma Gandhi Medical Centre



addressed common conditions such as fever, cold, cough and body pain for 160 patients.

Physiotherapy Camp: The Sevalaya team conducted a physiotherapy camp, treating 50 patients with therapies like infrared radiation therapy and interferential therapy.

This Mega Medical Camp had a positive impact on over 400 beneficiaries, helping

them understand and address their health concerns.

The inauguration function witnessed the participation of key figures, Dr Kumar, Chief Medical Officer at RNAIPL, S Sathivel, Director at RNAIPL, Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee and Pandian, Village President of Chennakuppam Village Panchayat.



Children's day celebrations at Govt hospitals



Sevalaya organised Children's day celebration for children in the Paediatric ward at Government Hospital, Kanchipuram as well as Government General Hospital, Thiruvallur on 14th November 2023.

Sevalaya students entertained the children with a dance performance. They also distributed fruits and snacks to the children.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1



The Chief Guests from the Government Hospital, Thiruvallur were Dr P Prabhushankar, Dr Vijayaraj, Dr D Jegadish Kumar, Dr S B Dinesh, and Dr S Sridevi.

Dr Balakrishnan, Head Superintendent, Dr Pon Divya, Head Doctor, Dr Balaji, Head Doctor, and Dr Sadhik Basha, Head Doctor were the Chief Guests at the Government Hospital, Kanchipuram.

Nurses from Indira School College of Nursing, created an awareness session on washing hands.

Biscuits and fruits were distributed to the children in the paediatric ward of the Government Hospitals.



Children's day at Government ladies hostel

Sevalaya's Thillaiyadi Valliammai Memorial Health Centre, organised a children's day at Government ladies hostel, Thillaiyadi on 20th November 2023.

Dr Krishnaveni, Medical Officer, Sevalaya distributed cakes and chocolates to the students. 35 girls studying at government higher secondary school, Thillaiyadi participated in the event.



Children's day at Kasuva



Children's Day was celebrated in Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 14th November 2023.

Prof Dr Mohana Krishnan, Principal, JHA Agarsen Arts & Science College, Madhavaram was the Chief Guest of the function.

The Chief Guest paid floral tribute to the picture of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, whose birthday is celebrated as Children's Day. Teachers presented a cultural programme, bringing joy to the children. Sevalaya Murali welcomed the guest and shared how the organisation operates in 28 locations across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. detailing the ways of supporting and assisting others in need.

The Chief Guest in his speech highlighted the efforts taken by Sevalaya in aiding people and animals alike. He admired the teachers' dedication beyond duty and mentioned the influence of Bharathi, Gandhi, and Vivekananda in Sevalaya. He shared his joy in engaging with the students, expressing gratitude for the opportunity and acknowledging the vital roles of parents and teachers in our lives.

Students who won the Library competitions and those in the Science Club received prizes from the hands of the Chief Guest.





MY Vivekananda competitions

Since 1988, Sevalaya has been conducting competitions among school children, to familiarize them about our three great inspirations: Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda.

The MYVivekananda Competitions are all set !

Visit: www.sevalaya.org/bgv-competitions/ and register, based on your class, age group and the events on offer.

Enjoy. Learn. Be Inspired!

Higher education: timely help that changes lives

L Ranjith, K Kavitha and E Gomathi - are all alumni of Sevalaya. What has magically changed their lives are three things: their grit, the completely free, all round holistic education provided at Sevalaya till std XII and the generous support for Higher education. Today, students from interior rural villages, including orphans can aim for the stars.

Soon after starting Sevalaya in 1988, the management realized the need to provide quality education and so the free school was started in 1991. Initially, their education stopped with Std XII, with their higher education dreams remaining elusive, except for a couple of students, sponsored by some individual donors. Then a trust came forward to sponsor diploma courses in Sankara Nethralaya. In 2013 came a breakthrough

when Thulasi trust offered funding for the complete college education of a larger number of deserving children. The number of sponsors has now grown, with corporates, foundations, trusts and large hearted individuals stepping in to bridge this gap.

The teaching staff of Sevalaya also make enquiries in different colleges and some of them offer reduced fees. With the improved performance of Sevalaya sports persons, sports quota has also helped transform many lives. Sevalaya dreams of starting its own University some day. Till that becomes a reality, thanks to the thoughtful support of organisations such as BNY Mellon, LatentView, Help Foundation, and individual donors, deserving underprivileged children can dare to dream and come out of the

vicious cycle of poverty they are born into.

Donor and volunteer support fund personality development programmes, career guidance programmes, coaching for CA entrance and IIT-JEE exams, reducing the handicap of family background. Fortress, an organisation of ex TCS employees, LatentView, individual volunteers and donors have now started to shape and guide. They prepare the children from their high school level by educating them about career opportunities and providing coaching opportunities to scale greater heights in areas of higher education that are becoming increasingly competitive. Of the 2100 students who completed their Std XII, close to 600 are doing higher education. Another 1150 are employed.

Come to think about it, it doesn't take a fortune to change the life of a gritty child who wants to do well.



24-year-old L Ranjith will be soon flying to the Middle East where a bright future as a nurse awaits him. He is from a small hamlet in Thiruvallur district, north of Chennai. The nearest government high school is nearly 6 kms away from his house and the village had no bus connectivity until recently. His father is a driver working for daily wages and a job abroad was definitely not on the cards even in Ranjith's wildest dreams.

L Ranjith



A young mother of two daughters shifted to her mother's house in a small village in Thiruvallur district as her husband was not taking care of the family. The future was bleak.

Today, the elder daughter K Kavitha works in a reputed city hospital, after completing a course as an ophthalmic nursing assistant. While her younger sister is working abroad.

K Kavitha



E Gomathi used to struggle in academics in her younger days in Sevalaya. But her sports teacher spotted her talents in athletics and his motivation saw her doing well as a runner in zonal and district level sports. That earned her admission in a reputed City college in Chennai under the sports quota, with fee waiver. She blossomed into an excellent teacher. Today she works as a Physical Education Teacher in a reputed Chennai school. Her single mother used to work as a maid in houses during Gomathi's childhood.

E Gomathi

Sevalaya alumnus contributes to handball triumph



Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University team clinched the top spot in the Inter-College State Handball tournament, where 22 college teams from across Tamil Nadu competed. Part of the winning team is G Babu, an alumnus of Sevalaya.

Currently, Babu is pursuing Bachelor of Physical Education at the same university.

Diwali celebrations at Sevalaya

Kasuva



Diwali was celebrated with grandeur at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, Thiruninravur on 7th November 2023. Prof. Dr V Chockalingam M.D, D.M (Cardiology) F.A.C.C (USA) D.Sc, Prof. Emeritus Cardiology, TN, Dr MGR Medical University Chennai, was the Chief Guest.

In his speech, Dr Chockalingam spoke to the students about the importance of maintaining good health. He said that a happy heart leads to a healthy life. He gave three *mantras* for healthy life: Proper food, Exercise and Positive attitude. He also advised the students to include fruits and vegetables in their daily diet. Sevalaya Murali thanked thousands of generous donors whose contributions will help Sevalaya family of 2200+ underprivileged children and destitute elders to celebrate Diwali joyously with dresses, sweets and crackers.

Earlier students presented a cultural programme.

Kiloy

V Vishwanathan, Proprietor, VVS Enterprises, Kiloy, was the Chief Guest at the Diwali celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Kanchipuram on 10th November 2023.

Thillaiyadi

A Rangarajan, President, Thillaiyadi, was the Chief Guest at the Diwali celebrations held at Sevalaya's Thillaiyadi Valliammai Memorial Free Medical Centre on 10th November 2023.

Thanjavur

Diwali was celebrated at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age Home, Thanjavur on 9th November 2023.

K Thananjayan, Deputy Chief Engineer (Retd), Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board and Usha, (Retd), BSNL were the Chief Guests at the event.

Gudalur



Suresh Kaladi, Managing Director, Velu's Group (Indian & Bahrain) was the Chief Guest at the Diwali celebrations held at Sevalaya Samaritan Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 9th November 2023.

Zamin Endathur

A Mohammed Abdulkadar, Principal, Chendu Engineering College, Madhuranthakam, Founder, Dr Abdul Kalam Innovation centre was the Chief Guest at the Diwali celebrations held at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur on 6th November 2023.

Uthiramerur



Diwali was celebrated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 10th November

2023. C Gopinath, Senior Manager, Park Industry Pvt Ltd, Maduranthagam was the Chief Guest at the event. On the same day, a certificate distribution function was also held.

55 students who were trained in tailoring and the basics of computer science received certificates from the hands of the Chief Guest. 42 students got job offers from different companies. Tailoring students were placed in organisations like VS Garments, Global Garments, Vijay Garments, Young Brand Garments and the computer students in organisations like Rural Course India Pvt Ltd and Pegatron India Pvt Ltd.

Guru Krupa Foundation, USA is sponsoring these trade courses at Sevalaya's Community College at Uthiramerur.

Ambattur



Biji Banu, Deputy Manager, Human Resources, Senthilkumar Umapathy, Senior Operation Manager, and Dnyaneswar Shankar Garad, Operations Manager from SGK Limited were the Chief Guests at the Diwali celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 10th November 2023.

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing donors!



From dresses to food to crackers, your incredible contributions brought joy to our day! We're so grateful to each

and every donor who made Diwali extra special.

Blue Cross Labs sponsors operational expenses for senior citizens



On 5th September 2023, Blue Cross Laboratories sponsored essential items for 120 senior citizens at Sevalaya's Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home, Kasuva Centre.

They also sponsored food and medical expenses for the elders.

Students entertain senior citizens



90 students of Std IX and X from Senthil Public School Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri visited Sevalaya's V T Shanthi Memorial Old Age Home on 3rd November 2023. The students had a wonderful time interacting with the

senior citizens. They engaged them by dancing, singing and performing skits. They also sponsored essential items like rice, dhal, sugar, rava, tea powder, cooking oil, ground nuts, biscuits, health mix powder, cleaning products and

clothes. Later, on the occasion of Diwali, 80+ Std IX students from the same school donated sarees and dhotis to destitute elders at the home on 9th November 2023, having a wonderful time interacting with the senior citizens.



Sevalaya students crowned runners-up at Sparsh event

On 5th November 2023, 100 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School won the runners-up trophy at the cultural and games competitions hosted by Sparsh Embracing Humanity at SKR Engineering College, Nazarathpettai.

The competitions included fun activities like dancing, acting, oratorical, and forming human pyramids. Ranjini from Std XII rocked in the oratorical contest, bagging the I prize, while K Kowshika



from Std XI nailed the Solo singing winning I prize and N Lithishwaran from Std X got III prize in Solo dance.

The boys team won the II prize in pyramid formation.

Rathnagiriswarar temple donates provisions



Sri Rathnagiriswarar Temple at Besant Nagar, have donated rice, vegetables like Chayote, Beans, Brinjal, Carrot, Tomato, Black Eye Pea, Cabbage, Bell Pepper, Scarlet Gourd, Tapioca, Radish, and Snake Gourd, along with fruits like Musk Melon, Red Banana, and Papaya - 413.5 Kg of rice, 348 Kg of vegetables, and 46 Kg of fruits to help underprivileged kids and elders at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre. These

were the part of the vegetables used in the annabhishegam pooja at the temple on 1st November 2023.

The temple has been donating fruits, vegetables and provisions for decades.

M Narayan - “A Life Long Learner”

M Narayan had a comfortable life from birth. The only son of an industrialist, he lived in his ancestral home in Chennai's upmarket Shastri Nagar. Narayan's father, M Parthasarathy, had started and established a plastics processing factory. Narayan was “an average student” and did Bachelors in Physics from Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College. He then joined Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and finished his Masters in Electrical Engineering. Soon he joined TCS. He was 25.

Then, without warning, the script changed. The sudden death of his mother in most unnatural circumstances shattered his father. A carefree seeker of knowledge, Narayan had huge responsibilities on his shoulders. Father needed support to run the business. Who will run the household? Family found his bride: Geetha, a masters in Zoology, who had grown up in New Delhi. Though she had her hands full, she found the time to pursue B.Ed with Annamalai University. The couple has a son Shreyas who is a B Tech from VIT, Vellore, and did his internship at Daimler at Bengaluru, currently part of a marketing firm, Firebrand Labs.

Narayan is ever grateful to his father for



the long apprenticeship and the learnings from the many breakthrough projects they implemented as a team. Recognition has been quick coming: finalists in Development Marketplace competition of the World Bank in Washington in 2006, his company has also won the Plaston Awards in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2018 from the Indian Plastics Industry. One was a patented innovation of a floating plastic platform to house pump sets. The reduced suction pipe length increases the quantity of water discharged, and reduces power consumption and charges. A tie up with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) reached the benefits to large groups of farmers.

One of the daily sights that bothered his father was waste droppings from running trains corroding the metal chutes which resulted in replacing them at every POH (Periodic Overhaul) inspection. He devised a plastic lavatory chute to stop the unhygienic practice and used to

supply them to the Railways all over India, till getting eliminated in the tender process involving copied / cheaper products. The chute however found its new avatar and the Polychute Debris Evacuation system developed by team Polyene along with the construction major L&T Construction in 2008 has become a standard offering to the construction/ building industry.

One major setback came with the 2015 floods that submerged the factory floor 12 feet underwater. Not a rupee came as compensation because the insurance company pointed out that the Guindy Industrial Estate was classified as flood-prone! “We had to start all over, again. I had to dip into my savings to restart operations at Ambattur”, recalls Narayan with no bitterness.

Narayan assumed charge as Managing Director of Polyene General Industries Pvt Ltd., focussed on innovations for various end user industries including construction, infrastructure, medical and renewable energy, after M Parthasarathy got affected by Parkinsons and passed away in 2014.

Narayan came across Sevalaya when he attended a Sevalaya event and soon became a frequent donor. He is aware of the many activities at Sevalaya. He is impressed by the genuineness of it all, and is amazed by the transformative process, including reformation of juvenile delinquents sent by the authorities.

He is determined that his next Sevalaya trip will be with his family members. “Places like Sevalaya teach about life”, he concludes.

a son, Sabari, currently in his second year BTech. Sankili's household also includes his 90-year-old mother, Gandhimathi. Family ties are strong.

After her MCA, Karthiga joined Sevalaya's new Centre at Ravanasmudram in 2019.

The Centre is housed in a 100-year-old heritage house on 10 cents, donated by his uncle, Nalla Perumal. He wanted to create a Trust, but later chose to hand the assets over to Sevalaya to run a Community College to create vocational avenues for local youth.

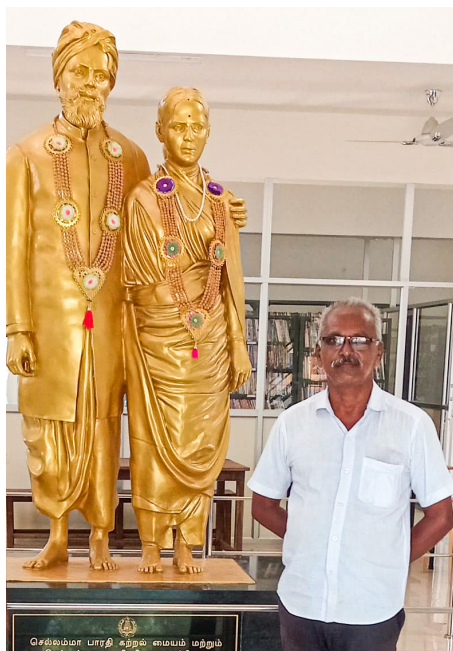
That was also the time, the dream project of creating a monument for Bharathi and his wife Chellamma, in her native town of Kadayam not very far, was taking shape.

Continued on page 7

“I feel blessed” - Sankili Boothathan

Sankili Boothathan had an artistic bend and was good at drawing. He won the District first prize for his drawing of a kingfisher, at a school competition. That spurred his interest in arts, and later, in photography. After completing his BSc in Mathematics from Sri Paramakalyani College, Ravanasmudram, entered multiple businesses - photography studio, videography, audio recording and Xerox shop. His wife Ramalakshmi is the Vice President at Ravanasmudram Panchayat.

They have a daughter, Valli Karthiga and



Continued from page 6

Sankili, who knows the lay of the land, was happy to join Sevalaya as Project Co-ordinator, working with Karthiga as the Centre Head. In 2021 Karthiga got married and moved on. "Those two years gave me a great feeling", he remembers.

The Bharathi Chellamma memorial that became a reality in 2022 has a special significance to him. Back in 2008, he had

envisioned a Bharathi statue funded by some well-wishers at Kadayam, but it didn't happen. Finally, for Sevalaya's 125th Anniversary, the Chellamma and Bharathi statue was erected.

A special moment for him was when the Bharathi - Chellamma statue, brought for installation, stood overnight in front of his house. feeling exceptionally blessed. "The

Kadayam memorial is a milestone in my life. There are so many rich people here, but none got the blessing I got, working on this magnificent memorial!", he says, with lot of emotion.

Ayudha Pooja celebrations across locations

Kasuva



Ayudha pooja was celebrated at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 24th October 2023.

The programme commenced with a soulful prayer song by the talented children of Sevalaya, setting a serene and auspicious tone for the day.

Sevalaya students presented a mesmerizing theme dance depicting Durga Devi's triumph over Mahishasura.

V S Muralidar, CFO of Danfoss India and Asia Pacific, V Govindarajan, Director of ERP were the Chief Guests of the event.

V Govindarajan said he felt honored to be at Sevalaya, comparing it to a sacred place and feeling grateful. Muralidar said being at Sevalaya was a special privilege and encouraged kids to learn from great people's stories.

N Vikram, Executive Committee Member of Sevalaya, extended his gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed to the event in his heartfelt vote of thanks.

The programme then shifted to the sacred rituals, starting with a visit to the Saraswathi Devi idol to conduct the puja.

A significant part of the event involved a puja conducted for the vehicles used for transportation purposes.

Ambattur



Akila Prabhu, Assistant Manager, Flex India and C Subbulakshmi, Co-ordinator, NTFC, Chennai were the Chief Guests at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 21st October 2023.

Pattinapakkam



Ayudha Pooja celebrations were held at Sevalaya's Gayathri Memorial Vocational Training Centre, Pattinapakkam on 21st October 2023. Dr T Narayanan, Associate Vice President, TCS was the Chief Guest of the event.

Kiloy

Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadashami Celebrations were held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Kiloy, Kanchipuram district on 26th October 2023.

R Veerammal Ramu, President, Kiloy Panchayat was the Chief Guest of the event.

Ravanasamudram

P Kanaga, Ward Member, Ravanasamudram Panchayat, was the

Chief Guest at the Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadashami celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ramasamudram, Tenkasi on 24th October 2023.

Thanjavur

D Subramaniyan, Proprietor, Sri Ramavilas Traders was the Chief Guest at the Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadashami celebrations at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age Home, Thanjavur on 24th October 2023.

Uthiramerur



Ayudha Pooja was celebrated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 21st October 2023.

P Krishna Shankar, Zonal HR & Manager and D Rajesh, Deputy HR & Manager from Muthoot Microfin Ltd, Chennai were the Chief Guests of the celebrations.

The Chief Guests lauded Sevalaya for their services. They also promised to support the organisation in all its ventures.

Zamin Endathur

U Chozan Dinesh, Proprietor, Phoenix Fitness Studio, was the Chief Guest at the Ayudha Pooja Celebrations at the Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur.

Mahadev Desai - (3)

(Source: "The Fire and the Rose" by Narayan Desai)

Early Education and marriage

On the introduction letter by the teacher at Dihen, his students including Mahadev were admitted to the fourth standard in Junagadh. At Junagadh, Mahadev was under the care of his aunt who was a strict disciplinarian. His years at Junagadh were one of strict discipline consisting of daily prayer and religious fasts.

Mahadev went to high school from Adajan, where his father was working then. It was possible to walk down to school from Adajan. He studied in Surat High School from 1903 to 1906. He was not interested in sports or dramatics. Studies had his undivided attention. Mahadev had a neat and legible handwriting. As a student, he was diligent and never missed his homework. At the age of 15, he attended the stormy Congress session held in 1907. It must be noted that by then he had become conscious about national problems and was being drawn towards both spiritualism and patriotism. During this period he started reading Vivekananda's writings which led him to a deeper study of the entire literature about Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Mahadev was married to Durgaben at his 13th year of age. She was younger to him by about 13 months. Conjugal life began only years later. She got all the training for the duties of a housewife before Mahadev started life as a householder at the age of 18/19.

At the University

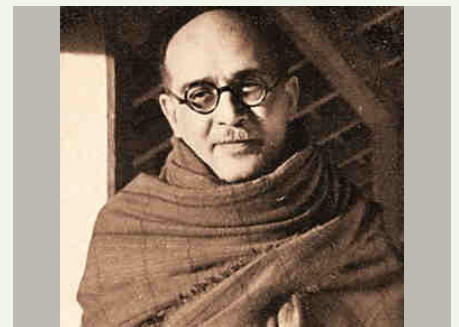
Mahadev passed the matriculation Examination at the age of 14, and he stood first in the High School. He joined Elphinstone College. His father, with his meagre salary could not pay for his higher education. Even though he was prepared for any amount of sacrifice, Mahadev could not allow him to bear the burden. He got a scholarship for education, and he also got free boarding in Gokuldas Tejpal Boarding. After passing Intermediate Examination in two years, there was a hitch in getting scholarship. His rank was one lower than that required for scholarship. Vaikuntbai Lallubhai Mehta, his close friend understood his problem. If Lallubhai declined the scholarship he got, Mahadev's problem would be solved. With his father's permission, Lallubhai gave up his scholarship. Lallubhai was generous in heart even as he was rich in

worldly wealth. Since then, Mahadev's friendship extended to Lallubhai's family and lasted lifelong.

Mahadev's interest in political events of the day was evident from the fact that he attended the Surat Congress even while he was in the first year of college. He did also travel all the way from Bombay to Allahabad to attend the Congress session held there.

Mahadev passed B.A. Examination with Philosophy and Logic in 1910 with a first class. After B.A, he joined LLB. He passed securing highest marks in Equity in the University. During his LL.B studies, he gained friendship with Narahari Parekh, which was to be a lifelong bond.

To be continued.....



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