

# Shanthimalai Trust & Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

## QUARTERLY REPORT

April - June 2025 (Q1)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

The report aims to give a brief but accurate overview of the developments and activities of each quarter of the Financial Year, for publication to interested readers of all kinds. For questions and suggestions please write to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi ([vijayalakshmi@shanthimalai.in](mailto:vijayalakshmi@shanthimalai.in)).

## A. SHANTHIMALAI TRUST

### Direct Help Programme

On the occasion of Appa's Jayanthi (09-05-2025), under the Direct Help Program, essential groceries, sarees, and shirts were distributed to twenty elderly residents of Nesam Trust, Kilnatchipattu village, Tiruvannamalai. This initiative aimed to offer timely support to elderly individuals residing in care homes, aligning with the program's focus on addressing the basic needs of vulnerable groups.



Additionally, a one-day meal was provided to 90 members of Thai Ullam Palliative Care, Tiruvannamalai. This effort further emphasized the program's commitment to supporting individuals facing serious health conditions by ensuring nutritional care and comfort.

## SSA (Primary) School

On 5th April, the fourth Parent–Teacher Meeting of the academic year was held, with an encouraging 85% parental turnout. Discussions centred on student progress and school initiatives, reinforcing the partnership between home and school.



From 7th to 17th April, the Annual Examinations for Classes I to V were conducted, providing a comprehensive review of students' academic development over the year. The process was carried out smoothly.

A three-day admission campaign took place from 27th to 29th April across 26 villages, aiming to raise awareness about the school's academic programs and values. Teachers from SSA actively participated alongside their counterparts from SRM, with a total of 48 staff members involved in the outreach, which ran daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Families were informed about key initiatives such as remedial support, co-curricular activities, and the provision of welcome kits for new LKG admissions. The campaign was well received by the local community, further strengthening trust and engagement.

On 30th April, a heartfelt farewell was organised for Mrs Seethalakshmi, Principal of SSA School, in honour of her dedicated service. The event was attended by trust members, staff, and administrative teams. It included speeches,



tokens of appreciation, and a shared dinner, marking a respectful and memorable farewell.

From 26th to 30th May, all staff participated in the Teacher Training and Transformation (TTT) programme. The sessions included workshops, group discussions, and hands-on activities. Feedback was highly positive, with the training considered both relevant and engaging. Follow-up sessions were held on 14th, 21st, and 28th June, further supporting professional growth.

The academic year 2025–26 began on 5th June with the reopening of classes UKG to V. A special pooja for Lord Ganesha was conducted, and welcome kits were distributed to all students. The start of the year was cheerful and well organised.



International Yoga Day was celebrated on 19th June, with students participating in yoga demonstrations, guided meditation, and discussions on the benefits of yoga. The event highlighted the importance of physical and mental well-being as part of holistic education.



## **Intercultural Exchange – Yoga Meditation Centre**

9th of May 2025 we celebrated our beloved Appa's Jayanthi day with all staff and some devotees.





We had six guests on site this quarter, and a revenue of Rs. 6 lakhs were made which helps towards maintenance costs. The ashram's houses regular maintenance for electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting was done in accordance with the requirements.

Following the damage caused by the December floods, which resulted in the collapse of two boundary walls covering a 20-meter stretch in the Ashram area, the construction of the first wall—near Lakshmi Amma's house and behind Ganesh's house—has been successfully completed. The work progressed smoothly due to favorable weather conditions, and the total cost incurred was Rs.10 lakhs.

Renovation and improvement works have been carried out in multiple houses to enhance functionality and living conditions. These include the renovation of the kitchen counter in Mukthi House, kitchen alterations in Sitaram House, and the extension of a room along with veranda modifications in Ganesh House. Additionally, a new house is under construction near Dharma House, intended for Amma's use. The estimated cost of this new construction is Rs. 70 lakhs.



## Skill Development (SSDP)

On 6th April, a career guidance session was held for Class 10 and 12 students of SRM School. Mr. Sriram and Mr. Arun from Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, Puducherry, along with Mr. S. Surender from CUMI (Murugappa Group, Hosur), introduced various free vocational training options for rural students. The session was encouraging and informative. Dr. Andreas Bachmann and Dr. T. S. Sudha graced the event.



On 13th April, a special training session on industrial skills was conducted under the SSDP. The chief guest, Mr. P. K. Dhananjeyan, Advocate at the High Court of Madras, delivered an inspiring talk on self-employment and job opportunities in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Students participated actively and engaged in meaningful discussions.





On 27th April, Dr. Durai Ganesh, Correspondent of Shanthimalai Schools, addressed SSDP students, offering guidance on setting career goals and identifying future opportunities across various industries. The session included a practical activity on market trends and career planning. On the same day, an assessment test on self-expression and team building was conducted for SSDP students.





From 10th May, sponsorship applications for the 2025–26 academic year were issued to students who had completed Class 12.

On 23rd May, a Communication Skills Workshop was led by Prof. S. Wilson from the Department of English. Topics included grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, speaking, writing, reading, and aptitude exercises such as direction sense and alphabet tests. The session was well received.

A mock interview was held on 24th May for 16 degree-holding students. The interview panel included Dr. Durai Ganesh, Dr. Andreas Bachmann, and Dr. T. S. Sudha. The exercise provided students with real-time feedback and interview experience.

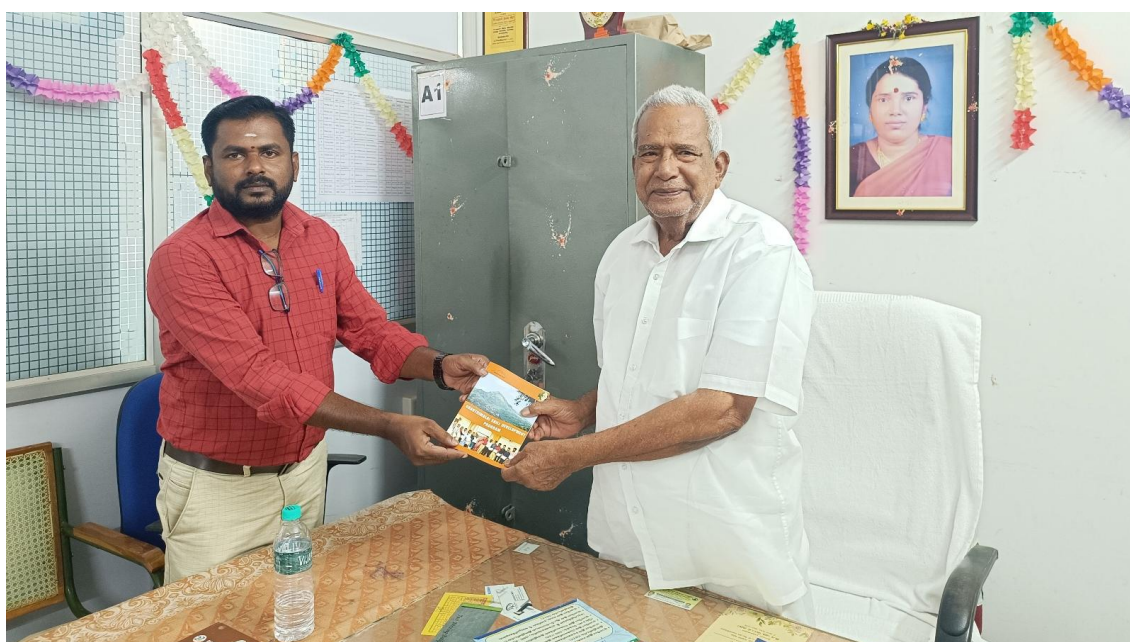


On 25th May, a summer workshop on computer skills was conducted by Prof. N. Vijayakumar. Students explored computer hardware, networking, and C programming, with hands-on practice sessions that generated high engagement.



The SSDP's Sunday Training Sessions for 2025–26 began on 22nd June, with a focus on Communication English. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. T. S. Sudha, Project Manager.

From 18th June onwards, Mr. S. Prabu visited several local institutions—Kamban ITI, Government ITI, Sri Sakthi Polytechnic, Rajalakshmi Polytechnic, Kumaran Polytechnic, Thirumala Polytechnic, and Arunai Engineering College—to discuss collaboration, sponsorship opportunities, and special training arrangements.





## Shanthimalai Environment Care (SEC)

**Girivalam Seva (GVS):** We conduct periodic cleaning to maintain the sanctity and cleanliness of the Girivalam path around the Holy Mountain. The team has approached the District Collector and Commissioner regarding collaboration with the government for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from Neyveli Lignite Corporation. Meetings related to the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) initiative are attended regularly.

**Environmental Training Program:** On account of World Environment Day, an awareness programme was conducted by Dr. Raajashekar for around 35 members from the Education Department, Tiruvannamalai, under the leadership of the Block Educational Officer (BEO), Cluster Educational Officer (CEO) of Tiruvannamalai District, and Eco Club Co-ordinator Mr. Murthy. The programme focused on the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution,” which was the official message for this year’s World Environment Day.

The CEO appreciated the efforts taken to support the initiatives in the SEC campus. He also suggested that National Green Corps (NGC) students should be given an opportunity to visit the campus to learn more about natural farming.



**Integrated Farming System:** a) During this cultivation season, we successfully grew Marigold in our farmland. The estimated yield is between 50 and 100 kilos, reflecting healthy crop growth and efficient land use. b) We have also grown organic and pesticide free vegetables like Ladies finger and Cluster Beans. Ladies finger helps in managing cholesterol levels and keeps the heart healthy. Cluster beans are a good source of dietary fiber, which aids digestion, promotes gut health, and can help with weight management. These organic vegetables are consumed by the local people for healthy living. c) Cow Fodder has been planted in around 2 acres to feed the cows.



**Green Earth Mission:** In the first week of June, on account of the World Environment Day celebration, we donated 10,000 tree saplings to create a larger green space in Vellore District. The same was handed over to the District Collector on World Environment Day (05/06/2025). This initiative was made possible through Mr. Bala, District Sports Office, whose contribution supports our ongoing efforts to restore greenery and promote environmental sustainability.





**Compound Wall:** The earlier compound wall in the Shanthimalai Environmental Care (SEC) campus was completely damaged and in a state of collapse. Hence, a new compound wall with jolly stones on the top layer has been constructed, designed to enhance the appearance of the entrance without obstructing campus visibility. The work is in its final stage.

In addition, a planter box has been built for flowering plants to create a welcoming entrance. To support waste management, proper garbage collection bins have been installed in the front area. Native shade trees have also been planted along the roadside to promote a greener environment.



**Lord Velmurugan Temple:** Tiruvannamalai is renowned for its spiritual significance and historical importance, particularly as a major pilgrimage site for all of us. Lord Murugan holds a significant place in the hearts of local people. He is revered as the God of War, Victory, Wisdom, and Bliss. The mini temple called SKANDALAYA is built in a way with minimalistic natural materials.





**Cow Shed:** A new cow shed has been constructed in the premises for providing a safe, comfortable, and productive environment for cows. It will protect them from harsh weather, helps prevent the spread of disease, and facilitates efficient management practices like feeding and milking.





## Special and New Initiative - Amma Arunachala Anbu Home (AAAH)

An old age home, also known as a retirement home or senior living facility, is a residential establishment designed to provide care and support to elderly individuals who may need assistance with daily activities or require a safe and supportive environment. One such home is our Amma Arunachala Anbu Home (AAAH), a special initiative of Shanthimalai Trust—“A home away from home” for elderly destitutes.

In line with this initiative, five potential sites were visited and one model has been selected.

- Bhoomi Pooja was performed on 28/05/2025 in the home premises to invoke blessings as part of the project inauguration.
- A temporary Electricity Board (EB) connection has been obtained.
- The basic concept plan has been completed.
- A soil test has been conducted and the report received.
- A well-experienced, renowned architect from Bangalore has been hired.
- Three comparative estimates will be received at the earliest.





## **B. SHANTHIMALAI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

### **SRM School**

To strengthen the home–school partnership, SRM School held class-wise parent meetings from 31st March to 7th April. Each session focused on a single class to ensure meaningful engagement. Before the meetings, Correspondent Dr Durai Ganesh briefed teachers on the importance of clear and responsible communication. Teachers Ms Reka and Ms Sagunthala led the presentations with confidence. Dr Durai Ganesh addressed each group, outlining key developments and sharing the school’s plans to transition to the CBSE curriculum. He highlighted the CBSE’s emphasis on conceptual learning and 21st-century skills. Parents appreciated the transparency and expressed strong support for the school’s progressive direction.

The academic year began early for Class XII students, who returned on 2nd April 2025. Sixty-six students were present on the first day, marking a focused start to their final year. A welcome session was held in the Multi-Purpose Hall. The Principal, Mrs Rathna, outlined key expectations—regular attendance, academic diligence, discipline, and leadership. The tone was purposeful and encouraging. Students responded positively and expressed a strong sense of motivation and direction for the year ahead.

Students of Classes I to IX sat their Annual Examinations from 7th to 21st April. These assessments marked the close of the 2024–25 academic year. The examinations were comprehensive and covered all areas of learning. They were conducted in an orderly and efficient manner.

As part of the school’s transition to the CBSE curriculum, a focused three-day admission campaign was held from 27th to 29th April. It aimed to engage families across 26 neighbouring villages. Under the guidance of the Correspondent, 48 teachers from both SRM and SSA took part in the outreach. Each morning, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., teams visited their assigned villages to meet parents. They raised awareness about the benefits of the CBSE system—emphasising conceptual learning, academic excellence, remedial support, and co-curricular enrichment. A key feature of the campaign was the announcement that all new LKG entrants would receive Welcome Kits. The initiative was met with great interest. Parents expressed appreciation for the school’s thoughtful efforts and commitment to rural education.



The Class XII results were released on 6th May and reflected a pass rate of 95%. Of the 82 students who appeared, 7 secured over 500 marks and 32 scored above 400. The highest mark was an impressive 582 out of 600. Class X results were announced on 11th May and showed an overall pass percentage of 89%. While there remains room for growth, the outcomes reflect steady effort and perseverance from both students and staff.

The new academic year began on a cheerful note. Classes I to XII reopened on 5th June, UKG on 13th June, and LKG on 16th June. The first day was marked by a special pooja in honour of Lord Ganesha. Students, staff, and the Correspondent attended the ceremony. Each student received a Welcome Kit containing a pencil, ruler, and eraser. The school environment was thoughtfully prepared to ensure a smooth and organised start. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and a renewed eagerness for learning.

A motivational session for Class XII was held on 5th June. It was conducted by Dr Anuradha, an external resource person. The session focused on key areas such as time management, goal setting, self-discipline, and emotional well-being. All 66 students, accompanied by their teachers, participated in the two-hour session. Thoughtfully delivered and highly engaging, the session offered students meaningful guidance and a renewed sense of purpose.





A welcoming session for the parents of newly admitted LKG pupils was held on 14th June. The Principal, Mrs Rathna, addressed the gathering and introduced the school's child-centered, activity-based approach to early learning. She emphasised the importance of gentle communication, emotional care, and recognising each child's small achievements. As promised during the admission campaign, Welcome Kits—comprising a school bag, lunch bag, and other essentials—were distributed to all LKG children. The session fostered a sense of trust and partnership between parents and the school. It reflected the values and vision that guide our institution.



## Train The Teachers (TTT) Program

The Train the Teachers (TTT) programme, initiated by the School Development Team, is a structured initiative aimed at strengthening teacher capacity across two key areas: foundational skills and professional development. Tailored to the rural context, the programme is primarily led by in-house trainers, with occasional sessions facilitated by external experts.

The Foundational Training component focuses on building essential competencies in English communication and basic computer literacy. Teachers engage in regular practice to improve listening, speaking, reading, and everyday use of English, alongside digital training to equip them for classroom and administrative tasks.

The Professional Development stream covers effective teaching methods, classroom management, counselling basics, and reflective practices. Teachers also receive weekly feedback based on classroom observations, encouraging continuous refinement of their teaching.



A total of 29 training days is scheduled across the academic year, held on Saturdays. Each session begins with a morning pooja, followed by basic yoga asanas and meditation. The day continues with foundational and professional training and concludes with a spiritual session led by Dr Andreas Bachmann,



drawing from the life and teachings of Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi. Tea and lunch breaks are included to ensure a balanced and engaging experience.

Before concluding the day, teachers often gather at Appa's Sannidhi for a quiet group meditation. This shared spiritual practice fosters inner stillness and a deep sense of connection, grounding the training in the school's core values.

The TTT programme is steadily nurturing a skilled, reflective, and value-driven teaching community—fully aligned with the educational and spiritual vision of the school.

### **Hybrid Team initiatives**

The School Development Team felt the need for a well-crafted website to reflect the vision, initiatives, and progress of both schools. A clear set of requirements was discussed, and Ms Krishnaveni was entrusted with leading the effort. She has since been coordinating with professional web designers to develop a site that aligns with our expectations. A prototype is now ready and under review by the School Development Team. The website will be launched once suggested revisions are incorporated.

Alongside this, the computer lab is being upgraded to meet CBSE affiliation standards and to support better digital learning. Structural modifications have begun, including merging two rooms to create a more spacious and well-ventilated lab. Vendor quotations have been collected for essential upgrades such as new computers, software, wiring, and furniture. A detailed procurement plan has been prepared, and implementation will follow in the next quarter.

### **Joyful Learning**

Building on the previous quarter's foundation, the Joyful Learning Project entered a new phase focused on early childhood education. A major milestone was the official collaboration with DOT Learning Circles, bringing a structured, developmentally appropriate curriculum to Grade 1. This partnership ensures that JFL children benefit from a progressive, child-centred learning pathway.

To support the transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1, a parent engagement event titled Kinder Rhythms was held, where children showcased their learning through music and movement. For new kindergarten families, a welcome

orientation was conducted by Ms Kanimozhi, along with the distribution of Welcome Kits to first-time schoolers.



Six JFL teachers attended an intensive four-day training programme at Ramco Vidyalaya in May, led by DOT Learning Circles. The training focused on mindful facilitation, experiential learning, literacy, numeracy, art, phonics, and SEL. Monthly follow-up training sessions are now in place to sustain professional development.



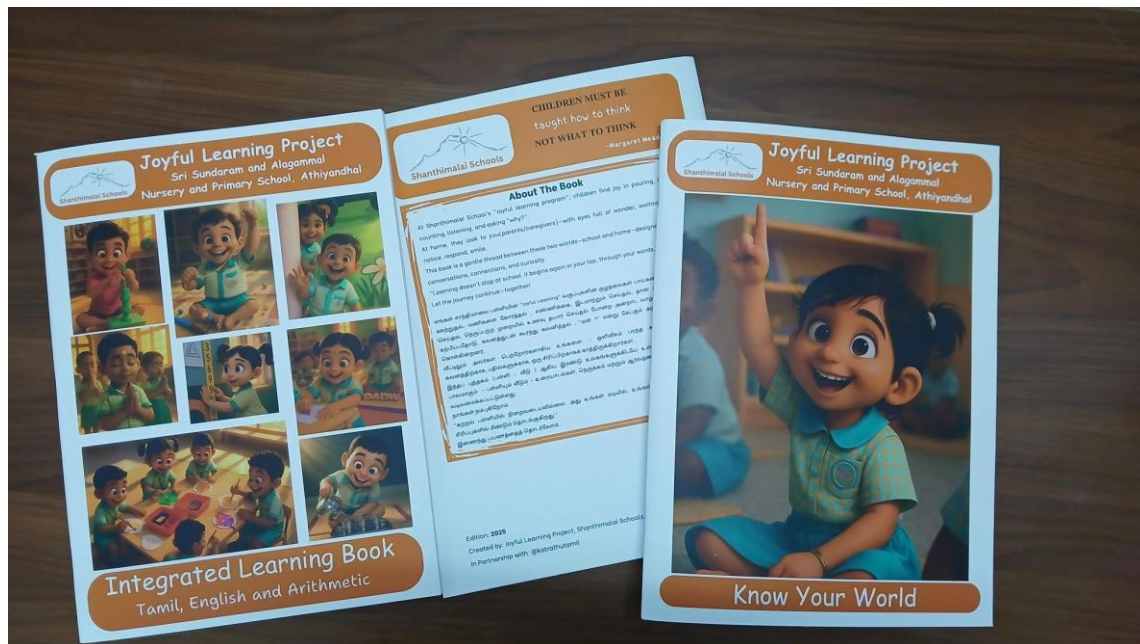


Although full infrastructure renovation is planned for a later stage, new furniture was arranged for Grade 1, and additional materials procured for incoming KG students. The setup was completed efficiently ahead of reopening.



Admissions for the 2025–26 academic year began in early April. Outreach included banners in 10 villages and digital promotion. The academic year commenced on 5th June with 31 new admissions, bringing the total JFL enrolment to 77 students. Two new teachers were recruited to support the growing numbers, with further hiring underway.

To enrich learning beyond the classroom, JFL partnered with Katrathu Thamizh to develop bilingual picture books for Junior KG children. Co-created by Ms Kanimozhi and Ms Madhumitha (Montessorian and book curator), the books bridge home and school learning, integrating English with Tamil to encourage parent–child interaction.



Teachers observed noticeable improvement in children's focus, participation, and social learning, particularly among those transitioning to Grade 1. The success of activity-based learning continues to motivate further pedagogical refinement.





In May, a Home Environment Study was conducted by Ms Kanimozhi and Mr Ajith Kumar from the Sponsorship Office. Visiting 20 families, the team gathered insights into living conditions, family structure, and educational support at home. This thoughtful initiative reinforced the school's commitment to ensuring donor support reaches the children who need it most.



## Sponsorship Programme

At the end of the 2nd quarter 2025 (first quarter of financial year 2025-26) this year's figures of the Sponsorship Program are not known as the selection process starts only in July. The school started only on the 2nd of June and by July 1st. 71 applications have been submitted, of which 21 apply for an upgrading to Full Sponsorship (FS). A final figure can be expected for the Q2 report.

From a total of 80 (12th std.) students 53 (66%) sponsored students have been leaving this summer. Due to changing our Matriculation to the CBSE syllabus all 53 sponsored 10th std. students had to move to other schools. Their sponsorship will continue as per our 11th std. standards.

Sponsored students as on 1.7.25: Before new Sponsor students will be admitted this summer the Sponsorship program is supporting still 336 sponsored students (SSA, SRM, Outside).

On 14.6.25 a meeting with the new parents of the KG children was held.

Purpose: To make the parents aware about the importance of taking care of the children and supporting the "Joyful Learning" program.





The top three performers in the 2024 Board Exams were all sponsored students. In the 10th Standard, all three toppers were Full sponsor students. In the 12th Standard, the top performers included one Full sponsor and one partially sponsored student.

During the 2nd quarter of 2024 we were mainly concerned with the collection of annual student letters and SSDP application letters. Much time was spent on the counseling of students and parents with regard to making the step from school into the post-school life in a foresightful manner.

### **Student's food**

The school's food project 2024-25 can be summarized: Breakfast: 16 students opted for receiving a nutritious breakfast ("Manna", a protein drink with one banana). Lunch: During the last school year our students received 58,600 times a nutritious lunch, consisting of rice, fresh vegetables, legumes and Soya chunks with an average cost of Rs.29/meal. By the end of the academic year, 81% of the 142 children at SSA School and 38% of the 617 children at SRM School were regularly benefiting from the school lunch program. This initiative plays a vital role in supporting the students' health and learning capacity.



## C. FINANCE REPORT Q1 (FY 25-26):

### Income

A total income of 216 lakhs (140 L from foreign, 76 L local sources). Local income includes 33 lakhs of school fees which is only 13% of the expected income for this year. Schools are working with parents to improve their payment attitude and also their payments. (INR 1 lakh ~ 1,031 Euro)

### Expenditure

With total expenses of 150 lakhs and a head count of 1905 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is well within budget. The decline in the beneficiary numbers is mainly due to a drop in school strength. Moreover, the number of beneficiaries is restricted by the impact of inflation in India.

### Overview

	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26 (Q1)
BENEFICIARIES	2453	2351	2207	2207	1905
INCOME*	901	928	940	829	216
EXPENSES*	668	812	781	785	150
*1 lakh INR ≈ 1,031€					

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