



SAFALTA CLASS<sup>TM</sup>

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS OF 16TH &  
17TH APRIL

17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 | 8:30 am to 9:15 am

By **Sujeet Sir**



# India to receive normal monsoon, forecasts IMD

‘Above normal rain likely in Aug. & Sept.’

**JACOB KOSHY**

NEW DELHI

India will likely have a normal monsoon, with a chance of ‘above normal’ rain in August and September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

The IMD issues a two-stage forecast: the first in April, followed by a more detailed one in the last week

cm. The June-September rainfall accounts for 75% of the country’s annual rainfall. “Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 100% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of  $\pm 5\%$ . The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm,” it said.

The expectation of excess

## □ भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD):

- IMD की स्थापना वर्ष 1875 में हुई थी।
- यह भारत सरकार के पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (Ministry of Earth Science- MoES) की एक एजेंसी है।
- यह मौसम संबंधी अवलोकन, मौसम पूर्वानुमान और भूकंप विज्ञान के लिये जिम्मेदार प्रमुख एजेंसी है।

## □ मानसून पूर्वानुमान के मॉडल:

- मानसून पूर्वानुमान के 'गतिकीय मॉडल' (Dynamical Model) जो सुपर कंप्यूटर पर आधारित है, के अनुसार, इस बार मानसून के समय सामान्य से अधिक वर्षा होने की उच्च संभावना (70%) है।
- 'सांख्यिकीय मॉडल' (Statistical Models) के अनुसार, इस बार सामान्य मानसून की 41% संभावना है जबकि इस मॉडल पर पूर्ववर्ती वर्षों में 33% संभावना रहती थी।

# Google launches 'journalism relief fund'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
WASHINGTON

Google said on Wednesday it will launch an emergency fund to help local news outlets struggling to maintain operations in the face of the pandemic.

The internet giant gave no specific figure for its fund, but said it would offer grants ranging from the "low thousands of dollars" for the smallest operations

deep cutbacks resulting from lockdowns, an intense economic slump and a retrenchment in advertising revenues that many news outlets depend on.

The *New York Times* has estimated that news outlets have cut 28,000 jobs as a result of the health crisis and subsequent economic impact.

Facebook on March 30 said it was donating \$100

## □ 'सिलेज' संबंधी विचार (The Idea of Cillage):

- सिलेज (Cillage) पद दो शब्दों नगर (City) तथा ग्राम (Village) से मिलकर बना है। अर्थात् 'नगरीय ग्राम क्षेत्र'।
- ज्ञान युग में समग्र शिक्षा, प्रौद्योगिकी तथा आजीविका के संदर्भ में ग्रामीण युवाओं की क्षमता निर्माण पर ज़ोर दिया जाता है।



# How pandemics have changed the world

They have triggered the collapse of empires, weakened pre-eminent institutions, created social upheavals and ended wars

SEANLY JOINT

Pandemics have had great influence in shaping human society and politics throughout history. From the Justinian Plague of sixth century to the Spanish flu of last century, pandemics have triggered the collapse of empires, weakened pre-eminent institutions, created social upheavals and brought down wars. Here's a look at some of the deadliest pandemics and how they influenced the course of human history.

## Justinian Plague

One of the deadliest pandemics in recorded history broke out in the sixth century in Egypt and spread fast to Constantinople, which was the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. The plague was named after the then Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The outbreak, which spread from Constantinople to both the West and East, had killed up to 25 to 100 million people. The plague hit Constantinople

when the Byzantine Empire was at the pinnacle of its power under Justinian's reign. The Empire had conquered much of the historically Roman Mediterranean coast, including Italy, Rome and North Africa.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

The plague would come back in different waves, finally disappearing in AD 750, after weakening the empire substantially. As the Byzantine Army failed to recruit new soldiers and ensure military supplies to battle-grounds in the wake of the spread of the illness, their provinces came under attack. By the time plague disappeared, the Empire had lost territories in Europe to the Germanic-speaking Franks and Egypt and Syria to the Arabs.

## Black Death

The Black Death, or pestilence, that hit Europe and Asia in the 14th century was



**Past pandemics:** Clerks at work at an office in New York during the Spanish Flu of 1918. [AP](#)

the deadliest pandemic recorded in human history. It killed some 75 to 200 million people. The plague arrived in Europe in 1347, where up to 50% of the population died of the disease.

In the words of Stanford historian Walter Scheidel, pandemics are one of the "four horsemen" that have fattened inequality. The other three are wars, revolutions and state failures. In his book, *The Great Leveler*, Mr. Scheidel writes how the Black Death led to improved

wages for serfs and agricultural labourers. "Land became more abundant relative to labour [after the death of millions of working people]. Landowners stood in awe, and workers could hope to gain," he writes. In parts of Europe, wages tripled as labour demand rose.

The most significant impact of the Black Death was perhaps the weakening of the Catholic Church. The Church was as helpless as any other institutions as the plague spread like wildfire

across the continent, which shook the people's faith in Church and the clergy. While Church would continue to remain as a powerful institution, it would never regain the power and influence it had enjoyed before the outbreak of the plague. The Protestant Reformation in the 16th century would further weaken the Church.

## Spanish Flu

Spanish Flu, which broke out during the last phase of First World War, was the deadliest pandemic of the last century that killed up to 50 million people.

One of the major impacts of the outbreak was on the result of the war. Though the flu hit both sides, the Germans and Austrians were affected so badly that the outbreak derailed their offensives. German General Erich Ludendorff in his memoir, *My War Memories, 1914-18*, wrote that the flu was one of the reasons for Germany's defeat. Germany

launched its Spring Offensive on the western front in March 1918. By June and July, the disease had weakened the German units. The Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918 that ended the War. But the flu continues to ravage parts of the world for many more months.

## COVID-19

It's too early to say how COVID-19 would change the world. But the outbreak has seen countries, both democratic and dictatorial, imposing drastic restrictions on people's movements. The western world lies exposed to the attack of the virus. Unemployment rate in the U.S. has shot up to the levels not seen since the end of Second World War. Governments across the world, including the U.S. administration, are boosting up spending to stimulate an economy that shows signs of depression. Radical changes, good or bad, are already unfolding.



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# Approval to use plasma enrichment technique

It will be used on trial basis to save lives

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi has been given the go-ahead to use plasma enrichment technique on a trial basis to save the lives of critical COVID-19 patients, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal was told at a review meeting on Wednesday.



Anil Baijal •

## COVID-19

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Health Minister Satyendar Jain among others were part of the meeting, chaired by L-G, which was conducted via videoconference.

During the videoconfe-

agement system and requested in-charges of all hospitals to update it daily so that correct data is collected and a clear picture emerges, enabling decision makers to swiftly plan resources for emerging scenarios.

Dr. S.K. Sarin, Director, ILBS informed that the Del-

# □ What is convalescent-plasma therapy?

**Convalescent Plasma** therapy involves transfusing certain components from the blood of people who have recovered from a virus attack into people who are very sick with the virus or people who are at high risk of getting the virus.

# □ What are antibodies?

- Antibodies are one of the front-line immune response to an infection by a microbe.
- They are a particular type of proteins secreted by immune cells called B lymphocytes when they encounter an invader, such as a novel coronavirus.

# Russian firm to donate \$2 mn to PM CARES

The donation would be a first as India has so far not taken funds from foreign state-run entities

SUBHASINI HAZDAR  
 DENAKAR PERI  
 NEW DELHI

In the first such donation of its kind, Russia's State-owned defence exports company Rosobornexport has committed \$2million (₹15.3 crore) to the newly set up 'PM CARES Fund', diplomatic and government sources confirmed. The proposed donation to the fund that has been set up specially to assist the government's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, marks a significant shift in India's policy on accepting contributions from foreign government owned companies. Thus far, the government had been



The firm is set to supply the S-400 air defence systems.

from "NRIs, PIOs and international entities such as foundations".

"The transfer is yet to be made" the sources told *The Hindu* on Tuesday, while

nextport – Russia's umbrella group for all defence exports and a subsidiary of the state-owned defence manufacturing company Rostec – had indicated its intentions to make then donation. The firm is the largest source of India's arms imports and is set to supply defence equipment including the S-400 air defence systems, stealth frigates and AK-203 assault rifles.

When asked if the donation would constitute a shift from past practice, the Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment. In August 2018, the Indian government had refused to accept offers of aid from sev-

United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and the Maldives during the Kerala floods. At the time, the government had said that it was committed to meeting relief and rehabilitation requirements "through domestic efforts". "Contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from NRIs, PIOs and international entities such as foundations would, however, be welcome," the MEA spokesperson had added.

On March 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund, putting aside

al Relief Fund (PMNRF). Modi had made a p appeal on social media directed Indian miss invite contributions fund. "What has been announced is that the CARES fund will accept donations and contributions from individual organisations that are in foreign countries government sources statement, and it again to the 2018 decision only accept foreign contributions from Indians abroad, NRIs, international foundations and UN agencies. As a result, the donation offer from Rosobornexport is a departure

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- The firm is the largest source of India's arms imports and is set to supply **defence equipment including the S-400** air defence systems, stealth frigates and AK-203 assault rifles.

# Tour de France to now start on Aug. 29

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
PARIS

The Tour de France will be raced from August 29 to Sept. 20, organisers of the event announced on Wednesday, postponing cycling's flagship event originally slated to start on June 27 due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The new dates, the latest ever for the Tour founded in 1903, follow the extension of a ban on public gatherings

same route as the original itinerary with a start in Nice.

While the news comes as a relief to professional cycling teams and fans, it also moves the three-week race out of its traditional slot in the summer holidays where crowds of around 12 million would have been expected to gather in festive spirit.

With the Olympics and Euro 2020 both postponed, the Tour is the last major



# IEA forecasts huge drop in oil demand in 2020

Market declines too big to offset with output cuts, it warns

**REUTERS**

LONDON / NEW DELHI

The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Wednesday forecast a 29 million barrel per day (bpd) dive in April oil demand to levels not seen in 25 years and warned no output cut by producers could fully offset the near-term falls facing the market.

Benchmark Brent crude futures fell following the IEA's monthly report, by \$1.88 to \$48.44 a barrel.



agreement that could cut

put from May of 9.7 million bpd, or almost 10% of global supply, to help support prices.

## **Aramco eases options**

Separately, Saudi Aramco has offered refineries in Asia and Europe the option to defer payments for crude cargo deliveries by up to 90 days, as plants struggle with shrinking demand, refining industry sources said.

# ❑ International Energy Agency:



- **The International Energy Agency (IEA), an autonomous organisation, works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy to its 30 member countries, 8 association countries and beyond.**
- **It was established in the wake of the 1973 (set up in 1974) oil crisis after the OPEC cartel had shocked the world with a steep increase in oil prices.**

- **India became an associate member of International Energy Agency in 2017.**
- **Mexico officially became the International Energy Agency's 30<sup>th</sup> member country in February 2018, and its first member in Latin America.**
- **It is headquartered in Paris, France**

# 'Disinfectant tunnels can cause harm'

## High concentrations of sodium hypochlorite constitute a health risk: PGIMER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The use of a "disinfectant tunnel", in which sodium hypochlorite is sprayed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, may give a false sense of security and cause harmful side effects, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, has said.

J.S Thakur, Chairman, COVID-19 Management and IPC



**Tunnel vision:** People passing through a sanitisation tunnel at Azadpur Mandi in New Delhi. ■ SHYAMAR BISHNOI/AN

statement here. "Exposure to stronger concentration (10-15%) of hypochlorite can cause serious damage to multiple organs, including burning pain, redness, swelling and blisters, damage to the respiratory tract as well as the oesophagus, serious eye damage, stomach ache, a burning sensation, diarrhoea and vomiting," he added.

Dr. Thakur said that, according to World Health Or-

## □ Sodium Hypochlorite (NaClO):

Sodium hypochlorite is most often encountered as a pale greenish-yellow dilute solution **commonly known as liquid bleach or simply bleach**, a household chemical widely used as a disinfectant or a bleaching agent.



- **The concentration of the chemical in the solution varies according to the purpose it is meant for.**
- **A normal household bleach usually is a 2-10% sodium hypochlorite solution.**

- At a much lower 0.25-0.5%, this chemical is used to treat skin wounds like cuts or scrapes.
- An even weaker solution (0.05%) is sometimes used as a hand wash.
- It releases chlorine, which is a disinfectant. Large quantities of chlorine can be harmful.

## □ Concerns:

- However, higher concentrations of sodium hypochlorite (5%) exposure may cause nasal and ocular irritation, sore throat and coughing.

- **Exposure to stronger concentration (10-15%) of hypochlorite can cause serious damage to multiple organs, including burning pain, redness, swelling and blisters, damage to the respiratory tract as well as the oesophagus, serious eye damage, stomach ache, a burning sensation, diarrhoea and vomiting.**

## आरोग्य सेतु का कीर्तिमान

कोरोना से लड़ाई के लिए लाखों विद्यार्थियों में बढ़ती सुविधाएं, नीति आयोग के रीडिजाइन 13 दिनों की उपलब्धियों के बारे में बताया

# दुनियाभर में सबसे तेजी से पांच करोड़ डाउनलोड वाला एप

सं दिल्ली, 12 : कोरोना संक्रमण पर नजर रखने व उसके प्रसारण को रोकने के लिए सरकार की लाखों से लाखों विद्यार्थियों को आरोग्य सेतु एप ने नैतिकरण सक्षम किया है। इस 13 दिनों के पेशेवाकीकरण के बीच पांच करोड़ डाउनलोड किए जाने का यह एप बन गया है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी ने मंगलवार को राष्ट्र के नाम संबोधन के दौरान लोगों से आरोग्य सेतु एप को डाउनलोड करने को आह्वान भी की थी।

नीति आयोग के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) ने बुधवार को ट्वीट किया, 'रेलियांस को पांच करोड़ लोगों तक पहुंचाने में 75 साल लगे, टैटो को 30 साल, रेडिओ को 13 साल, इंटरनेट को 10 साल, फेसबुक को 10 महीने और व्हाट्सएप को 10 दिन। लेकिन, कोरोना से लड़ाई के लिए लॉन्च किए गए देश के पहले आरोग्य सेतु एप को पांच



आरोग्य सेतु

अने करोड़ों कोरोना संक्रमणों के जो में सफल करता है। साथ ही यह संक्रमण के प्रसार को रोकने में भी सक्षम है। इसका निर्यात प्रकल्पों को ताल से सही करती है जिससे वैश्व आर्थिक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और सूचना एवं इंजीनियरी कंपनियों को प्रमुख चुनौतियां मिली हैं। साथ ही यह ध्यान है कि कनेक्टिविटी में शामिल टाइम

## सेना ने जवानों को दी आरोग्य सेतु एप डाउनलोड करने की सलाह

सं दिल्ली, 12 : सेना ने अपने जवानों, पुरानों सैनिकों और उनके परिवारों को आरोग्य सेतु एप डाउनलोड करने की सलाह दी है। जहां, प्रस्तावित करने में अपने सभी कार्यवाहियों के लिए संचालित करने में इस एप को इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी की आवश्यकता है। सेना में कुल 13 लाख जवान हैं। यह एप पेटुविक और आवांशुला प्रकल्पों में उपलब्ध है। सेना ने कहा है कि इस एप का इस्तेमाल कार्यवाहियों, अधिकारियों और न संचालित करने में किया जाना चाहिए।

आरोग्य सेतु एप डाउनलोड करने के लिए

लोक होने से रोकने के लिए सलाह सफल सुझाव जवाबों का प्रकल्पन किया है। जवानों को संचालित करने के लिए सलाह दी जा रही है। जहां, प्रस्तावित करने में सलाह और प्रकल्प में काम कर रहे कार्यवाहियों को आरोग्य सेतु एप डाउनलोड करने के साथ-साथ धनिकृत करने के लिए दिए हैं। जमाने इस संबंध में संचालित भी जारी





my  
GOV Pledge  
मेरी सरकार

अतुल्य! भारत  
Incredible India



150  
YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
THE MAHATMA

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GOV  
मेरी सरकार

# Dekho Apna Desh

Take the Pledge for visiting at least  
**15 locations across India by 2022**



# ‘देखो अपना देश’ वेबिनार(WEB SEMINAR) श्रृंखला

पर्यटन मंत्रालय (Ministry of Tourism) ने अतुल्य भारत की संस्कृति और विरासत की गहरी और विस्तृत जानकारी प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से हाल ही में 'देखो अपना देश' (DekhoApnaDesh) नामक से एक वेबिनार श्रृंखला की शुरुआत की है।



# □ 'सहयोग' (SAHYOG) एप

भारतीय सर्वेक्षण विभाग (Survey of India-Sol) ने सरकारी एजेंसियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पेशेवरों को COVID-19 के प्रकोप के दौरान महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेने में मदद करने के लिये अनिवार्य आँकड़ों की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रहते हुए बनियादी ढाँचे पर डेटा एकत्र करने हेतु एक नया प्लेटफॉर्म तैयार किया है।

इस प्लेटफॉर्म पर बायोमेडिकल वेस्ट डिस्पोजल, COVID-19 समर्पित अस्पतालों, इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च (ICMR) की परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं और क्वारंटाइन शिविरों के संबंध में जानकारी एकीकृत की जाएगी।

# Question No: 1

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किस राष्ट्र ने हाल ही में विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन को अपनी फंडिंग रोक दी है?

- A. INDIA
- B. ITALY
- C. CHINA
- D. USA

Ans  USA

## Question No: 2

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विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) के प्रमुख Tedros Adhanom किस देश से संबंधित है?

- A. उत्तरी अमेरिका
- B. नैरोबी
- C. इथोपिया
- D. क्यूबा

Ans  इथोपिया

## Question No: 3

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निम्न में से WHO की मूल संस्था (parent body) कौन सी है?

1. United Nations Economic Forum
  2. United Nations Economic and Social Council
- A. 1  
B. 2  
C. BOTH  
D. NONE

Ans  B

## Question No: 4

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समारिटन (Samaritan) क्या है?

1. यह एक जनजाति (Tribe) है.
2. इसकी उत्पत्ति (origin) ईरान के बगदाद से हुई है।

A.1

B. 2

C. BOTH

D. NONE

Ans  B

## Question No: 5

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HDFC Bank की Tag line क्या है?

- A. We understand your nature
- B. We understand your world
- C. We understand your family
- D. None

Ans  (B) we understand your world



# Question No: 6

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HDFC bank के chairman कौन है?

- A. Ravneet Gill
- B. Praksh Apte
- C. Aditya Puri
- D. Deepak Parekh

Ans  (D) Deepak parekh

## Question No: 7

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HDFC bank का मुख्यालय कहा पर स्थित है?

- A.पुणे
- B.चेन्नई
- C.इनमे से कोई नहीं
- D.नई दिल्ली

Ans: इनमे से कोई नहीं  
☞ सही उत्तर मुंबई

## Question No: 8

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NPA का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- A. Non-performing act
- B. Non-performing assets
- C. National performance act
- D. National performing assets

Ans  (B) Non-performing assets

## Question No: 9

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Hindalco का मुख्यालय कहा पर स्थित है?

- A. जमशेदपुर
- B. मुंबई
- C. रेनूकूट
- D. नई दिल्ली

Ans  मुंबई

## Question No: 10

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सावरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड (SGB) कौन जारी करता है?

- A. रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
- B. भारत सरकार
- C. राज्य सरकार
- D. वित्त मंत्री

Ans  रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

# Question No: 11

सावरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड योजना निम्न में से किस से संबंधित है?

1. इसे रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा जारी किया जाता है।
2. इसमें आयकर अधिनियम 1961 के तहत कर(tax) देना होगा.
3. इसे राज्य सरकार द्वारा जारी किया जाता है?

कौन सा सत्य है.

- A. 1&2
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 1,2,3

Ans  A

## Question No: 12

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कांजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान कहा पर स्थित है?

- A. Mizoram
- B. Assam
- C. Nagaland
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Ans  Assam



## Question No: 13

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हाल ही में किस राष्ट्र ने भारत को हारपून मिसाइलों और तारपीडो की बिक्री को मंजूरी दी है?

- A. Russia
- B. France
- C. USA
- D. Germany

Ans  USA

## Question No: 14

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बैंकाक घोषणा (1967) का सम्बंध किस से है?

- A.सार्क शिखर सम्मेलन से
- B.आसियान शिखर सम्मेलन से
- C.ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन से
- D.इनमे से कोई नहीं

Ans  आसियान शिखर सम्मेलन से

## Question No: 15

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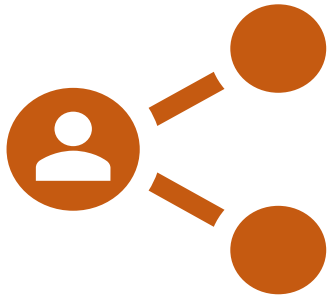
आसियान का मुख्यालय कहा पर स्थित है?

- A.मालदीव
- B.वियतनाम
- C.इंडोनेशिया
- D.भारत

Ans  इंडोनेशिया



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