



# समवाद

Issue I

## KEYNOTE



**CHETAN KAPOOR**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Tech Mahindra Foundation

I am delighted to present the inaugural issue of **समवाद** – the quarterly newsletter of Tech Mahindra Foundation.

Samvaad, or dialogue, is in many ways the essence of the social development sector. No progress is possible in the realm of human development, unless there is a clear channel and medium of dialogue among the stakeholders. Hence, when it came to choosing a name for this newsletter, Samvaad emerged as a unanimous choice.

Tech Mahindra Foundation started working in 2007, and over the last decade has emerged as one of the foremost development organizations in urban India. Our founding fathers gave us the direction through a simple and broad dictum, Empowerment through Education, that has helped us stay the course by investing in primary education on the one hand, and skill development of youth on the other. For this, we have designed and implemented programmes such as ARISE (All Round Improvement in School Education), Shikshaantar (Development of Teacher Capacity), and SMART (Skills-for-Market Training). We have done this through a network of well-chosen partner NGOs, and in recent years, through direct implementation as well. Our SMART centres, SMART Academies & In-Service Teacher Education Institutes (ITEIs) help prepare the youth take a shot at dignified career opportunities.

Two key themes that run as a common thread across our programmes are Gender and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). We have consciously chosen projects in which the beneficiaries are girls and young women, and are among the few CSR organizations that have mandated that at least 10% of all our beneficiaries are PwDs.

A belief that we have followed as a mantra in what we do is to always place Quality over Quantity. To us, nothing is more important than ensuring that the beneficiaries of our programme get what they truly deserve through our interventions. The intent is to keep chipping towards Excellence as a key driving force.

I do hope you enjoy this issue of Samvaad. It would be a pleasure to get your opinion on this newsletter; especially your thoughts on what we can do to make it better.

With best wishes and greetings for the festive season ahead!

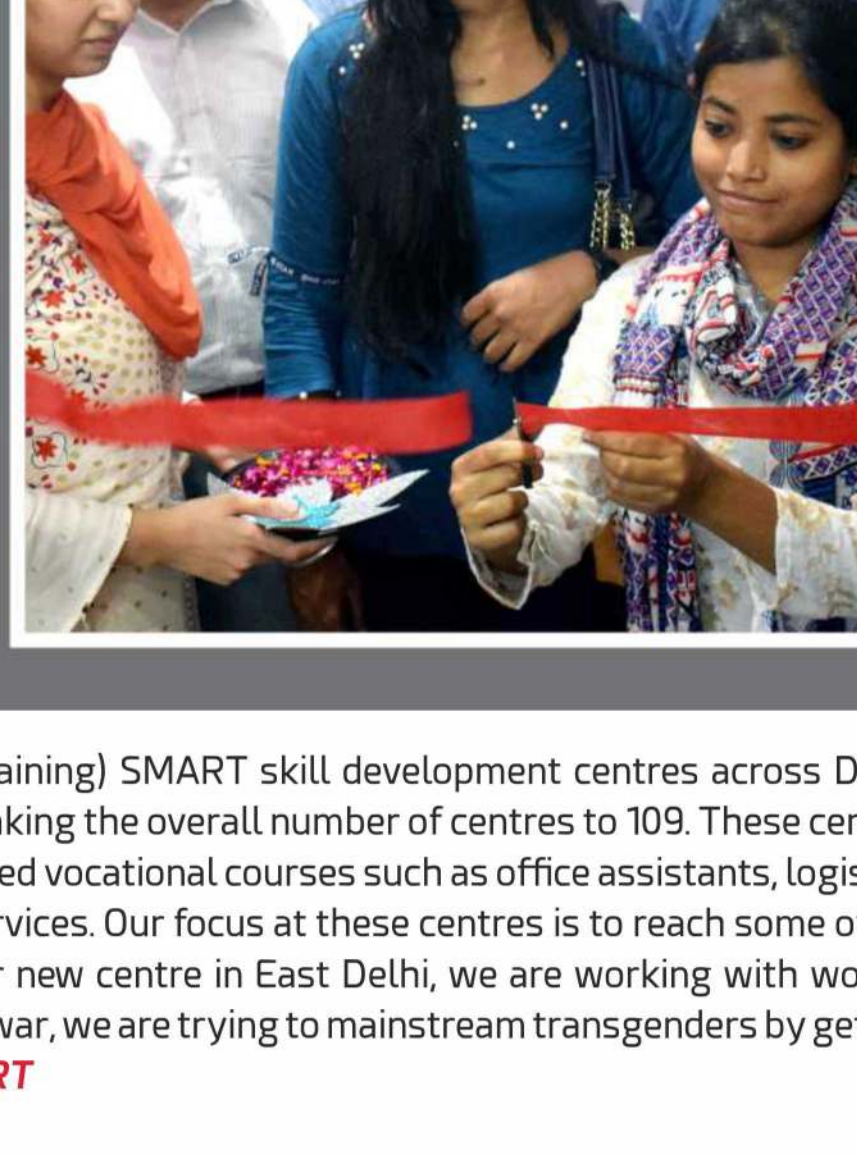
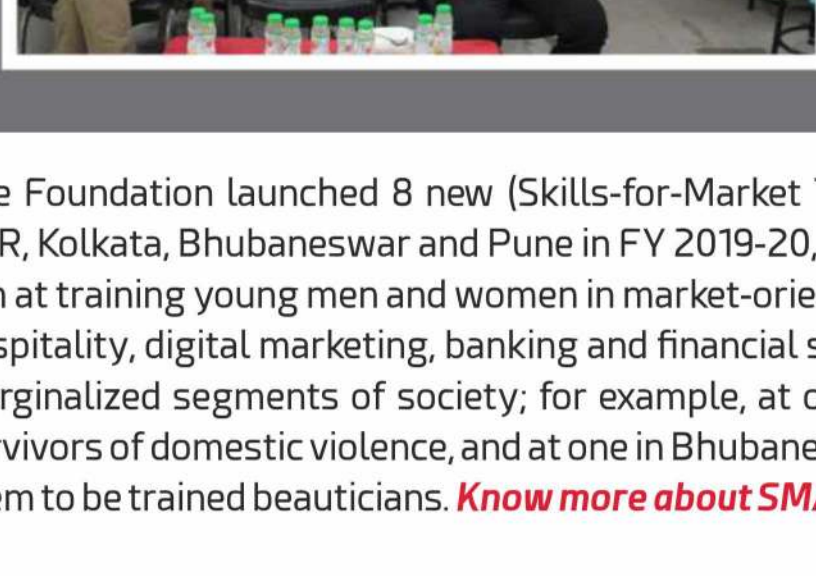
## SKILL DEVELOPMENT: RAISING THE BAR

### Launching in Jan 2020: SMART Academy for Digital Technologies in Hyderabad



Broadening our horizon in skill development for students in the digital technologies sector, Mr CP Gurnani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra Limited, announced on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, the latest SMART Academy for Digital Technologies in Hyderabad. He shared "the Academy is a continuation of our efforts to bridge the skill gap present in the industry today, and to build a digital workforce for the future." [Know more about SMART Academies](#)

## Expanding Footprints: Launch of New SMART Centres



The Foundation launched 8 new (Skills-for-Market Training) SMART skill development centres across Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Pune in FY 2019-20, taking the overall number of centres to 109. These centres aim at training young men and women in market-oriented vocational courses such as office assistants, logistics, hospitality, digital marketing, banking and financial services. Our focus at these centres is to reach some of the marginalized segments of society; for example, at our new centre in East Delhi, we are working with women survivors of domestic violence, and at one in Bhubaneswar, we are trying to mainstream transgenders by getting them to be trained beauticians. [Know more about SMART](#)

## Shining Stars from SMART Technical Centre, Mumbai



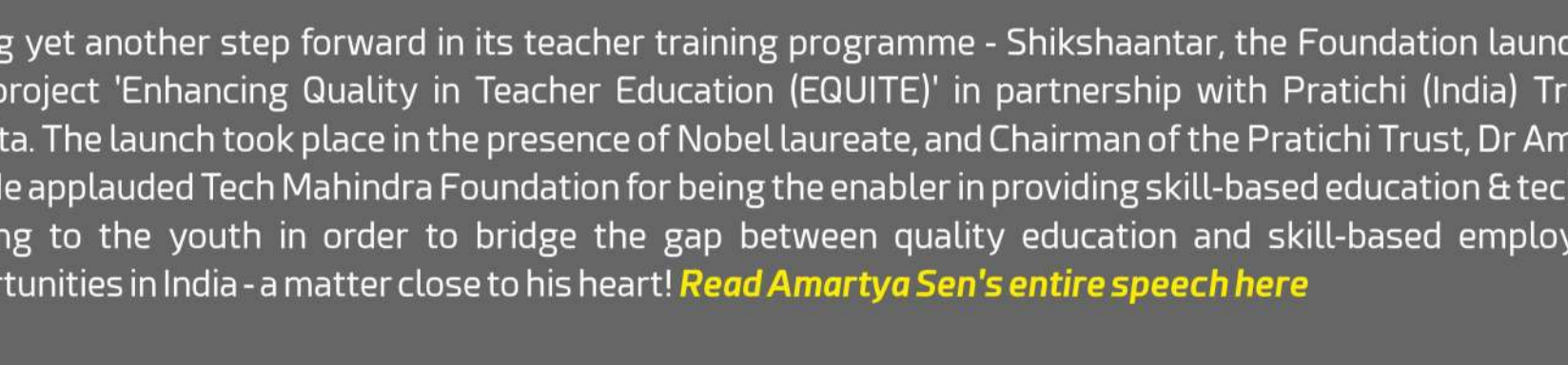
Ahmed Raza (3rd from left) - TMF Shield Foundation



Farhan Ansari (left) - TMF Shield Foundation

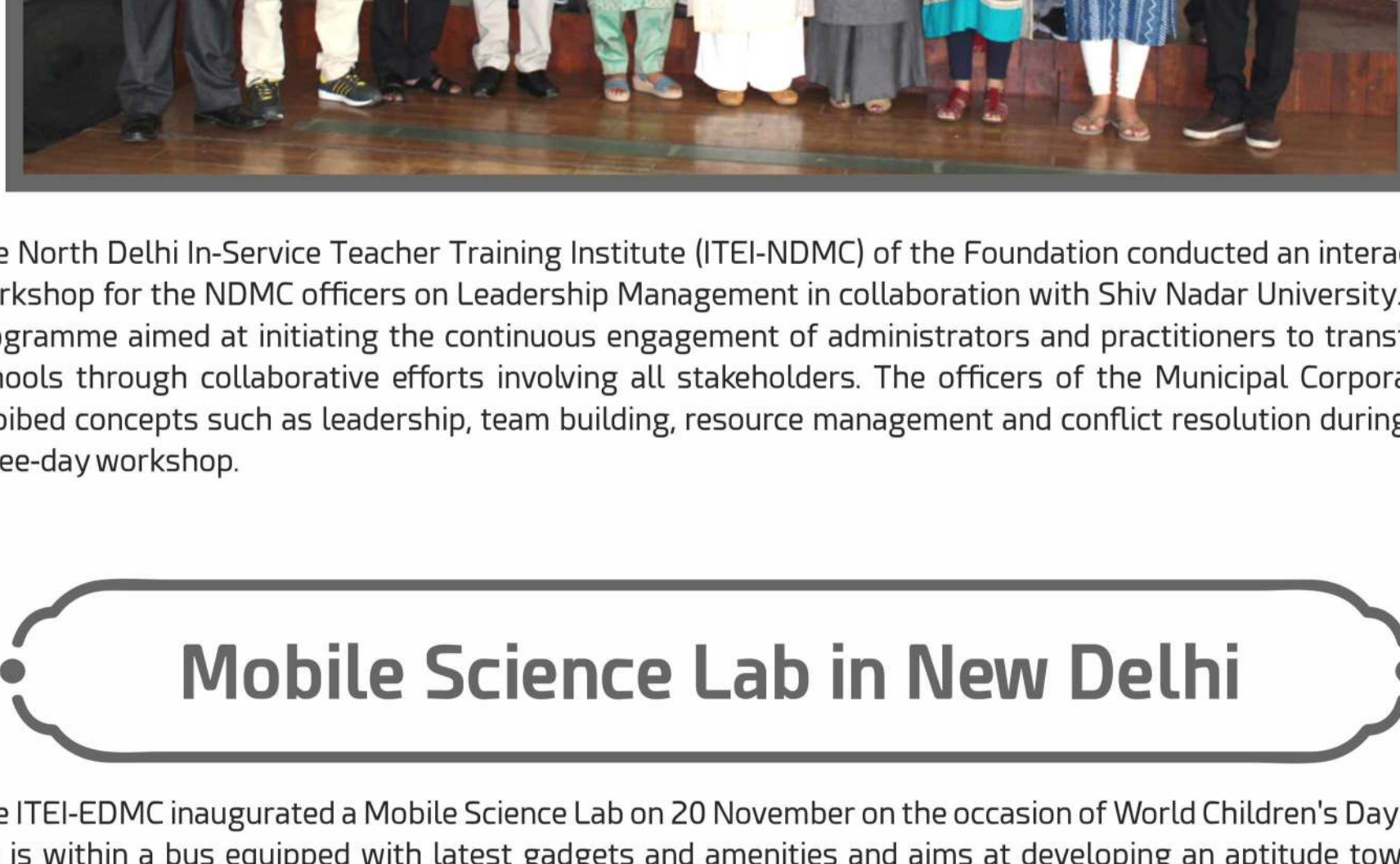
## EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERMENT

### A New Beginning: Partnership with Pratichi (India) Trust



Taking yet another step forward in its teacher training programme - Shikshaantar, the Foundation launched a new project 'Enhancing Quality in Teacher Education (EQUITE)' in partnership with Pratichi (India) Trust in Kolkata. The launch took place in the presence of Nobel laureate, and Chairman of the Pratichi Trust, Dr Amartya Sen. He applauded Tech Mahindra Foundation for being the enabler in providing skill-based education & technical training to the youth in order to bridge the gap between quality education and skill-based employment opportunities in India - a matter close to his heart! [Read Amartya Sen's entire speech here](#)

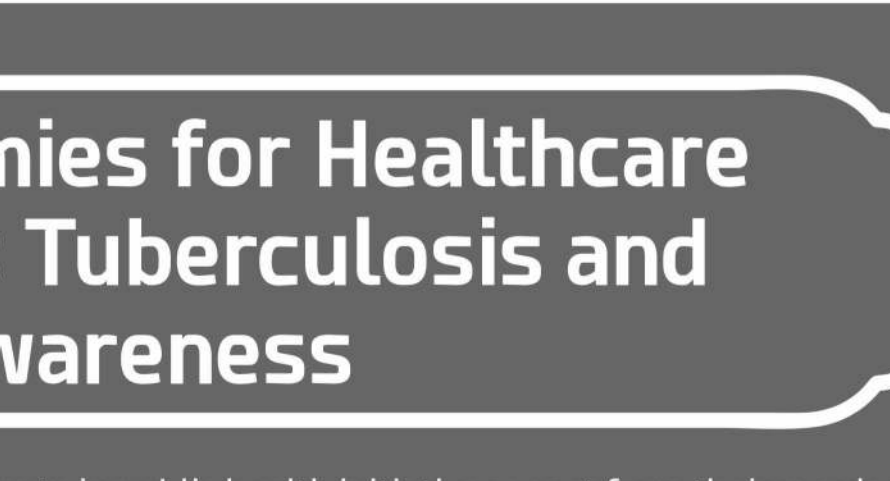
## From Administrators to Leaders



The North Delhi In-Service Teacher Training Institute (ITEI-NDMC) of the Foundation conducted an interactive workshop for the NDMC officers on Leadership Management in collaboration with Shiv Nadar University. The programme aimed at initiating the continuous engagement of administrators and practitioners to transform schools through collaborative efforts involving all stakeholders. The officers of the Municipal Corporation imbibed concepts such as leadership, team building, resource management and conflict resolution during the three-day workshop.

## Mobile Science Lab in New Delhi

The ITEI-EDMC inaugurated a Mobile Science Lab on 20 November on the occasion of World Children's Day. The lab is within a bus equipped with latest gadgets and amenities and aims at developing an aptitude towards practical application of science and technology among the 1800 children in classes 3, 4 and 5 from 17 government primary schools in East Delhi. [Watch the video of the launch](#)

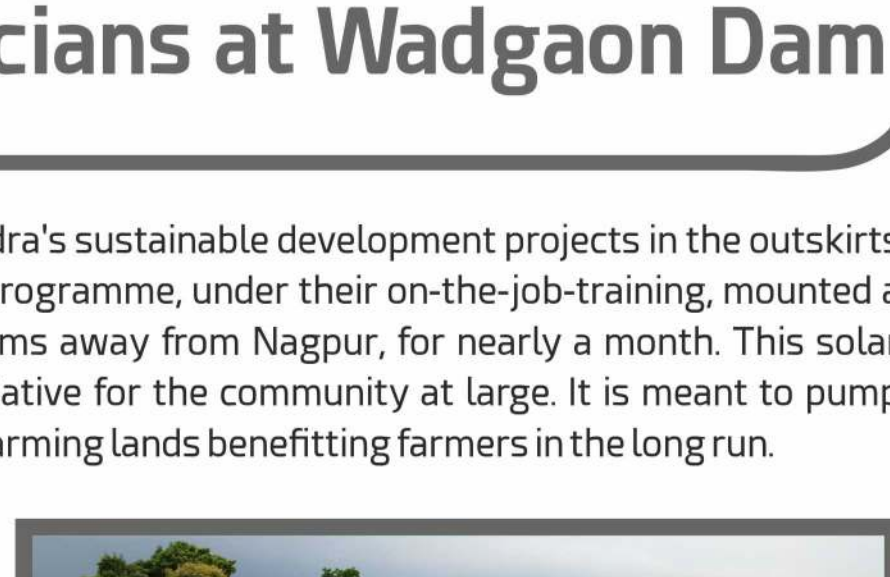
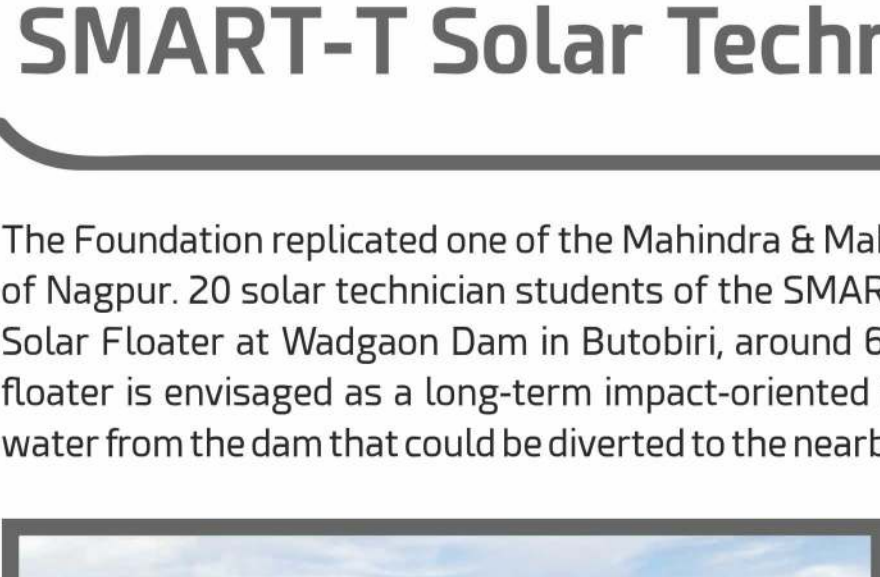


## COMMUNITY TO UNITY

### The SMART Academies for Healthcare Initiatives towards Tuberculosis and Cancer Awareness

An opportunity to the students to understand and participate in public health initiatives apart from their regular course curriculum invokes sensitization to connect them with the community. A year-long project on awareness of Tuberculosis in association with Delhi Tuberculosis Association (DTBA) has been able to benefit more than 400 persons in and around the Delhi SMART Healthcare Academy in North Delhi. Sixty students with two faculty members doing door-to-door canvassing were able to contribute 176 hours of effort to get Active Case Findings; which were then reported to DTBA.

In a concerted effort to fight Breast Cancer, students from the SMART Academy for Healthcare, Mumbai in association with the co-founder of Pink Initiative NGO, Ms Ujjwala Raje and Robinhood NGO organised a training for women from the local communities around Juhu and Bandra to do a mass community checkup for them.



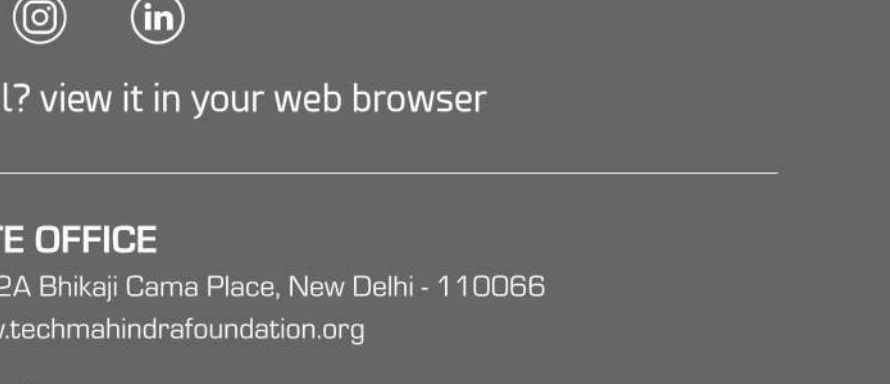
## SMART-T Solar Technicians at Wadgaon Dam

The Foundation replicated one of the Mahindra & Mahindra's sustainable development projects in the outskirts of Nagpur. 20 solar technician students of the SMART programme, under their on-the-job-training, mounted a Solar Floater at Wadgaon Dam in Butobiri, around 60 kms away from Nagpur, for nearly a month. This solar floater is envisaged as a long-term impact-oriented initiative for the community at large. It is meant to pump water from the dam that could be diverted to the nearby farming lands benefitting farmers in the long run.



## RECOGNITION

Recently felicitated by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, Tech Mahindra SMART Academies for Healthcare, Delhi, Mohali and Mumbai received the Silver-Skilling India Award at the Summit & Awards event.



**समवाद** is a quarterly newsletter. You can participate by writing an article or sharing your project experiences with us. If you have ideas on what you would like to see included in our newsletter, then we are all ears!

Please e-mail us your thoughts and ideas at [samvaad@techmahindrafoundation.org](mailto:samvaad@techmahindrafoundation.org)

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