

On CHRONICLES

TATA CANCER CARE FOUNDATION

SEP 2025 - JAN 2026 EDITION

A Season of Hope

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Cancer care is not just treatment.
It's the courage to show up, ask questions,
and keep going.

This quarter, we saw resilience in action across every touchpoint: Manshakti circles where patients and caregivers held space for one another; awareness days that sparked honest conversations; conferences that strengthened clinical learning; and college students whose curiosity reminded us why education matters. Because awareness is where early action begins.

A Life That Trained a Generation

DR ANITA BORGES

(19th November 1947 – 18th September 2025)

Her room at Centre for Oncopathology (COP), was never the kind of space you'd call clinical. It was alive, lined with books she loved and happily shared, a movie poster that made you smile, and a microscope that sat at the centre of it all like a faithful companion.

That was Dr Anita Borges: brilliance without noise, standards without compromise.

Dr Borges was among India's most respected oncopathologists, widely trusted for her diagnostic clarity in complex cancer cases, and regarded by many clinicians and pathologists as the opinion you turned to when the answer had to be absolutely right.

She led the Centre for Oncopathology (COP) in Mumbai, and all of us at Tata Cancer Care were proud to have her at the helm. Not because she wore authority lightly (she didn't), but because she carried something rarer: integrity that seeped into the work and became culture. Under her leadership, quality wasn't a checkbox or an audit requirement. It was the most patient-first decision you could make, every single day.

She taught the way she practised: with clarity, courage, and a fierce insistence on making things make sense. Many who trained with her still hear her voice in their heads: **"Why?"**

"Just pick up the phone and talk."

"How is your report going to help the clinician?"

Not catchphrases, but a mindset: chase the diagnosis to its final conclusion, and let honesty guide every step.

To her, a slide was never "just a slide." A report was never "just a report." It was a promise, made to a patient you might never meet, but whose life would be shaped by what you chose to see, question, confirm, and communicate.

Her reputation in oncopathology was built over decades of unmatched skill and credibility, trusted deeply by colleagues, clinicians, and families alike. Yet what made her truly unforgettable was her refusal to let pathology become commercial or casual. She held high standards simply because it was the right thing to do.

And she kept giving, especially through teaching, which was her way of paying it forward and leaving the field stronger than she found it. On 18 September 2025, she passed away while doing what she loved most: teaching.

While she is no longer with us, Dr Borges has left behind something enduring: a foundation of quality and integrity that shaped COP, and a generation of doctors she mentored. Her legacy lives on through the many pathologists trained by her, who carry the same discipline and passion for oncopathology, including the team of doctors at COP today.



A New Era of Leadership:

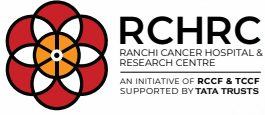
WELCOMING DR. SHAILESH V. SHRIKHANDE

2nd January 2026

We are proud to announce that **Dr. (Prof.) Shailesh V. Shrikhande** joined the Tata Cancer Care Foundation (TCCF) as **Chief Executive** on January 2nd, 2026. Dr. Shrikhande joins us with deep clinical leadership experience from Tata Memorial Hospital, where he served as Deputy Director and Head of Cancer Surgery. Globally recognised for his expertise in GI and pancreatic surgery and his contributions to academic medicine, he brings a wealth of institution-building experience to Tata Cancer Care Foundation (TCCF).

In his new role, Dr. Shrikhande will work closely with our teams to deepen our partnerships and strengthen our mission of improving access to quality cancer care. We look forward to the clarity, momentum, and strategic vision he will bring to our collective impact.





BREAKING MYTHS, BUILDING HEALTH

Our Manshakti initiative continues to serve as a vital sanctuary for survivors and caregivers to connect and heal. On November 19th, RCHRC and SVICCAR hosted a Manshakti Meeting, themed 'From Survival to Renewal', where Dr. Deepak led a critical discussion on the psychological transition to survivorship and Ms. Amrita showcased V Care products designed for daily comfort.

Closing the year, SVICCAR convened the milestone 10th Manshakti Program on December 29th for 40 participants. The session empowered families with health literacy: Dr. Nutakki Madhuri addressed surgery myths to promote clinical transparency, while Ms. Rafia provided actionable nutrition guidance to support recovery.

Through ten sessions, we have reinforced a singular message: no one, and no family, walks the path of recovery alone.



Listen to the Experts:

DOCTORS LEADING THE CONVERSATION

We took our experts' knowledge from the hospital to your screens. Here is what they had to say:



Dr Amitesh Anand, Surgical Oncologist - RCHRC on Vigilance: "Early detection can save lives and lead to a complete cure." He urges women to look for warning signs like dimpling, nipple discharge, or changes in breast shape.



Dr Shilpa Prabhudesai, Senior Pathologist, Centre for Oncopathology on Lung Cancer Awareness: "Knowing the early symptoms can lead to catching cancer early, and can lead to a complete cure." She urges people to keep an eye out for early warning signs, and to protect their lung health.



Dr Prasanth Penumadu, Medical Director SVICCAR and Head of the Department & Consultant - Surgical Oncology on Lung Cancer Awareness: "While [more] common in smokers, [lung cancer] is increasingly found even in non-smokers." He advocates for protecting one's lung health, and provides crucial information on the role indoor and outdoor pollution can play in causing lung cancer.



Dr Amitesh Anand, Surgical Oncologist - RCHRC on the CMPDI support: "The treatment part is taken care of by government schemes, but none of them support investigations." He shows appreciation for the crucial support provided by CMPDI to patients, so they can get the diagnostic support they need to move forward on their path to recovery.

Follow us to stay informed.



Field Report:

THE PINK WAVE & LUNG HEALTH

Empowering the Community.

This quarter, we led the conversations around lung health and cancer awareness. Our outreach teams also focused on educating students, empowering them to teach their families about cancer awareness.

RCHRC Educates Young Women on Breast Cancer Awareness at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

10th October 2025

On October 10th, RCHRC addressed the rising cancer risk in younger demographics at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. Dr Manika Verma, Consultant Radiation Oncology - RCHRC engaged 90 students and 10 faculty members, using practical demonstrations to simplify breast health and dispel the myth that cancer only affects the elderly. By equipping these students with knowledge, RCHRC is empowering them to act as peer influencers within their own families.



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training Week, Tirupati

13th October 2025

From October 13-17, we observed CPR Training Week in collaboration with the Indian Resuscitation Council Federation (IRCF). Led by Dr Sunil Kumar, Consultant - Anaesthesia & Critical Care - SVICCAR the sessions equipped staff and community members with practical, life-saving resuscitation skills to respond effectively during medical emergencies.



1st Breast Cancer Awareness Month Program by SVICCAR

15th October 2025

On October 15th, SVICCAR brought prevention to the classroom at SV Govt Polytechnic and SDHR Junior College. Dr Nutakki Madhuri, Surgical Oncology - SVICCAR and Dr Avinash engaged 140 participants, emphasizing oral and cervical cancer prevention, the role of the HPV vaccine, and the impact of healthy lifestyle choices.



2nd Breast Cancer Awareness Month Program by SVICCAR

17th October 2025

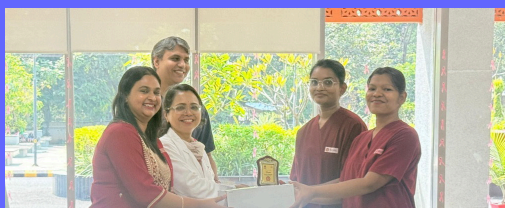
Continuing the momentum on October 17th, Dr Madhulika led a session for 120 students at ATN Degree & Junior College. The discussion focused on early warning signs and the HPV vaccine, encouraging students to take ownership of their health through early detection.



Celebrating the Spirit of Awareness: RCHRC Hosts Rangoli Competition and Training Session for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

18th October 2025

To mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, RCHRC celebrated internally with a vibrant Rangoli Competition on October 18th. Ten teams participated, with the ICU team taking top honors for their artistic representation of hope. Following the event, Dr Amitesh Anand, Surgical Oncologist - RCHRC conducted a special awareness session for all female staff, urging them to prioritize awareness and self-examination.



3rd Breast Cancer Awareness Month Program by SVICCAR

25th October 2025

On October 25th, SVICCAR hosted a massive awareness event with 300 students from various colleges. Featuring the finals of inter-college competitions, the day included an interactive session led by Medical Director Dr Prasanth Penumadu on preventive measures and advanced care facilities, celebrating the students' commitment to awareness.



RCHRC Leads Cancer Awareness Initiatives on National Cancer Awareness Day

7th November 2025

On National Cancer Awareness Day, RCHRC empowered the healthcare community by training over 60 nursing students at Bethel College of Nursing. Dr Manika Verma covered major cancer types and risk factors, equipping these future nurses to better serve their communities through patient education.



SVICCAR - Cancer Awareness Programme

7th November 2025

Marking National Cancer Awareness Day, SVICCAR engaged 150 students at Sri Venkateswara Junior College. Dr Prasanth Penumadu led the session with a dual focus on general prevention and specific awareness regarding Lung Cancer and the HPV vaccine, concluding with an interactive Q&A.



Lung Cancer Awareness Month (Cancer Awareness Program)

29th November 2025

Closing the quarter with impact, SVICCAR organized a program at SV Arts College on November 29th attended by 500 participants. Dr Mastan Basha, Consultant - Radiation Oncology, SVICCAR delivered a critical talk on lung cancer symptoms and tobacco cessation, emphasizing that early diagnosis is key to improved outcomes.



Fostering Resilience and Holistic Recovery

11th December 2025

Head and neck cancers present a unique challenge, requiring not just surgical precision but deep and comprehensive rehabilitation. On December 11th, RCHRC hosted the Head & Neck Cancer Survivor Connect 2025, underscoring the truth that healing goes beyond the physical. With the dedicated Head & Neck Cancer Surgery Department having treated over 450 patients since June 2024, this event created a vital platform for long-term support and community strength. The session was carefully designed to address the full spectrum of recovery. Dr. Sachender Pal Singh set the tone by framing the post-treatment phase not as an end, but as a journey of rebuilding, noting that "every small step forward... is progress worth celebrating".



Awareness Session with Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA), Tirupati

12th December 2025

In a dedicated session for the civic administration, around 100 staff members and the TUDA Chairman participated in an awareness program led by Dr Prasanth Penumadu. The talk covered cancer prevention and the HPV vaccine, followed by a screening event where 90 participants were screened for oral, breast, and cervical cancers.



Strengthening Healthcare through Compassionate Leadership

December 2025

Recognizing that robust nursing leadership is the backbone of a resilient healthcare system, Tata Cancer Care Foundation successfully concluded its year-long Nursing Leadership Training Programme (NLP) in December 2025. This initiative was strategically designed to empower 25 senior nursing professionals from SVICCAR and RCHRC, preparing them to lead their teams with both confidence and empathy. The comprehensive curriculum, delivered through quarterly workshops, covered critical competencies including Team Building, Mentoring, and Advanced Leadership strategies like crisis management. By investing in the professional growth of our nursing cadre, Tata Cancer Care Foundation (TCCF) ensures that leadership decisions translate directly into higher quality care at the bedside, fostering an environment where clinical excellence and patient well-being go hand in hand.

Enhancing Access in Andhra Pradesh

18th & 23rd December 2025

In a continued effort to bridge the gap in last-mile care, SVICCAR collaborated with Rashtriya Seva Samithi (RASS) to conduct targeted screening camps in Maddhuru and Pala Mangalam villages on December 18th and 23rd. These camps, which served over 200 community members, were focused on bringing essential cervical and breast cancer detection directly to the doorsteps of those who

need it most. Our strategic partnership with RASS, active since 2022, has been instrumental in mobilizing over 30,000 women for health awareness. The vital nature of this outreach was demonstrated during these camps, where a suspected cervical cancer case was identified and immediately referred to SVICCAR for advanced evaluation, a powerful reminder that timely intervention can indeed change a life.



Proactive Prevention at IISER Campus

3rd January 2026

We commenced the new year with a focus on early detection, conducting a collaborative screening camp at the IISER campus. The initiative saw over 80 beneficiaries step forward to prioritize their health. Beyond screening, the camp served as an educational platform; participants were sensitized on the harmful effects of tobacco and the preventive power of the HPV vaccine. A key component of the session was the practical training given to female participants on self-breast examination techniques, equipping them with the knowledge to monitor their own health and seek timely medical support if abnormalities arise.



Celebrating Clinical Excellence at SVICCAR

20th January 2026

We are delighted to share a moment of pride for the SVICCAR family. **Dr. Lakshmi Sandhya S**, Consultant Medical Oncologist, has been awarded the prestigious Shri Dubashi Devaraj Dora Endowment Prize for Best Outgoing Student in DM Medical Oncology from JIPMER, Puducherry, an Institution of National Importance. This recognition is a testament to her academic brilliance and unwavering dedication to the field of oncology. Achievements like these reflect the high caliber of expertise available within our units, ensuring that our patients receive care grounded in the highest standards of medical excellence.

Equipping the Next Generation with Knowledge

24th January 2026

SVICCAR reached out to the youth at Z.P. High School, Thummalagunta, engaging approximately 120 students in a vital conversation about health. Led by Dr. Anusha, Consultant in Radiation Oncology, the session moved beyond basic definitions to discuss actionable prevention methods and treatment options. Special emphasis was placed on lung and breast cancer awareness, as well as the critical role of the HPV vaccine in prevention. The programme concluded with a dynamic Q&A session where students asked thoughtful questions, reinforcing the day's key takeaway: that early awareness and healthy lifestyle choices are the strongest tools for a cancer-free future.



CONFERENCES AND LEADERSHIP

JASICON-25

14-16th November 2025

United For Lung Health: RCHRC at JASICON 2025

Ranchi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC) proudly participated in JASICON 2025, organised by the Jharkhand State Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI), held on 14th-16th November 2025 at Tata Motors Hospital, Jamshedpur. The RCHRC clinicians contributed actively to the scientific program: Dr Deepak Kumar spoke on non-operative treatment of oral cavity cancer using brachytherapy and chaired sessions; Dr Amitesh Anand presented sphincter-preserving strategies in rectal cancer; and Dr Nishant shared insights on “less is more” in breast cancer management. RCHRC also hosted a dedicated stall to showcase its services and connect with delegates.



[Know More](#)

NALCCON
2025

15-16th November 2025

Shaping the Future of Lung Cancer Care: SVICCAR Hosts NALCCON 2025

On November 15th -16th, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care & Advanced Research (SVICCAR) became the focus of thoracic oncology discussions by hosting NALCCON 2025, the 16th Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Study of Lung Cancer (ISSLC), gathering over 350 clinicians and researchers in Tirupati to navigate the evolving landscape of lung cancer care.

Under the leadership of Organising Chairman Dr. Prasanth Penumadu and Organising Secretary Dr. Lakshmi Sandhya, the conference emphasized the urgent need for decentralized, high-quality cancer care. Distinguished leaders, including Dr. Kailash Sharma and Dr. Digambar Behera, underscored the importance of integrating lung cancer care into medical training and strengthening public-private partnerships.

The event also featured intensive hands-on workshops, ranging from One-Lung Ventilation to Bronchoscopy, designed to bridge the gap between theory and surgical excellence. By equipping delegates with advanced skills, SVICCAR is ensuring that the conversation on lung cancer translates into life-saving clinical practice.



[Know More](#)



Pathologists Association Meeting, Nashik

16th November 2025

Keeping the focus on everyday diagnostic decision-making, Dr Vinita Pant, Senior Consultant Oncopathologist, was invited as faculty at the Pathologists Association Meeting in Nashik (held in association with the Nashik Practising Pathologists Association). In her talk on “Practical Issues in the Diagnosis of Endometrial Carcinomas,” she unpacked the real-world grey zones pathologists face - bringing COP’s clarity-first approach to cases where details directly shape clinical direction.



PD-L1 Testing Workshop & CME, Ahmedabad

22nd November 2025

At COP, we believe great cancer care begins with a report you can trust. That’s why it was especially meaningful to see Dr Vinita Pandey, Senior Consultant Oncopathologist, invited as faculty for the PD-L1 Testing Workshop & CME. Representing COP’s culture of diagnostic rigour, she focused on what truly improves outcomes in real life, getting PD-L1 testing right, reporting it consistently, and translating results into clearer treatment decisions.



Strategic Wins:

EXPANDING OUR NETWORK WITH CMPDI

23rd October 2025

We are proud to announce a new MoU with CMPDI. This MoU is a meaningful step towards making cancer care more accessible and affordable because for many families, the hardest part is often the very first step: getting a diagnosis they can't afford. Under this partnership, CMPDI will support the cost of diagnostic investigations, helping patients access timely testing instead of postponing care due to financial constraints. That timeliness matters - delays in diagnosis too often lead to cancers being detected at a later stage, when treatment becomes more complex and outcomes can be harder to improve. As an added measure to ease the burden on families who need to travel for diagnostic support, eligible patients also receive one-time assistance towards travel and a meal during the diagnostic visit.

TATA CANCER CARE FOUNDATION

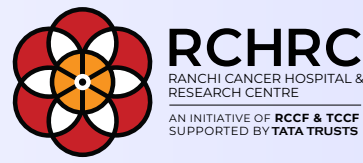


IMPACT

Behind every statistic is a story of courage, a patient who found hope, a family that found support, a community that found awareness. Since inception, our mission has been to provide affordable, high quality healthcare to millions of Indians.

From SVICCAR and RCHRC's life-saving surgeries and chemotherapy sessions to early detection screenings and awareness drives across the outreach belts, our work has steadily expanded, reaching people who would otherwise delay care. Along the way, we've strengthened the ecosystem too: training healthcare workers, enabling referrals, and building community trust so that more patients come forward sooner.

As you read the impact snapshot, from inception till November 2025, remember this: every consultation, every diagnostic test, and every outreach session represents a person choosing to act in time. Step by step, we're moving toward a future where cancer is detected early, treated effectively, and no longer feared.



1,64,090 patient consultations, supporting individuals from diagnosis to follow-up.



32,116 chemotherapy sessions delivered, ensuring continuity of treatment.



3,836 onco surgeries, reflecting advanced surgical capability.



2.7 LAKH people got the knowledge and support they needed for precise treatment through our diagnostic services.



50,000+ people were helped on their road to recovery by our world-class radiotherapy services.

80,928 patient consultations, strengthening cancer care access in Jharkhand.

14,657 chemotherapy sessions, supporting long-term cancer care.

1,979 onco surgeries, addressing both major and minor interventions.

30,133 people were given the strength to fight cancer with the help of our radiotherapy services.

2 LAKH people started their road to healing from cancer through our diagnostic services.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Data from Tirupati, Ranchi, Chandrapur and Bhubaneshwar
From Inception until December 2025

8.2 LAKH PEOPLE SCREENED



Oral Cancer Screened

5,31,162



Breast Cancer Screened

1,78,150



Cervical Cancer Screened

1,13,430



Youth Tobacco Sensitization

1,14,959



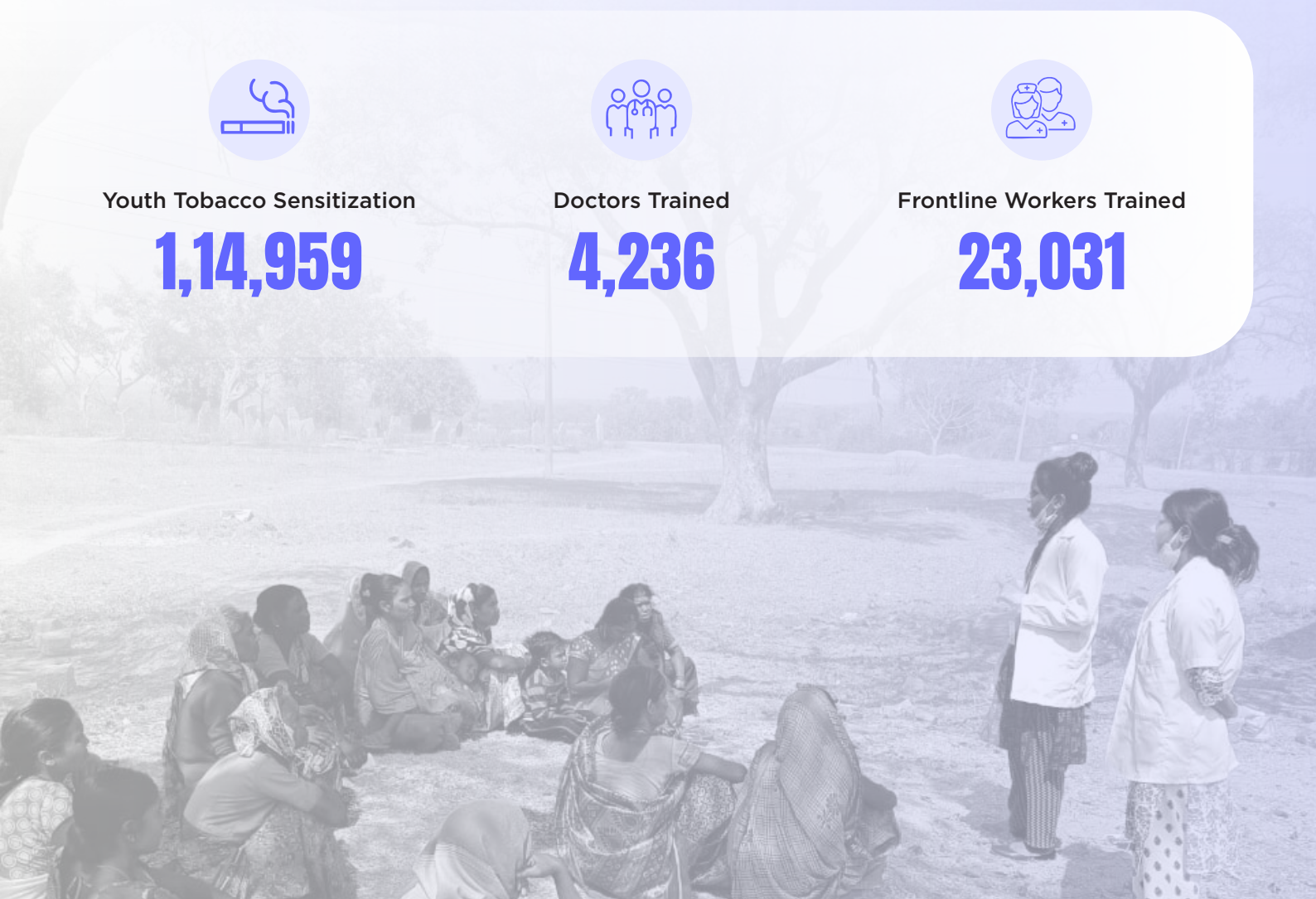
Doctors Trained

4,236



Frontline Workers Trained

23,031



Visit us to learn more.

www.tatacancercarefoundation.org

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