1. National News

- **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) 2026**
  - **Details:** India observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31 October 2026, marking the **151st birth anniversary** of the "Iron Man of India", **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
  - **Significance:** Instituted by the Government of India in 2014, the day honors Sardar Patel's monumental contributions in integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union. Central events took place at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, highlighting national integration, safety, and security.
- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)**
  - **Details:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)**—a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with a total financial outlay of **Rs. 7,395.55 crore**.
  - **Duration:** Implemented for a five-year period from FY27 to FY31 (co-terminus with planning frameworks), aimed at comprehensive rural development and self-reliance (Gram Swaraj).
- **Guwahati Airport Approved as Export Hub for Agarwood**
  - **Details:** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) officially approved the **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam**, as a designated export point for agarwood products, providing a major boost to the region's agro-forestry and economic exports.

2. International News

- **UN Report on Women and Armed Conflicts**
  - **Details:** A stark United Nations report released in late October 2026 revealed that over **37,000 civilians were killed in armed conflicts worldwide in 2025**, with women and girls accounting for 25% (one in every four deaths)—double the proportion recorded in 2021.
  - **Key Highlights:** Conflict-related sexual violence surged globally (verified cases nearly quadrupled compared to 2022), and approximately 170 million women and girls faced extreme poverty ($3/day or less) in conflict zones.
- **World Cities Day 2026 Global Observance**
  - **Details: Fuzhou, China**, hosted the global observance of **World Cities Day on 31 October 2026**. The core theme focused on neighborhood renewal, local climate action, and sustainable urban development.

3. Economics and Banking

- **Ministry of Finance (MoF) GDP Growth Projections for Q2 FY27**
  - **Details:** The Ministry of Finance released its Monthly Economic Review, projecting India's GDP growth rate at **7.35% for the 2nd Quarter (July–September) of FY27**.
  - **Key Growth Drivers:** The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) emerged as a robust driver, led by strong expansions in electricity, gas supply, and manufacturing sectors.
- **SEBI and Bank of England Sign MoU**
  - **Details:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cross-border regulatory cooperation and mutual information exchange concerning SEBI-recognized Clearing Corporations (Central Counterparties).

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- **New Banking Products & Partnerships**
  - **YES Bank** launched the **'YES vibez'** savings account tailored specifically for Generation Z customers.
  - **India Post** signed an MoU with **UTI Mutual Fund** to scale up pan-India doorstep KYC services, improving financial accessibility in semi-urban and rural areas.

4. Defense News

- **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) Approves Naval Project**
  - **Details:** The CCS cleared a massive indigenous defense project valued at **over Rs. 40,000 crore** to construct **8 Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs)** for the Indian Navy (IN), heavily boosting domestic shipyards under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **IG Defence and MSA Global Partnership**
  - **Details:** Indian defense-tech start-up **IG Defence** signed an MoU with Oman-based **MSA Global LLC** during the 2nd India–Oman Defence Industry Seminar in Muscat. The pact aims to co-develop and localize advanced AI-driven defense systems for Oman and the wider GCC region.

5. Appointments

- **FICCI President-Elect (2026–27)**
  - **Details:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) named **Vijay Sankar**, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, as its President-Elect for the 2026–27 term during its National Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.

6. Important Days

- **World Savings Day (World Thrift Day) – 31 October 2026**
  - **Significance:** Celebrated globally to promote individual and national financial security, thriftiness, and economic awareness.
  - **2026 Theme:** "AI Advises, human decides."
  - **History:** Established in October 1924 during the 1st International Thrift Congress in Milan, Italy.
- **National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) – 31 October 2026**
  - **Significance:** Marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, emphasizing solidarity, territorial integrity, and communal harmony across India.

7. Government Schemes & MoUs

- **Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme Milestone:** Completed two years of successful implementation, providing robust health insurance coverage tailored for senior citizens.
- **ESIC Amnesty Scheme Extension:** The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) extended its New Amnesty Scheme 2025 up to **31 December 2026** to ease compliance burdens for employers.

8. Art & Culture, Science, and Environment

- **New Microscopic Land Snail Discovery:** Researchers discovered a new species of microscopic land snail in the **Tilari region of Kolhapur, Maharashtra**, adding significantly to India's Western Ghats biodiversity catalog.
- **Traditional Knowledge Integration:** Focus has grown around heritage practices like Kerala's traditional **Surangam water harvesting system** as sustainable models for combating modern localized water scarcity.

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9. Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Birth Anniversary: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** (31 October) – Celebrated nationally as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas; commemorated for his unmatched statesmanship and integration of the Indian Union.
- **Obituary: Barbara Barrie** – The acclaimed Oscar-nominated American actress (known for Breaking Away and Suddenly, Susan) passed away at the age of 95.

Section 1: International News

Q1. According to the United Nations report on women, peace, and security released in late October 2026, how many women and girls were killed on average per day in armed conflict environments worldwide during 2025?

(a) 10 per day

(b) 18 per day

(c) 25 per day

(d) 40 per day

- Answer: (c) 25 per day

Detailed Explanation: A report by the United Nations highlighted a surge in violence against women in global conflict zones. Over 37,000 civilians were killed in armed conflicts worldwide in 2025, with women and girls accounting for 25% (one in four deaths)—doubling their share from 2021. This translates to at least 25 women and girls killed daily in conflict-affected regions. The report also noted a steep rise in conflict-related sexual violence and extreme poverty among women in affected regions.

Q2. The United States Department of Defense announced a major strategic initiative titled 'FORTRESS America' in October 2026. What is the primary objective of this project?

- (a) Establishing a joint space-exploration base in Antarctica
- (b) Hardening defence installations, cyber resilience, and securing strategic supply chains
- (c) Developing deep-sea autonomous missile submarines
- (d) Restricting civilian artificial intelligence usage nationwide

Answer: (b) Hardening defence installations, cyber resilience, and securing strategic supply chains

Detailed Explanation: 'FORTRESS America' is a defense initiative designed to counter emerging hybrid threats including cyberattacks, sabotage, drone attacks, power-grid disruptions, and global supply-chain bottlenecks. Its strategic pillars focus on defense installation hardening, cyber resilience, energy independence, space/spectrum resilience, and establishing a strategic defense reserve for critical supplies like munitions, fuel, and medical inventory.

Q3. Which European free trade bloc entered an agreement where member states pledged to invest USD 100 billion into India over 15 years to generate 1 million direct jobs?

- (a) European Union (EU)
- (b) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

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- (c) Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- (d) Nordic Council

Answer: (b) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Detailed Explanation: Under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)—consisting of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein—committed to facilitating USD 100 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India over a 15-year timeline, creating an estimated 1 million direct jobs.

Section 2: National News & Government Schemes

Q4. What is the total financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the "Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana" (PM VGSY) implemented for the FY27–FY31 period?

- (a) ₹3,250.00 crore
- (b) ₹5,100.50 crore
- (c) ₹7,395.55 crore
- (d) ₹10,000.00 crore

Answer: (c) ₹7,395.55 crore

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with a total allocation of ₹7,395.55 crore for five financial years (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31). The scheme aims to strengthen grassroots governance, rural digital infrastructure, and local administrative capacity across Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Q5. On 29 October 2026, the Ayushman Vay Vandana initiative completed how many years of its implementation?

- (a) 1 Year
- (b) 2 Years
- (c) 5 Years
- (d) 10 Years

Answer: (b) 2 Years

Detailed Explanation: The Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme completed 2 years of implementation on 29 October 2026. Launched on 29 October 2024 under the AB PM-JAY framework, it extends free health insurance coverage up to ₹5 lakh per year to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, regardless of their socio-economic status.

Q6. Under the administrative operational framework clarified for the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in October 2026, which body holds administrative management of tribunal registry, supporting staff, and daily office workforce?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Supreme Court of India
- (c) NCLT itself
- (d) Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

Answer: (c) NCLT itself

Detailed Explanation: A clarification regarding NCLT administrative setup emphasized the structural distinction between

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judicial/technical adjudication and support workforce management. While member selection steps follow Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) administrative channels, internal administrative responsibility for recruiting, managing operational registry staff, court officers, and office workforce rests directly with the NCLT itself under delegated powers to safeguard functional autonomy.

Section 3: Banking & Economics

Q7. In its Monthly Economic Review released in late October 2026, what GDP growth rate did the Ministry of Finance project for India for Q2 (July–September) of FY27?

- (a) 6.50%
- (b) 6.80%
- (c) 7.35%
- (d) 8.10%

Answer: (c) 7.35%

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in its Monthly Economic Review for October 2026, projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate at 7.35% for the second quarter (Q2: July–September) of the Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27), driven by resilient urban consumption, manufacturing output, and public capital expenditure.

Q8. Which private sector bank launched a specialized savings account named 'YES vibez' targeting Generation Z customers in October 2026?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) YES BANK
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) ICICI Bank

Answer: (b) YES BANK

Detailed Explanation: YES BANK launched 'YES vibez', a customized savings account variant specifically designed to cater to the digital banking, lifestyle, rewards, and personal finance management needs of Generation Z (Gen Z) customers.

Q9. India Post signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which financial entity in October 2026 to strengthen pan-India doorstep KYC services?

- (a) SBI Mutual Fund
- (b) UTI Mutual Fund
- (c) HDFC AMC
- (d) LIC Housing Finance

Answer: (b) UTI Mutual Fund

Detailed Explanation: India Post partnered with UTI Mutual Fund via an MoU to leverage India Post's extensive postal network and Gramin Dak Sevaks to deliver doorstep Know Your Customer (KYC) verification services, expanding mutual fund accessibility across rural and semi-urban India.

Section 4: Appointments & Resignations

Q10. Who was appointed as the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCoAS) of the Indian Air Force in late October 2026?

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- (a) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- (b) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia
- (c) Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
- (d) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor

Answer: (b) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia

Detailed Explanation: Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia was officially designated as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCoAS) of the Indian Air Force in October 2026, taking on key operational and staff responsibilities at Air Headquarters.

Q11. Who was appointed as the President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the term 2026–27?

- (a) Subhrakant Panda
- (b) Anish Shah
- (c) Vijay Sankar
- (d) Harsh Vardhan Agarwal

Answer: (c) Vijay Sankar

Detailed Explanation: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), during its National Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai, announced the appointment of Vijay Sankar (Chairman of The Sanmar Group) as its President-Elect for 2026–27.

Q12. The Central Government granted a one-year tenure extension to Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, extending his term up to which date?

- (a) 31 October 2027
- (b) 31 March 2027
- (c) 30 June 2028
- (d) 31 December 2026

Answer: (a) 31 October 2027

Detailed Explanation: Senior IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Singh (1989 batch, Kerala cadre) was granted a one-year service extension as Union Defence Secretary till 31 October 2027. He took over as the 40th Defence Secretary in November 2024.

Section 5: Sports

Q13. Manisha Bhanwala created history on 30 October 2026 by winning a gold medal at the Senior World Wrestling Championships in Astana. In which weight category did she win?

- (a) 50 kg
- (b) 53 kg
- (c) 59 kg
- (d) 62 kg

Answer: (c) 59 kg

Detailed Explanation: Indian wrestler Manisha Bhanwala created history by winning the gold medal in the women's 59 kg category at the Senior World Wrestling Championships 2026 in Astana. She staged a historic comeback from a 0–6 deficit to beat Abigail Elizabeth Nette of the USA 8–6 in the final, becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold at the Senior World Wrestling Championships.

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Q14. How many total medals did India win at the Asian Para Games 2026, achieving its highest-ever tally in the competition's history?

- (a) 107
- (b) 111
- (c) 114
- (d) 124

Answer: (c) 114

Detailed Explanation: India concluded its Asian Para Games 2026 campaign with a record total of 114 medals—comprising 30 gold, 35 silver, and 49 bronze—finishing 4th in the overall medal tally. This eclipsed India's previous best record of 108 medals set in Hangzhou.

Q15. Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade ended a 72-year medal drought for India in mixed doubles by reaching the semifinals of which championship in October 2026?

- (a) Asian Table Tennis Championships
- (b) World Table Tennis Contender
- (c) Commonwealth Table Tennis Cup
- (d) ITTF World Cup

Answer: (a) Asian Table Tennis Championships

Detailed Explanation: The duo of Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade made history by securing India's first mixed doubles medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in 72 years (since 1954) by progressing to the semifinals in Tashkent.

Section 6: Defense News & MoUs

Q16. Indian defence startup IG Defence signed an MoU with MSA Global LLC of which nation for co-developing advanced unmanned defense systems?

- (a) United Arab Emirates
- (b) Oman
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) Qatar

Answer: (b) Oman

Detailed Explanation: Indian defence technology startup IG Defence signed an agreement with Oman-based MSA Global LLC to co-develop and localize indigenous platforms such as 'KAL' (Long-range attack UAS with a 1,000 km range) and 'BAJ' (Unmanned Aerial Interceptor) for deployment across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Q17. Headquarter Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) signed a 5-year MoU with which Indian Artificial Intelligence firm in October 2026 to deploy AI across the Army, Navy, and Air Force?

- (a) Krutrim AI
- (b) Sarvam AI
- (c) Wadhwani AI
- (d) Yellow.ai

Answer: (b) Sarvam AI

Detailed Explanation: HQ Integrated Defence Staff partnered with Sarvam AI under a 5-year MoU to design, build, and deploy tri-service defense AI solutions. Focus areas include military decision-support systems, target

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acquisition, multi-sensor intelligence integration, satellite map/imagery analysis, and multi-service agent coordination.

Q18. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved a major project worth over ₹40,000 crore to construct how many Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy?

- (a) 4
- (b) 6
- (c) 8
- (d) 12

Answer: (c) 8

Detailed Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) sanctioned a major naval procurement scheme exceeding ₹40,000 crore for building 8 Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) indigenously, aimed at strengthening warfighting capabilties in surface warfare, anti-submarine operations, and coastal surveillance.

Section 7: Science, Technology & Environment

Q19. ISRO's upcoming satellite mission, NVS-03, belongs to which Indian satellite system series?

- (a) INSAT
- (b) GSAT
- (c) NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)
- (d) RISAT

Answer: (c) NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)

Detailed Explanation: NVS-03 is a second-generation satellite designed for India's regional satellite navigation system, NavIC. NavIC provides positioning coverage over India and up to 1,500 km beyond its land borders. NVS-03 carries an atomic clock and operates with L1, L5, and S-band signals to enhance accuracy.

Q20. A new microscopic land snail species was discovered in October 2026 in which region of Maharashtra?

- (a) Mahabaleshwar, Satara
- (b) Tilari Region, Kolhapur
- (c) Matheran, Raigad
- (d) Kaas Plateau

Answer: (b) Tilari Region, Kolhapur

Detailed Explanation: Researchers discovered a new species of microscopic land snail in the biodiversity-rich forest landscape of the Tilari region in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, highlighting the ecological richness of the Western Ghats corridor.

Q21. The DRDO Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system energy module will be handed over in early 2027 to which shipyard for integration into Kalvari-class submarines?

- (a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- (c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

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- (d) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

Answer: (c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

Detailed Explanation: Following operational land-based testing overseen by Defence Secretary and DRDO leadership, the land-based prototype of the indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Energy Module will be delivered to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) for integration into the Scorpène / Kalvari-class submarine retrofits.

Section 8: Awards & Honors

Q22. Eminent Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen was awarded which prestigious international physics honor in October 2026?

- (a) Lorentz Medal
- (b) Oskar Klein Medal
- (c) Boltzmann Medal
- (d) Copley Medal

Answer: (b) Oskar Klein Medal

Detailed Explanation: Professor Ashoke Sen (ICTS-Infosys Madhava Chair Professor) became the first Indian physicist awarded the Oskar Klein Medal (instituted by Stockholm University and the Nobel Committee for Physics) for groundbreaking research contributions to string field theory, S-duality, and black hole entropy.

Q23. Legendary singer Usha Mangeshkar was announced as the inaugural recipient of which newly instituted national award by the Assam State Government?

- (a) Srimanta Sankardev National Award
- (b) Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award
- (c) Assam Baibhav Puraskar
- (d) Lata Mangeshkar Smriti Samman

Answer: (b) Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award

Detailed Explanation: Playback singer Usha Mangeshkar was named the first recipient of the Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award. Instituted by the Assam Cabinet, the award honors exemplary contributions to Indian music and culture and carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh alongside a citation.

Section 9: Art, Culture & Heritage

Q24. Which 16th-century historic monument in New Delhi was selected as the principal venue for the flagship cultural exhibition during the major Delhi Heritage & Arts festival announced in late October 2026?

- (a) Red Fort
- (b) Humayun's Tomb
- (c) Purana Qila
- (d) Qutub Minar

Answer: (c) Purana Qila

Detailed Explanation: Purana Qila (Old Fort), constructed during the 16th century, was chosen as the central venue for the flagship multi-month cultural exhibition organized by

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the Ministry of Culture to showcase India's architectural, manuscript, and living art heritage across Delhi's historic precincts.

Q25. National Manuscripts Authority (NMA) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) entered an agreement focused on which key cultural objective?

- (a) Restoring ancient stone sculptures in South India
- (b) Digitization, digital archiving, and technological research on manuscript heritage
- (c) Translating modern literature into foreign languages
- (d) Auctioning historical artifacts to international museums

Answer: (b) Digitization, digital archiving, and technological research on manuscript heritage

Detailed Explanation: The collaboration centers on digitizing physical manuscript collections, integrating them with the National Digital Repository, developing technological exchange for document conservation, and providing controlled scholarly access to India's rare manuscripts.

Section 10: Important Days & Anniversaries

Q26. What is the official global theme for World Savings Day (World Thrift Day) observed on October 31, 2026?

- (a) "Saving for a Green Tomorrow"
- (b) "AI Advises, human decides"
- (c) "Conquer your future with budget control"
- (d) "Digital Finance for All"

Answer: (b) "AI Advises, human decides"

Detailed Explanation: World Savings Day (also called World Thrift Day) is observed annually on 31 October. The 2026 theme, "AI Advises, human decides", emphasizes combining automated AI-driven financial insights with human personal judgment in saving and investment decisions.

Q27. World Cities Day is celebrated annually by the United Nations on which date?

- (a) 24 October
- (b) 28 October
- (c) 31 October
- (d) 5 November

Answer: (c) 31 October

Detailed Explanation: World Cities Day is observed every year on October 31 to promote global interest in urban policy, address urbanization challenges, and foster international cooperation for sustainable urban development.

Q28. National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated in India every year on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of which leader?

- (a) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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- (c) Bhagat Singh
- (d) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Answer: (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Detailed Explanation: October 31 marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of independent India, celebrated nationwide as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) to honor his pivotal role in integrating 565 princely states into the Indian Union.

Q29. 31st October marks the death anniversary of which former Prime Minister of India?

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (b) Indira Gandhi
- (c) Rajiv Gandhi
- (d) Morarji Desai

Answer: (b) Indira Gandhi

Detailed Explanation: 31st October marks the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi, India's first female Prime Minister, who was assassinated on October 31, 1984.

Section 11: Obits & Books

Q30. Barbara Barrie, who passed away in late October 2026 at the age of 95, was associated with which field?

- (a) Classical Music
- (b) Acting & Theatre
- (c) Space Exploration
- (d) Literature & Journalism

Answer: (b) Acting & Theatre

Detailed Explanation: Barbara Barrie was a veteran Oscar-nominated and Tony-nominated American actress, known for her performances in film, television, and Broadway stage productions over a career spanning several decades.

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