

# Drug Related Information Monthly Report - January 2020 Fact Sheet



**Research Division**  
**National Dangerous Drugs Control Board**

## **Introduction**

Currently, drug prevalence, drug related offences and drug related offenders who were arrested by Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies are increasing. Studying about reported drug related arrests and treatment data is very helpful to identify the current trends and patterns on drug abuse. Therefore, the research division has introduced the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS). DAMS is a computerized information system, which collects information on persons arrested for drug related offences and persons seeking treatment for drug use. This report is prepared by using recorded data of DAMS in December in 2019 and January in 2020 and the report revealed information on drug related arrests.

## **Objectives**

The objectives are to document current trends and patterns on drug related arrests and treatment for policy making and to disseminate knowledge on current trends to the NDDCB staff and other related agencies for drug control, planning of prevention, treatment and outreach programmes.

## **Results and Findings**

According to the recorded figures, 5201 persons were arrested for drug related offences during December in 2019 and January in 2020. Among these arrestees, 2433 persons were arrested in December and 2768 persons were arrested in January. It was 14% increase in January in 2020 with compare to December in 2019.

## **District**

By considering the arrested data in January, the highest number of persons (823) was reported from Colombo district. Gampaha (258), Galle (213), Kandy (129) and Anuradhapura (123) districts were recorded as the next highest number of drug related arrests respectively. 16 districts were highlighted with increased number of arrested persons in January with compared to December and highest increasing percentage was reported from Hambanthota district. 9 districts showed a decrease in January in 2020 with compared to December in 2019 and highest decreasing percentage was indicated from Mullativu district. However, considerable numbers of arrests were reported in every district during the considered period.

**Gender**

The majority (98%) of the arrested persons in January was males and rest was females. By comparing the data in December and January, the majorities were males in both months and figures were same.

**Age**

61% of arrested persons in January belonged to 20-34 age category. There were significant numbers of arrested persons in all age categories above 14 years. By comparing age categories of arrested persons in December with January, it can be clearly identified that there were only small variations within the proportions of each categories.

**Marital Status**

50.58% of the arrested persons in January were married and 49.17% were unmarried. Rest of the arrested persons in January was divorced, widowed, cohabited and separated. By considering the arrested persons in December, 52.24% of them were unmarried and 47.51% were married while rest of them was divorced and separated. The data highlighted that the percentage of married arrested persons in January was greater than the percentage of unmarried persons and it was vice versa in December.

**Education**

Although 2.46% of arrested persons in January never been to school, there were 39.67% of the arrested persons who had been obtained Ordinary Level education qualification. Also, 9.14% of the arrested persons in January had completed advanced level. There were 10 arrested graduates and 1 arrested professional qualifier in January. By considering the arrested persons in December, it can be clearly identified that there were significant numbers of persons for each educational category except category of professionals.

## **Ethnicity and Religion**

75.7% of the arrested persons in January were Sinhalese, 10.7% were Tamils, 8.8% were Moors and rest of the persons belonged to Malay, Burgher and other ethnicity categories. By comparing the ethnicities of arrested persons in December and January, the majorities of the arrested persons in each of these two months were Sinhalese but considerable number of arrested persons from other ethnicities such as Tamils and Moors were also recorded. These data showed that the percentage of Tamils was greater than the percentage of Moors in December and it was same in January.

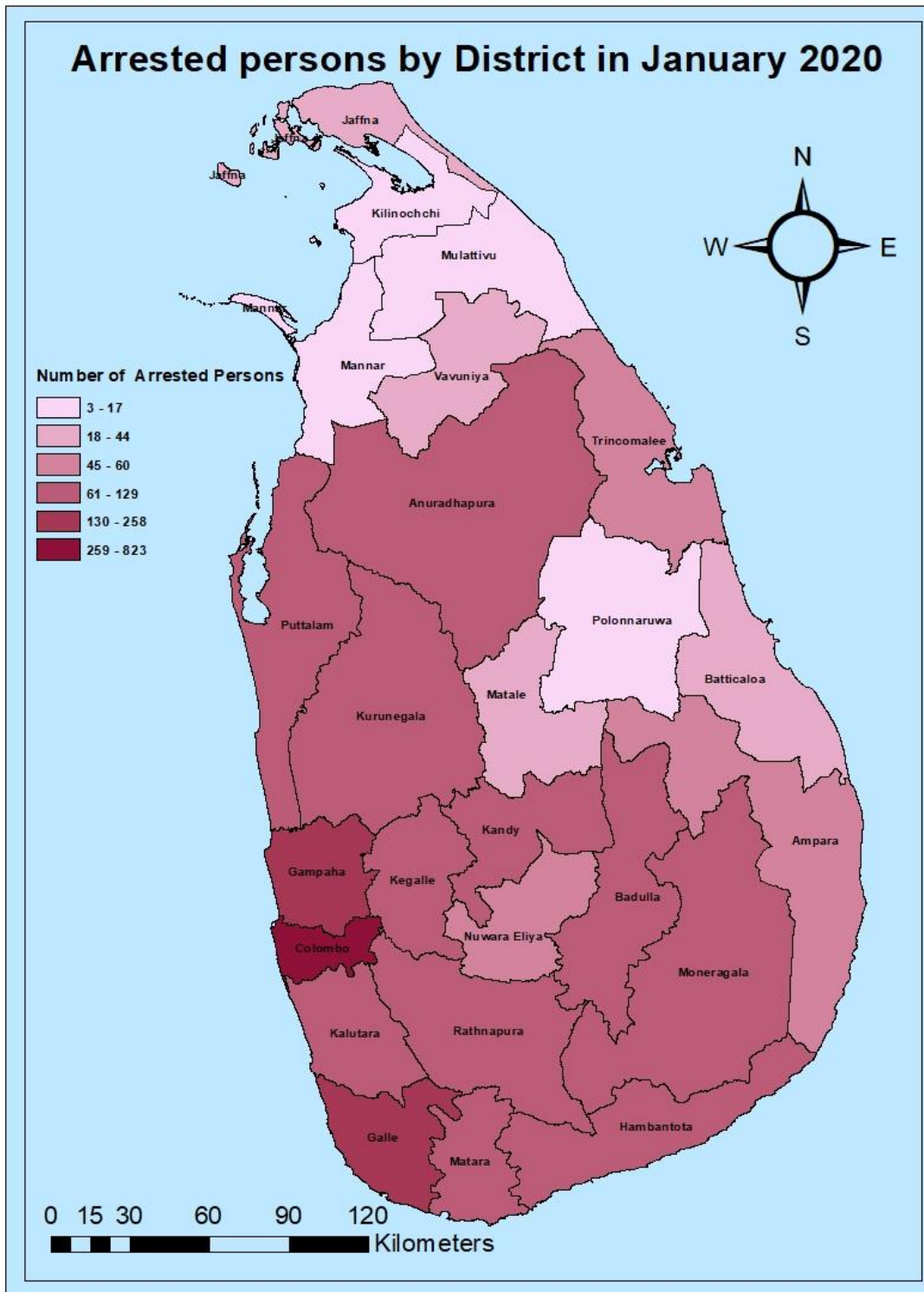
76.05% of the arrested persons in January were Buddhists, 11.99% were Islam, 8.85% were Hindus and 3.03% were Christians. By comparing the religions of arrestees in December with January, it can be identified that distributions of religions of arrestees in December and January were significantly similar. Majority of the arrested persons was Buddhists but there were arrested persons belonged to other religions as well. Therefore, it indicated that religion and ethnicity were not significant factors for engaging the drug related offences.

## **Occupation**

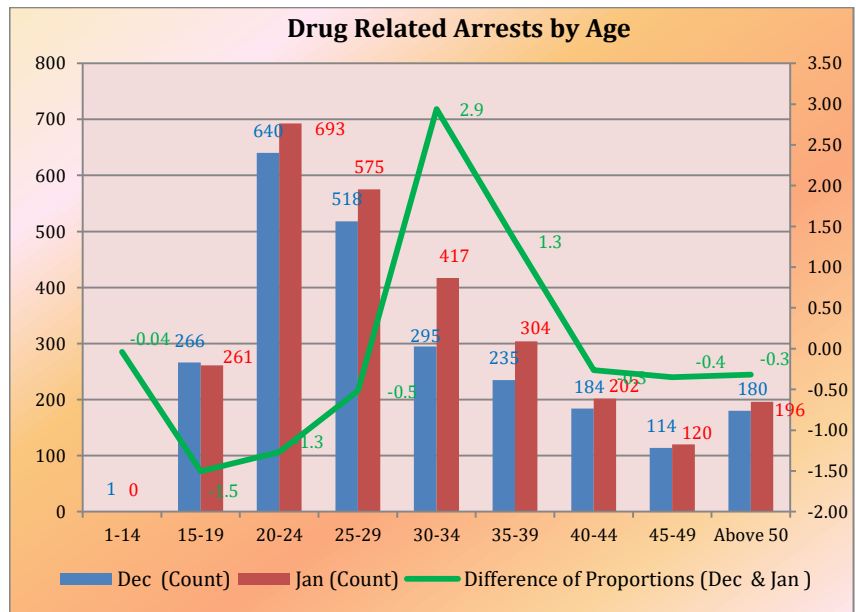
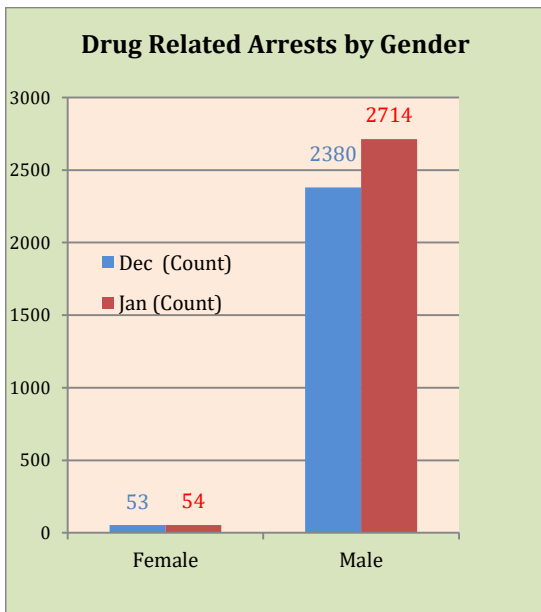
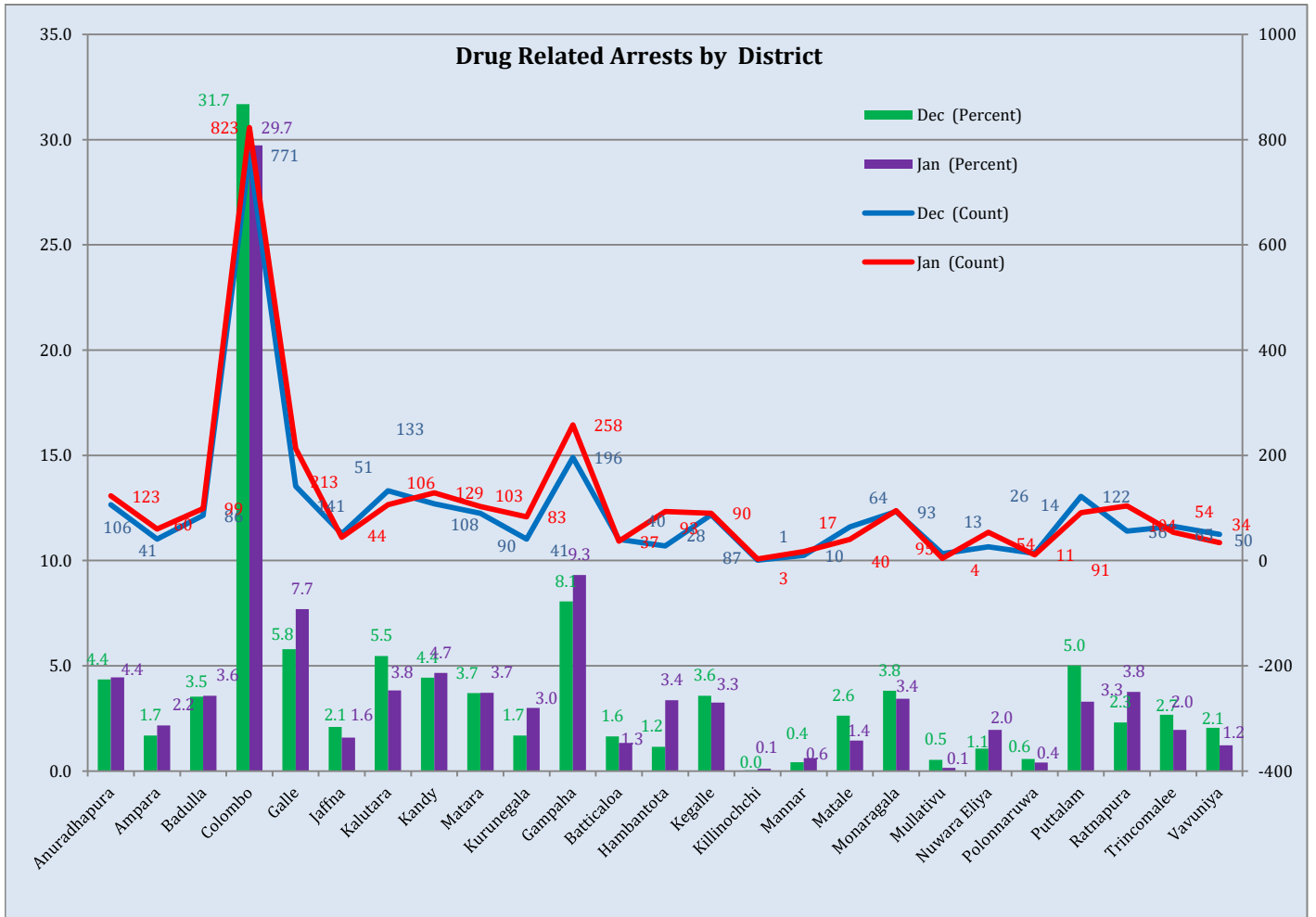
From the related data in January, 39.3% of arrestees were labourers, 6.7% were farmers, 11.5% were unemployed, 3.7% were self-employed, 0.4% was students and 3.1% were professionals. By comparing the distributions of occupation of arrestees between December and January, it can be clearly identified that ratio of labourers was the highest from ratios of each occupation category which were engaging by arrestees in each months. In addition some of the arrestees were working as drivers, fishermen, businessmen etc. However, there were small fluctuations in ratios of every occupation which were being engaged by arrestees in January with compared to December.

## **Type of Drugs**

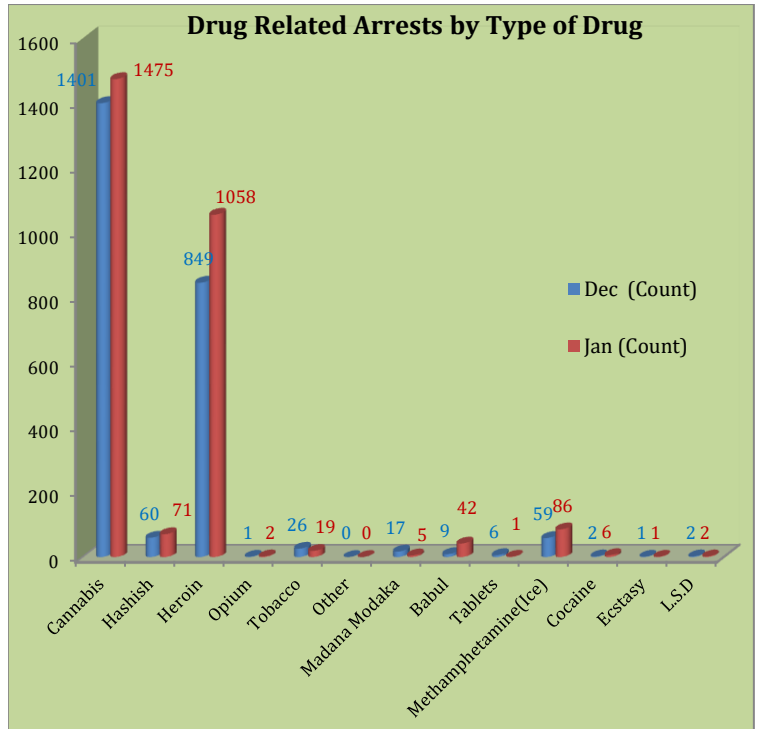
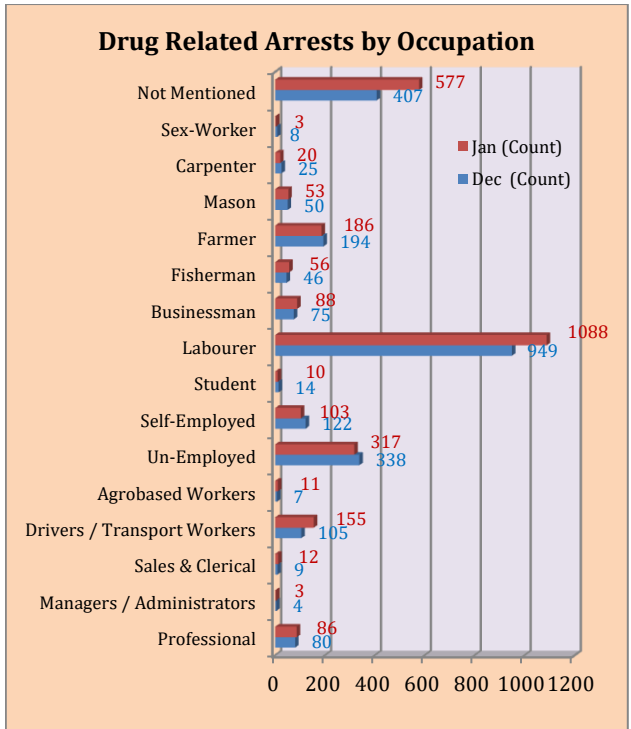
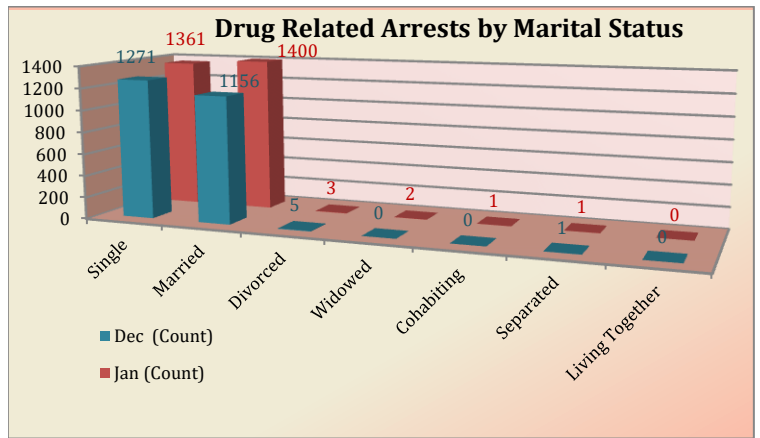
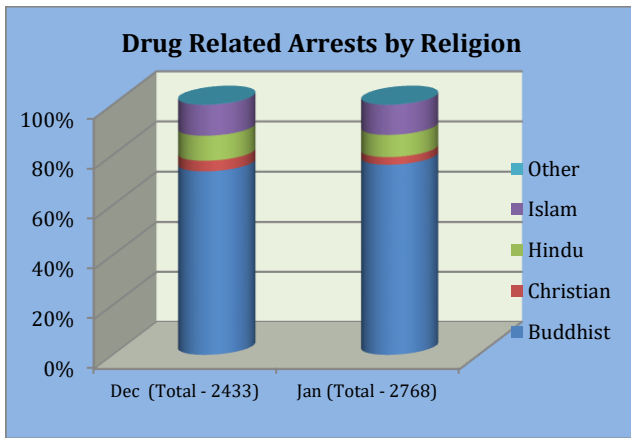
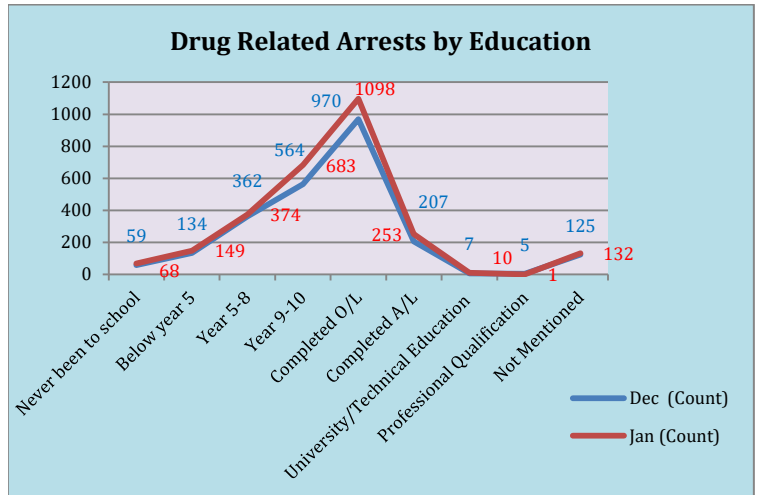
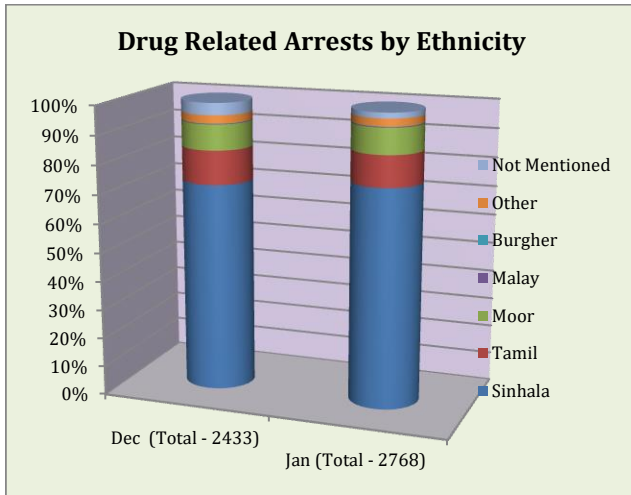
Cannabis was the most reported drug, which was involved in drug related offences in December as well as January, but the cannabis related offences had been decreased from 57.58% to 53.29% in January with compared to December. Heroin was the next highest abused drug. 34.90% and 38.22% of arrestees in December and January were engaging in heroin related offence respectively. Hashish (2.57%), Opium (0.07%), tobacco (0.69%), madanamodaka (0.18), babul (1.52%), tablets (0.04%), L.S.D (0.07%), Cocaine (0.22%), Ecstasy (0.04%) and methamphetamine (Ice) (3.11%) were the rest of the drugs which were involved in drug related offences in January.



(Source - Drug Abuse Monitoring System in December 2019 - January 2020)



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