

## CHAPTER - I

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION AND APPROACH TO PRESENT STUDY

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- The region under study
- Landuse
- Industrial landscape
- Transportation network
- Urbanization as a process
- Urbanization in Indian context
- Objectives of present study
- Data base and Methodology

The region under study :

The state of Maharashtra with 3.08 lakhs sq.kms. of an area and 6.28 crores of population in 1981, is the third largest state in the country both in area and population. The geographical location of the study region indicates that it lies between 16°4' to 22°1' north latitudes and 72°6' to 80°9' east longitudes. Administratively the entire region is divided into four divisions and twenty six districts (Fig.1.1). There are 301 tahsil units in Maharashtra. According to 1981 census, in comparison with India the study area has 7.8% rural population and 13.8% urban population. It is highly urbanised state of India, where 35.03% population lives in urban areas. There are 307 urban centres in Maharashtra of which 29 urban centres are classified as class I cities. There are 39,354 inhabited rural settlements in the area.

Physically the state comprises four natural divisions. The coastal low land, hilly area of Sahyadries, the Deccan plateau region and Tapi-Purna Valley region. There are several important rivers flowing in east-west and west-east direction. The deccan rivers and their tributories flow down the plateau slope eastward. The river of Tapi-Purna system flow towards west and the short but swift river of Konkan drain into the Arabian sea. The Krishna, the Godavari, the Tapi - Purna, the Warda, and the Wainganga are the important river of Maharashtra (Fig.1.2).

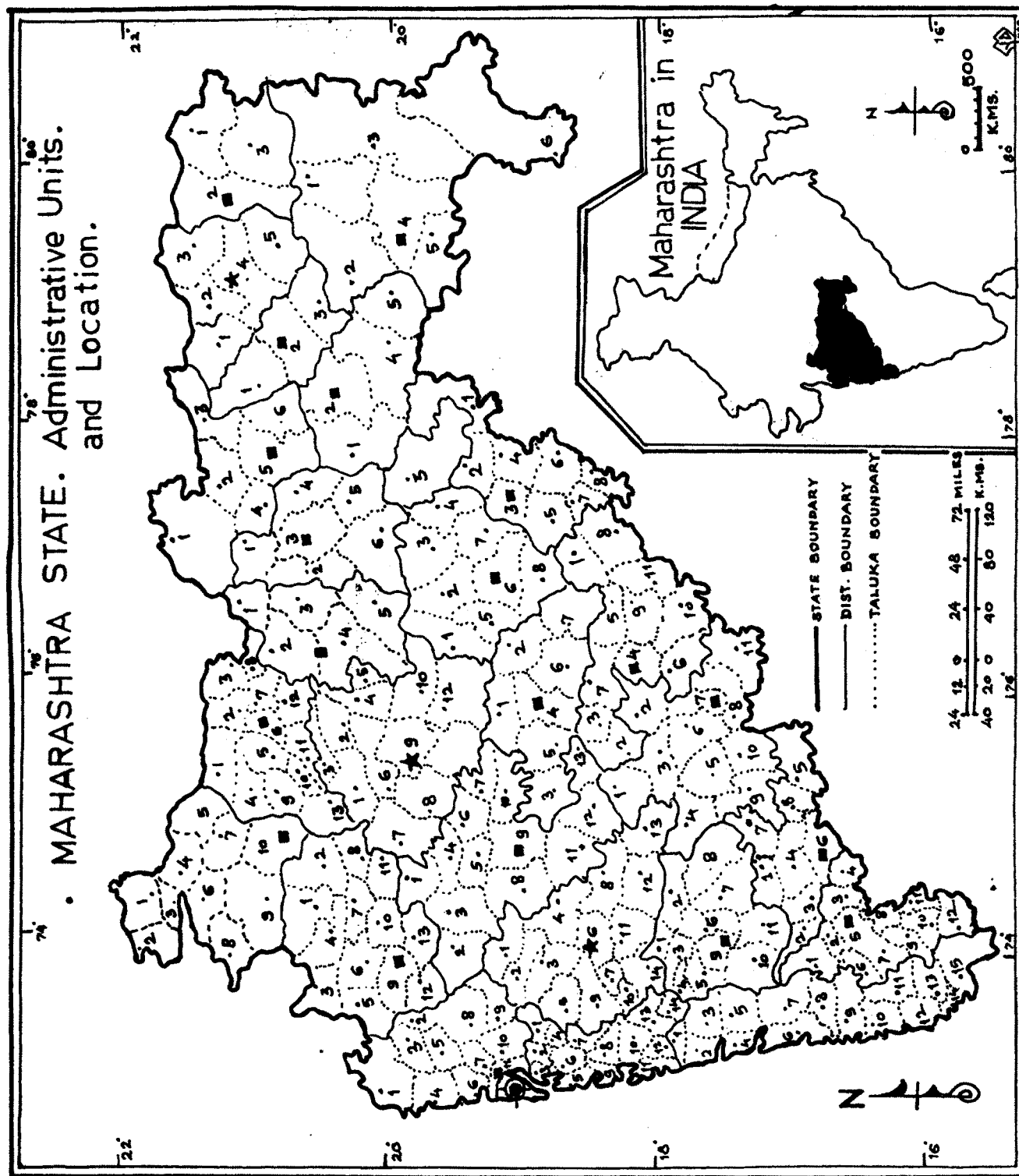


Fig. 1.1

Landuse :

The general landuse of Maharashtra indicates that out of the total area, 17.3% is covered by forest and 59.32% land under cultivation. Area sown more than once is only 5.4%. In respect of agriculture it is observed that Pune and Bombay divisions have developed agriculture where the percentage of land under cultivation is also more. Marathwada and Vidharbha region have more percentage of cultivable land, but the percentage of land under irrigation is less.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of Maharashtra. The state has several irrigation projects which have tried to develop irrigation of Maharashtra. Only 6% of cropped area of the state is under irrigation and it is estimated that in the near future another 4% water potential will be developed in Maharashtra which will help to bring nearly 10% cropped area under irrigation. Sugarcane, tobacco, cotton and groundnut are the important cash crops of Maharashtra. Konkan region is dominated by various fruit crops, spices and rice. Rice is the staple crop of area associated with ragi and millets. Western Maharashtra plateau region is dominated by sugarcane cultivation. Jowar & rice are the important food crops of the area. Marathwada and Vidharbha region are dominated by cotton and groundnut where jowar and pulses is the staple food of the people.

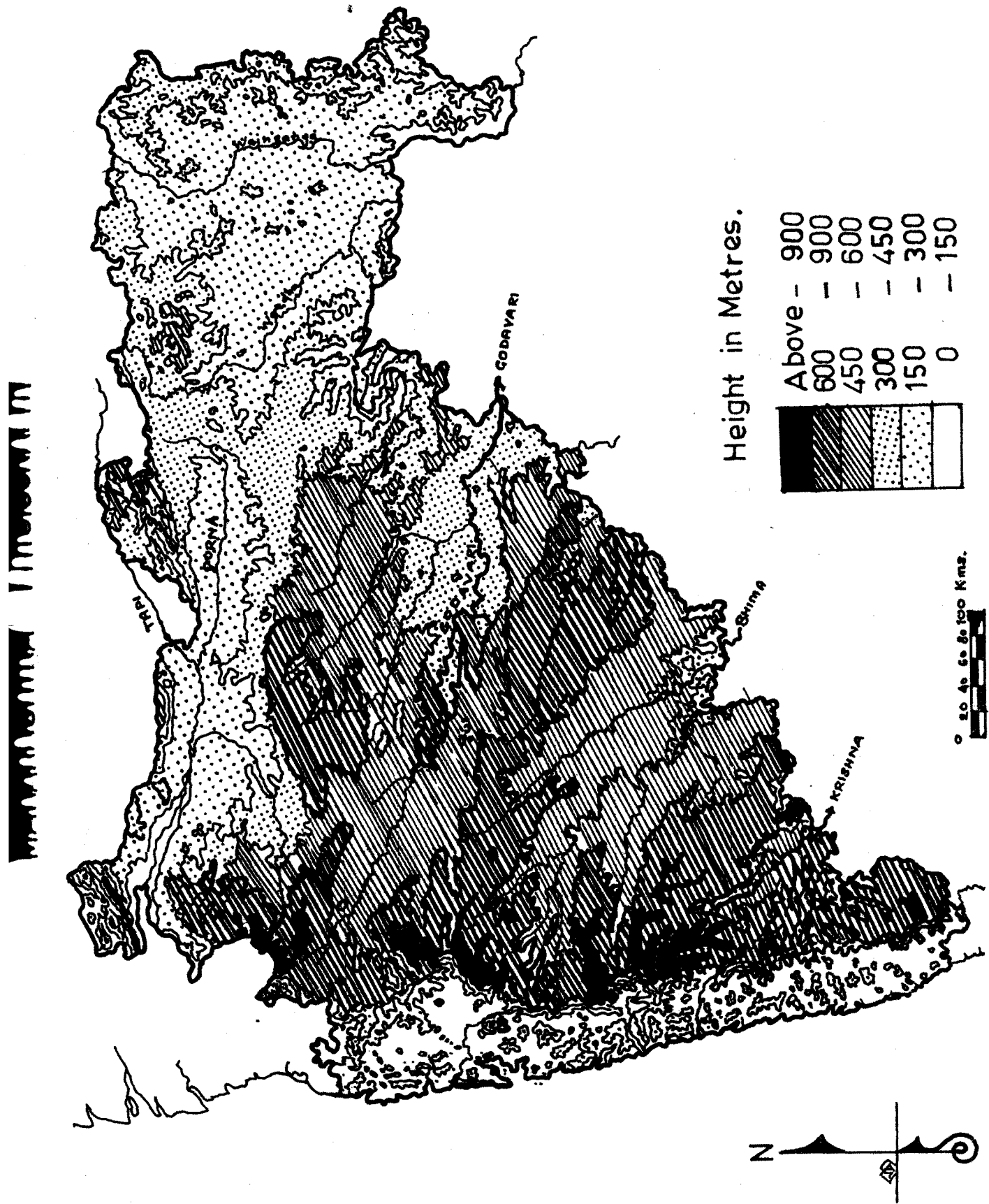


Fig. 1.2

Industrial landscape :

From the point of view of economic production; it is the large-scale industry that plays the dominant role and makes Maharashtra one of the leading industrial state of the union.

Industrial development in Maharashtra has been characterised by uncontrolled growth of industries in Bombay - Pune urban belt. It has created extreme regional imbalance. To solve this problem the state has adopted a deliberate policy of dispersal of industries. The government has established Regional Development Corporations. These corporations have tried to establish new industries in different parts of Maharashtra. All these industries are financed by M.S.F.C. Bombay-Pune is one important industrial agglomeration of Maharashtra. The another industrial agglomeration is found in Kolhapur-Solapur urban zone. In Marathwada industrial development is very rapid in Aurangabad and Nanded districts. In Vidarbha region only Nagpur area is industrially developed. Comparing the entire Maharashtra, it is observed that Bombay and Pune divisions have developed more industries as compared to Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. In Vidarbha, Chandrapur district has rich infrastructure for the development of industries. It is the richest district of Maharashtra in respect of mineral and forest wealth.

According to 1981 reports Maharashtra has 15,170 working factories with 1,176,537 workers.

### Transportation network :

The evolution of the present transport network in Maharashtra shows the influence of both relief and techno-economic progress recorded from the ancient past to the present time. The development in the present century, especially after independence, and the present state of the transport network is revealed by the following figures. The total rail length of 5,225 kms. consists of 3,131 kms. in broad gauge, 994 kms. in metre gauge and 1,100 kms. in narrow gauge (1981). The total road length is 141,131 kms. of which 2,943 kms. are of national highway category, 18,949 kms. of state highway category, 25,233 kms. of district road category, and the rest are unsurfaced. A comparison, however, with all-India figures, reveals the relatively unfavourable position of the transport network in Maharashtra, and this appears all the more surprising for a state which is rapidly industrialising. The road length in Maharashtra is 46 kms. per 100 sq.kms. of area and 224 kms. per lakh of population.

### Urbanization as a process :

Urbanisation is a process of agglomeration of people and concentration of economic activities in geographic space. It exercises a growing influence on all aspects of life of society, affecting the nature of economic development. It also involves the influence of demographic; ethnic and social processes. Urbanisation being a complex and multi dimensional process.

Its study requires a comprehensive approach. Thus, the study of the process pose a basic question in defining the concept of urbanisation.

Hauser (1965) in 'UNESCO Handbook' defines, "Urbanisation (from demographic point of view) is a process of population concentration which occurs by increase in the number of points of concentrations or agglomerations and by increase in the size of individual population concentration or agglomeration".

Assessment of the extent of urbanisation implies the study of the number of urban places and their respective sizes, the absolute number of persons living in urban places and the proportion of the total population in urban places.

Lynch (1963) while commenting on some aspects of rural, urban, continuum in India, has defined 'urban', 'urbanism', and 'urbanisation'. Urban is defined as "That complex which makes of the characteristic mode of life in towns and cities", and urbanism, is "The process of urbanism or the adaption of men and women to urban life, it is a process that is internal to the urban or city setting itself". Urbanisation, on the otherhand, is the development and extention of these (urban) factors, Urbanisation and urban are the process and the fact respectively.

Thus the concept 'urbanisation' implies changes in nature of peoples activities in the ratio between the population engaged in non-agricultural activities and the rest of the population.



Urbanisation can be represented as process leading to a spatial concentration of activities in relatively few areas where urban efficiency is the highest (Allam and Pokhishevsky, 1974).

The process of urbanisation takes place, when the proportion of urban population is increasing. When the rate of growth of urban population increases it brings the reproductive change in urban population. Urbanisation also increases due to re-classification of rural-settlements into urban status. But the real change in urban growth character is due to the net in migration of rural population.

The rural to urban migration is the chief component of the urbanisation and the essential mechanism by which the urban trends are accomplished (N.B.K.Reddy, 1970).

The simplest and the most commonly accepted definition of urbanisation refers to the proportion of total population living in the urban settlements or else to a rise in proportion.

Sociologists treat urbanisation as a process of diffusion of certain modernizing traits or characteristic in a population. It is often considered to be a causal factor of modernization. According to this approach, urbanisation can occur in a rural setting too. It is, however; pointed out that these traits characterise the urban areas more than the rural areas and hence urbanisation and modernization go together.

Economists considered urbanisation as a process where the primary production functions are replaced by secondary, tertiary and quaternary functions. Economic activities and land values are the main focus of urban economist, although in recent years they have tended to be more interdisciplinary in approach.

Geographers views; urbanisation as a process of concentration of population in human settlements either through multiplication of the points of concentration or through increase in size of existing points of concentration.

Urbanisation as a sub-process of general process of development is a continuous and secular process of change. R.P.Misra, (1970) defined "Urbanisation as a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial, and sectoral changes in demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society". These changes manifest themselves in increasing concentrations of population in human settlements larger than villages; in increasing involvement of people in secondary and tertiary production functions and in progressive adoption of certain traits.

The division of the human habitat into 'urban' and 'rural' is based on a distinction of certain attributes of population of the habitat. Eventhough, the two constructs are associated with dichotomies of 'modern', and 'traditional' and 'industrial' and 'agricultural'; apparently one finds urban attributes in rural

population and areas; and rural attributes in urban population and areas. Urbanisation then includes the change of rural attributes to urban ones. According to V.L.S. Prakash Rao (1983) the urbanisation process relates to concentration of the people engaged in non-agricultural occupations and concentration of non-agricultural landuses in a spatilized area. Urbanization thus involves :-

- a) Concentration of people at population densities higher than those associated with agricultural population.
- b) Population shift (migration) from rural to urban area.
- c) Occupational shift from agricultural to non-agricultural &
- d) Landuse shift from agriculture to non-agriculture.

These shifts; associated with economic development are not always conterminus, contiguous or sequential and are accompanied by a rise in incomes and consequant improvement in standard of living, change in 'life style', and changes in institutional frame work. Thus there is a chain a shifts in the process of urbanization.

#### Urbanisation in Indian context :

The distiction between rural and urban is not always amenable to a single definition which could be applicable to all countries.

There is no universally accepted definition of the term urban. An urban area should be distinguished not mearily on the

basis of defined demographic characteristic but also on the basis of the levels of infra-structure facilities. Ideally, it would be useful to define urban areas in terms of the levels of infra-structure development and the availability of social amenities in a given area; but criteria based on such considerations have not yet been adopted in defining an urban area in India. For 1981 census the conventional definition has been adopted largely for the purpose of maintenance of comparability and for administrative convenience the definitions of urban unit which was adopted at the 1971 census has been continued which in fact has been adopted in 1961.

The census of India recognized the settlements as an urban places when they are fulfill the following criterias.

- a) All places with a municipalities, corporation, contonment board or notified town area committee etc.
- b) All other places which satisfied the following criterians.
  - i) A minimum population of 5,000.
  - ii) At least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
  - iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq.kms. (1,000 persons per sq.miles).

The objectives of present study :

In the present work an attempts have been made to study the post-independence trends of urbanisation and patterns of

urban growth in the state of Maharashtra. This study attempts to highlights on the following objectives.

- i) To identify the trends of urbanisation since independence.
- ii) To analyse the spatial and temporal variations of urban factors such as urban population, degree of urbanisation, progress of urbanisation and urban growth pattern.
- iii) To study the towns of Maharashtra with spatial referance to their class status, population size, percent share of urban population in different class order, mean size of average town and its growth.
- iv) To find out the role of class I cities in the urbanisation of Maharashtra.
- v) To understand the urban patterns (1981) in the state of Maharashtra.

#### Data base and Methodology :

The basic data pertaining to the urban centres and other demographic and socio-economic aspects of the region are collected through several census reports and socio-economic abstracts. District census handbooks, and districts gazettters of Maharashtra state are also used.

In the present study various methods and techniques have been used. However it is not appropriate to give the details of all techniques here. The details regarding various, methods and

techniques will be discussed in the text at proper places.

Various indices of distribution, concentration such as 'Lorenz Curve', 'Nearest Neighbour Analysis', have been used in the study of distribution.

In the style of presentation, the references are given at the end of each chapter.

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