Goa State Youth Policy 2015
THE GOA STATE YOUTH POLICY
By: Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt. of Goa

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[Hon. Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs]

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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FOREWORD

The youth play a pivotal role in shaping our nation's development and progress. Hence it is crucial to have healthy young minds that are capable of leading our society towards a bright future. Positive youth development including health and wellness can be boosted by engaging the youth in productive activities as such development programs assist the youth in meeting the critical challenges in today's globalized world.

Investing in today's youth is akin to investing for our future. This policy document has been drafted keeping in view the vision and endeavour of the state government to facilitate the necessary resources and provide unflinching support to Goa's dynamic youth force.

We believe that the recommendations and roadmap for policy implementation will deliver the much needed impetus for youth empowerment, and will help in fulfilling the aspirations of our young generation who will lead us to a safe, secure and prosperous future.

Ramesh Tawadkar
Hon. Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs,
Govt. of Goa

Date: 12th Jan. 2015.
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1. PREAMBLE:

A significant factor that shapes the future of any society is the role played by its youth. The youth constitute a sizeable portion of our population and it is therefore vitally important to nurture this asset. In this context, a State Youth Policy is essential for a state like Goa. This is primarily because, often, the abundant creative energies and talents of youth are neither fully tapped by society nor realized by the youth themselves resulting in detrimental effect on self as well as society. Inclusion of the nearly 40 per cent of our state’s youth populace, while framing policies, will provide the means to harness their potential. This will help in meeting the twin objectives of achieving self-development of youth and realizing a productive environment.

It is imperative to demonstrate, in action, the intent of considering youth as priority; enable youth empowerment through strategic direction and to address, in a holistic manner, all the issues concerning youth. We often speak about the “Goa of our Dreams”. This vision document for the Goan youth endeavours to lay a concrete foundation and pave the way to transform that dream into reality.

The Goa Youth Policy will initiate the process to nurture, enhance, and effect qualitative development of youth in the State of
Goa. Generally the Goan youth demonstrates active interest in various social and cultural activities; however, they tend to be mostly restricted to their own socio-cultural and religious groups. As such, it is important that our youth also need a common platform to engage in such activities; with values of nationalism, social-tolerance and inclusiveness as the guiding factors.

In the modern age, globalization has become a widespread phenomenon, and its impact on Goa is particularly profound. Utilization of the positive aspects of globalization while making the Goan youth capable to meet its challenges; to the optimum benefit of Goa's development ought to be the thrust of this exercise. There is also a need to counter the existing sentiment among Goan youth that they have no say or stake to influence governance and development of their state. Consequently, there is a pressing need to foster social consciousness and to build inter and intra-generational trust and ensure active and constructive youth participation in matters of public affairs.

Building a progressive and culturally rich Goa is possible by re-enforcing our social and cultural bonds. Hence a mechanism for acquainting today's youth with the rich cultural heritage of our state and country also becomes imperative.

Goa needs inclusive growth, and in order to achieve it, consolidated efforts by groups of young people through creation of awareness about the prevailing social evils, health problems, exploitation of deprived sections of society, gender injustice, etc., and subsequently working to achieve success would take Goa to an optimum level of social development.

2. VISION

To reach out, engage, empower and create a vibrant, educated, dynamic, healthy, value-based youth to attain their full potential to
meet the challenges of shaping a progressive, sustainable Goa, India and the world.

3. DEFINITIONS

The definition of the term “Youth” for the purpose of this policy shall be individuals in the age group of 15-35 years.

As per the census of Goa held in 2011; of the total population of 14, 58, 545; around 36.69% i.e. 5, 35, 256 comprise the Youth Population. Thus, it becomes imperative for the State of Goa to have a comprehensive Youth Policy to cater to this major sector of the society. This indeed is a broad and comprehensive category. However, this group can be further divided at the micro-level into 3 sub-groups:

a. **Sub-group of 15-18 years age.** This covers 16.50% of the total youth population and the group signifies a very important and delicate transitional phase between adolescence and youth. *(NOTE: Adolescence for the purposes of this policy may cover the age group of 11-14 years which would be attended by providing adequate education/guidance/counselling through nurturing and sensitization of this group.)*

b. **Sub-group of 19-25 years age.** This group covers 34.60% of the total youth population which broadly comprises the students who are about-to or have completed their formal education and are on the threshold of commencing their career.

c. **Sub-group of 26-35 years age.** This group covers 48.78% of the total youth population, which is relatively a mature group of youngsters who have completed formal education and are spread out in various sectors as employees,
professionals and are on the verge of settling in their sphere of work and raising families. This group would also include those who have not found a clear direction and livelihood opportunities.

4. TARGET GROUPS

It needs to be recognised that young people within an age group do not necessarily form a homogenous group. There will be different segments of youth with varying needs and aspirations that need to be addressed. These are the disadvantaged youth due to socio-economic conditions including SC/ST/OBC, young women, dropouts from formal education, marginalised/migrant youth, youth at risk and in conflict with law including substance abuse, human trafficking, hazardous occupations, juvenile offenders etc., differently abled youth, youth with chronic physical & mental ailments, marginalised/migrant youth, stigmatised youth (LGBT), and geographically disadvantaged youth (rural/mining/forest/slums).

The vertical classifications within each age sub-groups requiring focussed attention is as follows:

- Student youth
- Urban youth
- Rural Youth
- Tribal youth
- Youth in coastal belt
- Youth in mining belt
- Youth at risk and in conflict with law
- Migrant youth
- Minority youth
- Unemployed & under-employed youth
- Drop-outs from educational institutions.
- Youth in institutional care, orphanages correctional homes & prisons.
- Adolescents.
- Young Women.
- Differently abled youth.
- Youth belonging to socially and economically deprived sections.

5. **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The highest priority of the policy is to initiate programs aimed at an inclusive holistic development of Goan youth in terms of educational, cultural, social, physical, spiritual, psychological and economic parameters.

The policies, activities, programmes and schemes of the central as well as state government should be made accessible to the Goan youth through an appropriate mechanism. Creation of an environment that is conducive for inculcation of rich nationalistic values and patriotism among Goan Youth is the ultimate goal. This also includes realizing a mechanism to provide a platform for Goan youth from rural and urban areas to display their talent.

**OBJECTIVES**

a. To inculcate values of patriotism, tolerance, peace and communal harmony; at the same time recognizing and respecting the diversity of religion, language, habitat and lifestyle of various sections of the Goan populace.

b. To make constant endeavours in the form of awareness, education, training and skill-enhancement to make the Goan youth economically stable and progressive in order to attain self-reliance.
c. To build a physically strong, mentally alert & vibrant youth and also to create awareness among youth against social evils.
d. To prepare a road-map for sustainable development of youth.
e. To ensure access to quality education, health, livelihood & recreational facilities for youth.
f. To encourage and promote volunteerism among youth.
g. To empower youth by including them in planning and implementation of various developmental programs initiated by government and civil society.
h. To extend support to young women, socially and economically disadvantaged youth, and youth with physical, sensory and intellectual impairments, and to ensure that they become a part of mainstream development process through affirmative action and measures.
i. Creation of a society wherein women of all age groups shall feel safe respected and where women shall enjoy equal status in all spheres of life without any prejudice, bias or discrimination of any nature whatsoever.

6. THRUST AREAS:

The thrust areas in the effective framework of this policy shall be as follows:

- **Nationalist Values:** Erosion of nationalist values in the minds of our youth is an issue of great concern. It is therefore the inherent need of the hour to correct this scenario and inculcate values of nationalism, patriotism and the sense of belongingness to our motherland.
Social Responsibility, Tolerance and Community Service: We need to foster the spirit of tolerance and belongingness towards the society of which youth is an integral component. It is therefore essential that youth of today is trained in the virtues of commitment, tolerance, compassion, respect, sympathy and empathy towards the needy and downtrodden.

Employable Skills: Modern day market has a huge demand for skill based human resource. Hence, imparting skill based education beyond the formal educational setup would allow youth to explore new avenues and make them self-reliant.

Education and Youth: Education is the key to a dignified life for a human being. Youth needs to be sensitized and made aware about the importance of education in their lives. There needs to be a sincere effort to minimise drop-outs and attract them to avail value-based and quality education. This would equip them to face the rigours of the competitive world and bring-in the desired transformation.

Health and Healthy Lifestyle: The advantages of demographic dividend can be accrued only if the state has a healthy youth force. All possible steps shall be taken to free the youth from all forms of addiction and abuse. Along with physical health, emphasis shall be also laid on mental health.

Sports & Recreational Facilities: Participation in games and sports serves as a great medium of holistic development of youth. Students as well as non-students shall be provided with ample opportunity to exhibit their sporting talent.

Gender Justice: The state shall strive to take all possible steps to promote empowerment of women, thereby achieving gender justice. This would involve special thrust on inculcating the spirit of mutual respect.
Social Justice: The society is ridden with various evils arising out of flawed perceptions and notions due to which a sizable population is left out from the privileges of the mainstream. The State shall strive to create a conducive environment for the upliftment of the underprivileged and neglected sections of the society.

Environment and Youth: The youth has greater role to protect and conserve the environment and pass on the legacy to the generations to come. Therefore, efforts will be made to create awareness amongst the youth about the importance of environmental protection and sustainable growth.

Youth and Local Governance: Our state can boast of a youth-dividend only if the youth are active stakeholders in the process of democratic governance of the state.

Art & Culture: Stimulating and encouraging all forms of art and culture is of paramount importance to maintain social harmony and to preserve rich heritage. The State shall ensure affirmative action in creation and promotion of a conducive environment to promote, foster and showcase the artistic excellence of the State.

Science & Technology: To nurture innovation in the young minds and to develop a scientific temper. Steps shall be taken to involve maximum number of youth in activities related to science and technology.

Industry and Socio-Cultural Impact: To create an interface between industry and its impact on social and cultural ethos of the local region, efforts shall be launched to further the economic interest of the local social capital.
7. **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**NATIONALIST VALUES:**
- Promotion of literature related to Goa's history and culture in regional languages.
- Promotion of widely accepted ideals and teachings of National Heroes.
- Developing standardised syllabus for value education.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND TOLERANCE**
- Increasing participation in community service by means of innovative activities at grass root level.
- Preparing youth for disaster management and other social-service activities.
- Providing exposure to youth in responsible and ethical use of social media.

**EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH EMPLOYABLE SKILLS**
- Efforts shall be made to channelize the entrepreneurial energy of youth who already possess skills to convert it into viable economic propositions.

**EDUCATION & YOUTH**
- It shall be the endeavour of the state to enrol every child for school education thereby attaining the highest possible enrolment at the school level.
- Education in schools and colleges shall be revised to make it more practical/realistic and work/industry related.
• HEALTH & HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
  ➢ Providing easy access to avail health services.
  ➢ Ensuring effective implementation of programs related to reproductive and sexual health of the youth.

• SPORTS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:
  ➢ Youth will be encouraged to fitness and recreational activities to promote sports culture.
  ➢ Meritorious youth shall be directed to financial sources for help in participating in national and international competitions.
  ➢ Youth would be encouraged to participate in adventure sports, water sports etc.

• GENDER JUSTICE
  ➢ Promoting the idea of gender justice and mutual respect for each other through sensitization programs and activities.
  ➢ Advocating Zero tolerance to sexual offences against women and children.

• ENVIRONMENT & YOUTH
  ➢ Creating awareness drive among youth to work for conservation of our biodiversity and environmental sustainability.
  ➢ Involving youth in decision-making bodies related to environment protection.

• ART & CULTURE
  ➢ Encouraging and attracting youth towards traditional art forms and providing the desired avenues to achieve excellence.
• Assisting youth organizations to avail schemes and programs under the existing Art & Culture Policy of Govt. of Goa.

• SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

• To promote scientific temper and foster the spirit of innovation among the youth and to curb dominant superstitions and practices by scientifically clarifying them.

• To encourage youth to be innovative in science, technology, education, medicine, administration etc. by availing the schemes under Goa State Innovation Council/Dept. of Science, Technology & Environment and other Government agencies.

• INDUSTRY & SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT

• While the state shall take all possible steps to protect economic interests of the local youth, all possible mechanisms shall be developed to promote harmony with the youth coming from other parts of the country for jobs for which local youth are not available.

• Be connected and engage with various departments of Govt. of Goa and nodal institutions of Govt. of India engaged in youth development.

• Linkage with NSS units, NYKs, CDPOs, Health Centres, Scouts & Guides, NCC units and Red Cross Society etc., with Taluka Centres.
8. ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The State of Goa shall make necessary administrative and financial provisions for the effective implementation of the plans enlisted below.

SHORT TERM PLANS

- Conducting special seminars, workshops, competitions to enhance the effective awareness of civic sense within the target group.
- Promotion of yoga, meditation, and spirituality through discourses/ symposia/ seminars at various levels in order to improve tolerance levels.
- Organising seminars, workshops to create awareness about the importance of consuming a balanced diet.
- Providing comprehensive counselling services for the enhancement of mental wellness.
- Organizing special seminars, workshops and activities to inculcate the social values and attaining eradication of social evils.
- Encouraging youth clubs and NGOs to conduct village level activities for the same.
MID TERM PLANS

- Emphasis would be given to attract non-student youth for participation in sports and games by organizing special tournaments and also special coaching camps for the same.
- A special festival for showcasing traditional sports shall be organised at taluka and state level.
- Particular emphasis would be laid on organising sports meets for differently abled youth.
- Conducting seminars/discourses/workshops for youth to acquaint them civic laws and procedures to create awareness about local self-governance.

LONG TERM PLANS

- Establishment of Goa State Youth Welfare Corporation.
- Establishment of Youth Resource Centres at taluka level.
- Development of website as an information portal and creation of Goa Youth Database.
- Setting up of Centre for Training and Research Development in a two tier system.
- To promote of Science and Technology hubs in the state and encouraging youth by giving incentive for outstanding achievers.
- In order to broaden the horizons of the youth, the Cultural Youth Exchange programs shall be promoted.
- Establishment of rehabilitation centres (Ashrams) for assisting youth widows and their children to lead a dignified life.
- Establishing de-addiction and rehabilitation centres for youth affected by drug abuse, alcoholism and other vices.
- Periodical Audit of the Goa State Youth Policy and its schemes/recommendations.
Programmes to be implemented under the plan:

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<th>Proposed program</th>
<th>Target group</th>
<th>Time frame/ Duration</th>
<th>Goal/ Objective</th>
<th>Expected outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation program</td>
<td>Resource persons /staff/ counsellors</td>
<td>1st week of April for 7 days</td>
<td>To train/upgrade skills</td>
<td>Concerned personnel would be well-versed with their scope of work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioning of Youth Helpline</td>
<td>Youth covered under the policy</td>
<td>24X7X365</td>
<td>To provide professional psychological counselling and information service and providing answers to multi-sector/ multi-level queries.</td>
<td>Prevent youth from taking drastic decisions and enabling informed decision making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign of schemes and programs of the Youth Policy and data collection exercise.</td>
<td>Individuals, youth clubs, associations and NGOs.</td>
<td>3 weeks of April</td>
<td>Sensitization and awareness of relevant schemes, preparation of action-plan, conducting surveys</td>
<td>Rapport creation with target group, Survey reports and data compilation.</td>
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<td>Career information/ Guidance workshops/ modules</td>
<td>Students awaiting results of public examinations</td>
<td>1 day workshop at 3 levels viz. Std. X, Std. XII and Graduation at various places. (Subject to repetition)</td>
<td>To provide quality information about avenues and opportunities available in various streams of education</td>
<td>To facilitate the students in making the right choice of education or career as per their aptitude, potential and interest.</td>
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<td>Adolescent health education</td>
<td>Boys and Girls in the age group of 13-16 years</td>
<td>Half day module separately for boys and girls in second fortnight of May.</td>
<td>To create awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition along with emphasis on physical and behavioural changes during adolescence.</td>
<td>To help adolescents accept and adapt with the changes so as to attain optimal health standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-employment</td>
<td>Unemployed youth.</td>
<td>1 day workshop at various places. at 1st week of June.</td>
<td>To acquaint the youth with available opportunite, schemes and policies for effective self-employment avenues.</td>
<td>To generate employment through entrepreneurial skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skill development</td>
<td>Semi-skilled youth and Drop-outs from educational institutions</td>
<td>1 day workshop at various places. 3rd week of June.</td>
<td>To sensitize the target group by providing them with skill-based training and motivation to pursue desired</td>
<td>To attract the section of our human resource towards traditional as well as emerging occupational avenues</td>
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<td>Proposed program</td>
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<td>Schemes for Differently abled youth</td>
<td>Differently abled youth</td>
<td>2 weeks in the month of July</td>
<td>Survey to ascertain the number of youth in this target group</td>
<td>To assist the group in availing various schemes and programs of Central and State Government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainers training</td>
<td>Leaders and members of Youth clubs and NGOs</td>
<td>2 day workshops for all taluka centres as per the requirement during Second fortnight of July.</td>
<td>Training and orientation for programs planned and awareness about relevant schemes.</td>
<td>To upgrade the competence of Trainers to handle the schemes and programs efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media and Multi-disciplinary activities</td>
<td>Youth from various fields of interest</td>
<td>First two weeks of August</td>
<td>To sensitize the youth in responsible handling of the social media and to promote creative talent.</td>
<td>To nurture a talent pool of committed youth excelling in a wide spectrum of creativity.</td>
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<td>Refresher course</td>
<td>Resource persons/staff/counsellors</td>
<td>4th week of August</td>
<td>To train/upgrade skills</td>
<td>Concerned personnel would be well-versed with their scope of work</td>
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<td>Proposed program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses on Spirituality and value education</td>
<td>Youth from 13-16 yrs &amp; 16-21 yrs age group</td>
<td>September month</td>
<td>To strengthen spiritual foundation and value education among youth</td>
<td>To build value based citizenry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eradication of Social evils and vices</td>
<td>Youth covered under the policy</td>
<td>1st two weeks of October</td>
<td>To create awareness about hazards associated with social evils and vices and reduce the same to minimal.</td>
<td>To build healthy and evil-free society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Exchange Programme</td>
<td>Youth of 16-25 years age group</td>
<td>3rd and 4th week of October</td>
<td>To provide a platform to the youth to exhibit and understand the socio-cultural and ethnic diversity at state, national and international levels.</td>
<td>To strengthen National Integration and feeling of Patriotism.</td>
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<td>Life Skills education Programme</td>
<td>Youth of 13-21 yrs age group</td>
<td>1st two weeks of November</td>
<td>To equip the youth in various life skills</td>
<td>To enhance quality of life of youth</td>
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<td>Proposed program</td>
<td>Target group</td>
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<td>Training on competitive exams</td>
<td>Interested Youth</td>
<td>3rd and 4th weeks of November</td>
<td>To develop the spirit of competitiveness in youth to appear in various State and National level exams successfully</td>
<td>To ensure the achieving of excellence in the National mainstream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expansion of Sports and recreational opportunities</td>
<td>Youth covered under the Policy</td>
<td>1st two weeks of December</td>
<td>To promote grass-root level/mass sports for the sporting talent</td>
<td>To make effective and optimum use of sports and recreational facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventure activities</td>
<td>Youth covered under the Policy</td>
<td>3rd and 4th week of December</td>
<td>To promote sense of adventurism and instil confidence, courage and love for nature</td>
<td>To create adventurous and nature loving youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yuva Abhiyaan with Youth Week celebration &amp; Taluka level Yuva Sammelans</td>
<td>Youth covered under the Policy</td>
<td>1st fortnight of January</td>
<td>To promote the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda towards Nation building and to promote the hidden potential and harness it</td>
<td>To bring out the vibrancy among the young minds and to identify, showcase and develop the abundance of talent and confidence</td>
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<td>State level Yuva Sammelan</td>
<td>Selected youth/youth clubs representing the taluka/s</td>
<td>2nd fortnight of January</td>
<td>further to attain excellence and expertise</td>
<td>To identify, showcase and develop the abundance of talent and confidence.</td>
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<td>Special need based programme</td>
<td>Group selected by counsellors</td>
<td>1st fortnight of February</td>
<td>As decided by the counsellors</td>
<td>As decided by the counsellors</td>
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<td>Training for reporting and documentation</td>
<td>Youth clubs and NGOs</td>
<td>2nd fortnight of February</td>
<td>To update the youth clubs and NGOs about effective method of reporting, documentation, feedback and feedback.</td>
<td>To train the youth clubs and NGOs to meet the challenges of effective implementation of policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation, planning and auditing</td>
<td>Counsellors, Youth clubs and NGOs</td>
<td>1st fortnight of March</td>
<td>To streamline the functioning of the counsellors, youth clubs and NGOs</td>
<td>To enhance their level of competence</td>
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<td>Submission of Reports to the state Youth Welfare Board</td>
<td>Counsellors, Youth clubs and NGOs</td>
<td>2nd fortnight of March</td>
<td>To comprehensively assess, analyse and audit the performance of taluka centres</td>
<td>To ensure the desired improvement for the following year and recognise outstanding taluka level youth development centres and counsellors in the form of awards/ incentives.</td>
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