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DOLBY DRAGS OPPO AND VIVO TO COURT; DEMANDS ROYALTIES FOR UNLICENSED USE OF PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY

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Dolby has dragged Vivo and Oppo to court for illegally selling phones with Dolby technology. The court has ordered the two companies to deposit Rs 32 per infringing device manufactured, imported and sold in escrow while royalty terms are discussed.

TECH2 NEWS STAFF NOV 11, 2016 18:21:03 IST

Dolby has [dragged Vivo and Oppo to court](#) for illegally selling phones with Dolby technology. The court has ordered the two companies to deposit Rs 32 per infringing device manufactured, imported and sold in escrow while royalty terms are discussed.

The two smartphone manufacturers have been told by the Delhi High Court, which is hearing the case, to furnish the "particulars of manufacture, sale and import of the devices" using Dolby's tech illegally. These details have to be furnished by the 5th of every month and the deposit, equivalent to a royalty of Rs 32 per device, needs to be deposited by the eighth.

The companies will then need to discuss licensing terms with Dolby under the Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory licensing terms.

Vivo and Oppo will be allowed to sell their smartphones while the licensing deals are being negotiated.

The total amount, once negotiated, will need to be paid in full in US dollars, reads the high court directive. The total number of infringing phones sold by Oppo and Vivo is unknown at this time, but both companies have been doing exceedingly well in India. [Reports suggest](#) that Vivo has seen a 759 percent year-on-year growth in sales and Oppo has seen a 159 percent year-on-year growth. The two company's actual market-share is still very small, however.

Dolby Laboratories is an American company that specialises in audio noise reduction, encoding and compression techniques. The company licenses this technology out to third-party manufacturers.

Dolby is, of course, best known for Dolby Digital, the 5.1 audio compression standard that popularised the concept of surround sound.

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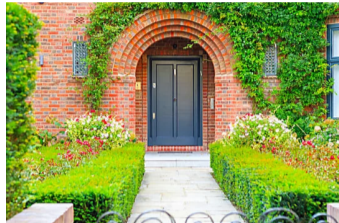
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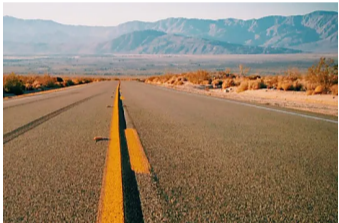
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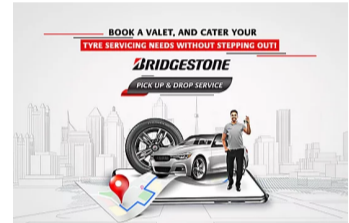
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SALT MINERS IN AUSTRIA WERE THE FIRST HUMANS TO GORGE ON BEER AND CHEESE NEARLY 2,700 YEARS AGO

The salt miners' faeces, which were well preserved due to salt and the constant temperature of around 8C, contained the first molecular evidence of beer consumption on the continent at that time.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE OCT 14, 2021 15:17:12 IST

It's no secret that beer and cheese go hand in hand -- but a new study veals how deep their roots run in Europe, where workers at a salt mine Austria were gorging on both up to 2,700 years ago.

Scientists made the discovery by analyzing samples of human excrement found at the heart of the Hallstatt mine in the Austrian Alps. The study was published in the journal *Current Biology* on Wednesday.

Frank Maixner, a microbiologist at the Eurac Research Institute in

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advanced enough to "use fermentation intentionally."



It's no secret that beer and cheese go hand in hand.

"This is very sophisticated in my opinion," Maixner told AFP. "This is something I did not expect at that time."

The finding was the earliest evidence to date of cheese ripening in Europe, according to researchers.

And while alcohol consumption is certainly well documented in older writings and archaeological evidence, the salt miners' feces contained the first molecular evidence of beer consumption on the continent at that time.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that not only were prehistoric culinary practices sophisticated, but also that complex processed foodstuffs as well as the technique of fermentation have held a prominent role in our early food history," said Kerstin Kowarik of the Museum of Natural History Vienna.

A very particular place

The town of Hallstatt, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been used for salt production for more than 3,000 years.

The community "is a very particular place, it's located in the Alps, in the middle of nowhere," he explained. "The whole community worked and lived from this mine."

The miners spent their entire days there, working, eating and going to the bathroom in the mine.

It is thanks to the constant temperature of around 8C (46F) and the high concentration of salt at the mine that the miners' feces were preserved particularly well.

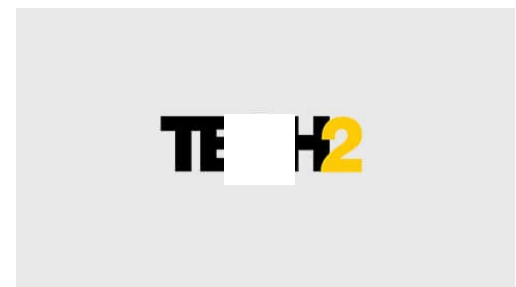
Researchers analyzed four samples: one dating back to the Bronze Age, two from the Iron Age and one from the 18th century.

One of them, about 2,700 years old, was found to contain two fungi, Penicillium roqueforti and Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Both are known today for their use in food making.

"The Hallstatt miners seem to have intentionally applied food fermentation technologies with microorganisms which are still nowadays used in the food industry," Maixner said.

A balanced diet

The researchers also studied the miners' diet, which consisted mainly of cereals, some fruit, and beans and meats as the source of protein.



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The main difference with today's menus is the degree of food processing, which was very low at the time. The Bronze and Iron Age miners used whole grains, suggesting the consumption of some kind of porridge. For the 18th-century miners, the grains appeared ground, indicating they ate bread or cookies.

One of the study's other findings was the composition of the miners' microbiota, or the set of bacteria present in their bodies.

In the four samples studied, the microbiota were very similar to that of modern non-Western populations, which tend to have a more traditional lifestyle.

This suggests a "recent shift" in the microbiota of industrialized humans, "probably due to modern lifestyle, diet, or medical advances," the study said.

However, microbiota are often linked to different modern diseases, Maixner said. According to him, determining when exactly this change occurred could help scientists understand what caused it.

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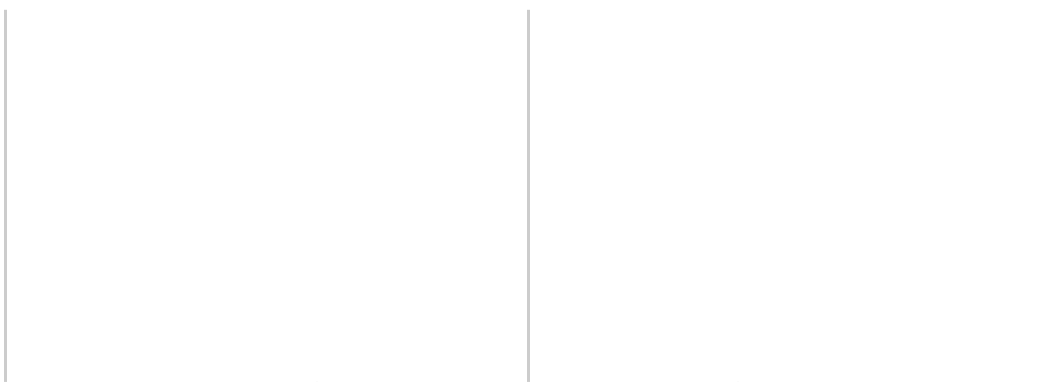
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CHINA PLEDGED \$233 MILLION INTO A NEW FUND TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DURING COP15

Apr 16, 2021

This pledge came as delegates from about 195 countries gathered in Kunming for the first of a two-part summit on safeguarding plants, animals and ecosystems.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE **OCT 14, 2021 14:52:21 IST**

China on Tuesday pledged to inject \$233 million into a new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries during a key UN conservation summit, despite disagreements among major donors on the initiative.

Beijing -- the world's biggest polluter -- has sought to play a more prominent role internationally on biodiversity conservation in recent years.

Its pledge came as delegates from about 195 countries gathered in the southern Chinese city of Kunming for the first of a two-part summit on safeguarding plants, animals and ecosystems.

The summit aims to establish a new accord setting out targets for 2030 and 2050.

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China's pledge is far below the \$4 billion committed by Britain for global conservation projects over the next five years or France's commitment to spend 30 percent of its climate finance on biodiversity.

"China will take the lead in establishing the Kunming biodiversity fund with a capital contribution of 1.5 billion yuan (\$233 million) to support the cause of biodiversity conservation in developing countries," Chinese President Xi Jinping said during a speech delivered via video link at the COP15 leaders' summit.

"China calls on... all parties to contribute to the fund."

A key proposal being debated at the conference is the "30 by 30" agenda that would afford 30 percent of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030.

Global spending to protect and restore nature needs to triple this decade to about \$350 billion annually by 2030 and \$536 billion by 2050 to meet this target, a UN report said in May.

But some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the United Nations' Global Environment Facility already helps developing nations finance green projects.

"It is... important to mobilise all sources, including existing funds such as the global environment facility and the climate fund, to protect... and restore biodiversity," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

The funding issue will be taken up at negotiations in Geneva in January 2022 and then later at the second part of the summit in April and May next year.

China's pledge is far below the \$4 billion committed by Britain for global conservation projects over the next five years or France's commitment to spend 30 percent of its climate finance on biodiversity.

"China's announcement... is the start not the end of the race," said Georgina Chandler, senior international policy officer at the UK-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

"We now need to... see other countries stepping up between now and spring next year... Without tangible actions on the table, the world will agree on yet another set of targets with no commitment to delivering them."

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suicidal war

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by 195 countries and the European Union -- although not the United States, the world's biggest polluter historically -- with the parties meeting every two years.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the world's poorest

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"We are losing our suicidal war against nature," he said.

"Ecosystem collapse could cost almost \$3 trillion annually by 2030 -- its greatest impact will be on some of the poorest and highly indebted countries."

The biodiversity discussions at COP15 are separate from the weightier COP26 summit set to begin next month in Glasgow, where world leaders are under pressure to act on the climate crisis.

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