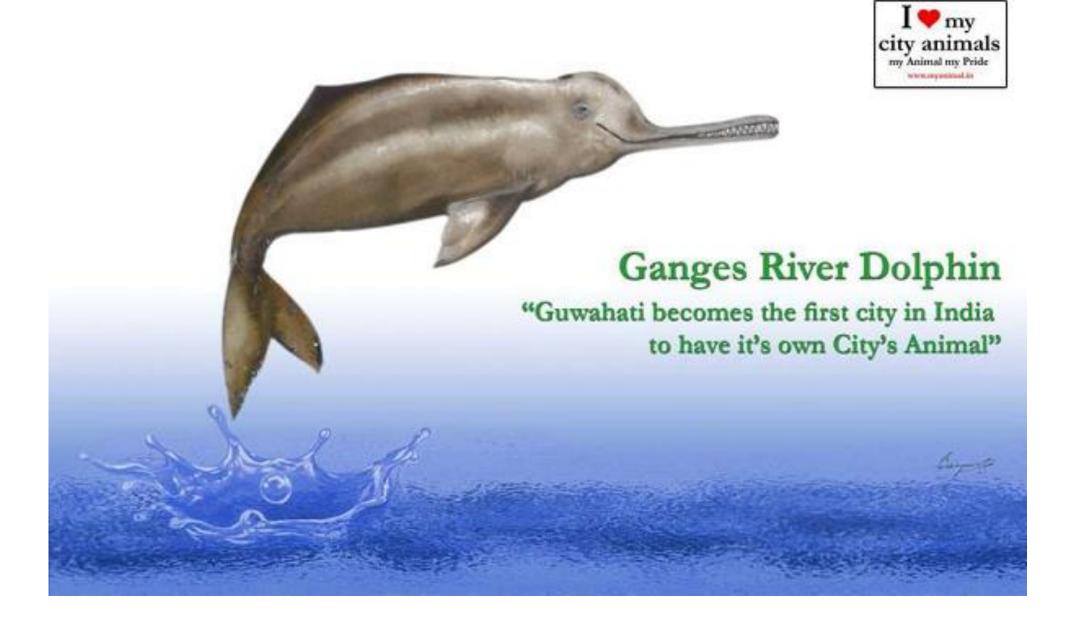
## **Interim Report**

on

Attending to Our Neighbours Beckon: An Initiative to Create a Better Home for Urban Wildlife through Multivariate Study and Management Approach.

**Application ID: 18457-D** 



Submitted By Jayaditya Purkayastha





## Training programme on Reptile Management at Assam State Zoo, Guwahati on 8 January, 2016



We donated snake catching and handling equipment to forest officials





## Snake related informative brochures were distributed

Great backyard bird count in collaboration with Tezpur University at Tezpur University from 12 February to 15 February 2016



TEZPUR UNIVERSITY **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2016** 12th-15th February

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC): GBBC is a global initiative to document the birds across different campuses and residential surroundings. For more info visit: http://gbbc.birdcount.org/

How to participate: To get started, join the group of bird enthusiasts from the campus, and organize yourselves in such a way that you cover all different areas and habitats that your campus contains.

ł	Schedule		
1	Day 1 (12 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	6:00 am - 7:00 am :	15 mins bird count walk
ļ	Day 2 (13th Feb)	6:00 am - 7:00 am :	15 mins bird count walk
		7:30 am - 8:30 am :	Talk by Mr. Jayaditya Purkayastha on "Basics of Birding and Bird Photography"
		9:00 am - 10:00am :	Demonstration on "Art of Wildlife Photography"
	Day 3 (14 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	6:00 am - 7:00 am :	15 mins bird count walk
	Day 4 (15th Feb)	6:00 am - 7:00 am :	15 mins bird count walk
	In associat	ion with Help I	TAMRON
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## 4-day backyard bird count begins

## STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Feb 13: The Great Backyard Bird Count launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society to cre- and abundance of birds. ate awareness on bird diversigot under way on Friday.

clude on February 15.

The Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to dis-

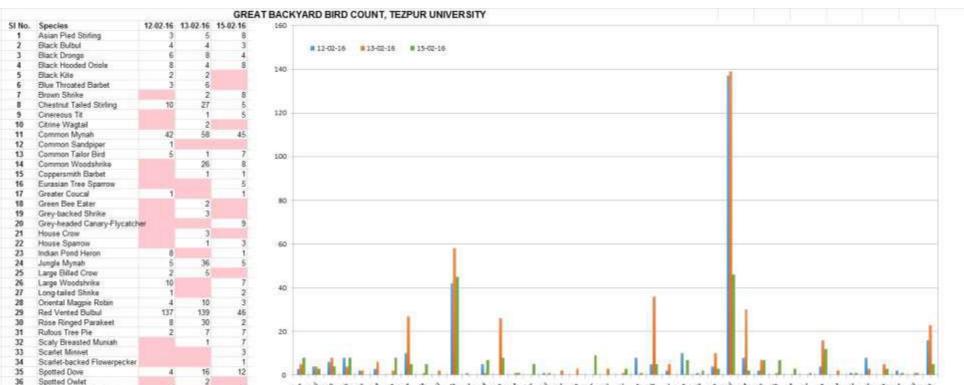
Now, more than 1,00,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the count every February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution

In connection with the count ty with stress on urban birds, this year, Tezpur University and ranging avifauna at the cam-Assam State Zoo, in collabora-The four-day count will con- tion with Help Earth, are organising events. "We are con- of birds found all over the ducting campus bird count in world, about 1,319 are found Tezpur University on all the four in India. Assam accounts for days, besides a seminar on the over 810 bird species and the basics of taxonomy and diver- count is increasing.

play results in near real-time. sity of birds with emphasis on bird photography," Debabrata Phukon and Rajeev Brahma, both research scholars, said.

The Assam State Zoo is organising an early morning bird survey on February 15 to estimate the diversity of free pus of the zoo.

Of the 10,000-plus species



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40	White Throated Kingfisher	2		1	4 4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 5 5 4 4 5 6 8 5 5 6 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
39	White Breasted Waterhen		5	3	5 * * # 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
38	Taiga Flycatcher	8	-3		2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
37	Stork Billed Kingfisher	1		1	リンドリーム リント おく オリリオ にん ちょく ちょく ちょう
36	Spotted Owlet		2		



Installation of a hoarding "Wetland birds of Deeporbeel" at the watchtower of Deeporbeel WLS, Guwahati on World Wetland Day



Year round bird surveys being conducted in Deeporbeel WLS to estimate population density relative to season.

## Bird box free distribution programme









The success stories

## The City's Animal Campaign

Guwahati, the land of goddess Kamakhya is blessed with nature's bounty. Tropical forests, temperate climate and geographic diversity contribute to its rich floral and faunal heritage. The biggest metropolis of Northeast India, our Guwahati is also a part of Indo Burma Biodiversity hotspot. Perhaps Guwahati may be the only metropolis in the world to have the privilege of being surrounded by 18 Hills, 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 8 Reserve forests and a Ramsar site all compressed within an area of 216sq km. To add to this list, the river Brahmaputra cuts across the city making it habitable for wide variety of life forms including us. Deeporbeel, one of the important wetlands of Asia and the lone Ramsar site of Assam is situated at the west of the city and is world renowned for its birdlife.

Thus, to conserve this heritage of biodiversity of Guwhati and to generate mass knowledge and awareness the Concept City's Animal was born. For City's Animal we have taken up 3 candidate animals with highest conservation concern.

**Black Softshell Turtle**: In Assamese the turtle is known as "BorKaso". The turtle was thought to be extinct in the wild and are confined to temple ponds such as Kamakhya, Ugratara in Guwahati. Due to habitat destruction and trade of this animal for flesh and egg, the animal is in the brink of extinction. Fortunately, recent survey has shown that small population exists in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

**Greater Adjutant Stork:** Known as "Hargila" in Assamese, it is one of the biggest birds of Assam. The global population of this endangered bird is less than 1200 individuals. Due to degradation of habitat and lack of breeding space, the bird fights for existence. The species can be seen in Deeporbeel WLS, garbage dump of Borbori.

**Gangetic River Dolphin:** In Assamese, this mammal is known as "Xisu". Less than 2000 individuals of this species are known worldwide. They can be seen in the river Brahmaputra running along Guwahati. The animal is suffering because of habitat destruction and trade for oil and flesh. They are also by catch in gillnets and line hooks.

## **Voting Process**

The voting process for the City's Animal was launched on **7**<sup>"</sup> March, 2016. The voting was done online through the website www.myanimal.in. Seventy Six (76) schools and colleges across Guwahati participated in the offline voting process. To boost the voting process, voting booth were installed in the premise of Office of District Commissioner, Kamrup (Metropolitan). Voting related information were installed in different public places across Guwahati, including city buses, shopping malls, food courts, cinema hall, hoardings etc.

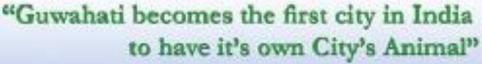
On the midnight of 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 the voting process ended. By then, the City's Animal Campaign received a public support and participation be yond our expectation. In total, we received sixty thousand and three (60,003) votes. Black Softshell Turtle (BormuriaKaso) received 17,302 votes and the Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) 18,454 votes. But the Ganges River Dolphin (Xixu) with 24,247 votes became the clear winner.

Thus, after a journey of 3 months, we finally reached the proud moment for our city, **Guwahati- the first city of India to have its city animal**. From this date, **Ganges River Dolphin (Xixu) - the city animal of Guwahati** shall carry forward the legacy of conservation and protection of urban biodiversity of Guwahati.

**Organisations Involved:** Help Earth, Kamrup Metropolitan District Administration, Assam Forest Department and Assam State Biodiversity Board.







The launch of the City's Animal Campaign on 7th March, 2016 by honorable District Commissioner of Kamrup Metropolitan





## Voting campaign in colleges and universities







School principal briefing programme for conduction of offline voting for city's animal in their schools



For middle school



For high school













Involvement of FM radio station with regular programme "Know our city animals"



Offline voting booth installed in the office of Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metropolitan



### Four local newspaper carried A4 sized advertisement in both Assamese and English language on the campaign including the most circulated newspaper of the region, The Assam Tribune

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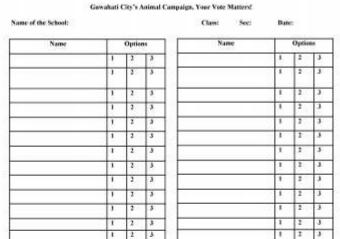
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### Published materials for the campaign



Brochure in both English and Assamese language were distributed for each section of each class for each schools, helping students decide their voting choice





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**Voting sheets** 

I love city animals T-shirts for free distribution

City's Animal Campaign showcased at India Myanmar Thailand Friendship Car Rally, 2016







### **Declaration of result**







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## Guwahati 1st Indian city to have a city animal

Guwahati became the first Indian city to have an official city animal after the Gangetic River Dolphin was declared the city's mascot on Monday. The dolphins are categorized as a Protected species, with less than 2,000 remaining in the Guwahati region. Around 60,000 participants voted to select the mascot from Gangetic River Dolphins, Black Softshell Turtles, and Greater Adjutant Storks.

short by Dishant Sharma / 1 minute ago

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method norman sile film there at র্তাবকেইটা হ'ল— সম্বাহ, রামুবিলা কাজ আবার্টনিৰ নুইতৰ নুমুখ এতিয়াও সম্বা দিন যোগা ও মাহাত ভালচেটিৰ সিচিত্ব জেলিব अलापुर्वृत्य कर ता दशकरों। स्वयन्त्रविकन देवल विविधान अल्लालका लिप करा तलाज विकारक अन्यदम स्वयंश्वरीः (तर्वे वयः (त. fill গুৰু জিটামীয়ে আৰম্ভন কৰা ভোটনামৰ Alexan orders albre second a fagores nervene felte e Pere serarfin (SE) parte en ferene dispue serene de afecte faite com en su cellen mun su af mune afecte afen many sandie plassion en filige faiterte ferene, sandermue su Alican Rates common to the college alican asserble at an one set blag চরিবা মানম কান্দিয়া এই প্রবন্ধার পরিমান হার্চমান চরামানি ৮৬ মন সিজনোরাম সিজন প্রায়িক চিবিত্রমেনে হি না ভারমটোর নিগর হৈ পল হিনিটা রীমর এই। মান্দ প্রার প্রাইটাবাদে আপারেশ কনিছিল। পরা মান্দি উপস্থিত আছিল



কৃষ্ণগুৰু শাখা সেৱাশ্ৰমৰ সভা प्रसारवि, ७ क्षून ३ दनिते स्टब्स्टन AJ CLAUMAN ADADA REPLANA गर्धनविषट चना करतांची प्रचन वर्तित प्रशास वधा ४ दृष्ट प्रभुषित हा । उद्ये प्रधान दूस साहद (हलाइन ्रम्मास्टर, भारत) प्राण इत्राम स्टिन्ड Selectory that that an interview মাৰমত আছিত ব্যালয়ক বিষয়েয়াটৰ হাইজুল বিজয় effitt son grante saffertene Gause under Beitg effette गरिता केंद्रीन काल शहर STREAM WHITE ACTUAL প্রধান প্রথম লগতে যায় হাইসেবেটা বর্তিয়াকা যাক NT 19975 2120 25 949 407 মাপেন হামনিয়াক সমাপতি, আন ere etc always finites new न स्वतंत्र करतना स्वतंत्र व प्राप्त करूत वर्तन्त्र क सम्बद्धन दिवर्त्तन प्रितीय अति स्वतुत्त करियी शक्ते जन्द द्वार र গাড়ী চুৰি



মহানগৰ ব্যুৰ', ৬ জুন : আজি ওবাহাটী আবৰ্ত ভবনত আয়োজিত এক অন্টানৰ জৰিয়তে গুৱাহাটী মহাসগৰৰ বাবে শিক্ষা আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে ডিটি এনিকেল' হিচাপে মোমণা কৰা হয়। ই হৈছে দেশৰ ভিতৰত গ্ৰথমখন মহানগৰ

উল্লেখযোগ্য যে 'হেছ আখ' নামৰ এক প্ৰসিদ্ধ পৰিবেশ সাৰক্ষণত জড়িত ব্যেষ্ঠালেটা সংস্থাই কামৰূপ মহানগৰ জিলা প্ৰশাসন, অসমৰ বন বিভাগ আৰু অসম ৰাজ্যিক জৈব বৈচিয়া পৰিষদৰ সহযোগত ৭ মাৰ্চত গুৱাহাটীৰ নাবে এটা চিটি এনিমেন মোগনান কথা এক কননাইন তথা অভনাইন প্ৰেটিন্যা আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল। ৬ জুন অগাঁহ বিশ্ব পৰিৱেশ লিৱসৰ লগত সংগতি বাখি সেইনিযাৰন মাজ নিশা এই ভোটিং অত্ৰিনাৰ স্বস্ত পৰাৰ নগে লগে আজি আয়োজিত এক বৰ্ণাদ্য কাৰ্যসূচীত সৰ্বচাঁৰক ভোটৰ প্ৰপৰত ভিদ্বি কনি কামলপ মহানগৰ জিলান উপ্যয়ুক্ত ড়" এম অংগমুখুৱে এই ভেটিদহাৰ ফল গোমণা কৰে। হৈছে বৈছিয়াৰ ভঁৰাল ৰূপে থাকে আৰু গৰ্জমানে বিপলাপায় বুলি চিহিত ৫টা টাঁৱক এই ভোটলানৰ মাওতালৈ অন্য হৈছিল। সেই জীৱকেইটা হ'ল বৰকায়, হাড়খিলা আৰু শিয়। বিগত তিনিমায়ে ৬০ হাজাৰ ওৱাহাটী মন্ত্ৰদখৰৰ বিভিন্ন কেবুলি যুক্তিয়েনীয়ে আবগায়ণ কৰা তোলিনাল ফলৰ ভিডিক আজি শিক্ষ চিটি এনিয়েল হিচাপে গোসহা কৰা হয়। এই ভোলনাৰ প্ৰতিয়াত কৰায়াই ১৭,০০২টা, হাতৃথিলাই ১৮,৪৫৪টা আৰু শিহৰে ২৪,২৪৭টা ভোট লাভ কৰে।









Superarts respects ones the Serges from country as their entities maccountry week -- a first for an instancely. Users entergoing that the memotions of on the Content and of Nations (UCR), the Networks Solaris means the Electropours river me city, and also the Content that the The last to find the The Content in copy in a solar redshift a solar redshift accord laterne state accent an mail out what do these these rearies and

The main purpose is to raise averanest acoust the animal, and the heavily of its acousters. The first dear will be to estimate the cator in and ansure duvariat, sale jayathya funkayastia, tha foundar of help tarts, an 100 in duvariat, the orgenoused doublin bast but two other threatened local species, the greater equilation to a pool and area to the -in a kot conducted across the chy in places the schools, colleges and marks

this feature prime. Forly for the unique way in which is nume. The doubt it is mady, blind, but uses echological to poor pre-They are also known for swimming at an angle, theiring a flocar along the millioned to decode potential proy-Unfortunetary, the gentle freshwarer creatures have been finding much epart from flood plang the miler bed, its habitat is one of the wond more sensely populated areas, and it is threather by industrial agricultural and numer polition, hydroproperty sectors foring gains and numing for its mark and on its Halp Barth remains respect, in addition to repring with the part to decode build after market, the 1927 has and been vorking with this automative to polaritime content about 470th and these sectors approximate about urban wildlife like dophins. If all goas according to plan, they might scen have urban wildlife cours for ecclaims in the on-

> Kamakshi Ayyar is fuaturus omar an tutishar begraane fravarer mezis vas sam. Sha's antal to place by the sea and departs in all times. When are sent raining espectives, the subsetly among or about the least comic myselfact. The search of flatmatics (SB

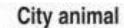


Deputy Con Angamint

## Guwahati becomes first city to have City Animal

#### GUWAHATI, JUNE 6 (PTI): The Assum state aut today become the first city in the co entry is base its own City And with the Kamrup Me polition district adminie declaring the Gongetia orr Dolphin as the mas In a press co

Metropolitan ommissioner M



Guwahatians have chosen the Gaugetic river dolphin as its city animal after an online voting to select the iconferm ienoug three choices - the greater adjutteri stork and the suft-shell turtle being the other two. It was good to see students and youth take active part in the selection, as it is ultinutely this segment of the populace who will be required to take care of this involuable inheritance from Mother Neture. The Kamrup (Metro) administration also deserves praise for the keenness exhibited by it is these ing the animal icou for a city that still has an enviable pope lation of urban wildlife, including even mega species such as leopards and elephants. The disturbing part, though, is that we are making a meas of this priceless natural begaest through our throughtless and insemidive action. It is in this context that having the city's animal icon is a refreshing development. This can lead to a renewed interest among the criteris, especially children and worth, in the worder hal world of artists wildlife living within their vicinity. However, merely selecting the animal icon will hantly serve any purpose unless it is backed by a concerted effort from all of us - citizens, administration and NGOs - to secure for our dwindling urban wildlife some much-needed undeturbed space. The irony is that the Gaugetic river dolphin e witnessing severe distarbance to its habitat due to largescale unscientific sand extraction on the Kului river on the city outskiets. A stretch of the Kubi is ismong the very few remaining habitats of the river dolphin and the disturbing quantion is how the administration can terms blusl eye to such illegal activities under its very nose. Providing kp service to conservation is unlikely to yield any long-term gain for our precious flors and fours.

While the famel wildlife of the State has earned it global recognition, not many of us would probably realize - for less approciate - that even unridot our urban basilscape and in its immediate surroundings lies a small world inhabited by a plethors of minule, birds and reptiles, mostly belonging to the less celebrated species. Guwihati can still take pride in the fact that a fac part of its new rigidly dwindling sylvan surroundings shelter wide-tanging spoors - not just lesser known ones hat chacismatic species as well. Larger furna such as signhorits, leopardis and deer inhabiting the city's ispests do get some occessoral attention but the leaser incomp and smaller varieties like snakes, turtles, mongouse, civets, wild cars, jucked and a farge number of hird species rarely come into the locus of conservation. Unlike mego species, these wildlife have been thriving in sparse jungles and indeed, many within mar own backyards. Unfortunately, rampant destruction of the city's green cover and open spaces with trees and shrubs and the stacabled-for concretization of our bouse composes are pushing these bouiliful creatures to the brink. It is very much possible, though, to give our urban wikilia's some much-needed scope to sustain themsolves he leaving their small hobitsts intact.

# Shisu becomes city's urban animal icon

#### CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati : The city got its first urban animal icon -Gangetic River Dolphin (Shisu) on June 6.

Three animals were selected for the contest - Black Softshell Turtle (Bormuria kaso), Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) and Gangetic River Dolphin. The contest was an initiative of the Kamrup Metropolitan District Administration (DC), Assam State Biodiversity Board, State Forest Department and NGO Help Earth.

The contest was possible only due to the support from the public. More than 60,000 people participated in the voting that included students from various schools and col-



leges. The Gangetic River Dolphin won with 24,247 votes out of 60,003 total votes," said M Angamuthu, DC, Kamrup (M)

It may be mentioned, Guwahati is the first city in India to have its city animal.

He added, "The reason behind selecting a city animal is not to give an iconic image to any animal but to create awareness about these animals and the biodiversity in Guwahati. From this date, Shisu shall carry forward the legacy of conversation and protection of urban biodiversity of Guwahati."

Jayaditya Purkayastha, gen-

eral secretary, NGO Help Earth, said, "The main motive is to create awareness among the people regarding the biodiversity of the city. We will be engaged in the conservation and preservation of all these ani-The online voting mals." process was launched on March 7 and concluded on June 5 midnight. 76 schools and colleges across Guwahati participated in the voting process. The Greater Adjutant Stork received 18,454 votes and Black soft-shell turtle received 17,302 votes.

He added, "We will launch missions relating to rescue of animals, installing bird boxes and setting up nets under the nests to prevent death of the hatchlings."

# डॉलफिन गुवाहाटी एनिमल घोषित, मिले सर्वाधिक वोट



संवाददाता सम्मेलन में बताया कि इस जीव को स्थानीय रूप से सिंह कहा जाता है, जो अब गुवाहाट का शहर जीव होगा। जिला प्रशासन ने शहर का प्रतीक जीव तय करने के लिए तीन संरक्षित जीवों के वास्ते ऑनलाइन और ऑफलाइन मतवान कराया था। ए तीनों ही जीवन विलुप्त होने की कगार पर हैं। इस प्रतिस्पर्धा में गंगा नदी के डॉल्फिन के अलावा काला सॉफ्टशेल टर्टल (बोर कासो) कछआ और ग्रेटर एडव्टेंड स्टोर्क (हरगिला) थे। ग्रेटर एडव्टेंड स्टोर्क एक विशेष प्रकार का सारस है। हाल के एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार ग्वाहाटी के पास ब्रह्मपुत्र में 2000 से भी सिंह हैं जबकि इस नदी और उसकी सहायक नदियों में काला सॉफ्टशेल टर्टल बहुत ही कम हैं। गुवाहाटी के आसपास ग्रेटर एडजुर्टेंट स्टोर्क 1200 से भी कम हैं।

## Our team for City's Animal Campaign













Sanchari

Sanchita

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