

News

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Monkeys "have self-doubt like humans"

London, Feb 21 (PTI) Alike humans, monkeys display self-doubt and uncertainty, a new study has revealed.

An international team has found that monkeys trained to play computer games feel self-doubt and uncertainty and will "pass" rather than risk choosing the wrong answer in a brainteaser task.

Awareness of our own thinking was believed to be a uniquely human trait. But, the study suggests that our more primitive primate relatives are capable of such self-awareness, the "BBC" reported.

Prof John David Smith of State University of New York at Buffalo and Michael Beran of Georgia State University, trained the macaques to use a joystick-based computer game.

The animals were trained to judge the density of a pixel box that appeared at the top of the screen as either sparse or dense. To give their answer, the monkeys simply moved a cursor towards a letter S or a letter D.

When the animals chose the correct letter, they were rewarded with an edible treat. There was no punishment for choosing the wrong answer, but the game briefly paused, taking away -- for a few seconds -- the opportunity for the animals to win another treat.

But the monkeys had a third option -- choosing a question mark -- which skipped the trial and moved on to the next one. This meant no treat, but it also meant no pause in the game. .

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[WikiLeaks founder to be extradited](#)

London: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will be extradited to Sweden to face sex-crime allegations, ruled a British judge.



[India to begin evacuation of its citizens from Libya](#)

New Delhi: Government today decided to immediately commence evacuation of Indians from Libya by sea and air in view of the "sharp and unprecedented deterioration" in the situation in the African nation which is witnessing anti-government protests that have claimed 300 lives so far.



[Gaddafi's vow: Will fight to 'last drop of blood'](#)

Tripoli: A defiant Moammar Gaddafi vowed to fight to his "last drop of blood" and roared at supporters to strike back against Libyan protesters to defend his embattled regime Tuesday, signalling an escalation of the crackdown that has thrown the capital into scenes of mayhem, wild shooting and bodies in the streets.

[Libyan interior minister joins rebellion: Reports](#)

Washington: Libya's interior minister has resigned in support of protesters and predicted that the movement against Muammar Gaddafi's 41-year-rule will achieve victory "in a matter of days or hours", it was reported here Wednesday.

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