



The freshest finds for clever minds!!!

Hey Smart Scoopers We're back!

Get ready for your weekly dose of cool stories, fun facts, and world news — all in bite-sized scoops.

We've rounded up 5 fresh picks that had everyone talking. Let's dive in!



Spotlight

Meet Lububu: a character as quirky as their name and twice as curious. Blurt can't quite figure out what makes Lububu so famous—yet!



World Watch

They don't shine like gold or float like helium, but Rare Earth Elements are the unsung nerds of the periodic table—quietly powering your digital life and leaving countries scrambling to find more of them.



Technology

Blink and you'll miss it—this robot from Purdue University can solve a Rubik's Cube faster than you can blink? Built for speed, brains, and bragging rights.



Science

From Earth to orbit, the Axiom-4 mission is taking private spaceflight to the next level—this isn't just a ride, it's a rehearsal for the future of off-Earth living.



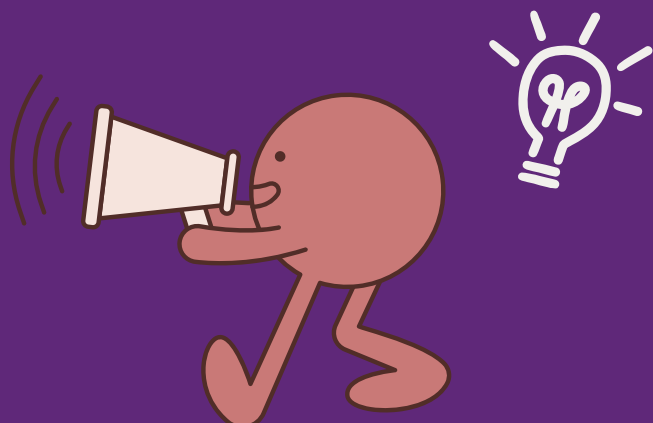
Fun Corner

Book **Spotlight:** Pippi Longstocking is the wildly fun tale of independence, imagination, and pure mischief. She's the strongest girl in the world—with a mismatched stockings, and zero interest in rules.

Our mascot, Blurt will follow us along the way.

Blurt /blurt/
noun:

A loud, round, super-curious character who just can't keep a fact in.



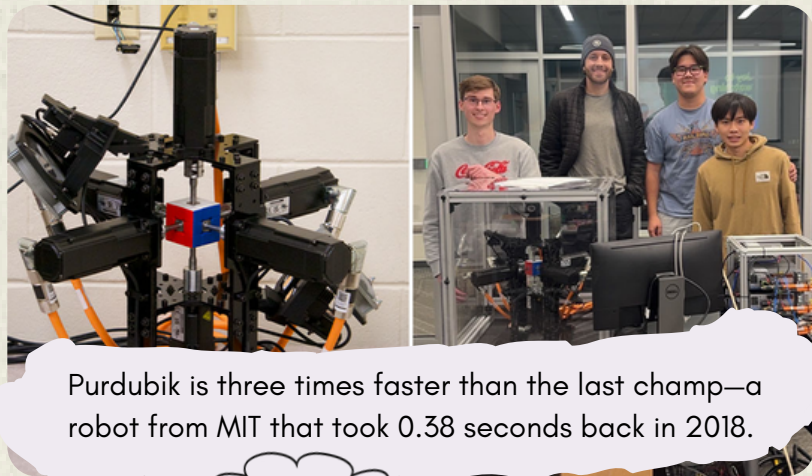
A Robot's Rubik's Record

WHEN SPEED RULES, THE CUBE OBEYS!

Ever tried solving a Rubik's Cube? Some people take minutes. Some take hours. And then there's Blur—our brainy little mascot—who twists and turns until his brain looks more scrambled than breakfast eggs...



But what if a robot could solve it even before you could blink?



Purdubik is three times faster than the last champ—a robot from MIT that took 0.38 seconds back in 2018.

Say hello to **Purdubik's Cube !!!**

This zippy little robot, built by four college whiz-kids from Purdue University (that's in the U.S.), just shattered a world record—solving a scrambled Rubik's Cube in **0.103 seconds!** Yep, that's faster than a blink... and we mean a real blink, which takes about 0.2 to 0.3 seconds!

Holy
smokes!!!

How does the robot do it so fast ?



Super Eyes: The robot uses **high-speed cameras** to look at all the colors on the cube in a flash, (basically robot-level side eye).



Smart Brain: It runs **super-fast calculations (called algorithms)** to figure out the best way to solve it.



Lightning Hands: Its **mechanical arms** twist and turn so quickly, it's almost invisible to the human eye.



It's so fast, regular cubes said, "Nope!" and broke. So, the team had to build a **stronger cube from scratch** just to keep up!



Max Park still holds the human crown—for being the fastest to solve Rubik's cube at **3.13 seconds.**



Blurt says

Whether you're twisting a cube or building a bot that could beat the speed of light (okay, almost), just remember—big ideas need three things: practice, patience, and a pinch of passion sauce.

And me? I'm on it... slowly, one twist at a time. I'll get there!



Axiom Mission 4 – Blast Off!

A HISTORIC SPACE ADVENTURE

Picture this: zooming into space and living for **two whole weeks** aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**, orbiting about 400 kilometers above Earth (that's like flying all the way across 4,000 big school buses parked bumper to bumper)! While floating around, the crew (from India, Poland, Hungary, and the USA) will conduct awesome **science experiments** and more. That's what's happening with Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)!



Shubhanshu Shukla (India)
The pilot, and India's second astronaut to fly to space since 1984! The first was Rakesh Sharma, who flew on a Soviet spacecraft



Peggy Whitson (USA)
Mission Commander and a famous former NASA astronaut



THE CREW



Stawosz Uznański-Wiśniewski (Poland)
Mission specialist, marking Poland's first-ever trip to the ISS



Tibor Kapu (Hungary)
Mission specialist, also Hungary's first astronaut on the ISS.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Here's the series of events

LAUNCH



SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launches the **Dragon capsule 'Grace'** from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on June 25, 2025.

IN ORBIT



10 minutes after liftoff, Dragon gracefully separates from the rocket and slips into orbit!

DOCKING



After a 28-hour journey filled with precise moves, the crew docks at the ISS on June 26, 2025!

MISSION

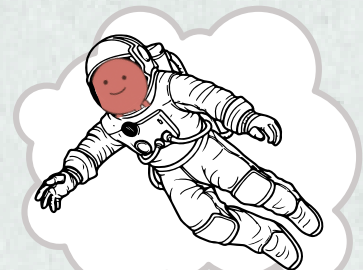


The Ax-4 crew kicks off their 14-day mission with cool **microgravity experiments**, **tech demos**, and **greetings** from space!

COMING SOON: RETURN



On mission completion! The crew will hop aboard the Dragon, undock from the ISS, and **splashes back down into the ocean** for a big welcome, where recovery teams will retrieve them.



****SIGH****

Never stop
dreaming,
Blurt.



WHAT'S HIDING BEHIND THE HYPE?

Why Is Everyone Obsessed with Labubu Dolls?!

Ever seen a weird, fuzzy little creature dangling from someone's backpack? That's probably a Labubu doll—and yep, they're everywhere! But is it just a cute (Blurt's still deciding) toy, or is there something bigger going on?

**Sneaky Smart Marketing (a.k.a. Why You Want One So Bad)**

Labubu fever isn't just random—it's all part of Pop Mart's super clever plan to make these dolls a must-have. Here's how they do it:

Blind Boxes: You don't know which Labubu you'll get until you open it. That mystery makes people want to buy more just to find rare ones!

Limited Editions: Some Labubus are super rare, which makes them extra cool and valuable.

Celebrity Fans: When famous people show off their Labubu dolls, everyone wants one too.

Social Media Madness: Funny videos, unboxings, and Labubu memes are everywhere.

Fashion Collaborations: Labubu has teamed up with fancy brands like Louis Vuitton and Coach. Now they're not just toys—they're fashion icons!

**Heads Up! A Few Things to Watch Out For**

Trends like Labubu dolls can be a lot of fun, but it's important to be careful:

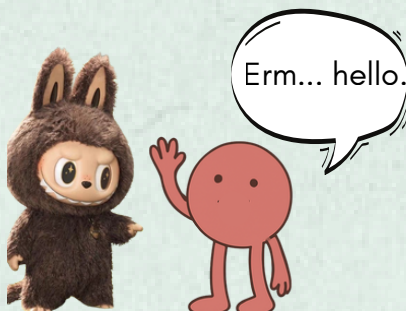
- Don't feel pressured – It's okay not to follow every trend. Like what you like!
- Set a budget – Blind boxes can make you want to buy many dolls to find the rare ones, which can get expensive quickly (Your wallet might cry)
- Watch for fakes – Some knock-offs are poor quality or unsafe. Stick to trusted sellers!
- Trade smart – If you're swapping with friends, make sure it's fair and everyone's happy.

Behind-the-Scenes Peek

Pop Mart doesn't just make toys—they design whole stories and characters for each series. Labubu comes from a world called **"The Monsters,"** and every design has its own theme, like forest spirits, candy dreams, or space travelers. That **storytelling is part of what keeps fans hooked.**

Pop Mart's stock price is climbing because of it.

So if you see one on a backpack, now you know: it's part toy, part treasure. Blurt's still not convinced. He says the real treasure is all the awesome weirdness inside YOU! (And maybe a secret stash of snacks.)



The Rare Earth Elements

FROM WEIRD NAMES TO WORLD-CHANGING POWERS!

Alright folks, gather 'round!
Time to meet some very
special celebs from the
Periodic Table*!



Ugh, the Periodic Table? Just
looking at it gives me a
headache. So many elements
—why do they have such weird
names?!



Really? You're not a fan of
Rare Earth Elements either?
Nice! Guess you can say
goodbye to your phone,
laptop, and gaming console
then!



Huh?! Wait—what?!
Rare Earth what
now? And what
does my gaming
have to do with it?



Rare Earth Elements—REEs!

They power your phone speakers
LED screens, electric cars, and
even wind turbines!



17 special metals of the periodic
table. They have tricky names like
**neodymium, dysprosium, and
yttrium**. These elements help
make super-strong magnets

Okay but... if they're
rare, how do we use
them so much?



They're not exactly rare...
They're actually found all
over the world—just really
hard and messy to dig out
and extract



Okay, so why the panic?
Why are we talking about
this now?



China handles over
**80% of the world's
rare earths**—and that's
making other countries
nervous.



In April 2025, China made new rules
to limit selling some rare earths. That
worried many countries, especially
those that need them to make **electric
cars, drones, phones, and defense
gear**.

If China sneezes, the
whole world's tech supply
chain catches a cold.
Countries are hurrying to
mine more, recycle old
gadgets, and find cleaner
ways to get these metals



Rare Earth Elements																		by Geology.com									
H																	He										
Li	Be															B	C	N	O	F	Ne						
Na	Mg															Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar						
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr										
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe										
Cs	Ba	La-Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn										
Fr	Ra	Ac-Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt																			
Lanthanides																											
La Ce Pr Nd Pm Sm Eu Gd Tb Dy Ho Er Tm Yb Lu																											
Actinides																											
Ac Th Pa U Np Pu Am Cm Bk Cf Es Fm Md No Lr																											

*The Periodic Table is like the giant cheat
sheet of the universe!

It's a big chart that shows all the tiny building
blocks (called elements) that make up
everything—from your shoes to stars to
stinky socks.

Each box has an element with a name (some
sound like aliens—like yttrium), a number,
and a secret code (okay, just letters).

The boxes in orange are **Rare Earth elements**.



PIPPI LONGSTOCKING

The strongest girl in the world... with a monkey. Yep.

What's it about? (also known as a 'blurb')

Pippi Longstocking is not your average kid. She's a red-haired, freckle-faced whirlwind who lives all by herself (well, with her horse and monkey) in a colorful house called **Villa Villekulla**. Her dad's a **sea captain** lost at sea (or is he a pirate king?!), her mom's an **angel** in heaven, and grown-ups just don't know what to do with her. Pippi **doesn't go to school**, wears crazy **mismatched socks**, and tells the most **unbelievable stories** you'll ever hear. She's always getting into wild adventures—from **fighting off burglars** to throwing wild **tea parties**—and she's not afraid to break every rule in the book. Literally.



Here are some of Pippi's best one-liners

"I have never tried that before, so I think I should definitely be able to do it."

..."He's the strongest man in the world."

"Man, yes," said Pippi, "but I am the strongest girl in the world, remember that."

Why You Might Totally Love It

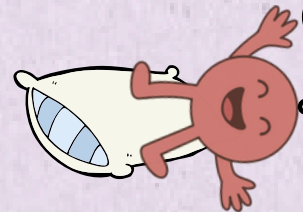
- She can lift a horse. A HORSE.
- She sleeps with her feet on the pillow because... why not?
- She outsmarts every adult without even trying. (Pssst!! Blurt thinks she taught Kevin from 'Home Alone' how to do it.)



Fun Fact-o-Rama

Pippi was invented by a real-life Swedish mom—**Astrid Lindgren**—for her sick daughter, who wanted a story "about a girl named Pippi Longstocking." Astrid made it up on the spot.
Parenting level: **LEGEND**.

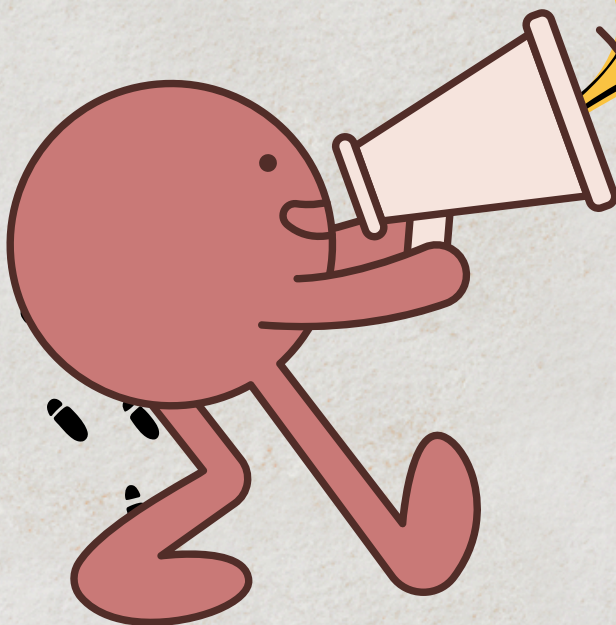
Hmm, this kid may be onto something...



Well, what are you waiting for? Hit the library or bookshop and discover Pippi's world! Then write to Blurt and tell him what you think!

**Blurt's
Global Gasp! of the week**

Africa is the only
continent that's in all
four hemispheres —
north, south, east,
and west!



And that's a wrap for this week folks --We will see you
next week. Until then keep that brain buzzing !!!

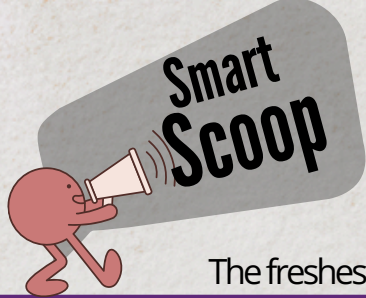


Got some feedback or want to share something with us?

Write to us here:

smartscoopteam@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you! Mostly Blurt tbh..



The freshest finds for clever minds!!!

SOURCES

<u>The Hindu</u>	<u>BBC News</u>
<u>Economic Times</u>	<u>CNN</u>
<u>The New York Times</u>	<u>Reuters</u>
<u>NPR</u>	<u>The Guardian</u>
<u>The Ken</u>	<u>Bloomberg</u>
<u>The Finshots</u>	<u>Times of India</u>
<u>Tech Crunch</u>	<u>The Wire</u>
<u>NewsforKids</u>	<u>Science News</u>
<u>Wikipedia</u>	<u>National Geographic</u>
<u>Wikibio</u>	<u>Live Science</u>
	<u>Popular Science</u>

Declaration on the Use of AI

All content has been curated, authored, and refined through multiple stages of human writing and review to ensure clarity, accuracy and age-appropriateness for children consumption. This content is not AI-generated; all pages have been manually edited and finalised by our editorial team. Generative AI was used only for proofreading, editing help, and creating few images to make the article more engaging.