



The freshest finds for clever minds!!!

Hey Smart Scoopers

We're back with your weekly scoop of stories, facts, and fun, all designed to spark your curiosity and keep your thinking caps extra shiny.

This week, we've got five bite-sized stories, facts, and fun to keep your curiosity buzzing.

So dive in, scroll on, and enjoy your SmartScoop fix for the week!

Scoop 1: Goodbye Dr. Jane Goodall

Scoop 2: Obsolescence: Progress or Upgrade Trap?

Scoop 3: Gen Z Activism & The Pirate Flag

Scoop 4: Nobel Prize Winners 2025: Amazing breakthroughs explained

Scoop 5: (continued...)Nobel Prize Winners 2025: Amazing breakthroughs explained

Can't wait for you to dig-in!

Happy scooping!



Note: Next week, there will be no SmartScoop as we take a short break for Diwali holidays.
Until then, stay curious, stay kind !

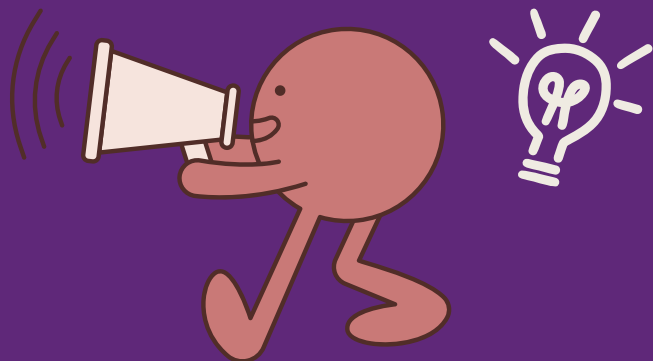
The SmartScoop Team

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.



THE GIRL WHO LOVED CHIMPS

The world lost a legend this week. Dr Jane Goodall, the pioneering primatologist* who revolutionised our understanding of chimpanzees, passed away at 91 on 01 Oct 2025.

As a young researcher, Dr. Jane reshaped science by demonstrating the cognitive and social complexity of chimps. Her findings redefined our understanding of great apes, our closest relatives.

*A person who studies primates (like apes, monkeys, lemurs etc).



Dr. Jane Goodall with her mascot toy monkey Mr. H (Gifted 30 years ago by Gary Haun, a blind magician and adventurer, Mr. H accompanied her to talks and interviews as a symbol of perseverance.)

In 1960, 26-year-old Jane Goodall, with no college degree, stepped into the Tanzanian forest to study wild chimpanzees. Many in science expected her to fail. Too young, too inexperienced, and, in that era, too "female" for serious fieldwork :(

But she proved them wrong and changed our understanding of animals forever.

Here are Dr. Jane's landmark discoveries...

Discovery #1: Chimps Use Tools

Before Jane, scientists believed that using tools was unique to humans. Jane observed a Chimp she named David Greybeard fish termites with a modified twig : A fishing rod for catching bugs. She discovered chimps could make and use tools.



Discovery #2: Chimps Have Personalities

Scientists always numbered animals but Jane gave her chimps names: **David Greybeard, Flo, Fifi, Mike**. Jane through years of observation revealed chimps have distinct personalities. She recorded joy, grief and even Flint's decline after Flo's death, proving rich inner lives.

Discovery #3: Chimps can be brutal

Jane discovered that chimps aren't just cute, tool-using neighbors. They can be violent. Her notes revealed warfare, infanticide, and lethal aggression. Chimps are capable of compassion and cruelty, a complexity they share with us humans.

Discovery #4: Powerful Family Bonds

Jane spent years documenting chimp families, and the parallels to human families that are honestly wild. She watched chimp mothers carefully teach their babies how to use tools. She saw teenage chimps rebel against their parents(sounds familiar?) and many other discoveries.

We share about 98-99% of our DNA with chimpanzees. Jane showed us that percentage matters. Every discovery she made about chimps taught us something about ourselves!

I think Dr. Jane's superpower was patience! She did not chase answers, she waited for them to unfold. Staying so still, forest could have mistaken her for a tree, and the chimps accepted her as one of their own.

Last words...

Dr. Jane in her last interview, recorded for Netflix, said, "**Do not lose hope. If you surrender to hopelessness, you become indifferent and inactive. Every day you live, you impact the world. You have the power to decide the kind of difference you make.**"

Obsolescence

PROGRESS OR UPGRADE TRAP?

Open that junk drawer in home: you may find retired phones, old headphones and a tangled pile of chargers for gadgets nobody remembers. Each one was once a **"must-have,"** but now it's a museum material. That slide from wow to meh is obsolescence, when something gets replaced by a quicker, smarter, cooler version. **It's how tech (and trends) evolve!** Obsolescence can be annoying (hello, e-waste) but it's also how progress happens.

The real question is how do you tell what's just hype... and what's built to last?

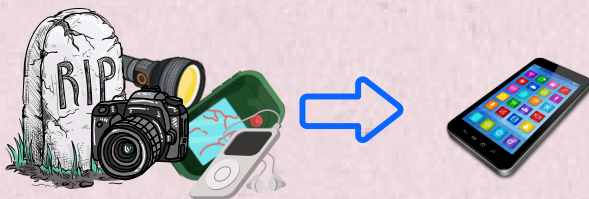
Let's understand obsolescence better...

Technological obsolescence: When new tech makes the old stuff irrelevant. Like streaming apps replacing videotapes and DVDs.



All day streaming!!!
I am bundling with Wi-Fi,
Popcorn and Couch!

Functional obsolescence: When the old thing can't do the job as well as the new.



Smartphone ate the MP3,
camera, GPS, and flashlight!
One device, four retirements :)

Perceived/Style obsolescence: When tastes change and not function. Most common in fashion and gadgets. It's about how we feel something is "in" or "out" of style.

Four seasons in nature but fashion
brands has 50 plus micro-seasons
and all say **"add to cart!"**

Planned obsolescence: When stuff is built with a short runway. Many gadgets have sealed batteries and glued parts, so repairs are hard/expensive and you end up buying a new one. Printers with DRM chips reject third-party ink or stop working after a page counter.

Nothing unscrews, everything's
glued! Only button left is
"self-destruct."

Our throwaway culture means mountains of e-waste and "last season" clothes. The planet's closet is already overflowing. Obsolescence isn't all bad if the new stuff is energy-efficient, sustainable, fixable, and not allergic to a screwdriver. Know the difference between when to **"upgrade now"** and **"tighten a screw,"** and Earth will be happy!



Gen Z Activism Across The World

AND THE SKULL THAT UNITES GEN Z PROTESTS



From Nepal to Madagascar to Morocco, Gen Z has been hitting the streets protesting corruption, poor healthcare services, and broken promises. What ties these far-apart rallies together isn't just anger but a shared symbol:

a grinning skull in a straw hat, the pirate flag from the anime **One Piece**.

From Kathmandu to Antananarivo to Rabat, it's become Gen Z's banner of unity and defiance.

Born in pop-culture but waved in real-life!



The Global Wave Of Gen Z Activism

Nepal (Sept 8-13, 2025)

Gen Z protests in Nepal erupted over corruption and a sudden social-media ban, toppling the government after violent clashes and a stormed parliament. Even in October, rallies continue with police arresting dozens demanding real reforms. [More...](#)

Madagascar (Sept-Oct 2025)

Young protesters first marched against water and power outages. But the movement widened, taking on corruption and poor governance. Clashes with police turned fierce including tear gas, rubber bullets, and road blockades.

Morocco (Oct 2025-Now)

Youth network called Gen Z 212 have rallied nationwide over failing healthcare, education, and corruption. As King Mohammed VI prepares to address the parliament, protesters are pushing for real reforms and not just promises.

The issues are different in each place, but there's one thing that keeps showing up in the crowds: a grinning skull wearing a straw hat

Why "One Piece"? Understanding the connection



One Piece is a Japanese anime and manga series about a crew of pirates chasing freedom and adventure on the high seas. It's main character, **Monkey D. Luffy**, is a fearless pirate who never gives up and always stands against injustice. That spirit of defiance and freedom has made One Piece's skull-and-straw-hat flag a perfect symbol for Gen Z protesters around the world. Young people who feel unheard by their governments and trapped in unfair systems instantly see themselves in that story.



Photos of protests from around the world

The Bigger Picture: What This All Means

The spread of the Straw Hat flag across global protests tells us something important about this moment in history.

Shared Struggles:

Young people around the world are facing similar problems: corrupt governments, economic inequality, environmental crisis, feeling unheard by people in power.

The Power of Stories:

One Piece, created by Eiichiro Oda in 1997, turned themes of freedom, friendship, and resilience into inspiration for millions now carrying those values into real-world protests.

Youth Empowerment:

By choosing their own pop-culture symbols instead of traditional political ones, Gen Z is proving they're writing their own story of resistance and change.

The Future of Activism:

This is probably what activism will look like going forward. More global, more connected, more influenced by shared culture than by national borders.

AMAZING BREAKTHROUGHS EXPLAINED

Double Scoop



The Nobel Prizes are among the highest honors in the world, awarded annually for breakthroughs that help humanity move forward. From curing disease, to confronting climate change, powering new computing, and elevating art and bravery.

Here are all the 2025 winners!

Medicine Prize: Understanding Our Immune System's "Brakes"



Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi won the Medicine Prize for discovering how our immune system knows when to stop attacking.

Think of your immune system like a guard dog that protects your body from germs and viruses. But what happens if the guard dog gets confused and starts attacking the family? These scientists discovered special mechanisms that act like the immune system's brakes, preventing it from harming our own organs.

Why does this matter? Their work has led to new treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases (diseases where your body mistakenly attacks itself).

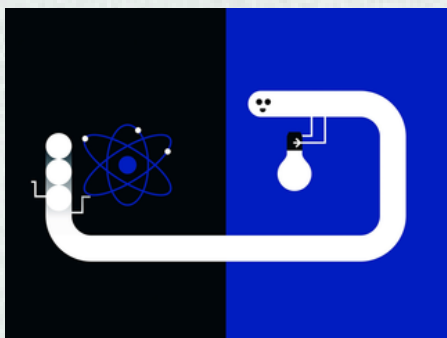
Chemistry Prize: Building Molecular "Sponges"

Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar Yaghi won the Chemistry Prize for developing metal-organic frameworks, or MOFs.

Imagine creating a material that's like a super-organized sponge at the microscopic level, with millions of tiny, perfectly shaped holes. These MOFs can trap specific molecules inside them, like catching certain gases or storing hydrogen for clean energy. They're incredibly clever at sorting and storing different substances. These materials could help fight climate change by capturing carbon dioxide or storing clean fuels.



Physics Prize: Quantum Computer Breakthroughs

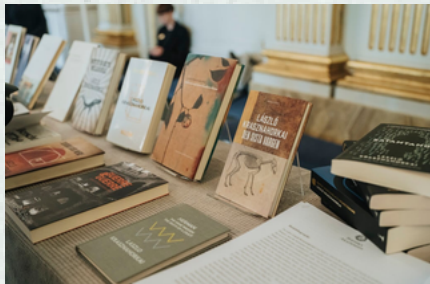


John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis won the Physics Prize for discovering quantum mechanical effects in electric circuits.

These scientists figured out how to make tiny electrical circuits that follow the weird rules of quantum physics (the science of super-small particles). Their work is helping build quantum computers (super-powerful computers) that could solve problems regular computers never could, like discovering new medicines or cracking impossible codes.

AMAZING DISCOVERIES EXPLAINED

Literature Prize: Epic Storytelling



Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai won the Literature Prize for his compelling and visionary writing that, even amid dark themes, reaffirms the power of art.

Krasznahorkai writes long, complex novels that explore big questions about humanity and existence. His writing style is unique. He's known for incredibly long sentences that pull you into his stories like a powerful current.

Peace Prize: Fighting for Democracy

Venezuelan political activist María Corina Machado won the Peace Prize for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela.

Machado has bravely stood up against authoritarianism in Venezuela, fighting for free and fair elections and the rights of ordinary people. Despite facing serious risks, she's united opposition groups and become a symbol of courage for democracy movements across Latin America.



Economics Prize: Coming Soon!

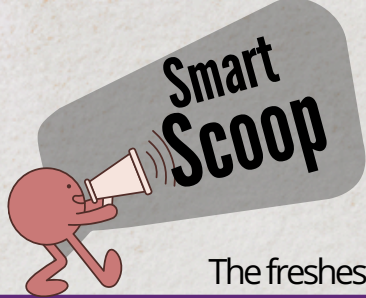
The Economics Prize will be announced on Monday, October 13, so we'll have to wait a little longer to find out who wins this final prize!

Sidestory about Nobel Prize



The Nobel Prize was created by **Alfred Nobel** on 27 Nov 1895, using his fortune to fund annual awards in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature, and Peace (first awarded in 1901; Economic Sciences added in 1968, awarded in 1969).

Why he started it: Alfred Nobel grew wealthy from his invention of dynamite, useful in mining and construction but also later was used in wars. In 1888, after his brother died, a French newspaper mistakenly published Alfred's obituary with the headline "The merchant of death is dead," condemning him for profiting from explosives. Disturbed by this likely legacy, he set out to change it. In his 1895 will he directed most of his fortune to prizes for those who "conferred the greatest benefit to humankind." He wanted the awards to be international and merit based, to elevate advances in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature, and Peace.



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