

## Hey Smart Scoopers

Hope you all had a wonderful week

Welcome back to another edition of SmartScoop! Each week, we bring you fresh stories, fun facts, and ideas to spark your curiosity. So let's jump right in and explore what's in store this time.

This week, we've lined up five fresh and exciting scoops just for you. From science and history to global trends and curious creatures, each story is packed with something new to discover. So dive in and enjoy your weekly dose of SmartScoop!

Scoop 1: Nepal's GenZ Revolution

Scoop 2: The Science Behind Laughter

Scoop 3: The Creation Of Atomic Bomb

Scoop 4: The Secret Life Of Octopuses

Scoop 5: The Craze Of Bubble Tea

Can't wait for you to dig-in! Happy scooping!

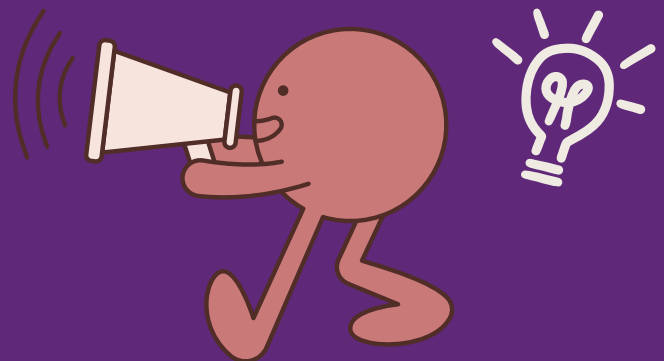
The SmartScoop Team

Our mascot, Blur  
t will follow us  
along the way.

Blurt /blurt/

noun:

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

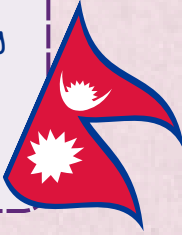
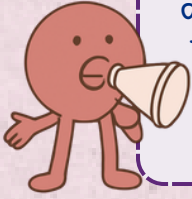




# Nepal's Gen Z Revolution

## THE VOICE OF YOUNG GENERATION

In September 2025, thousands of Gen Z protesters filled Nepal's streets, demanding change. The sudden ban on 25+ social media platforms including TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook was seen as an attack on free expression. Fuelled by anger over corruption, inequality, unemployment, and privileged "Nepo Kids," the crackdown ignited mass unrest that shook the nation.



Nepal is one of the world's **youngest democracies**, having abolished its centuries-old monarchy\* in 2008. In just 17 years, the country has seen 14 different governments, with none completing a full term. Political instability, corruption, and unemployment had left citizens especially youth disillusioned. The anger deepened when photos of privileged "Nepo Kids" flaunting their wealth went viral, fueling resentment and setting the stage for mass protests.

*\*monarchy is a system of government where one person, the monarch, such as a king or queen rules as head of state, usually for life.*



A viral photo showed Saugat Thapa, son of a provincial minister, posing by a Christmas tree made of luxury brand boxes like Louis Vuitton and Gucci. He dismissed the backlash as "unfair misinterpretation," claiming his father had given back all earnings from public service to the community.



The Gen Z group protests against corruption and ban on social media platform

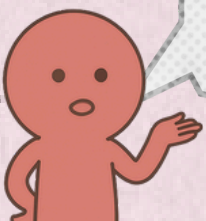
### What did GenZ achieve through the protest?

Within 48 hours, Nepal's Prime Minister stepped down, and protesters rallied behind Sushila Karki, a former chief justice, as the interim leader making her the country's first woman Prime Minister. Driven by Gen Z's resolve, the new leadership pledged to tackle corruption, restore digital freedoms, and create better opportunities in education and jobs.



Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman PM

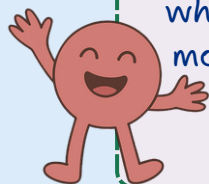
While the GenZ movement forced change, challenges still remain.



The violence and rapid shift left deep scars, but Nepal's youth are determined not to back down until their voices are respected and the country is truly fair. Their fight isn't just about one law, it's about building a corruption free future and making sure leaders keep their promises.

# The Science Behind Laughter

## WHO ELSE IS ON THE LOL JOKE?



Ever wondered why you can't help but crack up when your friend starts laughing, even when you have no idea what's funny? Laughter feels natural, but scientists say it's more than just a reaction to a joke. From boosting health to spreading happiness, laughter has a fascinating science behind it.

**Let's find out why we laugh, and whether it is really contagious!**

### Behind the scenes when you LOL...



#### Humour processing is surprisingly complex

**Left brain** unpacks the setup (analyse the words and structure of the joke)

**Right brain** catches the punchline (intellectual analysis required to "get" the joke.)

**Frontal lobe** decides if it's worth laughing at.

No wonder some jokes fall flat, they have to clear a whole brain committee first!

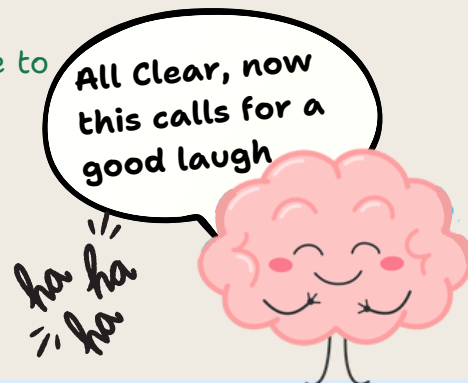
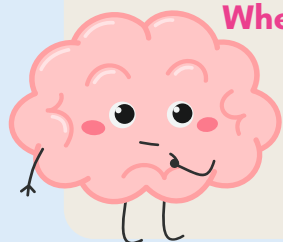
#### When you laugh, brain releases...happy chemicals

**Endorphins** (pain relief)

**Dopamine** (reward)

**Serotonin** (happiness)

Like a mini brain party!



### Is laughing contagious...



The answer is YES! Scientists have discovered that laughter is one of the most contagious behaviors humans have. When you hear someone laugh, your brain automatically primes your facial muscles to smile and laugh too. This happens because of something called "**emotional contagion**." Your brain has special neurons called **mirror neurons** that fire up when you watch someone laugh. So when you see someone laughing, your mirror neurons are basically practicing laughing along with them.



Ever notice how comedy shows have laugh tracks?

That's **emotional contagion** in action. The fake laughter tricks your brain into thinking the show is funnier than it actually is.



### Who Else is Laughing?



**Rats** were among the first animals shown to laugh, emitting high-pitched chirps.



**Great apes** also produce laughter like panting sounds during rough play.



**Dogs** make a distinct "play pant" that signals friendly intent.



**Dolphins** emit playful clicks and whistles interpreted as laughter.



**Note: Laughing Hyenas**, don't laugh from joy but it is actually a stress signal.

I am wondering if I should become a standup comedian or gelotologist\*?!?



\*A gelotologist is a specialist who studies the physiological effects of laughter



## THE SCIENCE, WAR AND MORAL DILEMMAS



Few weeks ago, we reflected on the [80th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#) and the devastating impact the atomic bomb (called **Little boy** and **Fat Man**) had on humanity. The images of destruction, the stories of survivors, and the ethical questions it raised continue to haunt us even today. This week lets understand how could science, at its peak brilliance, be turned into a weapon of destruction? And how did the scientists behind it wrestle with what they had created?



Little Boy on trailer cradle

## The Manhattan Project

During World War II, nations raced to build powerful new weapons. Scientists discovered a way to split atoms and release massive amounts of energy with a process called **nuclear fission**. This breakthrough had incredible military potential: crafting a bomb



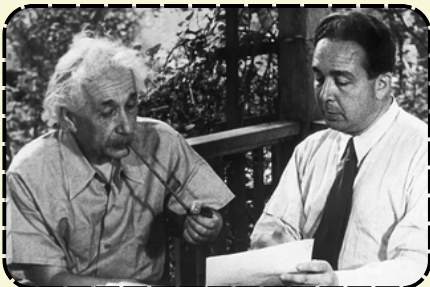
Atomic bomb Fat Man

more powerful than any before. Fearing that Nazi Germany might succeed first, the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada secretly teamed up to research nuclear weapons.

**This giant effort became known as the Manhattan Project.**

Manhattan Project was the most secretive scientific endeavour of the 20th century. The project drew together a constellation of scientists: J. Robert Oppenheimer, Enrico Fermi, Niel Bohr, Richard Feynman, among others.

## The Moral Dilemma...



Albert Einstein and Leó Szilárd

**Albert Einstein's** name often surfaces in this history even though he never participated in building of the atomic bomb. However in 1939, he and physicist **Leó Szilárd** co-signed a letter to President Roosevelt warning that Germany might be pursuing nuclear research. That letter spurred the Manhattan Project. After the war, he expressed regret:

**"Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in producing an atomic bomb, I would never have lifted a finger."**



J. Robert Oppenheimer

This regret mirrored the anguish of many scientists who had worked on the project. **Oppenheimer** himself, after witnessing the first atomic test in the New Mexico desert, recalled words from the Bhagavad Gita:

**"Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."**

The dilemmas faced by Einstein, Oppenheimer, and their peers are not relics of the past. They echo in our present too, in debates over artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and climate technologies.



Sidestory: Alfred Nobel, who invented dynamite to break through hard rock, was disheartened by its use in warfare. To reshape his legacy, he established the **Nobel Prize** to promote scientific advancement for peace.



## NATURE'S ALIEN GENIUSES



Imagine an animal that has three hearts, blue blood, and can change its appearance faster than you can blink. It can solve puzzles, use tools, and even recognize human faces. It sounds like something from a science fiction movie, but it's actually describing one of Earth's most remarkable creatures:

## The octopus!



If Earth had hidden aliens, the octopus would be the best candidate. As members of the cephalopod family alongside squid, cuttlefish, and nautilus, these creatures stand out as true masters of survival and weirdness. They represent a dramatically different evolutionary path from most animals we're familiar with, making them seem almost otherworldly.

## Wild Features and Hidden Talents: Built for survival



## Brains Everywhere

Not only does an octopus have a main "doughnut-shaped" brain, but each of its arms has its own "mini-brain." This means the arms can explore, grab, and even make decisions without waiting for commands.

## Eight Arms, Super Suckers

Every octopus has eight flexible arms covered in suckers. These powerful little discs can grip rocks, open shells, and even taste what they touch. Each arm can act on its own, making the octopus an expert at multitasking.

## Inky Getaway

When danger shows up, octopuses release a cloud of black ink, confusing predators and giving them a chance to escape. It's like their own superhero smoke bomb.

## Blue Blood and Three Hearts

Octopuses don't just look strange, they're weird on the inside, too. Their blood is blue, because it's based on copper (not iron, like humans). They have three hearts! Two pump blood to the gills, and one sends it to the rest of the body.

## The Ultimate Problem Solvers

Octopuses are crazy smart. They can solve mazes, open jars, and use coconut shells as hiding spots (a kind of tool use!). Scientists have even seen them escape from tanks, and some learn by watching others.



An Octopus stealing crab from a fisherman

## Master of Disguise



Find the Octopus?

Octopuses can instantly change color, texture, and patterns to vanish into their surroundings—even though they're color-blind! They have special skin cells which helps them achieve this. With no bones and only a small beak, they can slip through any gap larger than their beak.

# The Craze Of Bubble Tea

## WHEN FOOD GOES VIRAL



Bubble tea first appeared in **Taiwan** in the 1980s, when inventive tea shop owners dropped dessert-style **tapioca pearls** into iced tea. Some credit Liu Han-Chieh, others Tu Tsong-he but what mattered was the playful experiment that became a worldwide sensation. Its name comes from the frothy "**bubbles**" created when the tea is shaken, though most people now connect it with the chewy pearls, or "**boba**," at the bottom.

### The Perfect Storm of Viral Ingredients

Bubble tea succeeded globally because it combines several elements that make foods irresistible to social media audiences



**Social Media Amplification Effect:** Social media turned bubble tea from a local treat into a global craze. Creating videos that are oddly relaxing and engaging to watch. Instagram posts of colourful cups, shared under #bubbletea with millions of tags, made it look trendy, photogenic, and desirable.

### The Psychology of Viral Foods

#### Novelty and Curiosity

Humans are naturally drawn to new experiences, especially when it comes to food. Also, novelty factor creates curiosity and gives people stories to tell.

#### Visual Appeal

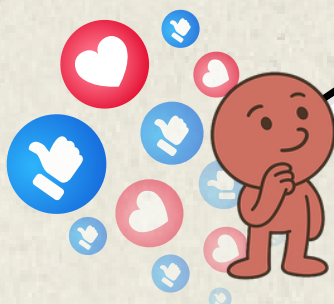
Viral foods almost always have distinctive visual elements that make them instantly recognizable and shareable and appealing to humans.

#### Cultural Capital

Being among the first to try a trending food item provides social currency. It became a way to signal that you were in-the-know about cool, authentic experiences.

#### Community and Belonging

Viral foods often create communities around shared experiences. This sense of belonging to a larger community encourages continued engagement and sharing.



Pretty drinks can win likes, but they may not win the health game...  
So sip smart!



That's it for this week folks!

***Here is your  
weekly wrap up Quizzzzz .....***

**What is Nepal's Gen Z  
movement mainly  
demanding?**

Cheaper internet

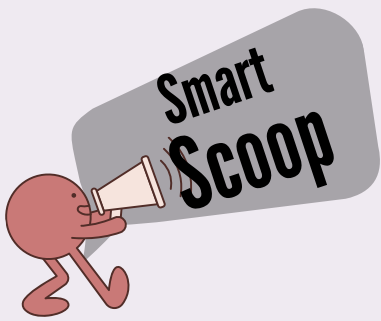
More jobs, transparency, and digital  
freedom

Free movie tickets

More shopping malls

**Submit**

Your name will not be shared



**Which brain chemical is often released when we laugh, making us feel happy?**

Adrenaline

Insulin

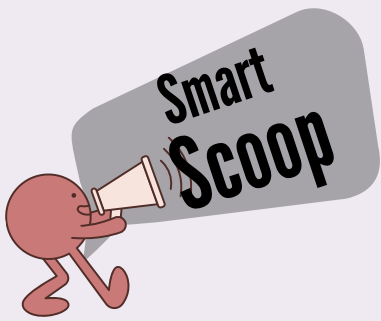
Dopamine

Chlorophyll

**Submit**

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**What unique feature allows octopuses to squeeze through very small spaces?**

Their flexible bones

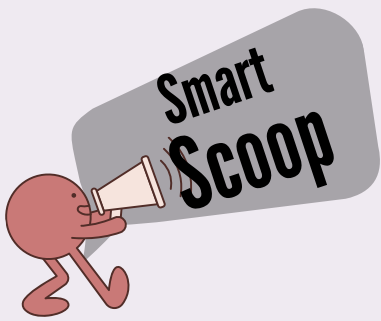
Their soft bodies with only a hard beak

Their slimy skin

Their stretchy arms

**Submit**

Your name will not be shared



**Bubble tea originally  
comes from which country?**

China

Japan

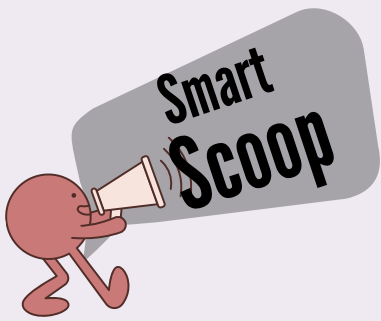
South Korea

Taiwan

**Submit**

Your name will not be shared





**What was the secret project called that developed the first atomic bomb during World War II?**

Manhattan Project

Operation Overlord

Project Bluebook

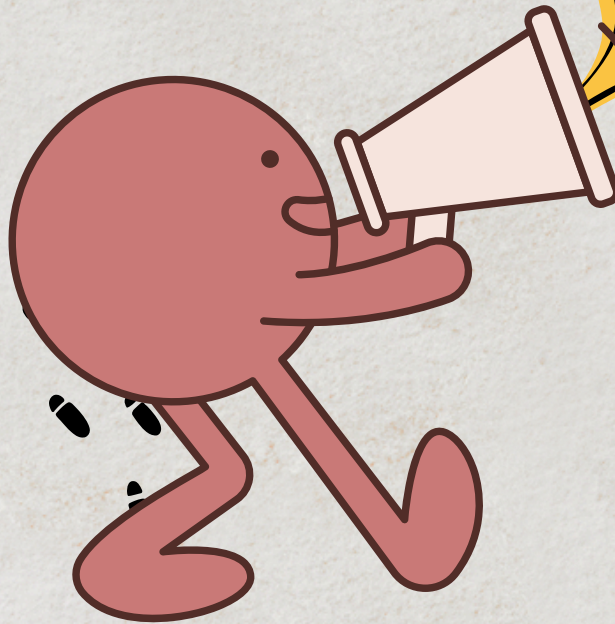
Trinity Mission

**Submit**

Your name will not be shared

Smart  
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Bananas are berries,  
but strawberries aren't!



Got some feedback or want to share something with us?

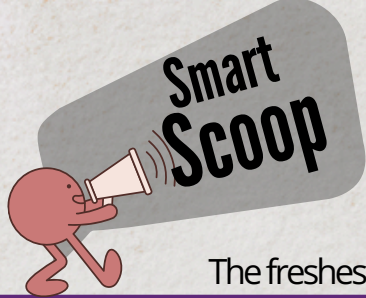
Write to us here:

[smartscoopteam@gmail.com](mailto:smartscoopteam@gmail.com)

<https://www.smartscoop.in>

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





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