

Hey Smart Scoopers We're back!

Hope you had an amazing week!

Things have been a bit hectic on our end—with lots happening all at once and some sniffles (thanks to the weather)! Between to-do lists and tissues, we've been working hard to bring you another fun-filled edition. Huge thanks for jumping into last week's quiz—we loved your energy, and yes, you can count on it showing up every week from now on!

Here are 5 fresh picks that everyone's been talking about. Blurt had a lot on his chest this week, so we're serving up our very first **Double Scoop**. Usually, we're better at stopping him; this time no amount of polite shushing could stop him...

Scoop 1: Tour de France 2025

Scoop 2.1: The Oily Story

Scoop 2.2: (*continued*) The Oily Story

Scoop 4: 2025 FIDE Women's World Cup

Scoop 5: Earth's on the Fast Track

Can't wait for you to dig in—happy scooping!

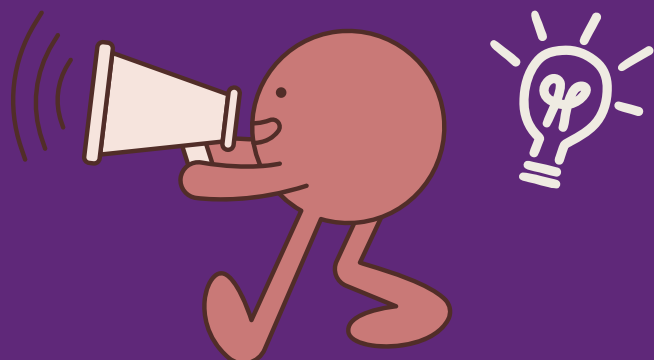
The SmartScoop Team

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.



Tour de France 2025

PEDAL TO THE MEDAL...AND THE YELLOW JERSEY

Paris, July 27, 2025

Love cycling?

Feeling fast, free and unstoppable?

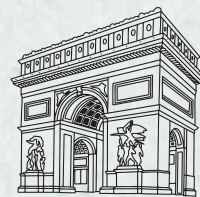
Now imagine riding 3,000 kilometers through pouring rain, burning heat, and mountains that test your limits. That's the **Tour de France**: the most challenging bike race in the world.

In 2025, one man conquered it all -- **Tadej Pogačar**.



The streets of Paris went wild as the 26-year-old cycling star from Slovenia, crossed the finish line on the Champs-Élysées*. With sweat, grit, and pure willpower, he won his **fourth Tour de France title**, becoming one of the sport's all-time greats.

The Champs-Élysées (pronounced "shahnz-ay-lee-ZAY") is a famous avenue in Paris, France

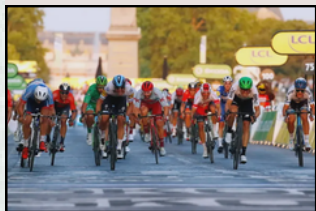


Champs-Élysées

So what is the Tour De France, anyway?

The Tour de France is the world's most iconic and toughest bike race, held every summer over **21 days**. In 2025, it ran from July 5 to July 27, covering around **3,320 km** across France. Each day is a new challenge!

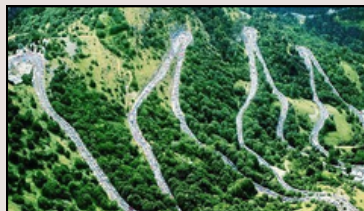
The 21 race days (called stages) can be:



Flat stages for high-speed sprints



Hilly stages with short, tricky, tough climbs



Mountain stages, pure brutal and endurance tests



Solo races against the clock with zero help

It might look like a solo race, but the Tour de France is a huge team effort. About 22 teams race, each with 8 riders working together like a well-oiled machine.

Everyone has a job: **Team leaders** aim for the big win. **Domestiques** help by pacing, blocking the wind, and fetching snacks. **Sprinters** blast off for flat stage wins. **Climbers** crush the steep mountains. No one wins the Tour alone.

I should have just stayed home and read my book...HELP



I'm just here for that polka dot jersey. Save me Tadej!!!!



Yellow
Overall Leader



Green
Sprint king



Polka-dot
Best climber



White
Top young rider

Ahh, Jerseys! My Faves...

Tour de France jerseys aren't just bright colors — they show who's fastest, strongest, or climbing to fame. Each one tells a cool story of skill and grit!



Blurt, I hear folks saying fuel prices may go up. Goodbye long drives...

Well kids, we often think distant wars don't affect us. But in a connected world and economy like ours, a conflict like Russia-Ukraine can hit your wallet — from fuel prices to even your favorite snack in India.

Really?!
Tell us more

Breaking news: The European Union (EU) has decided to stop buying fuels made from Russian oil.

Whoa... that sounds like a lot, right? Let's break it down and make it simple.



Can we start with the **economy**?
It's making my head spin!

Don't let those big words scare you!
The **economy** is how a country earns and spends money. It's all the jobs people do, the stuff we buy and sell, and how businesses make things or help people.



And I know that the **European Union (EU)** is a team of 27 European countries that work together on stuff like trade, travel, and making rules.

Exactly! In 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, starting a big war. The EU and countries like the US saw this as a threat and used **sanctions** on Russia to respond. These new rules affect India too.



Sanctions are strict rules put on a country that try to stop a war without fighting - like stopping trade or travel. It's like saying, "Play fair, or we won't do business with you."

Oh, I get it! Russia has lots of oil and gas. By banning Russian oil, the EU wants to cut Russia's money and make it harder for them to keep fighting.

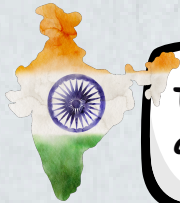


THE WIDE WEB OF WORLD ECONOMIES



Makes sense to me. But how did this start impacting India?

After the war began, Europe stopped buying Russian **crude oil**. So, Russia started selling it cheaper to countries like India. Crude oil is raw oil that gets made into petrol, diesel, and jet fuel.



Then India saw an opportunity and did something smart....



1

India bought (imported) cheap crude oil from Russia



2

Refined it in Indian oil refineries (turned it into usable fuel)



3

India sold (exported) that fuel at higher prices to countries like in the EU, where demand was high!



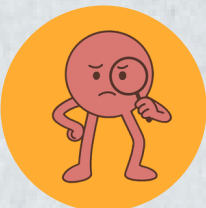
India

India earned billions by selling refined fuel - mostly diesel - to the EU, even though the crude oil came from Russia!



Looks like we were doing good business. So what changed?

The EU saw this and changed its rules. Now, even if fuel is sold by another country like India, the EU won't buy it if it originally came from Russian oil.



*Pesky EU! This will stop India from selling fuel to its biggest customer – Europe. That means losing big profits.**

Exactly! It changes how much India pays for oil, how much money companies make, and even the fuel prices your family pays.



**Profit is the extra money you make after paying all your costs. Like the leftover money from selling lemonade after removing the cost of buying the lemon and sugar.*

The war might be far away, but it shows how our world and money are all linked. What happens somewhere can affect us all!

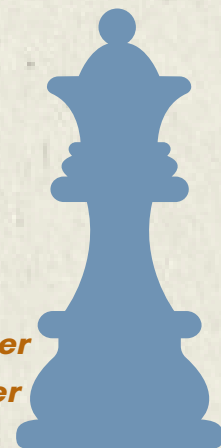
2025 FIDE Women's World Cup

BEFORE THE QUEEN RULED: ORIGINS OF CHESS



Divya Deshmukh
Queen of Chess

India's
4th Women Grandmaster
and 88th Grandmaster



Divya Deshmukh, 19, just made chess history!

This young chess star from India won the **2025 FIDE Women's World Cup** and grabbed the super-cool **Grandmaster** title. She beat chess legend Koneru Humpy in a nail-biting match in Batumi, Georgia — the two were tied after regular games, but Divya took the win in rapid-fire tiebreaks!

At just 19, Divya has shown that with focus and hard work, young players can reach the top! For any kid who loves chess (or has a big dream), her story proves that with the right mindset and good mentors, you can make it happen.



Did you know? India is the birthplace of chess!



Foot soldier 'Padati'	Pawn
Horse 'Ashva'	Knight
Elephant 'Gaja'	Bishop
Chariots 'Ratha'	Rook
Raja	King
Senapati	Queen



No lies! It all began in India, around the **6th century CE**.

It was called **Chaturanga**, named after the four parts of the ancient Indian army: foot soldiers, horse riders, elephants, and chariots!



From **India**, chess travelled to **Persia (now Iran)** and was called **Shatranj**. Sound familiar? The Persians used "Shah" for king and "Shah Mat" for "the king is helpless" and that's how the term "**checkmate**" was born!

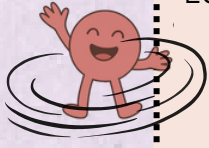


In 1997, IBM's supercomputer Deep Blue beat chess legend Garry Kasparov. Today, people play chess on boards and online. It's a game of focus, strategy, and never giving up. So, what's your next move?



From **Persia**, chess reached **Europe**, where the queen and bishop got stronger moves, turning the game into the chess we know today.

AND THERE'S CHAOS IN THE CLOCK



Here's some wild news: Earth is spinning faster than it has in decades! On July 9 and 22, Earth shaved off 1.3 and 1.4 milliseconds from the day. August 5 might be even shorter by **1.5 milliseconds**.

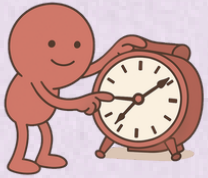
"Milliseconds? Who cares?!"

Well... GPS, banking systems, and ultra-precise computers definitely care. When time slips, so do they.

Wait, Earth's Speeding Up Now?



For billions of years, Earth's been slowing down as the Moon drifts away. But since 2020, Earth's been spinning faster. Scientists are still scratching their heads. One suspect? The **Moon itself**. Depending on its position, the Moon's gravity tugs on Earth differently. Right now the moon's position might be giving our planet a little extra spin.



Earth's Spin Isn't Always a Perfect 24 Hours — So We Have to Nudge the Clock.

Earth takes about **365.25 days** to orbit the Sun—not a neat 365. So every 4 years, we add an extra day (Feb 29) to keep our seasons on track.

Skip this adjustment for a few centuries, and you'll be unwrapping Christmas presents in summer.



Like leap years, we add **leap seconds** to keep atomic clocks* aligned with Earth's not-so-perfect rotation. Since 1972, extra seconds have been added occasionally to **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**#.

But here's the twist: Earth's spinning faster now, so scientists are considering the first-ever **negative leap second**—removing a second instead of adding one.

Sounds simple? Not really. Even adding leap seconds has caused tech glitches. Removing one could be a whole new headache.

**An atomic clock is a super-accurate clock that tells time by counting how fast tiny atoms wiggle. It's the most precise clock in the world and helps things like GPS and the internet work properly.*



Hmm... Maybe Earth's just speeding up to get to the weekend quicker, can't blame it!



#UTC is the main time all clocks around the world follow. It uses super-precise atomic clocks (there are over 400!) and sometimes adds tiny adjustments (leap seconds) to match Earth's spin. UTC stays the same all year and helps set time zones everywhere.

That's it for this week folks!

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

**Why are scientists saying
the Earth might need a
"negative leap second"?**

To give everyone less sleep

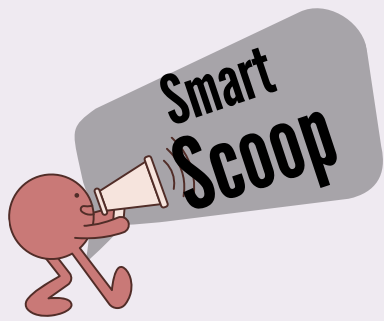
Because Earth is spinning slower

Because Earth is spinning faster

To match the Moon's orbit

Submit

● Loading...



Who won FIDE Women's Chess Championship 2025?

Koneru Humpy

Divya Deshmukh

Harika

R Vaishali

Submit

● Loading...



In Tour de France, what does the yellow jersey represent?

Best mountain climber

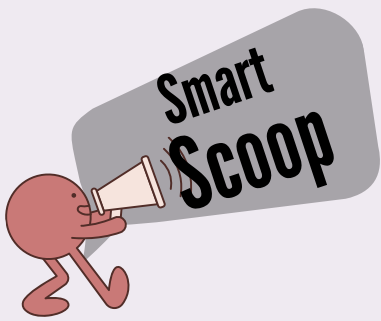
Last place finisher

Youngest rider

Overall Race Leader

Submit

● Loading...



Why did the EU announce new sanctions recently?

To fight climate change

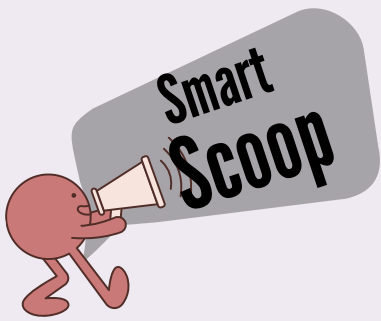
Because of unfair sports results

Due to actions related to the Russia-Ukraine war

To ban TikTok

Submit

● Loading...



What do Sanctions usually try to do?

Give rewards to friendly countries

Slow down economic activity of certain countries

Help build schools

Support local farmers

Submit

● Loading...

Smart
Scoop

That's it for this week!
Until next time, keep your
brain gears turning!

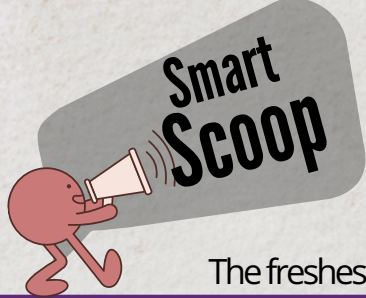


Got some feedback or want to share something with us?

Write to us here:

smartscoopteam@gmail.com

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



The freshest finds for clever minds!!!

SOURCES

[The Hindu](#)
[Economic Times](#)
[The New York Times](#)
[NPR](#)
[The Ken](#)
[The Finshots](#)
[Tech Crunch](#)
[NewsforKids](#)
[Wikipedia](#)
[Wikibio](#)
[Studiobinder](#)

[BBC News](#)
[CNN](#)
[Reuters](#)
[The Guardian](#)
[Bloomberg](#)
[Times of India](#)
[The Wire](#)
[Science News](#)
[National Geographic](#)
[Live Science](#)
[Popular Science](#)

Please write to us for any content modification or removal. We do not intend to violate any copyrights.
All credit goes to the original owner.

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. This content is not AI-generated; all pages have been manually edited and finalised by our editorial team. Generative AI was used for editing and creating a few images to improve engagement.