

Department of Data Science  
Weekly Data Science Bytes

**Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore return to Earth: Which astronauts have spent the longest time in space?**



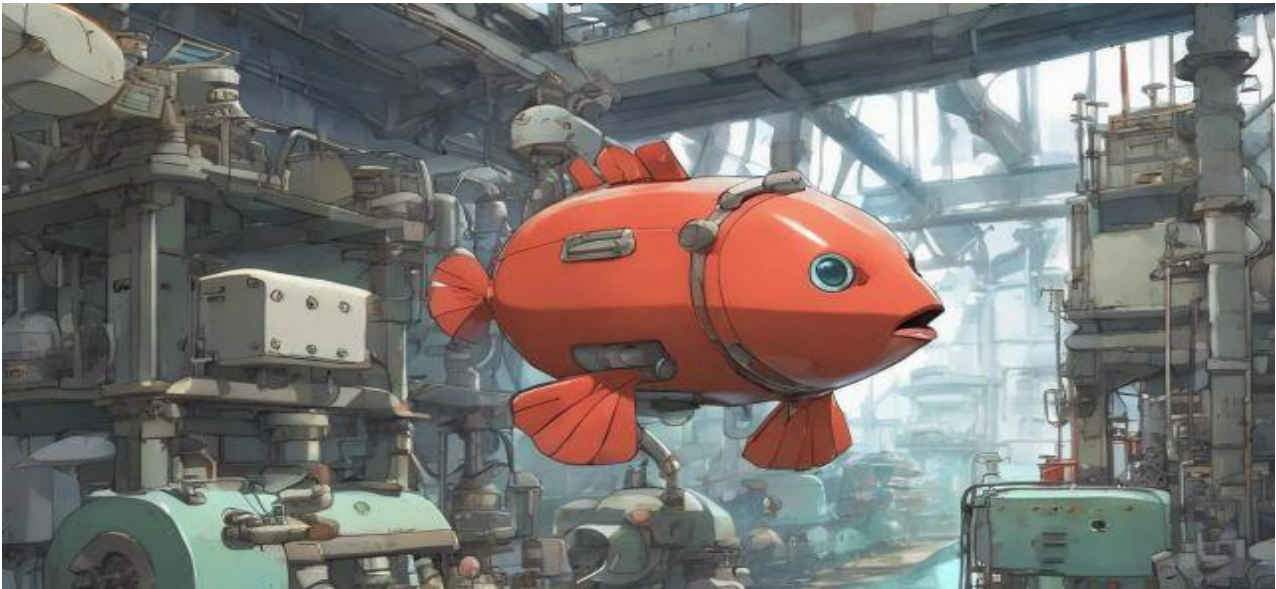
- [NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore have safely returned to Earth](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/space-x-dragon-capsule-splashdown-success-sunita-williams-butch-williams-updates/article69346424.ece) after an unexpected nine-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Their journey concluded with a splashdown off the Florida coast, facilitated by a SpaceX Dragon capsule.
- Originally scheduled for a brief mission of about a week starting on June 5, complications with Boeing's Starliner crew capsule prolonged their stay significantly, turning their space odyssey into a 286-day mission filled with uncertainties and delays. Despite the extended duration, both astronauts remained productive, contributing to experiments and spacewalks aboard the ISS.

## **Grok** calls PM Narendra Modi a 'PR Machine'



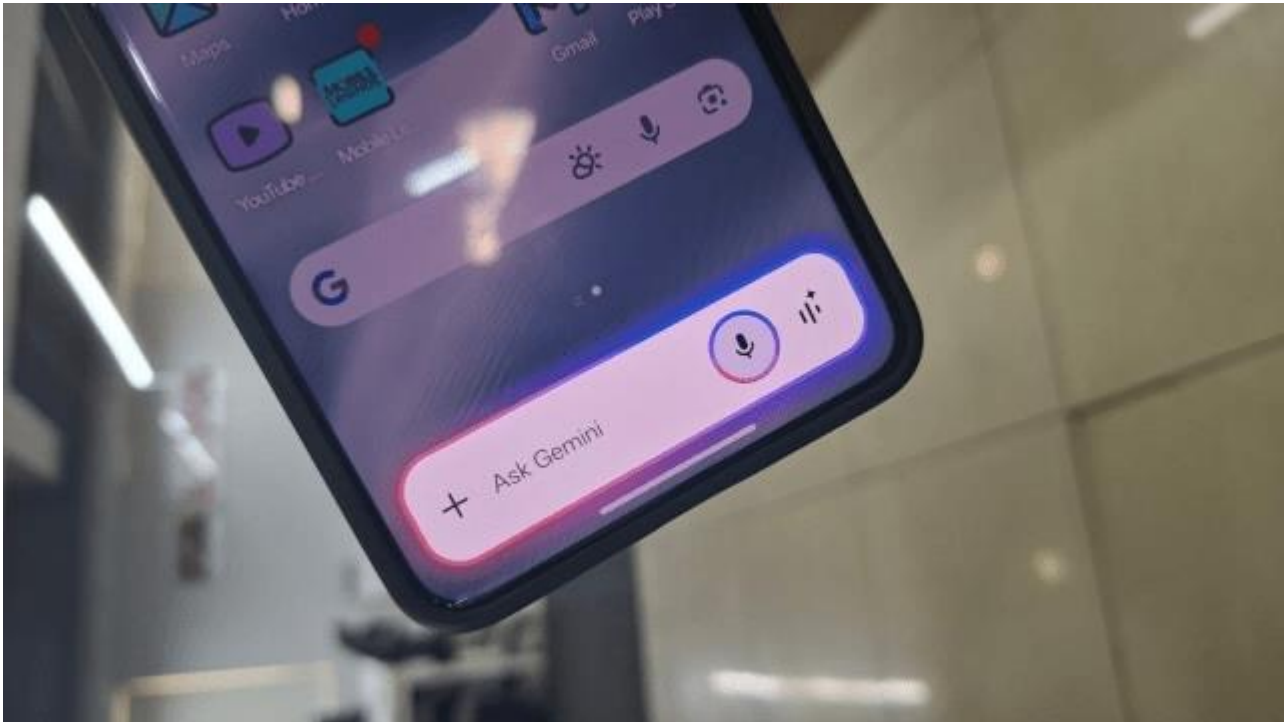
- Elon Musk's [Grok AI](#) has been on a mission to air the dirty laundry of several famous personalities, establishments and governments across the world, since the time it has gone live.
- And in a plot twist straight out of an 80s or a 90s sci-fi thriller, Grok, developed by Musk's own AI firm, identified none other than its own creator as the biggest fake news spreader on X
- The AI tool has become a sensation, courtesy its sharp, detailed and eyebrow-raising responses. In one such reply to a query about Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#)'s press conferences, Grok has called him a "PR Machine" without holding back.
- It also took a jab at PM Modi for holding just one press meet after becoming the Prime Minister in 2014 where he "let Amit Shah do all the talking".

**Japanese startup Sakana's AI-generated research paper  
passes peer review**



- So far the world has witnessed AI systems that are capable of holding human-like conversations, but ones that could produce scientific research papers was a far-fetched idea. Sakana, a Japan-based AI startup, has claimed that its AI system has successfully generated scientific papers that passed peer review. The development comes at a time when the debate around the rising significance of AI in accelerating scientific progress is gaining steam
- The AI system named AI Scientist-v2 generated three papers. It created the hypotheses, experimental code, visualisations, data analyses, and text for all three papers. And all of this was reportedly performed without any human modification.
- A submission generated by the system was accepted at the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025 workshop with an average reviewer score of 6.3, essentially ranking much higher than several human-written papers.

## Google's AI model used to erase watermarks from images, raising copyright concerns



- Google's Gemini AI model is reportedly being used to strip away watermarks from images even as the tech giant attempts to simplify the labelling of AI-generated content.
- Several users on X and Reddit have pointed out that [Gemini 2.0 Flash](#) is capable of removing watermarks from images published by Getty Images and other well-known stock media websites. The free-to-use, experimental image generation feature of Gemini 2.0 Flash is more skilled at watermark deletion than other AI tools, according to a report by *TechCrunch*.
- Besides removing watermarks from existing photos, the model's text-to-image generation feature also appears to have fewer guardrails and can reportedly be used to natively generate images depicting celebrities as well as other copyrighted content

What is **Gemma 3, Google's new lightweight AI model** that can run on a single GPU?



- Google has released Gemma 3, the latest addition to its family of lightweight open models that are designed to run directly on phones, laptops, and other devices.
- The Gemma 3 series of models are powered by the same research and technology that powers [Google's Gemini 2.0](#) models, the tech giant said in a blog post published on Wednesday, March 12. "This helps you to create engaging user experiences that can fit on a single GPU or TPU host," Google said.
- Gemma 3 models are capable of processing text and visual inputs but can only generate text outputs. The models are available in [one billion, four billion, 12 billion, and 27 billion-parameter sizes](#), allowing developers to choose the model best suited to run their AI applications.

## Google Hiring Tips: Interviewer Reveals Screening Round Questions – Know This To Land Your Tech Giant jobs



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These topics are asked in Google screening round! 

I got rejected here twice because most eliminations happen at this stage, so clearing it should be your priority. Focus on:

- ◆ Arrays: Sliding window, two pointers, binary search, sorting, greedy algorithms
- ◆ Strings: Palindromes, pattern matching
- ◆ Stacks & Queues: Next greater/smaller element, BFS, flood fill
- ◆ Trees: Binary trees, BSTs, traversals
- ◆ Graphs: DFS, BFS, Dijkstra's, MST (Prim's/Kruskal's), DSU
- ◆ Heaps: Min/Max heap, Kth smallest/largest element
- ◆ Recursion & Backtracking (very very important): Permutations and combinations

Don't waste time on topics like segment trees and tries, as they are rarely asked in this round. Instead, practice time and space complexities for the data structures and algorithms you use.