

# SOLUS REX PRELIMS 2008

Set by Kiran Vijayakumar and Arul Mani of The Karnataka Quiz Association  
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- § no negative marking  
§ \*\*ed questions will resolve ties  
§ 30 minutes  
§ Keep the questions; answer separately.
1. \*\* This Indian city takes its name from one of the sons of Kunti. It was the site of a famous battle where the Mughal emperor Mohammad Shah was defeated and captured by the invader Nadir Shah. Kalpana Chawla was born here. Name city.  
  
à Karnal, Haryana.
  2. \*\* To make the kiswah, you need 670 kilograms of pure silk. This quantity is turned into 47 panels of cloth, each of a length of 14 metres. Other requirements include 120 kgs gold and about 50 kgs silver for lettering. The kiswah measures 658 square metres and costs about 17 million in the local currency. What is the kiswah?  
  
à The black cloth that covers the Kaaba in Mecca.
  3. \*\* Palmiers are a traditional French puff pastry made from rich, buttery dough. Their name, derived from the French word for the palm tree, refers to a supposed resemblance to palm fronds. They are also called Elephant-Ears on account of their shape. Under what trade name have they been marketed in India by a biscuit company for more than fifteen years now?  
  
à Britannia Little Hearts.
  4. \*\* His innovation was first used on the cast of Walter Wanger's *Vogues* of 1938, starring Warner Baxter and Joan Bennett. Critics noticed the innovation and raved about it in their reviews. One wrote: "Never before in a colour motion picture have the players looked so natural and realistic. They were so lifelike, in fact, that it seemed like they would step down from the screen into the audience at any minute." Either name the pioneer or identify the innovation.  
  
à Pan-Cake Makeup by Max Factor.
  5. \*\* Ironmongers Walter and Thomas Davies added a hired car division in 1902 to their business enterprises in Llanelli. The most common complaint from customers inspired the brothers to come up with an solution that was advertised as requiring 'no more than a minute' to use. This innovation attracted much attention at the Olympia Motor Show

in 1905 and by 1906 they were dispatching as many as a thousand units every month. Identify this innovation, named after the street from where they operated.

à Stepney (spare wheel).

6. \*\* The California Products Corporation, a manufacturer of 'environmental containment coatings', has two competing divisions. One division has had 'attention' focused on its most famous product during a fortnight in August-September every year since 1978. The other division's product has enjoyed similar 'attention' every January, since 2007. Either identify these products or tell me where these products are in use.

à DecoTurf (Flushing Meadows, US Open) & Plexiplave (Melbourne Park, Australian Open).

7. \*\* Which fictional character has hunted the peacock, played a joker, broken an egg, gone by train, had bats fly up for him, trusted the heart, drawn a line, been told to go west, been under a monsoon cloud, been caught in meshes and investigated the body in the billiard room?

à Inspector Ghote (by H.R.F. Keating).

8. \*\* To celebrate the 10th anniversary of this cult movie, a limited edition DVD was recently released in an unusual format. The 2 DVDs came packed in a miniature bowling ball. Identify the movie.

à The Big Lebowski by the Coen Brothers.

9. \*\* This word, meaning 'hinder' or 'subvert', dates back to the 14th century, when it was a military term for digging a clandestine passage under a building to sneak up on the enemy. In Shakespeare's time, its literal meaning was still commonly known, but later it turned metaphorical. In *All's Well That Ends Well*, when the maiden Helena asks a soldier if there's a way to safeguard her virginity, he replies, "There is none: man, sitting down before you, will \_\_\_\_\_ you, and blow you up." Identify the word.

à Undermine.

10. \*\* What motto, originally attributed to the penultimate Bourbon monarch of France, was used by the Dambusters in World War II?

à *Après moi, le deluge* (After me, the deluge).

11. At Beijing 2008, in the Rhythmic Gymnastics group event for women, the Israel didn't win any medal. The team comprising of Olena Dvornichenko, Katerina Pisetsky, Maria Savenkov, Rahel Vigdozhik & Veronika Vitenberg finished 6th, but got much media attention in India. Why?

à They danced to the tune of "Dheem Tanana" from Om Shanti Om.

12. What evocative name was given to the attacks carried out by the Luftwaffe in two periods between April and June 1942 on relatively unimportant cities in England such as Exeter, Bath, Norwich, York & Canterbury?

à Baedeker Raids.

13. The Broadway production of Rent closed on September 7, 2008 after a 12 year run and 5,124 performances, making it the seventh-longest-running Broadway show. With music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson, it tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side in the thriving days of the East Village, under the shadow of AIDS. On which famous opera, it is based?

à La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini.

14. Various origins have been offered for the name of this movement: they include a sound imitative of foraging hyenas; the name of a range of hills; a nonsense word created by British settlers to demean the rebels; a 'magic potion' the rebels would drink, making them invulnerable; a Swahili phrase translating to English as "Let the white man go (back) to Europe; let the African attain freedom" and a reference to the secrecy of the communication, meaning "those things, those same things [we have talked about]". What?

à Mau Mau.

15. What connects Velcro, the number 43, Shrub and King George?

à Nicknames of George W. Bush.

16. Which much-downloaded film from 2007 did film critic Robert Wilonsky dismiss as "The Spy Who Shagged Yee"?

à Lust, Caution by Ang Lee.

17. A certain Native American tribe has lent its name to both a state and a river in the US. Since the state was originally explored and settled by the French, the last letter in its name is not sounded. Since the river was named by settlers from other parts of Europe, the last letter is always pronounced. What name are we looking for?

à Arkansas.

18. What phrase which now indicates that an event or consequence is more or less certain is derived from the term used for securely strapped saddle-girths in the US during the 19th Century?

à It's a cinch.

19. His father was a British admiral who played a major part in the restoration of Charles II to the throne after the death of Cromwell. He was himself an unrepentant Quaker and was allowed to leave England unharmed only because of the monarch's sense of indebtedness. He left England in the 1680s to become the world's largest private landowner, presiding over a good 45,000 acres. Who?
- à William Penn.
20. This term, derived from the Middle English word for 'grain', is normally applied to the chief cereal crop of any region. It may thus refer to rye, wheat, oats, maize or barley as the case may be. What term?
- à Corn.
21. What phrase, originally used by an English socialite to dismiss the poet Byron, was borrowed by the explorer Ranulph Fiennes to serve as the title of his 2007 autobiography?
- à Mad, Bad and Dangerous To Know.
22. The Separation of Light and Darkness, The Creation of the Sun and the Moon and the firmaments, the creation of Adam and Eve, the Fall, Noah's Sacrifice and the Drunkenness of Noah are sequences at which famous location?
- à The Sistine Chapel.
23. A monarch commissioned thirty such structures, 26 years into his reign, to serve as objects of contemplation. They were all carved out of Chunar sandstone, obtained from quarries near Varanasi. Each consisted of a Persepolitan bell topped by an abacus and a finial—an arrangement supported by a monolithic shaft. What?
- à Ashoka's Pillars.
24. Establishments founded by Pandit Gayaprasad Shivcharan (1872), Kanhaiyalal Durgaprasad Dikshit (1875) and Pandit Babu Ram Devi Dayal (1888) still survive of the original nine establishments that gave this location in Delhi its name. These three outfits continue to draw tourists and foodies. Which location?
- à Parathewale Gali in New Delhi.
25. The Crown of the Palace was put together using material sourced from Makrana. This choice that was to prove crucial because the texture of the material was apt to change in response to changes in light over the day. What are we talking about?
- à Taj Mahal.

26. The primary use of this fruit in Western cuisine is to reduce the gaminess of meat, especially venison. It is also used as a flavouring agent thus lending its name to a particular variety of drink. What fruit?

à Juniper berries.

27. This African country was ruled for a brief while in the recent past by the Islamic Courts Union, a fundamentalist regime backed by the Al Qaeda, and later witnessed waves of violence orchestrated by Shabab (Youth), the militant wing of the ICU. Which country?

à Somalia.

28. Taleghani Avenue in Teheran is now the permanent home to an exhibition titled the Aban 13 exhibition. The title refers to the incidents of November 4, 1979 which precipitated a fifteen month stand-off. The event itself is referred to as Gerohgan Girhi. What?

à Holding US embassy staff in Teheran hostage.

29. Which character's star turn in a 2002 film did New Yorker reviewer Anthony Lane put to the sword with the words "Break me a fucking give"?

à Yoda.

30. The Maoists in Nepal recently announced their intention to put to end a 200-year-old tradition because of its colonial origins and also because it seemed to compromise loyalty to the nation. This caused a furore in Central Nepal, the poorest region of the country. What tradition?

à Gurkhas enlisting to fight in the British army.