



asia

SWEEP

The Arun Veembur Memorial Quiz



ASIASWEEP 2025

The Arun Veembur Memorial Quiz

Shout out to

Boat Club Quiz Club, Pune, Bombay Quiz Club, Coimbatore Quiz Circle,
Delhi Quiz Club, Enquiry, Jadavpur University Quiz Forum, IIT Kanpur Quiz Club,
IIT Kharagpur Quiz Club, K-Circle, Hyderabad, QFI Chennai, Quizzing society IISER,
Siliguri Quiz Club, SEQC, Goa
and the quiz communities of Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Thrissur



Edition XI

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SECTION I

RULES

questions

Stake +1 on a maximum of 10

No negatives

Max. score: 35

The local name Hulatang does not contain the sequence familiar to us. The key ingredients referenced in the name we know are pepper and Zhenjiang vinegar, but as we said earlier the local name does not convey such information in the same way as the name given in other countries.

What is this familiar name—four words only?



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ANSWER

Hot and Sour Soup

Hulatang means ‘spicy pepper soup’, thus leaving out the sour bit.



One of the requirements is that seven points must all touch the ground at the same time: the four legs, tail, penis, and trunk. Another requirement is that the tusks must take the shape of a traditional winnow.


Qualifications for what ceremonial office, associated with a ten-day period in July-August every year?



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ANSWER

The elephant that bears the casket containing the Buddha's Tooth in the Esala Perahera at Kandy.



Yeonggunnamja or Korean Englishman is a YouTube channel run by a pair of Westerners documenting their encounters with Korean culture. In 2012, they featured a product that reputedly touches 4400 Scoville units in a fiery challenge to viewers.

What Korean food product became internationally popular thus?



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ANSWER

Buldak Ramen
Accepting Fire Noodle



The Qawliya or Kawliya are an ethnic minority in Iraq of Roma/Gypsy extraction, believed to have migrated from India over a thousand years ago.

The name given to them suggests that they migrated to Iraq from the capital of an adjacent country.

Name this city.



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ANSWER

KABUL

Excerpt from a poem that won the Newdigate Prize for Poetry in 1846:

**Not virgin-white like that old Doric shrine,
where erst Athena held her rites divine;
Not saintly-grey, like many a minster fane,
that crowns the hill and consecrates the plain;
But rose-red as if the blush of dawn,
that first beheld them were not yet withdrawn;**

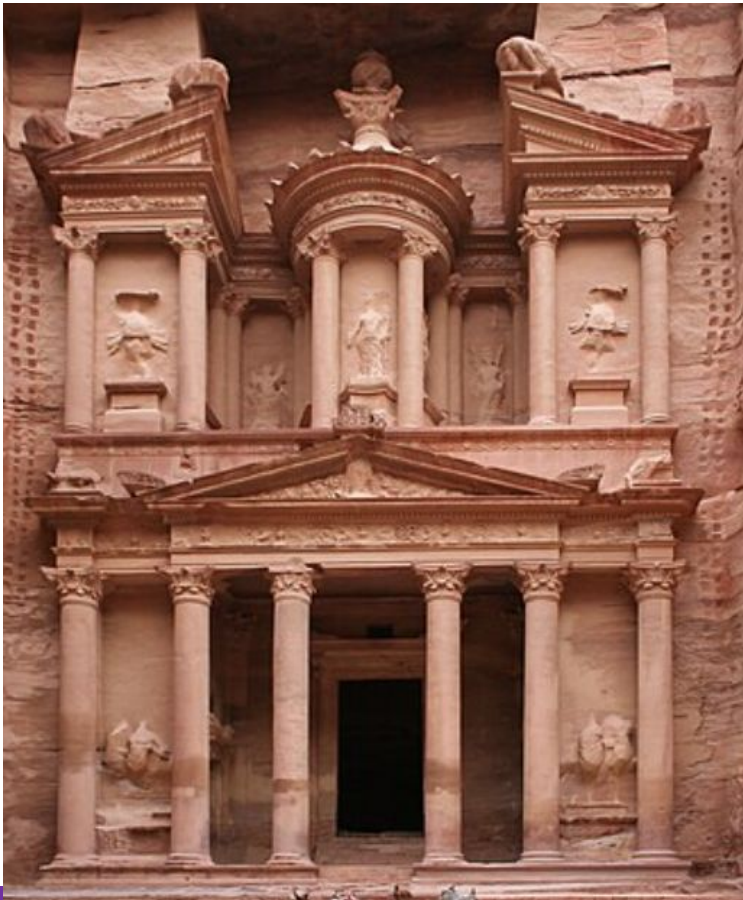
What site, rediscovered in 1812, inspired this poem?



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ANSWER

Petra, in Jordan



US forces carried out a pre-emptive raid on this location after they heard of the possible sale of aviation fuel stored here to Japan.

Since Portugal was officially neutral during World War II, USA had to pay them 20 million dollars in compensation

What location did they thus attack in 1945?



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ANSWER

Macau

The Tehcir, or Temporary Law of Deportation was a diktat that authorised which infamous event of the early 20th century?



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ANSWER

The Armenian Genocide of 1915

A 350x30 km stretch, bearing a name meaning gateway, lends its name to the 1864 conflict which eventually reduced the losing side's territories by 20 percent.

The stretch received valuable alluvium from multiple rivers.

Name either this stretch or the losing side.



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ANSWER

**Dooars/Duars
OR
Bhutan**

They originally adopted a weapon associated with Vishnu as their symbol. It may also have local origins because the same symbol was used by leaders who commanded the local forces.

They now use a symbol that combines the choice weapons of both Vishnu and Siva

Which durable line are we talking about?



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ANSWER

Chakri Dynasty, Thailand

Polos ambula, or Polos Curry, is a distinctive Sri Lankan item that makes use of what familiar ingredient?





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ANSWER
Jackfruit
Baby jackfruit

The Russian folk etymology of this name means “self eater”, something that likely added to the already exotic image they had of their far-northern neighbours. The most probable linguistic origin, however, is from a term that means “land of the people”. The name is perhaps more commonly used for a dog breed that shares a nickname with the sandwich. What is the name?



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ANSWER

Samoyed

X is a fermented malt beverage originating from Central Asia and made in parts of the Balkans, Turkey, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and North Africa. It is made by fermenting various grains: maize (corn) and wheat in Turkey. It has a thick consistency, a slightly acidic sweet flavor and despite the name sounding similar to another word for alcohol, the alcohol content in it is relatively low, standing at around 1%. X?



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ANSWER

Boza/Bosa

Italian luxury wear brand Prada was accused of cultural appropriation after showcasing its Men's Spring/Summer 2026 collection. What were they accused of copying?





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ANSWER

Kolhapuri Chappal

The first was Queen Saovabha Phongsri, who served as queen regent when her husband King Chulalongkorn travelled to Europe. Who was the second?



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ANSWER

Sirikit

The ancient Greeks and Romans referred to the mineral as callais and the Aztecs knew it as chalchihuitl. In professional mineralogy, until the mid-19th century, the scientific names kalaite or azure spar were also used, before fading away in favour of another name with an Asian connection. What name?



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ANSWER

Turquoise

The country with the most changes made to its flag in the world is the USA, with almost all the changes being stars added to the flag when new states joined the union. If we only consider countries in Asia since the start of the 20th century, who has made the most changes to their flag?



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ANSWER

Afghanistan

The people of which country are likely to refer to themselves as luk khao niao, which can be translated to 'children/ descendants of sticky rice'?



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ANSWER

Laos

In 1998, after a local company, IRIS Corporation, developed the technology, which South East Asian country became the first to issue biometric passports to its citizens?



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ANSWER

Malaysia

X is extensively used to repair and preserve historical documents by the U.S. National Archives, the Louvre Museum and the British Museum, among others, because properly made X can be used for a long time, is characteristically less prone to degradation and also relatively resistant to environmental changes. X?



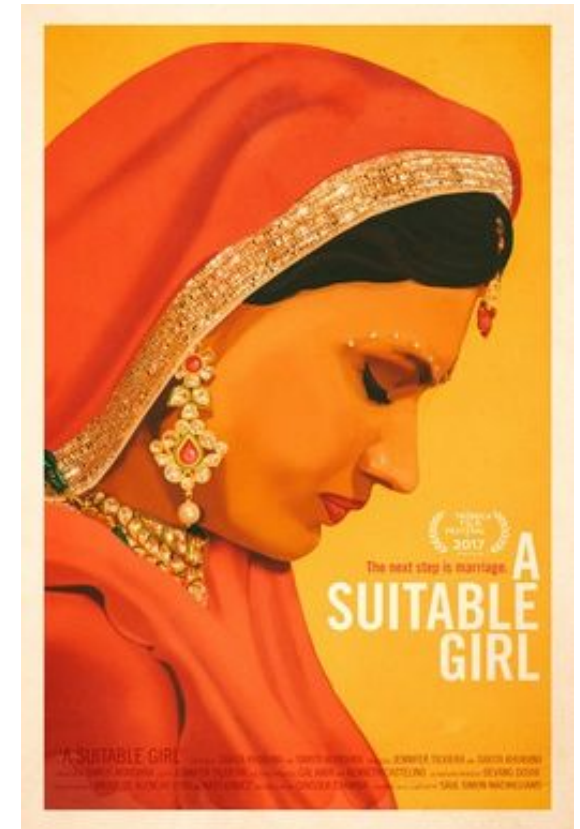
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ANSWER

Washi paper

She appeared first in Smriti Mundhra's 2017 documentary film, *A Suitable Girl*, and has been putting together her “database” of South Asians since 2005.

Whose illustration
by the artist João
Fazenda?





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ANSWER

Sima Taparia



Qn 21.

Frank Gehry's *Peix* (pictured) is 56 metres long and 35 metres high. Erected in 1992 as part of Barcelona's refurbishment of its coastline for the Summer Olympics, this sculpture reportedly inspired which four-storey regional office in India?





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ANSWER

National Fisheries Development Board (Hyderabad, India)



Qn 22.

Why did the Japanese pop-star Ayumi Hamasaki's performance on Nov 29th at the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Oriental Sports Center create world news ?



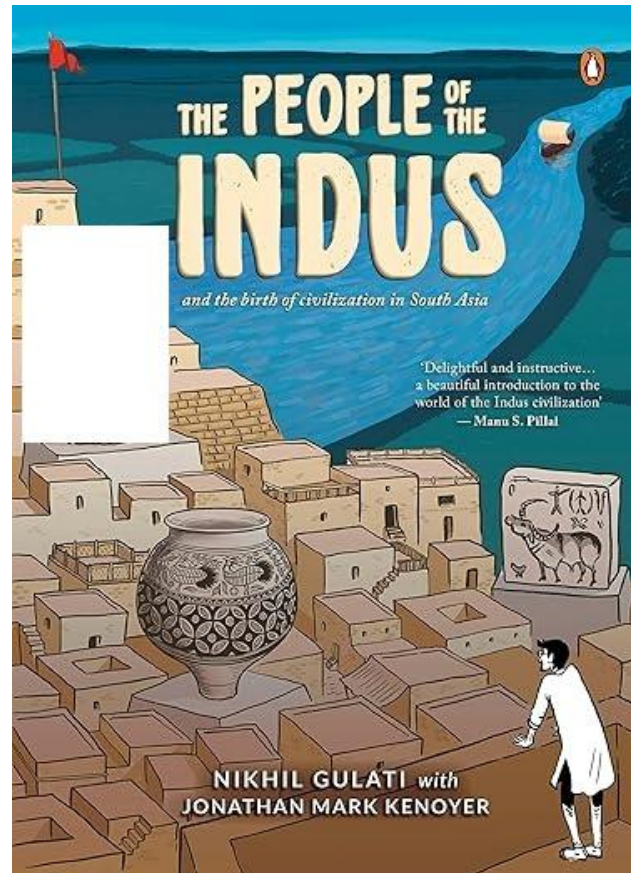


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ANSWER

Though the Chinese authorities cancelled the show due to the ongoing tension with Japan over Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks hinting at potential intervention in a Taiwan-related crisis, the singer performed the whole show with his troupe in an empty stadium

On the cover of this award-winning graphic novel which famous sculpture/artifact has been blanked out.

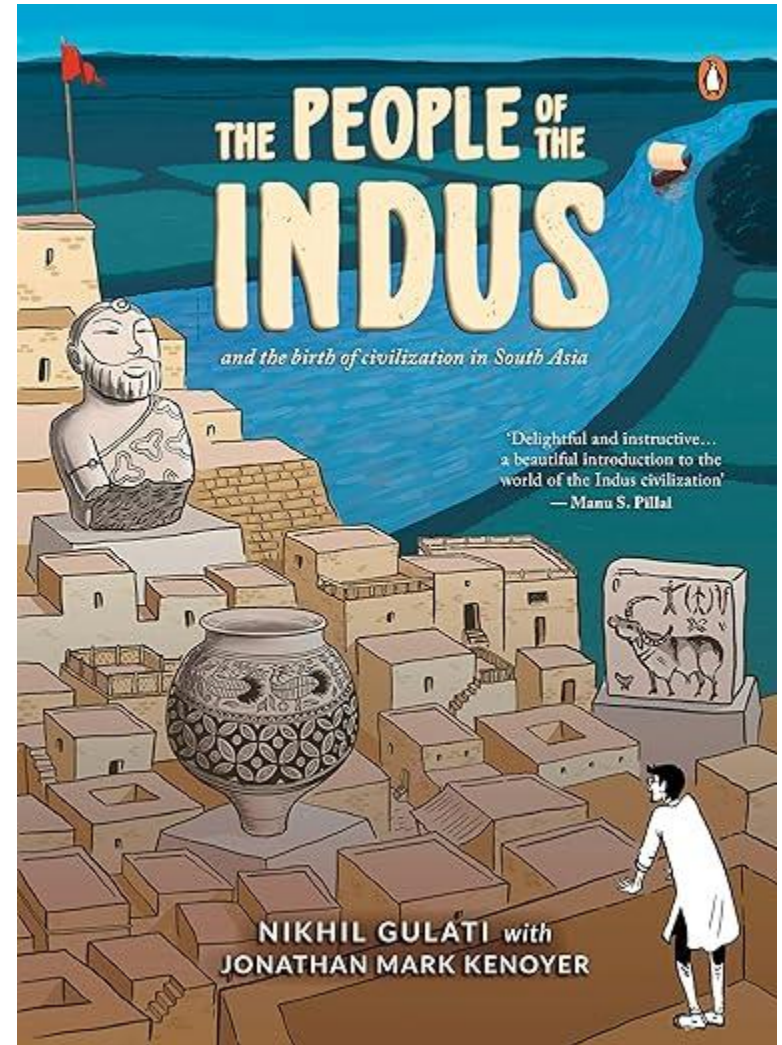




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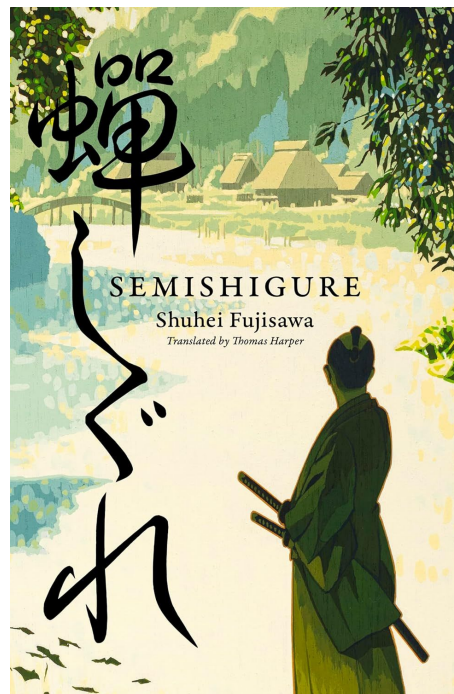
ANSWER

The priest king



Qn 24.

This samurai novel carries a title which literally means ‘____ showers’. The showers refer to the phenomenon of ____ (see pic) excreting excess fluid after feeding on tree sap, creating a light, misty drizzle on sunny days, especially common during peak summer when insect activity is high, signaling the end of the rainy season and a quintessential Japanese summer experience. Fill up the blank.





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ANSWER

Cicada

Qn 25.

Zhiying Zeng was a promising Chinese table tennis player in the 1980s when a 1986 rule change requiring the two sides of the table tennis racket to be of different colors hurt her play, since she liked to confuse her opponents by frequently swapping sides during play. In 1989 she took up an invitation from another country to coach schoolchildren where she settled down. Subsequently, during Covid, she picked up the game again avidly and represented the country in 2024 Paris Olympics. Which country ?





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ANSWER

Chile

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SECTION II

RULES

25 questions

Max. score:50

Two-pointers

Each part is worth one point

Please follow the suggested order for parts

Qn 26.

Festivities for Songkran sometimes last an entire month but the ____ New Year falls on April 13 every year. Celebrations often involve water fights that symbolise ritual cleansing. Where did we see Songkran on our screens this year? Also FITB.





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ANSWER

**White Lotus Season 3
Thai New Year**



Akihiro Yokoi and Aki Maita's 1996 invention won them an _____ in Economics for "diverting millions of person-hours of work into the husbandry of virtual pets."

What handheld gadget did they invent?

Play and pun on another prize to FITB.



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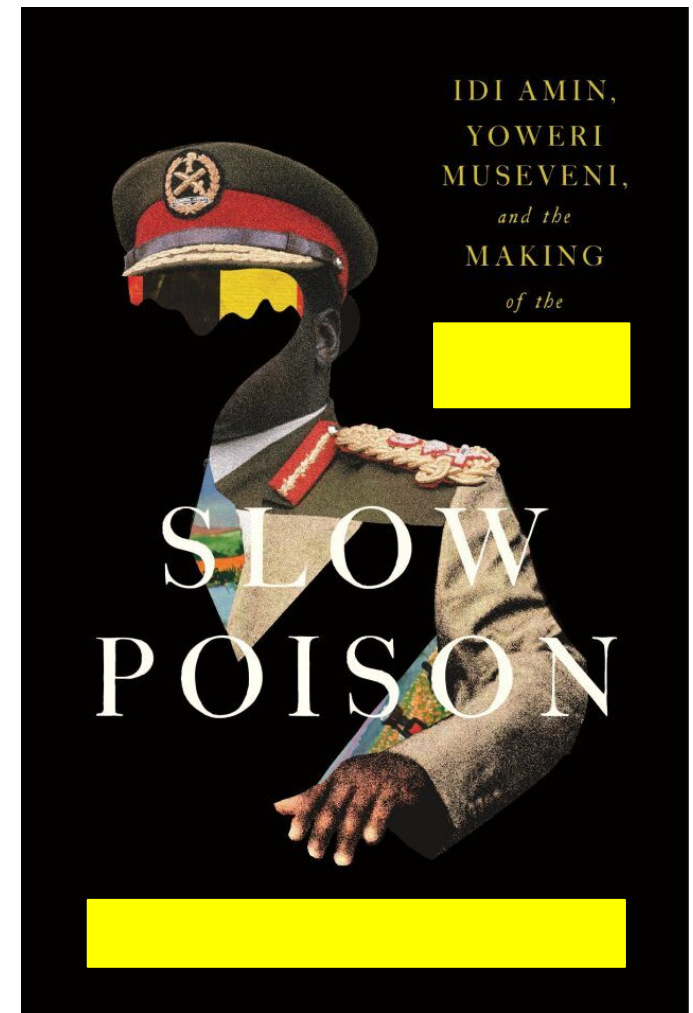
ANSWER

**Tamagotchi
Ig Nobel Prize**



X's latest, *Slow Poison*, published in October this year, is part political theory, part history, and part memoir. The book narrates post-independence _____ through the lives of two former presidents—Yoweri Museveni and Idi Amin. The latter was actually responsible for X's expulsion from the country in 1972.

Name X, who will return to Columbia University next fall after a medical leave. Also ID the country.

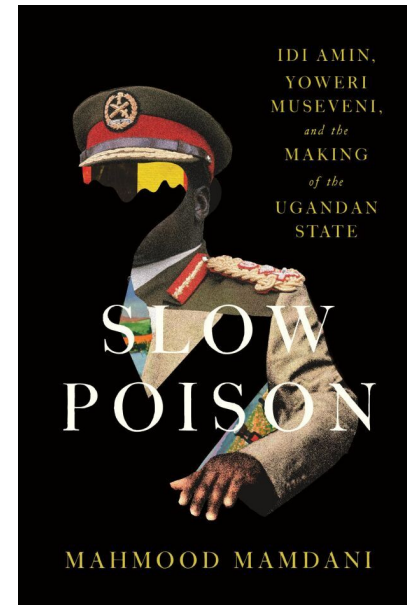
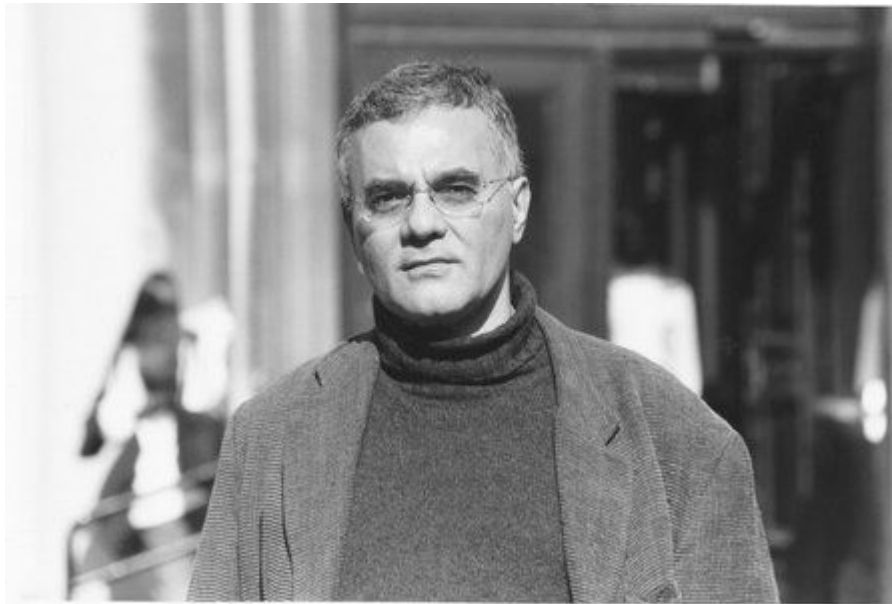




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ANSWER

Mahmood Mamdani, Uganda





Their first option was a fox terrier, inspired by Milo from *The Mask* (1994). Presumably also because of this breed's ability to convey near human emotions on camera.

But after an unsuccessful trial with the fox terrier on set, Prakash Varma picked a certain Cheeka to star in this campaign.

What am I talking about? Which 2025 film might you have seen Varma in?



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ANSWER

Hutch ad / Vodafone pug ad
Thudaram



Two poets during the 1972 'Poetry International Meet' at London. The person on the left is famous for his association with Indian poets. While the lady on the right was part of the first generation of Bangladeshi writers producing English-language work and ran the Salamander Press in London in the 1970s as a poet, essayist, and translator. Id both.





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ANSWER

Allen Ginsberg
Farida Majid

Qn 31.

Legend has it that two beverage houses Chun Shui Tang and Hanlin - both claim to have invented it in 1986. The rivalry snowballed into a decade-long legal battle over patent rights. In the end, the court ruled that neither could claim exclusive ownership as the main ingredient was already part of the country's culinary traditions. It wasn't an invention so much as a clever remix of the familiar. Name the culinary item and the country where it originated.



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ANSWER

Bobba Tea
Taiwan

Raffia was a camel hired by ___ in 2014 to carry its equipment in the ___ Desert which is at the northern edge of Rub' Al Khali, thus becoming the first animal to help with such an activity, capturing panoramic views of the sand dunes and oasis to offer immersive desert experiences. Fill up both the blanks.





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ANSWER

**Google/Google Maps/Google Street View
LIWA desert in Abu Dhabi**

Though an architect by training and settled in Vancouver, he relocated to his home country following his divorce and was subsequently discovered by a famed director, while sitting in his car in traffic. The director approached him and requested him to play the leading role of his film, ____ released in 1997. Which well known actor and name his debut film.



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ANSWER

Homayoun Ershadi (who passed away recently)

Taste of Cherry by Abbas Kiarostami

Qn 34.

Consisting of more than 400 tombs of mostly ____, the Maqbaratoshoara or the Mausoleum of ____, located in the Surkhab district of Tabriz in northwestern Iran is a popular visiting spot. In addition, architecture of the tomb's building has such a special place among the symbols and indices of the region, that it was chosen as the symbol of the republic of ____ in Eurovision 2009. Fill up both the blanks.





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ANSWER

Poets
Azerbaijan

The Chinese title of this acclaimed trilogy,, pronounced Mou4 Gaan3 Dou6 (Cantonese), meaning "Unceasing Path" or "Boundless Way," refers to the Buddhist concept of _____, the lowest level of hell, where the trapped characters find themselves in endless suffering. The English title is a word-play on a law-enforcement term and a word for hell. Name this accomplished trilogy. Also fill up the blank.



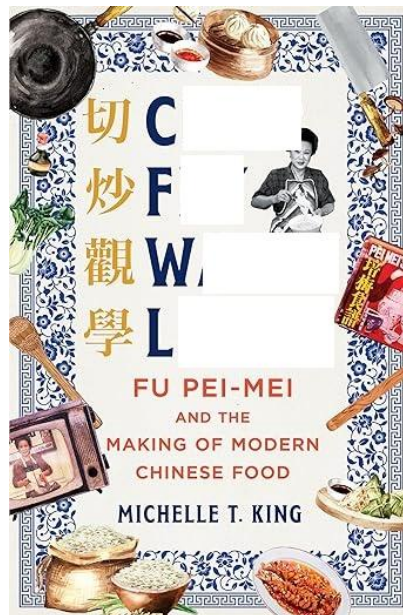
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ANSWER

Infernal Affairs
Avici

Qn 36.

Michelle King's book talks about the legendary Taiwanese cook Fu Pei-Mei. For forty years, from 1962 to 2002, Fu hosted a series of cooking programs at Taiwan Television, presenting over 4000 Chinese cuisine dishes, garnering her the sobriquet of "the Julia Child of Chinese cooking". Complete the 4 distinct words of the title, whose first letters are provided and the rest blanked out. It may also remind you of a famous Taiwanese film on a chef father and his three daughters. Name the film.





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ANSWER

CHOP

FRY

WATCH

LEARN

Eat Drink Man Woman



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X started out as a character that was designed by Kasing Lung, a Hong Kong-born artist raised in Utrecht, Netherlands. It was part of Lung's story series The Monsters, which was influenced by the Nordic folklore and mythology that he was introduced to and enjoyed during his childhood. After X's sudden rise in popularity, conspiracy theories linking it to the ancient Mesopotamian wind demon Y began to crop up on social media, presumably due to the perceived similarity in appearance and the sound of their names.

X and Y?



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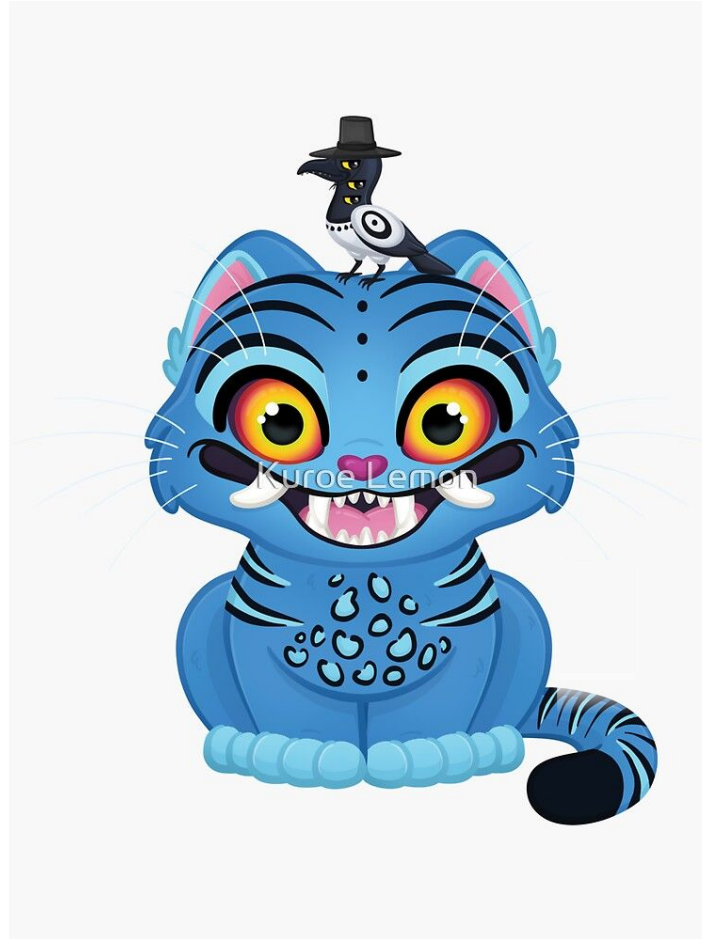
ANSWER

X – Labubu

Y – Pazuzu

Kkachi horangi is a prominent genre of X that depicts magpies and tigers. In kkachi horangi paintings, the tiger, which is intentionally given a ridiculous and stupid appearance represents authority and the aristocratic yangban, while the dignified magpie represents the common man. A version of this depiction, originally meant to satirize the hierarchical structure of Joseon's feudal society, also appeared in a 2025 animated film.

X and the film?





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ANSWER

X – Minhwa
K-pop Demon Hunters

Sarah Hamouda, a Anglo-Egyptian engineer says she came up with it as an answer to her pregnancy cravings in 2021. She roped Nouel Catis Omamalin, a Filipino chef, and together they launched "Can't Get X of It" in 2022. It took a couple of years for it to soar in popularity and today several copycat products exist under a generic name.

X and the generic name?



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ANSWER

Knafeh
Dubai Chocolate

You can see Pope Benedict do something during a 2009 visit. Many who take the Holy Land tour stop over at this site in Jordan. The sculpture alongside commemorates the person and event associated with this site. Name site and event.





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ANSWER

Mt. Nebo

From where Moses looked out onto the Promised Land

He wasn't permitted to actually go there as punishment for a moment of pride, according to some. The sculpture refers to the bronze serpent created to give relief to those bitten during the plague of serpents—a prefiguring of the crucifix according to interpreters today..

Israel scuttled the naval vessels Yanush and Satil in the Gulf of Aqaba for a specific reason. Neighbouring Jordan has scuttled a damaged freighter named Cedar Pride and a C-130 Hercules aircraft for the same reason.

What reason?

What longterm purpose did these acts aid?



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ANSWER

A. to provide safe sites for dive tourism

B. To relieve pressure on coral reefs in the fregion,

In the 1340s, X served as a judge in Y for about nine months and soon began to get riled about local women going shirtless waist upwards in violation of Islamic norms. This uptightness in relaxed climes was probably the reason for his short term.

Who was X? Identify location Y.



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ANSWER
X: Ibn Batuta
Y: Maldives

Francisco de Sande declared war on X in 1578 since people he described as Moros were actively proselytising and converting people to Islam on his territory Y.

This short conflict led to X losing their naval strike capabilities and maritime reach.

Identify X and Y.



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ANSWER

X: BRUNEI

Y: PHILIPPINES

The Akkadian term *birit narim*, denoting an in-between zone A seems to have received its familiar European translation in Arrian's Anabasis, a reconstruction of the exploits of B in these and other parts. Give zone A and person B.



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ANSWER

A: Mesopotamia

B: Alexander the Great

Mount Judi in Turkey is the *apobaterion* in the Islamic tradition. The Quran uses generic shipping terms such as *fulk* and *safina* for the mythical object that performed the apobaterion.

**What is an apobaterion?
What mythical object is this?**



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ANSWER

**Noah's ark
Place of descent/landing**

Four Asian states are part of the international Francophone organisation by virtue of colonial history. Two of them are Vietnam and Laos.

Name the other two.



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ANSWER

**Cambodia
Lebanon—briefly under a
French mandate**

The 1859 Treaty of Lisbon split a specific island between two colonial powers, leading to several kerfuffles in the 20th century.

Name the island, and the two powers (for one point—no halves)



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ANSWER

**Timor
Portugal and The Netherlands**

It took an expedition six years to reach the site of a 1908 event X. When they got there in 1927, they described a butterfly-shaped region of 830 square miles. June 30, the date on which it occurred is now International Y day.

Give X and Y.



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ANSWER

X: Tunguska Explosion

Y:Asteroid Day

This ten-day period in February is celebrated under the name Dasheya Fajr, or 'decade of dawn' in X. It commemorates a 1979 event.

Which country X? What event?



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ANSWER

Iran

**The return of Ayatollah
Khomeini**

Accept Islamic Revolution

“X was told that one person in a mass audition in 1947 seemed promising. He went there and found “a young man reeling around the room in a violent frenzy...it was as frightening as watching a wounded beast trying to break loose. I was transfixed.” The exhausted participant finished, sat down, and gave the judges an ominous stare. He promptly lost the competition. “

X, however, was sold, and approached the young man Y to work with him. It was this animal intensity that X was able to elicit from him repeatedly.

Identify X and Y.



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ANSWER

X: Akira Kurosawa

Y: Toshiro Mifune

Thank you!

