



MindSweep 2026

ANSWERS

Part I – Arts, Food & Beverages, Movies and TV, Literature

Rules for the proctor

- Do not open till the end of the min
- **Make sure all sheets have been collected**, and redistributed for corrections
 - **Small spelling variations are okay**, use your judgement
- For all answers which are names of people, unless mentioned otherwise, **just surname is acceptable. However, if surname is correct and first name(s) are given wrongly, it is to be considered incorrect**
 - **No half points** for any question, no negative marking
- For any further clarifications, please email expectovenkat@gmail.com or call Venkat on +91 8050588973

1	His painting career began to dip after the 1790s since most of his patrons had been executed after the French Revolution. Jacques Louis David admired his work and got him a position as museum curator, but the rest of his days were spent in obscurity. Name this legendary artist , remembered for capturing the swing of pre-revolutionary France.	Jean Honore Fragonard
2	This unconventional substrate was preferred by some artists because it was more durable. even if it required preliminaries with pumice and garlic juice. Later artists used acidic mixtures as part of the artwork to elicit a patina. What material are we talking about --some Rembrandt self-portraits were done this way?	Copper , accept oil on copper.
3	Jacobus Rentmeester took this iconic photograph for a Life magazine photoshoot prior to the 1984 Olympics. This photograph of an icon airborne became the basis for an entire ad campaign and a logo. Name either the subject of Rentmeester's photograph or the logo that resulted.	Michael Jordan ; OR Jumpman
4	The exterior lights of this iconic building in New York finally came on recently after more than one hundred years of existence. It is illuminated by an LED lighting system designed by L'Observatoire International, highlighting the building's facade and top floors. Which building?	Flatiron
5	This Indian painter who stays in France, is married to painter Maite Delteil. His extended family includes several eminent artists: his daughter, Maya; his niece, Jayasri; as is his niece's husband, Paresh Maity. Identify him , known for his vibrant colors.	Shakti Burman
6	Writer Ana Viladomiu, 70, is one of two remaining tenants of this building on Passeig de Gràcia in Barcelona, that receives more than a million visitors every year. Billed a UNESCO World Heritage site, name the historic building which was the last private residence Anotoni Gaudi designed.	Casa Mila
7	The music video for Olivia Rodrigo's lead single <i>Drop Dead</i> from her latest album shows her alternately lounging, running and dancing with various recognizable settings including Pierre Mignard's Apollo and the Muses on Mount Parnassus in the background. While many productions have used this location as a backdrop, this is the first music video to be filmed inside. Name the location.	Palace of Versailles
8	Wallace Stevens's 1937 poem <i>The Man with the Blue _____</i> is popularly believed as taking the form of an imaginary conversation with the subject of a well-known Picasso painting. Stevens himself always insisted that this influence was only peripheral, a claim somewhat bolstered by the fact that the _____ in the painting is a shade of brown. Which painting?	<i>The Old Guitarist</i>
9	The Naked _____ is a painting portraying a nude woman reclining on a bed of pillows made by Francisco de Goya. He also created a pendant of the same woman identically posed, but clothed, known today as The Clothed _____. The subject is identified as a _____ or fashionable lower-class Madrid woman, based on her costume in the latter. Fill in the blank.	Maja
10	X is the playwright of the 2022 jukebox musical <i>the Musical</i> , nominated for ten Tony awards. The production wanted to give audiences greater insight into its subject's creative process, especially through rehearsals for a 1992 world tour. X and her collaborators wanted to title the musical <i>Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough</i> , but this felt improper, certain allegations considered. ID X OR FITB.	Lynn Nottage/ MJ
11	The internet speculated whether _____ purchased seven extra Met Gala tickets for the purposes of her outfit—a homage to Y's 1945 painting, <i>The Temptation of St. Anthony</i> . This was not the case; the seven women assisting _____ were considered part of her official presentation, requiring no extra ticket purchases. FITB OR ID the painter.	Madonna / Leonora Carrington

12	A ruler was such a big fan of woodwork that even his large octagonal throne was made with blackwood. An enduring feature of this fascination continues to thrive today, but it began when he got a lacquer-coated wooden piece as a gift from Persia. He was impressed by the craftsmanship, and requested Persian artisans to teach local craftsman the art. What resulted?	Channapatna Dolls
13	N Hanumaiah began painting landscapes in 1934, and like artists of his age the work usually focused on showing the many views of abundant rivers. But his most striking work was a night landscape that captured a moment of modernity. One of his night landscapes of Bangalore is used as the cover of a 1970 book that went out of print. What moment of modernity is captured in his work?	Electricity/Lights
14	'A truly tragic streetlamp', 'An iron monster', 'An ungainly skeleton' Were all insults and protests levelled against what structure?	The Eiffel Tower
15	Part of the permanent collection of The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in New Delhi, SH Raza's seminal 1983 work named after a region in Gujarat, depicts the elements with powerfully expressive brushstrokes that at once combines the beauty of the coastal landscape with the unabashed appreciation of its arts. Which 'good state' gives its name to the painting?	Saurashtra (Don't accept Kutch or Kathiawar. The title of the painting is Saurashtra)
16	A yogi in the classic one-legged tree pose (<i>Vrksasana</i>) is one of the many depictions in the world's largest bas relief in Mamallapuram. The relief also features what animal , striking the same yogic pose, surrounded by adoring and unsuspecting prey? <i>Hint: the plural of the prey is shorter than the singular in English.</i>	Cat (Prey is mice)
17	The statue that has long drawn fans to the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art is now inside - till at least 2 August 2026- anchoring an exhibition "Rising Up". Name the fictional character depicted in the statue , who projects ideals of the underdog—perseverance, spirit, and grit?	Rocky (Balboa)
18	<i>Thirteen Perfect Fugitives: The True Story of the Mob, Murder, and the World's Largest Art Heist</i> is a book by former FBI agent Geoffrey Kelly about his investigation into the infamous art heist at which museum?	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
19	In 2026, a three-year, \$7 million restoration project was completed that addressed issues such as a leaking roof, damaged concrete, and aging window and door frames at which iconic residence , built over a tributary of the Youghiogheny River?	Fallingwater
20	This mysterious artist briefly married the painter Minamizawa Tomei, but the marriage failed because she laughed at her husband's artistic skills. She had to return to her father's studio, where she contributed to commissions that were often credited solely to him. With only around ten surviving works fully attributed to her, identify this artist, OR name her far more famous father.	O-Ei / Katsushika Oi OR Katsushika Hokusai

1	SealTest, a company in the dairy business, began this practice in 1930s America as a way of drawing attention to the many varieties in one of their lines. What phrase , meaning 'short-lived', or 'briefly popular', seems to have originated from this practice?	Flavor of the Month
2	Ernest Hamwy offered the X he was making, a Syrian confection, to a neighbour who ran out of bowls at the 1904 Columbian Exposition in St. Louis. We know that this is one origin for the ice-cream cone, but what was the X that Hamwy was making, ancestor to a similar latticed sweet found in India?	Zalabiyeh
3	Emil Fischer, of Fischer projection fame, borrowed the Greek word for wood to coin the name we know it by. It is found in the bark of trees such as the beech and the birch, and now figures among mints, as a reliable sugar replacement and as an arrester of tooth decay. What 7-letter name do we use for this sugar alcohol?	Xylitol
4	The term royal icing, and the practice of placing small sugar sculptures representing bride and groom come from an 1840 wedding. Whose wedding?	Queen Victoria OR Prince Albert
5	You will find shoyu chicken all over this place . Everywhere from local plate lunch spots and restaurants, to family recipes and potlucks. A braised dish featuring tender chicken thighs simmered in a savory-sweet sauce made from soy sauce (shoyu), brown sugar, ginger, and garlic, name the Pacific island where it is a crowd-puller. ID.	Hawaii
6	In one of Banu Mushtaq's popular stories titled: The Arabic Teacher and _____ , a Hafiz and Arabic teacher lands in trouble time and again because of his obsession with a popular vegetarian Indo Chinese food item. FITB.	Gobi Manchuri
7	This Indian street food was popularized by chef Angus Denoon in London when he opened his food cart called "Everybody Love Love ___ Express". The item has also now got a certain kind of political colour too. Which popular street food?	Jhalmuri
8	According to food myth, the number of pleats/folds on a chef's cap was usually associated with the number of styles in which the chef could prepare a certain item. Which item?	Eggs
9	The fungus Ustilago maydis creates tumour like galls on a particular plant. This is seen as a major crop disease in the United States but is a prized delicacy in Mexico known as huitlacoche. On which plant does it grow?	Corn
10	The invention was filed 28 January 1889 and patented in 1890, by David Strang of Invercargill, New Zealand, and was sold under the trading name Strang's _____ citing the patented "Dry Hot-Air" process. What?	Instant coffee
11	Hong Kong-style milk tea, made from Ceylon black tea and evaporated milk is also called by the name of an item of clothing that resembles the cloth bag traditionally used during the brewing process. What item of clothing?	Silk stockings
12	The primary difference between these two varieties is the prep: X is prepared by simmering spices like cardamom, ginger, cloves, amongst others, and then adding milk to it, whereas the Y variety, boils the spices and the milk in two separate pots, and is only mixed at the time of serving. Give either.	Masala Chai/ Irani Chai
13	The ancestors to these were desert dwellers. They were hard, bitter, had white flesh, and also boasted a coating of toxins to ward off smaller animals from eating them. The primary consumers of this fruit thus were large mammals like Elephants, and Hippos, who used it as a source of hydration. What?	Watermelon
14	Michel Lotito first discovered his 'talent' at 9 years old. He would go on to publicly present it, usually with the aid of mineral oil, and large quantities of water to help wash it down. His greatest project lasted two years, 1978-80, when he consumed an entire _____, nose, wings, tail, frame and all. FITB with a common noun.	Airplane/ aeroplane

15	USA and Iran are the top two producers of this oil-rich seed, whose consumption surged globally after “Dubai chocolate” bars went viral in late 2023. Name this food item whose price has reached an 8-year high after the Iran war started.	Pistachios
16	The juicy, sweet part surrounding the seed is actually the testa and not an aril as commonly mistaken. Which fruit did Hades trick Persephone into eating, thus forcing her to spend a third of each year in the underworld?	Pomegranate
17	What 5-letter word is the collective name for the hybrid livestock breeds _____ Black (accounting for >90% production), _____ Brown, _____ Polled and _____ Shorthorn? <i>All the blanks are the same 8-letter demonym, that is NOT the answer to this question.</i>	Wagyu (beef) (Japanese is the demonym)
18	In the book <i>Wanderers, Kings, Merchants</i> , Peggy Mohan describes a "_____ bear", a rare hybrid with a layered look, with cream-coloured fur on top and coffee-brown paws, combining features of both a polar bear and a grizzly bear. She uses this as a metaphor for languages, saying that they too are layered mixtures formed through migration and contact, much like a _____. What dessert does she use for this metaphor?	Tiramisu
19	A staple of Southern American cuisine, this dish is made from coarsely ground dried corn and is typically boiled into a thick porridge-like consistency. Traditionally, it takes time to cook, a fact that plays an important part in a famous courtroom scene in the movie <i>My Cousin Vinny</i> . What dish?	Grits
20	The name of which Creole dish could come from the Provençal word meaning a mish mash, or a pilaf of rice, or from the fusion of the Spanish words jamón (ham) and paella (a rice dish)?	Jambalaya

1	He made his Hollywood debut at 31, playing Boo Radley in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> . He is also remembered for loving the smell of napalm in the morning. Who?	Robert Duvall
2	Lee-alikes were actors who found film roles in the late 1970s. What portmanteau word was coined for the films in which they acted/ the milieu which allowed them to find employment?	Bruceploitation , or films that tried to cash in on the stir of interest caused by Bruce Lee's death .
3	In the 2024 biopic <i>Reagan</i> , this Brazilian-origin actor played Nelle, Ronald Reagan's mother. A 1971 film set in wartime made her a household name. Name either this veteran actor OR the 1971 film.	Jennifer O'Neill / Summer of '42 .
4	Sudhir Mishra's directorial debut is about three friends visiting their alma mater. Memories of their student activism and past failures flood their minds and upon reaching their destination, they are confronted by political skirmishes. Name the film which also stars the famous playwright, Habib Tanvir.	Yeh Woh Manzil to Nahin
5	The title of his memoir Look at Me , to be published in November, 2026, is inspired by a conversation with Laurence Olivier, his co-star in a 1976 film. Which actor?	Dustin Hoffman
6	X went viral for using the Arabic phrase Y during a People magazine interview while discussing hopes for a long, healthy life. Who is X OR what is the phrase Y?	X = Anna Hathaway/ Y = Inshallah
7	<i>The Testament of Ann Lee</i> is a historical musical drama film starring Amanda Seyfried as Ann Lee, the founding leader of which 18th century religious sect that got their common name because of their ecstatic and convulsive behavior during worship services?	Shakers
8	<i>Amadeus</i> is a 1984 American period drama film directed by Miloš Forman. Peter Shaffer adapted it from his 1979 stage play, inspired by Alexander Pushkin's 1830 play <i>Mozart and _____</i> . Fill in the blank with the surname of a somewhat unfairly maligned Italian composer and teacher of the classical period.	Salieri
9	Named after the battles fought between the two rival cadet branches of the royal House of Plantagenet, which 1989 film starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner follows a wealthy couple with a seemingly perfect marriage that begins to fall apart, as material possessions become the center of an outrageous and bitter divorce battle?	The War of the Roses
10	The Good Reporter: A Memoir of Journalism in the 21st Century, Simon & Schuster's latest release, credits ten women as authors: Disha Mullick, Geeta Devi, Harshita Verma, Kavita Bundelkhandi, Lakshmi Sharma, Lalita, Meera Devi, Nazni Rizvi, Shyamkali and Suneeta Prajapati. Some of them will be familiar to you from a 2021 documentary film that received some flak for misrepresenting its subjects. What banner do all these women work under? OR name the 2021 documentary.	Khabar Lahariya Writing with Fire
11	Set across India, Hungary, and France, Mira Nair's latest feature is a homage to a long-time inspiration, with Anjali Sivaraman playing the titular role. Who will Sivaraman be portraying in the film? OR What is the title of the film?	Amrita Sher-Gil / Amri
12	While filming <i>No Country for Old Men</i> , the Coen brothers had to halt shoot for a day because of the massive smoke columns from an explosion scene from another film set. Which film? Also, a critically acclaimed hit.	There Will Be Blood

13	Which Bollywood heartthrob's production house was registered in 2017 as Maa Kasam films. The venture is on track to making a big budget zombie film soon. Full name needed.	Ranveer Singh
14	These machines are bulky, heavy, and notoriously loud, this is thanks all the motors and pulleys working to create mechanical precision. But this 2026 innovation by David and Patricia Keighley uses quieter motors and noise dampers to create a lighter and more maneuverable machine. What are we talking about? Or tell us what 2026 first was achieved with help from this machine.	IMAX camera/ The Odyssey
15	"I will not be defeated by a bad man and an American stick insect.. instead I choose <singer> and vodka". (From the 2001 movie Bridget Jones's Diary). Name the singer , whose 1978 R&B song "I'm every woman" was covered by Whitney Houston for the 1992 movie 'The Bodyguard'? Full name needed.	Chaka Khan (Accept Yvette Marie Stevens)
16	Which actor , who has played the villain in several Vijay movies, was allotted the same symbol as Vijay's TVK party, when he unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election in a Bangalore constituency?	Prakash Raj / Rai
17	The most-watched new drama of the BBC in 2025, "The Other Bennet Sister" — tells the story of "Pride and Prejudice" from the perspective of which overlooked and sanctimonious sister - the third of the five girls?	Mary
18	Which movie from the 1970s, based on Ruskin Bond's <i>A Flight of Pigeons</i> , is the only one to date to win both the Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film at the IFFI and the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi?	Junoon
19	Not including a *cough cough* retired major, this exclusive ~27-year-old club comprises a garden designer, a physics teacher, a banker, a software developer, a civil servant, and a history and politics teacher. In 2026, an IT analyst became its newest entrant. What specific feat connects them?	Won a million pounds on WWTBAM? UK
20	In the screenplay for <i>Pulp Fiction</i> the instructions say that the actors in the opening scene at the diner should read the dialogue _____-style, that is very, very fast. Which 1940 film , one of Tarantino's favourites, starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell is this?	His Girl Friday

1	The titular object in this 1889 best-seller is a double sculling skiff. Its intended title was The Story of the Thames. What best-seller?	Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome
2	"Well, sir, the two ran into one another naturally enough at the corner; and then came the horrible part of the thing; for the man trampled calmly over the child's body and left her screaming on the ground. It sounds nothing to hear, but it was hellish to see. It wasn't like a man; it was like some damned X." Our first encounter with literary character. Either name this 1886 character OR the cultural import X (10 letters)	Mr. Hyde OR Juggernaut
3	His first volume of autobiography, to release in September, covers the period between youth, struggle and eventual success in 1977. If the title is <i>The Steps</i> , who is this author?	Sylvester Stallone
4	This author's 2012 TEDx talk which went viral, titled "We should be all be feminists", was later sampled in Beyonce's song. Which author?	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
5	"____ Trilogy," is a crime fiction series set in New York City featuring Ray Carney. The series includes _____ Shuffle (2021), Crook Manifesto (2023), and the upcoming Cool Machine (2026). Name the author/trilogy--same noun in both blanks.	Colson Whitehead / Harlem Trilogy
6	Work at 'Manabozho;' or, as I think I shall call it, '_____'—that being another name for the same personage." What name did the poet erroneously use while writing about a figure of Ojibwe folklore known for being a trickster and transformer?	Hiawatha
7	What is the name of the 2013 novel by the British author Jo Baker that gives an alternative view of the events in Jane Austen's 1813 novel <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , telling the story from the perspective of the servants at the Bennet family home?	Longbourn
8	Thomas Hardy took her as the inspiration for much of the characterisation of the heroine Tess in <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> and George Eliot compared one of her protagonists, Dorothea Brooke, to her in <i>Middlemarch</i> . Which 16th century religious reformer and writer?	St Teresa of Avila/St Teresa of Jesus
9	In 1935, the 22-year-old Edward Young was sent to the London Zoo on an important task. Young is quoted as having remarked that his subjects stank. But at least he only had to sketch them. His employer, on the other hand, never missed a photo op with the subjects of Young's drawings. What was the outcome of Young's trip?	The Penguin Logo
10	<i>Absolute Jafar</i> (2026) is X's third graphic novel. His first one, financed by a MacArthur Foundation fellowship, was marketed as India's first graphic novel. ID X OR Which 1994 work actually holds the credit of being Indian's first graphic novel?	X - Sarnath Banerjee (<i>Corridor</i> was his first) / River of Stories by Orijit Sen
11	Starting in September 2000, X bagged a column in <i>Jane</i> magazine, called "____, Honestly." The column came about after X made the magazine's cover, but was unhappy with the article that accompanied it. When she emailed the editor-in-chief Jane Pratt about this, she was handed over her own column, which ran successfully for a couple of years. ID X.	Pamela Anderson
12	"Cowards die many times before their deaths; //The valiant never taste of death but once." This moment from Shakespeare's <i>Julius Ceasar</i> is cited as one of the inspirations behind a recurring chant from a 1965 Novel. What chant? Either give its name or a short description	Litany Against Fear in <i>Dune</i>

13	What literary genre gets its seven-letter name from the kind of footwear detectives wore to make stealthy movements?	Gum shoe
14	This father-son duo had a complex and fraught relationship that gave rise to some interesting criticisms. One such insult was to say his son's prose "reeks of the _____", to mean he had worked too hard all night and spoiled it as a result. FITB OR name either of the duo.	Lamp; Amis (Kingsley/Martin)
15	The 2024 book <i>The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain</i> , features 16 song lyrics that came from the collaboration between American jazz singer Stacey Kent and a Nobel Laureate. Which British writer, who said of this book: "I've built a reputation over the years as a writer of stories, but I started out writing songs"?	Kazuo Ishiguro
16	It has been praised by notable writers including T.S.Eliot, Dorothy Sayers and G.K. Chesterton as the forerunner of the modern mystery novel. Name the 1868 book , whose titular diamond got its name from its association with a Hindu god.	The Moonstone (by Wilkie Collins)
17	V.V. Ganeshananthan's <i>Brotherless Night</i> that won the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction is mainly set in which South Asian city , the site of civil conflict for many decades?	Jaffna / Yazhpanam (Don't accept Colombo or Sri Lanka)
18	<i>Crimson Spring</i> is a novel by Navtej Sarna that won the 2025 Sahitya Akademi Award for English. Its title alludes to which event from the past , that is a central episode in the novel?	Jallianwala Bagh massacre
19	What is the common manner of death of all the three figures who are later condemned to suffer at the very centre of the Ninth Circle of Hell in Dante's <i>Inferno</i> ?	Suicide
20	Kannada writer P Lankesh who had an epithet as his name, aptly chose what epithet as the name of his son ?	Indrajit (which was an epithet of Meghanada)