

Sept. 8 Weekly News Quiz

1. Which Country RSVPed as “Bharat” in the G20 Summit?

- India - The Land of Spices.
- Turkey - Home of the Delight.
- Bhutan -Land of the Thunder Dragon.

2. What Unexpected ‘Feature’ Did the 2023 Burning Man Festival Introduce to its Attendees?

- Mandatory mud spa treatment.
- An unplanned Ebola outbreak.
- A climate change runway show.

3. Who Was the Last American Teen Before Coco Gauff to Storm the US Open Quarterfinals 2 Years in a Row?

- Maria Sharapova.
- Venus Williams.
- Serena Williams.

4. Who Did Elon Musk Accuse of Trying to “Strangle” X/Twitter?

- White Supremacists.
- The Soros Cyber Squad.
- The Anti-Defamation League.

5. Who or What is Ernie Bot Making Waves in the Tech World in 2023?

- China’s latest AI fortune teller.
- China’s AI chatbot sensation.
- The latest dance sensation sweeping across Beijing.

6. Which Feature of Huawei’s New Mate 60 Pro Has Uncle Sam Raising an Eyebrow?

- Its ultra-zoom camera.
- Its advanced 7-nanometer chip.
- Its everlasting battery.

7. Which Beach-Loving Singer Had ‘Parrot Heads’ Flocking to His Tours?

- Jimmy Buffett.
- Bob Marley.
- Kenny Chesney.

8. Which Band Belted the Iconic Tune “All Star” in the Late ’90s?

- Nirvana.
- Smashing Pumpkins.
- Smash Mouth.

9. How Old Was Priscilla Presley When She First Crossed Paths with the King, Elvis Presley?

- 5 - She was his kindergarten crush.
- 14 - Sometimes life throws you a curveball.
- 18 - The legal age for meeting rock royalty.

10. Which Film Is the Highest-Grossing Stop-Motion Animated Film Ever?

- "Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit"
- "Kubo and the Two Strings"
- "Chicken Run"

11. How Many Candles Did Beyoncé Blow Out on Her Latest Birthday Cake?

- 36.
- 42.
- 48.

Answers

1. In a Recent Dinner Invitation, Which Country RSVPed as “Bharat” Instead of its Usual English Moniker?

- India - The Land of Spices.

India recently stirred the pot (and not just a curry one) by [referring to itself as “Bharat” in the Sept. 2023 G20 summit dinner invitations](#). For those who missed the memo, [“Bharat” is an ancient Sanskrit term](#) deeply rooted in India’s history and is also [the name mentioned in the Indian Constitution](#). But why the sudden change in RSVP name tags? Well, with national elections looming, the ruling party, BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, decided to spice things up a bit. Some say it’s a nod to India’s rich Hindu past. Others believe it’s a political strategy to challenge the newly formed [opposition alliance named “INDIA”](#) (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance).

2. What Unexpected ‘Feature’ Did the 2023 Burning Man Festival Introduce to its Attendees?

- Mandatory mud spa treatment.

In a twist of events that Mother Nature probably found amusing, the 2023 Burning Man festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada surprised attendees with a natural mud spa treatment as [heavy rains transformed the festival grounds into vast cement-like mud puddles](#). This unexpected ‘feature’ left [over 70,000 attendees stranded](#), turning their desert party into a muddy staycation. Looks like the climate protests over there had their point proven by the weather. As for the Ebola outbreak scare, that was a false rumor on social media, probably started by someone who missed the mud memo.

3. Who Was the Last American Teen Sensation Before Coco Gauff to Storm the US Open Quarterfinals Two Years in a Row?

- Serena Williams.

Back in the days when the internet was still dialing up, and Y2K was the biggest scare, [young Serena Williams was making waves at the US Open](#). Fast forward to 2023, and 19-year-old Coco Gauff follows in her footsteps, [advancing to the quarterfinals of the US Open in consecutive years](#). On Sept. 3, 2023, [Gauff showcased her prowess by defeating Caroline Wozniacki](#), reminding us that history repeats itself. By Sept. 5, she also became [the first American teenager to reach the US Open semi-finals since Williams in 2001](#). This time, with much better internet.

4. In the Digital Soap Opera of X (Formerly Twitter), Who Did Elon Musk Accuse of Trying to “Strangle” the Platform?

- The Anti-Defamation League’s Digital Defenders.

Elon Musk, owner of X, formerly known as Twitter, and part-time digital drama king, pointed fingers at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for allegedly [trying to “strangle” the platform](#). This is after ADL’s Director, Jonathan Greenblatt, tweeted on Aug. 31, 2023, about [a “productive conversation” with X’s CEO, Linda Yaccarino, about addressing the platform’s hate speech](#). The post was met with backlash by white supremacists, leading to the trending hashtag #BanTheADL. And during this storm, Musk chose to voice his choked-up sentiments about the ADL [with a lawsuit](#).

5. Who or What is Ernie Bot Making Waves in the Tech World in 2023?

- China’s AI chatbot sensation.

Baidu, China’s search engine mogul, [unveiled Ernie Bot, China’s AI chatbot sensation](#), on Aug. 31, 2023. Not before [Beijing approved Baidu’s decision to release Ernie Bot to the public](#), of course. By the afternoon of its grand debut, Ernie Bot became the top app on Apple’s iOS store in China. And as a cherry on top, [Baidu’s stock price danced up by over 3%](#).

6. Which Feature of Huawei’s New Mate 60 Pro Has Uncle Sam Raising an Eyebrow?

- Its advanced 7-nanometer chip that’s tinier than a flea’s sneeze.

[The Mate 60 Pro’s advanced 7-nanometer processor](#) is a tiny marvel causing big waves. This chip, [a collaboration between Huawei and China’s top chipmaker SMIC](#), is an unexpected technological leap. Launched on Aug. 29, 2023, this smartphone showcases China’s prowess in [dodging the Western 5G chip embargo](#). It also [has the US rethinking trade policies](#).

7. Which Beach-Loving Singer Had ‘Parrot Heads’ Flocking to His Tours?

- Jimmy Buffett.

The sun-soaked [Jimmy Buffett had fans so devoted they even had a name - Parrot Heads!](#) With hits like “Margaritaville” and “Cheeseburger in Paradise,” who wouldn’t want to be part of that flock? Sadly, on Sept. 1, 2023, [Jimmy flew off to the big beach in the sky](#). He [died at 76 of Merkel cell carcinoma](#), a rare and aggressive skin cancer.

8. Which Band Belted Out the Iconic Tune “All Star” (Hey Now, You’re an All Star / Get Your Game On, Go Play) in the Late ‘90s?

- Smash Mouth.

The catchy tune “All Star” that had us all humming, “Hey now, you’re an all star,” was the masterpiece of the band Smash Mouth. This Grammy-nominated pop rock band, [led by Steve Harwell](#), made waves in the late ‘90s and early 2000s with hits like “Walkin’ on the Sun.”

Sadly, the music world recently mourned Harwell's death, who [died at 56](#) in Boise, Idaho, on Sept. 4, 2023, from liver failure. Harwell retired from Smash Mouth in 2021 [due to severe health issues](#).

9. How Old Was Priscilla Presley When She First Crossed Paths with the King, Elvis Presley?

- 14 - Sometimes life throws you a curveball.

[Priscilla Beaulieu was just 14 years old when she first met the legendary Elvis Presley](#). The setting? Germany, of all places, where Elvis served in the army. Fast forward to September 2023, and this intriguing chapter of Priscilla's life has been captured in [Sofia Coppola's film, "Priscilla,"](#) which premiered at the 2023 Venice Film Festival. The film, set to hit theaters on Oct. 27, is adapted from Priscilla's 1985 memoir ["Elvis and Me."](#) While Presley emphasized the connection was based on a deep emotional bond rather than physical attraction, the movie depicts [Elvis's grooming of Priscilla and his controlling behavior towards her](#).

10. Which Film Is the Highest-Grossing Stop-Motion Animated Film Ever?

- "Chicken Run"

Released in 2000, "Chicken Run" not only had chickens plotting an escape but also managed to soar high, becoming [the highest-grossing stop-motion animated film of all time, raking in over \\$225 million](#). And guess what? These chickens are back in the coop with a sequel, "Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget," [set to premiere on Netflix on Dec. 15, 2023](#). But not without some drama! Julia Sawalha, the original voice of Ginger, claimed she was dropped from the sequel in 2020 because [her voice was deemed "too old."](#) She was replaced by Thandiwe Newton. Mel Gibson, who voiced Rocky in the classic film, [was replaced by Zachary Levi](#).

11. How Many Candles Did Beyoncé Blow Out on Her Latest Birthday Cake?

- 42.

Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter was born on Sept. 4, 1981. On Sept. 4, 2023, the iconic "Queen of Pop" celebrated her 42nd birthday. She [marked the occasion with a grand show at SoFi Stadium](#) in Inglewood, California, as part of her Renaissance World Tour. Hollywood's "who's who," including Diana Ross, graced the event. Ross even [serenaded Beyoncé with a "Happy Birthday" song](#). Celebrity guests like Timothée Chalamet and Prince Harry added glamour to the glitz. Here's to many more chart-topping years ahead!