

Abhyaas Newsboard ...

For the quintessential test prep student

News of the month

90th Academy Awards presented



The 90th annual Academy Awards ceremony took place in Hollywood in the first week of March. The Shape of Water emerged victorious, winning a total of four Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director for Guillermo del Toro, and awards for both original score and production design.

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri was the standout in the acting categories, earning Frances McDormand an Oscar for Best Actress, and Sam Rockwell an award for Best Supporting Actor. Gary Oldman's lead performance as Winston Churchill in Darkest Hour and Allison Janney's supporting turn in I, Tonya rounded out the acting categories.

Christopher Nolan's Dunkirk gathered three wins in technical categories, including Sound Mixing, Sound Editing, and Film Editing. Blade Runner 2049 stood out for its pair of visual-oriented wins, including Visual Effects and Cinematography, the latter of which earned legendary director of photography Roger Deakins his first Oscar win.

The 90th Academy Award paid a Memoriam tribute to artists who passed away in 2017 and 2018. Shashi Kapoor and Sridevi were two artists from India who were paid a Memoriam tribute.

The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

The month of March was very significant for women with the celebration of the International Women's day and various events through the month, specifically honouring women.

The 90th Academy awards were presented at a glittering ceremony in Hollywood.

Election results were declared for the three North Eastern states of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya. BJP gained majority in Tripura, no clear majority in Meghalaya and Naga People's Party gained majority in Nagaland. The Chief Ministers are Conrad Sangma - Meghalaya, Biplab Deb - Tripura and Neiphiu Rio - Nagaland.

Read on to go through the current affairs for the month of March 2018.

Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. Vinay kumar has been named next ambassador to Afghanistan. He is currently joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. Luminous power technologies announced Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador for its new independent brand Amaze.
3. Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, head of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, passed away. The new head is Sri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati.
4. Rangarajan Raghavan has been appointed as the Managing Director of HCL infosystems after the resignation of the Vice-Chairman and MD, Premkumar Seshadri.
5. Shatrughan Sinha has been honoured with lifetime achievement award for his contribution in the field of arts and politics at the annual 'Political and Public Life Awards' presented by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper.
6. Armenian Parliament elected Armen Sarkisian as its next President. He will succeed current incumbent President Serge Sarkisian.
7. Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World cup 2018 in Doha, Qatar.
8. Vinesh Phogat won a silver medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Navjot Kaur became the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold medal in 65kgs freestyle category.
9. Afghanistan's Rashid Khan becomes the youngest international cricket captain at the age of 19.
10. Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi won gold with world record score and Jitu Rai and Mehuli Ghosh won Bronze medals at the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico. India's Manu Bhaker clinched gold in women's 10m air pistol and Ravi Kumar had won bronze in men's 10m air pistol.
11. Krishna Kumari Kohli became Pakistan's first Hindu woman to be elected to the senate on behalf of Pakistan's People Party from a constituency reserved for woman candidates in Tharparkar district.
12. After the elections to the north-eastern states, Conrad Sangma of the National People's Party has been appointed as CM of Meghalaya, Biplab Deb of the BJP was appointed as CM of Tripura and Neiphiu Rio of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party is the CM of Nagaland.
13. Former Kerala High Court Judge D. Sreedevi passed away.
14. Indian-origin Harry Athwal, who risked his life to help a fatally injured young boy in the Barcelona terror attack last year, has been selected for this year's 'Pride of Birmingham' award.
15. Prakriti has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The ITBP is the last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enrol them in 2016.
16. Britain Queen Elizabeth II recognised India's Srishti Bakshi as 26th Commonwealth Point of Light in honour in honour of her exceptional service to empowering women in India. .
17. Uber announced Virat Kohli as its first brand ambassador.
18. Commerce and Industries Minister Suresh Prabhu gets additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry after the resignation of the TDP minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju.
19. Sitanshu Kar will be the new chief of Press Information Bureau(PIB) after the superannuation of Frank Noronha.

20. Slovenian PM Miro Cerar resigned after Slovenia's top court invalidated the result of government referendum.
21. British physicist, Stephen Hawking, who was suffering from a motor neurone disease passed away. He was famous for his work in the field of cosmology and used a voice synthesizer and special wheelchair. He is well known as the author of the book "A Brief History of Time".
22. Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected for a second term as President of Nepal.
23. Myanmar's Parliament has elected Win Myint as the country's new President; he will replace Htin Kyaw.
24. China re-elected Xi Jinping as its president after the removal of presidential term limits. Li Keqiang re-elected as Prime Minister of China.
25. Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib Fakim resigned amid a financial scandal.
26. Ranchi Court has pronounced RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav guilty in the 4th fodder scam who has already been serving his jail term for being held guilty in three other fodder scams.
27. Vladimir Putin has been elected as the President of Russia for his 4th term and is the longest serving leader of the country who has been serving it either as Prime Minister or President since 1999.
28. Bihar governor Satya Pal Malik has been given additional charge of Odisha.
29. Dr. Ketzia David Prakasam, a popular philanthropist, social worker and spiritual worker, has been awarded the 'Academy Award for Nobel Peace' from USA. She is the first Indian woman to receive this award.
30. Legendary comedian Ken Dodd passed away.
31. Larry Kudlow appointed as Donald Trump's new chief economic adviser.
32. Former Karnataka HC judge Justice Jawad Rahim has been appointed as the new acting chairperson of the National Green Tribunal.

Places in News

1. Russia has got back its International Olympic Committee membership, following its suspension from 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics. It had been suspended due to state-sponsored doping in Winter Olympics.
2. The first Mega Food Park in Maharashtra has been set up in Satara district.
3. India, Russia and Bangladesh signed a tripartite agreement which allows Indian firms to participate in construction and installation works for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project in Bangladesh.
4. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah inaugurated 'Shakti Sthala' a solar power plant with 2000 megawatt capacity at Pavagada in Tumkur district of Karnataka.
5. Minister for Science and Technology M.R. Seetharam has inaugurated India's first 3D Swami Vivekananda Planetarium at the Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Nisargadhama in Mangalore, Karnataka.
6. The Marshall Islands becomes the first country to launch its own cryptocurrency as legal tender.
7. India's first Heli Taxi was launched in Bengaluru by Kerala based Thumbay Aviation. It will drastically reduce the travel time from the airport to the Electronics city.
8. Washington has become the first state in America to pass a law that protects net neutrality, preventing internet service providers (ISPs) from slowing down or blocking online content.
9. The Sri Lankan government had announced State of Emergency for 10 days to prevent the communal violence between majority Sinhalese and Minority Muslims in Kandy district.

10. Animal welfare Board of India headquarters has been shifted from Chennai to Hyderabad.
11. Banaswadi of Bengaluru becomes first all women railway station in South Western Railway Zone.
12. Border Security of India and Bangla Desh have declared 8.3 km stretch of Indo-Bangladesh border as first 'crime-free zone'. The stretch covers Gunarmath and Kalyani Border Out Posts (BOPs) in India and Puthkhali and Daulatpur BOPs in Bangladesh across border.
13. India has been ranked 133 out of 156 countries in the World Happiness Index 2018. Finland tops the list followed by Norway and Denmark.
14. African nation of Sierra Leone has become the first country to use blockchain technology in elections.
15. The world's largest sandstone cave discovered in Meghalaya has been named 'Krem Puri'.
16. Vienna has been rated as the world's most liveable city by Mercer in its Quality of Living Index. Baghdad is the least liveable city. Hyderabad and Pune are India's most liveable cities.
17. FIFA lifted the 30 year ban on Iraq hosting international football.
18. Philippines is withdrawing from the International Criminal Court, which had opened a preliminary probe into alleged crimes against humanity by the Rodrigo Duterte administration during its war on drugs. This the second country after the withdrawal of Burundi in October 2017..
14. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has been rated World No.1 in airport service quality ranking among airports handling more than 40 million passengers. The Airport Service Quality(ASQ) survey was conducted by Airports Council International.
15. Diu becomes the first and the only Union Territory to be 100% solar efficient.
16. Madhya Pradesh announces 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme that will offer pension to single women.

Events of Significance

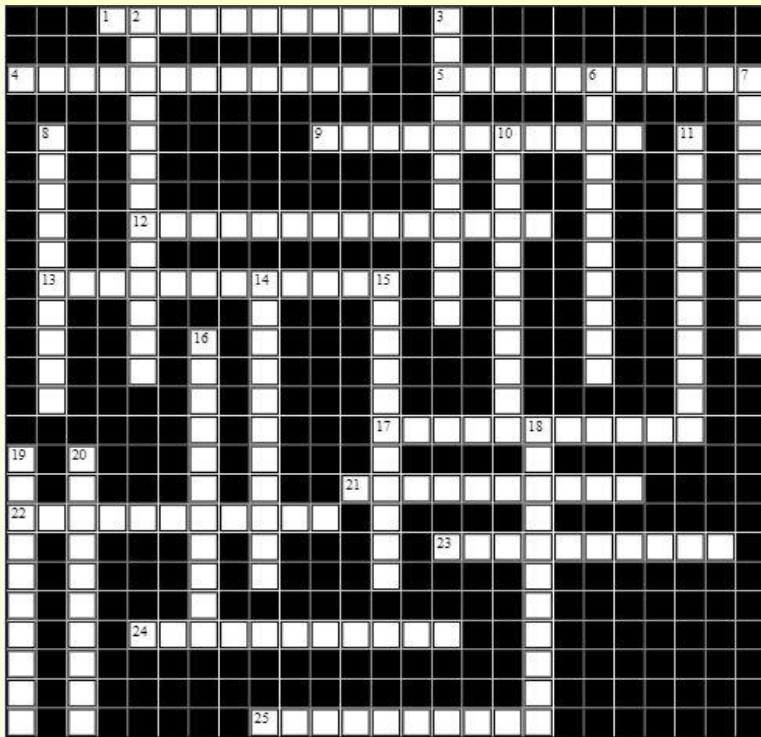
1. The first Indian sign language dictionary of 3000 words has been launched in New Delhi.
2. Karnataka government approves separate religion status for Lingayats. The government also decided to extend the minority status to any of the Veerashaiva community (believers in Hindu gods) who express faith in the philosophy of Lingayat leader Basaveshwara (Basavanna), who propounded the equality of all, prayer to atma\ishta linga (the soul as god) and removal of caste and rituals.
3. In an effort to rebuild the economy, Greece has established the country's 1st ever space agency titled Hellenic Space Organisation.
4. Kerala government has declared Jackfruit as its state fruit.
5. President Ram Nath Kovind released commemorative coins in denominations of Rs 10 and Rs 1000 on Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival in Odisha.
6. Madhya Pradesh West Power Distribution Company launched a 'pink electricity zone' that will be managed by women staff.
7. Karnataka government unveiled its State flag 'Nada Dhwaja'. The yellow-white-red flag has the State emblem at the centre.
8. Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls under age 12. Rajasthan is the second state after Madhya Pradesh to award death penalty to child rapists.
9. The Tamil Nadu government announced the launch of 24 hour toll-free helpline claiming to be India's first information and guidance on education to students.

10. India wins back its fastest growing economy status from China, with 7.2% compared to 6.3% in the last quarter.
11. India remains the 12th largest foreign holder of US government securities. The top three countries are China, Japan and Ireland.
12. The Oscars 2018 was held in Los Angeles, California. The best film for 2017 is The Shape of Water.
13. Forbes India has released 'W- Power Trailblazers' issue, listing 25 woman achievers in business.
14. Fourth India- Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF) was held in New Delhi with the theme 'Synergising Economic Vision for Expanded Relation'.
15. Bill and Melinda Foundation announces USD 179 million for women empowerment.
16. India will join European Bank of Reconstruction and Development as its 69th member.
17. India started importing Liquefied Petroleum Gas(LPG) from the US for the first time.
18. Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, announced the launch of 'Suvridha', 100% oxo-biodegradable sanitary pads.
19. R K Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New Renewable Resources, launches National e-mobility programme in India.
20. As per the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018, Mumbai was ranked 16 in top 20 costliest cities in the World.
21. International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8 with the theme 'Time is now: rural and urban activists transforming women's lives'.
22. P K Sinha, Cabinet Secretary, launched 'I-Metros', an association of all Indian metro rail at a conference on 'Indian Metros: Collaborating for excellence' conducted at Metro Bhawan in New Delhi.
23. In a historic decision, the Supreme Court has declared passive euthanasia and the right of persons, including the terminally ill, to give advance directives to refuse medical treatment permissible. A Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, in three concurring opinions, upheld that the fundamental right to life and dignity includes right to refuse treatment and die with dignity.
24. Israeli and American troops train together through 'Juniper Cobra' exercise in Israel to counter missile threats.
25. India ranks 52 in Mastercard index for women entrepreneurs. New Zealand is at the top of the list.
26. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Air Authority of India and FICCI jointly organised the four day biennial event 'Wings India 2018' in Hyderabad. Theme for this year is 'India Global Aviation Hub'
27. Spicejet from Kolkata becomes the first passenger plane to land in Sikkim.
28. India won 'Best Exhibition Award' at ITB (Internationale Tourismus-Borse) Berlin.
29. The Parliament of China scrapped the two-term limit for the President paving the way for Xi Jinping to remain President for life.
30. Russia successfully test fires 'Ideal' hypersonic missile.
31. India B team won Deodhar Trophy 2017-18 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
32. Australia beat England to lift Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2018 in Malaysia.
33. Multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Air Force exercise 'Samvedna' begins off Kerala coast.

34. Suzlon Energy announced the installation and commissioning of S128, claimed to be the largest wind turbine generator in India.
35. As per the fifth edition of Annual Survey of India's City Systems by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Pune is the top city to show improvement in quality of education in 2017.
36. The Supreme Court held that foreign law firms and lawyers cannot practise in the country. A bench comprising justices Adarsh Kumar Goel and U.U. Lalit modified a Madras high court order permitting foreign lawyers and law firms to come to India on a "fly in and fly out" basis for rendering legal services here on offshore laws and diverse international legal issues.
37. The C-17 Globemaster, the Indian Air Force's largest transport aircraft, made a historic landing in Arunachal Pradesh.
38. World Bank projects India's FY19 GDP growth at 7.3 percent.
39. Indian Council for Medical Research was awarded the International Kochon Prize 2017 for promoting research and development in tuberculosis treatment.
40. Lok Sabha passed the Specific Relief (Amendment) bill, 2018 seeking to grant a party the right to seek damages from the other party in case of Breach of Business Contract.
41. 'Indian Images: People and Places' an Indian exhibition has been inaugurated in Egypt by India's Ambassador to Egypt Sanjay Bhattacharya in Cairo, Egypt.
42. Indian Film 'Halls' bags 'Grand prix de Montreal' award at the 21st Festival International du Film Pour Enfants de Montréal Film .
43. World Consumer Rights Day was observed on March 15 with the theme 'Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer'.
44. India was ranked 78th among 114 countries in the Energy Transition Index by the World Economic Forum. First on the list is Sweden.
45. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu led Telugu Desam Party has quit the BJP-led NDA over the center's refusal to grant special status to the State.
46. The Ministry of Health and Family welfare launched LaQshya to improve maternity care in the labour room and maternity operation theater.
47. The Lok Sabha has passed the Payment of Gratuity(Amendment) Bill that empower the government to fix period of maternity leave and tax free gratuity, amending the Payment of Gratuity Bill, 1972.
48. Cabinet approved the Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission.
49. ISRO postponed the launch of its 2nd lunar mission Chandrayaan 2 from April 2018 to November 2018.
50. Odisha govt launched 'Khushi', a scheme that offers free sanitary pads to 17 lakh students.
51. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). The NFRA will have a chairman, a secretary and three full-time members.
52. The Union government has approved 2919 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow.
53. World Wildlife Day celebrated on March 3 with the theme 'Big Cats: Predators under threat'.
54. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah had launched 'Arogya Karnataka' to provide free treatment to BPL families and 30% of treatment charges for APL families.

55. The government of India institutes 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation' award for investigation of crime.
56. The Maharashtra government announced a partnership with Wikipedia to spearhead the Marathi language and enhance its online usage.
57. Tata-Boeing Aerospace limited inaugurated facility to manufacture fuselages for the AH-4 apache helicopter in Hyderabad.
58. National Academy of coastal policing (NACP), India's first coastal policing academy, has been set up in Okha, in Devbhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat.
59. Narendra Modi inaugurated 'End TB Summit' in New Delhi and launched 'TB free India Campaign' to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025.
60. MP raises retirement age of government employees from 60 years to 62 years.
61. RBI has fined ICICI Bank Rs 58.9 crore for violating norms relating to sale of government securities from the held-to-maturity category of its bonds portfolio. This is the highest penalty imposed by RBI on a bank for a single incident.
62. The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to add 'Ramji' as Dr. BR Ambedkar's middle name in all documents and records.
63. Telangana government has passed a bill making telugu language in schools mandatory.
64. Raja Ravi Varma's untitled painting of Tilotamma sold for 5.17 crore at Sothbey's New York sale of contemporary South Asian Art.
65. To create public awareness in judicial matters, the central government is going to introduce 'Judicial Clocks' in all 24 high courts across the country. The clocks will display the daily rate of disposal of cases, the number of pending cases and the individual rank of each of these courts.

Crossword – 0021 (Phobias - fears)

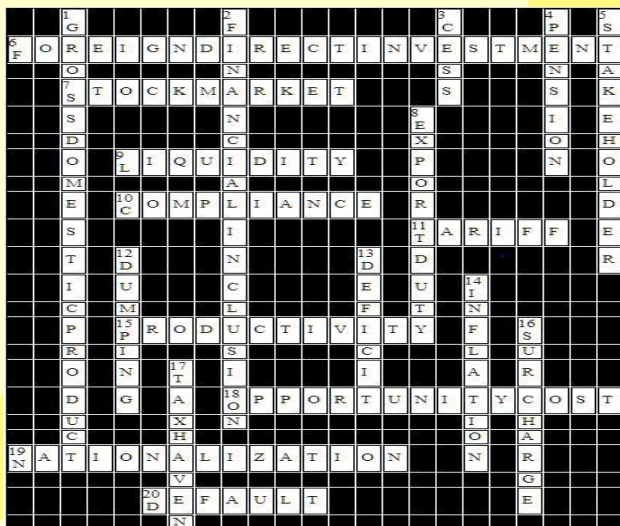


- Across**
1. OCD with respect to cleanliness
 4. dislikes writing exam
 5. is never seen alone
 9. maintains physical distance
 12. avoids medicine
 13. feels guilty in joyous situations
 17. parsimonious to avoid poverty
 21. avoids travelling
 22. dreads shocking news
 23. avoids getting exhausted or tired
 24. not seen in standing position
 25. cannot look at his own shadow

- Down**
2. does not like to eat fish
 3. hides in windy weather
 6. follows rules and dreads punishment
 7. resists injection to avoid bearing pain
 8. irrelevant and extreme fear of dogs
 10. afraid of saints and all things holy
 11. does not like speed
 14. stays away from the sun
 15. stays away from flowering plants
 16. religious works of art
 18. fear of developing fear
 19. prefers walking to vehicles
 20. afraid of flames and fire

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0021 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by **15th April 2018**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0020



Note: No entries received last month. So there is no prize awarded.

Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month!!!