

# Abhyaas Newsboard...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

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## Persons in News

1. Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former ally of ousted President Robert Mugabe, won the country's landmark Presidential elections and was sworn in as the President of Zimbabwe.
2. PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi will step down in October after serving for 12 years. She was the first ever woman to be appointed the CEO of PepsiCo, in the year 2006. She will be succeeded by company President Ramon Laguarta. She will remain chairman till 2019.
3. Ivan Duque was sworn in as the newly elected President of Colombia.
4. Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has been named the UN's new human rights chief.
5. Indian development economist and environment expert Satya S. Tripathi has been appointed assistant secretary general of United Nations and will head New York office of UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
6. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has selected Ajay Data as new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO). With this, he becomes first Indian to get selected as a member of ccNSO.
7. Nikhil Nanda was appointed as the chairman and managing director (MD) of Escorts Company. He succeeded his father Rajan Nanda who passed away.
8. Justice Rajendra Menon was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court by Lt Governor Anil Bajjal. He succeeded Justice Gita Mittal.
9. The Centre approved the elevation of Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee to the Supreme Court. With this SC gets three female Judges, the other two are R Banumathi and Indu Malhotra. Notably, SC will have a total of 22 male judges including two new male appointees.
10. Indian-American high school student Avi Goel has won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin in July 2018.
11. SK Arora was awarded prestigious World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
12. United States Government has awarded Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired) of Indian Army.
13. Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi was conferred with 2018 Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award.
14. Indian-Origin Mathematician Akshay Venkatesh won the Prestigious Fields Medal after Manjul Bhargava. The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.
15. DMK patriarch Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the former CM of Tamil Nadu, passed away on August 7, 2018 at the age of 94. He dominated Tamil Nadu's politics for six decades along with arch-rivals MG Ramachandran and Late J Jayalalithaa. Karunanidhi served as the CM for five separate terms during the 1969–2011 period.
16. Nobel Prize-winning British author V S Naipaul has died at the age of 85. Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul who was born in Trinidad wrote more than 30 books and won the Nobel Literature Prize in 2001.
17. Former Lok Sabha speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away in Kolkata. A 10-time MP of the Lok Sabha, Chatterjee represented Burdwan, Jadavpur and Bolpur parliamentary constituencies of West Bengal from 1971 to 2009 from the CPI(M) party.
18. Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Das Tandon passed away at the age of 90. Tandon was one of the founder members of the Jansangh which later became the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

19. Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee aged 93 passed away in Delhi. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was three times Prime Minister of India. First Term: May 1996, Second Term: 1998-1999 and Third Term: 1999-2004. He headed the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Indian Parliament, and became the first Prime Minister unaffiliated with the Indian National Congress to complete a full five-year term in office.
20. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General passed away on August 18, 2018 after a short illness. He was 88. In 1997, Annan became the first African to take up the role of Secretary General at the United Nations.
21. Eminent Indian writer and journalist Kuldip Nayar passed away. Mr. Nayar was originally born in Sialkot in 1923. His famous autobiography was "Beyond The Lines". He was also the High Commissioner of India to the U.K. and nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.
22. Gopal Bose (71), the former Bengal cricket captain, has passed away in Birmingham, England. He was the first cricketer from Bengal to play an ODI against England in 1974. Bose was the manager of the Virat Kohli-led India U-19 team that won the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 2008.
23. NDA candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman with 125 votes. The Opposition candidate was BK Hariprasad..
24. World's first Hindi speaking humanoid robot Rashmi is developed by Ranjit srivastava is AI powered and can speak three other languages English, Marathi and Bhojpuri.
25. Minister of state for Culture (I/C), Dr Mahesh Sharma, released 3 books: 'Jewellery' by Dr Gulab Kothari, 'Ghats of Banaras' by Dr Sachidanand Joshi and 'Untold Story of Broadcasting' by Dr Gautam Chatterjee, at IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts), in New Delhi.
26. 2018 RBC Canadian Open Golf title is given to Dustin Johnson. He has become the first player after Tiger Woods with atleast three wins consecutively.
27. Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his maiden European Tour title at the Fiji International in Natadola Bay.
28. Veteran German striker Mario Gomez announced his retirement from international football. The 33-year-old, who made his debut for Germany in 2007, scored 31 goals in 78 international appearances.
29. Neeraj Chopra will be the flag bearer for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2018.
30. Bajrang Punia is related with Wrestling, he won the first gold medal for India in ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia.
31. Indian rowers Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh won the men's Quadruple Sculls to win India's fifth gold medal at the Asian Games 2018. The medal is only the second ever gold medal for India in the rowing competition in Asian Games history.
32. Fouaad Mirza from Bangaluru clinched silver in the equestrian event with a score of 26.40 at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games on August 26. With this, he became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual medal in the equestrian event after 36 years. The last individual eventing medal came in 1982 when Raghubir Singh topped the table in New Delhi.
33. Indian sprinter Dutee Chand from Odisha clinched silver in women's 100m dash in the 18th Asian Games 2018 to win the country's first medal in 20 years in this event.
34. Nihal Sarin (14) from Kerala has become the 53rd Grandmaster of India and the 12th youngest grandmaster in chess history after attaining his third and final GM-norm in the Abu Dhabi Masters 2018.

### ***Places in News***

1. The 11th World Hindi Conference was held in Port Louis the capital of Mauritius.
2. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The move is part of the government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state. Six nodal points, Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for the corridor. Another defence corridor was also launched in Tamil Nadu.
3. Joint military exercise Maitree 2018 between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army was conducted in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.
4. The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

5. The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST), the first-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.
6. Rajasthan is the first Indian state to implement National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 by promoting, marketing and creating awareness to use Biofuels. State is also establishing centre for excellence in Udaipur to promote research in fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.
7. Uttarakhand High Court (HC) banned the commercial use of elephants in the state and directed the state forest department to rescue the elephants deployed for commercial purposes within a time span of 24 hours. The court's directions came after a public interest litigation filed by Ramanagar-based NGO 'Himalayan Yuva Gramin Vikas Sansthan' informed. The court asked the state government to ensure that "not more than 100 vehicles are permitted to enter in Sitabani, Bijrani and Dhela zones of Corbett including Kalagarh and Rajaji National Park, in a day.
8. Japan has pipped China as the world's number two stock market, according to a Bloomberg report.
9. Pune (Maharashtra) ranked first among 116 cities (with population of 1 million plus) in Ease of Living Index released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Besides, two more Maharashtra cities — Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai — figure in the second and third spots.
10. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the Global Liveability Index 2018, the ranking of 140 global cities based on their living conditions. Austria's capital Vienna has been ranked as the world's most liveable city, displacing Australian city of Melbourne. Delhi was ranked at 112th position and Mumbai fetched 117th spot.
11. The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of actual growth in the number of passengers according to the report that was published by RoutesOnline

### *Events of Significance*

1. The Lok Sabha recently passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018. It will designate some courts as commercial courts for speedy disposal of commercial disputes. The bill is aimed at improving the ease of doing business in India.
2. Startup India has launched the Startup Academia Alliance Programme, which is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill the Indian Government's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country.
3. The International Monetary Fund says India's GDP is poised to grow by 7.3 per cent in the 2018-19 fiscal and 7.5 per cent in 2019-20 on strengthening of investment and robust private consumption.
4. Axis bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
5. The Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL) announced that Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform".
6. Government of India has imposed safeguard duty of 25% on import of solar cells from China and Malaysia whether assembled or not in modules or panels. This decision could affect on the cheap imports for projects and also brings hike in tariffs in India as 90% of panel sector uses solar cells from these two countries.
7. Apple company becomes the first US company with \$1 trillion market value.
8. PayU, Reliance Money Announced Strategic Partnership For Instant Loan via LazyPay. The loan amount will start from as low as Rs. 100 and will extend up to Rs. 1,00,000 with a duration varying from 15 days to 24 months.
9. PayPal, a digital payments platform has announced its strategic partnership with and HDFC Bank to offer safer, faster and convenient payment experiences for the bank's cardholders.
10. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has launched a new digital platform 'MyDeal' to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.

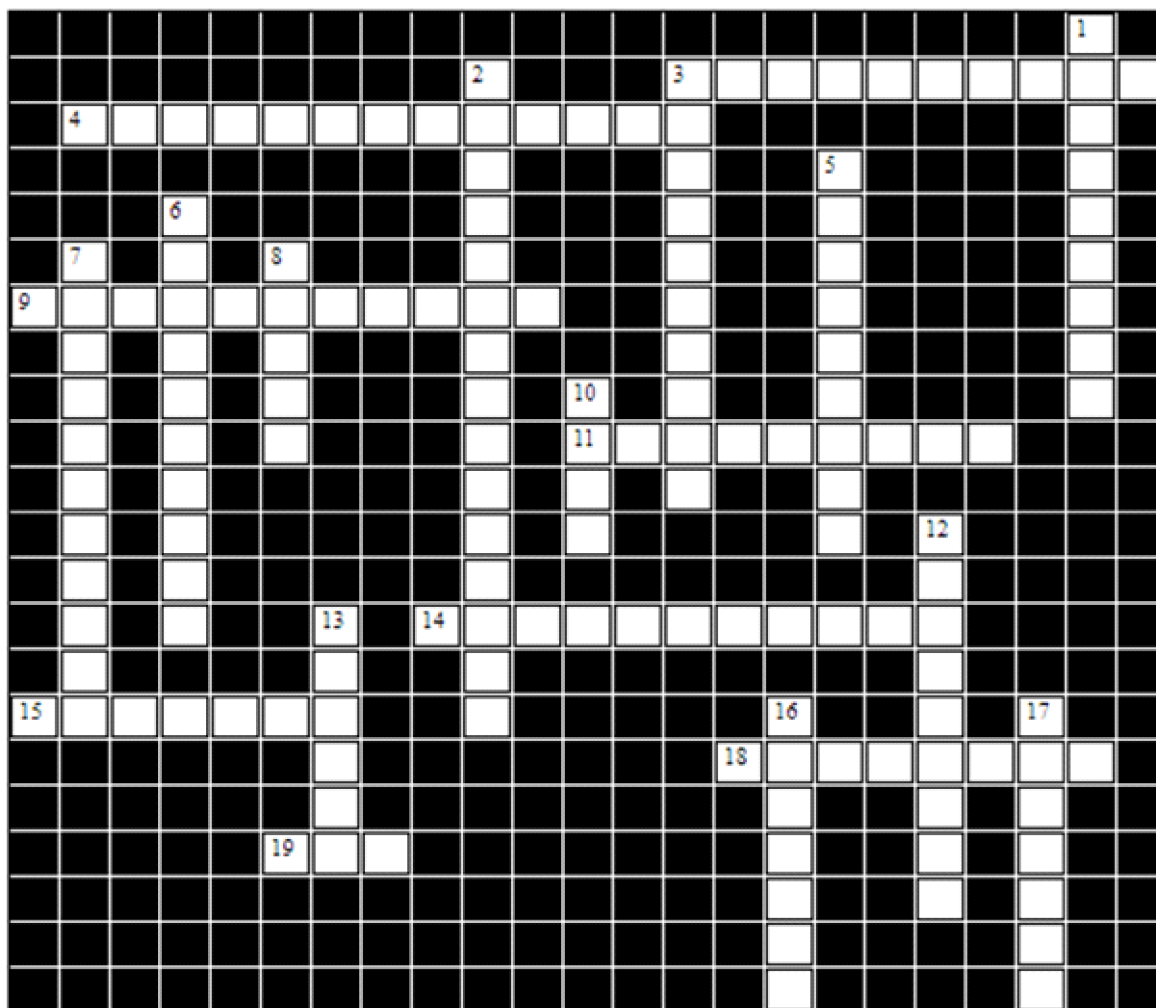
11. The 4th BIMSTEC Summit began on August 30, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The two-day Summit will be held during August 30-31, 2018 with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade. Theme 2018: 'Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'.
12. FICCI Ladies Organisation, the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched a mobile application called "WOW" (Wellness of Women). This platform allows users to talk to doctors through video conferencing or connect with them via voice or email.
13. President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent (under Article 111) to Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 passed by Parliament. With this assent, this Bill becomes law that will deter fugitive economic offenders to evade legal process in India and flee the country.
14. Ministry of Culture has launched a new scheme to provide financial assistance to buy some specific food items for free distribution of food by Charitable Religious Institutions called Seva Bhoj Yojana.
15. Lok Sabha passed constitution (123rd Amendment) bill, 2017 with two third majority to give constitutional status to National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) at par with National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
16. The Union Government has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme. IMPRINT is the first of its kind government supported initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and champion to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance.
17. GST council approves cash incentives of 20% Cashback upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode. It was also decided to create a sub-committee headed by MoS Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
18. The Ministry of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has launched Mission Solar Chakra for implementing 50 solar chakra clusters across India with the budget of Rs. 550 crores for the year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
19. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur launched 'Shaur Nahin' app as a part of the first phase of 'horn not ok' awareness campaign in Manali and Shimla. With an Objective to stop unnecessary noise pollution.
20. The Union Government constituted a four-member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whether to continue with or withdraw from the 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. The GoM also includes Piyush Goyal, Nirmala Sitharaman and Hardeep Puri.
21. Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called 'GOAMILES' in Panaji.
22. Ministry of HRD has made a new initiative called 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
23. The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on August 10. On the occasion, PM of India, Narendra Modi released a Booklet on "National Policy on Biofuels 2018", and launched "Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub" [PARIVESH].
24. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 'One District One Product' Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with special emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The state government has set a goal of providing employment to 25 lakh people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.
25. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Defence India Startup Challenge with a vision to build an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in defence sector and make India self-reliant for meeting defence requirements.
26. NITI Aayog released five thematic reports on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region. The themes include Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security, Sustainable Tourism, and Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation, Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in the Himalayas.



27. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for the umbrella scheme “Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)” of Ministry of Earth Sciences. This scheme also provides necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.
28. The Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) under the Swadhar Greh scheme. It is said to be the largest-ever facility of its kind created by a government organization. The new widows’ home has been constructed to mitigate the plight of widows living in pathetic condition in Vrindavan.
29. The Madhya Pradesh government has organized an interactive programme “Mil -Banche” in government schools of state in August 2018. It is a first of its kind initiative i.e. being organized for multi-dimensional development of children through language skill up-gradation, reading other books in addition to textbooks, developing interest in understanding and other co-curricular activities.
30. The United States Congress has passed the National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19) which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to \$150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than \$ 1 billion to \$750 million per year.
31. India has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a period of two years. India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
32. United Kingdom Government has announced new plans to change law for organ and tissue donation to address urgent need for organs within Indian-origin communities in the country.
33. Saudi Arabia has announced that it is freezing all new trade and investment with Canada over its interference in its internal affairs. The Saudi foreign ministry expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada.
34. Sunita Williams, 8 other astronauts named by NASA for first manned US space launch since 2011
35. Pakistan's new government has banned the discretionary use of state funds and first-class air travel by officials and leaders, including the president and the prime minister, as part of its austerity drive.
36. 3rd edition of BRICS Film Festival was held in Durban, South Africa. Indian film Newton directed by Amit Masurkar won Best Film and Village Rockstar actress Bhanita Das won Best Actress and the movie won special Jury Award.
37. China launched its optical remote sensing satellite, Gaofen-11 from board of Long March 4B rocket which was its 282nd flight mission..It is sixth in Gaofen series this year.
38. France’s Parliament has signed into law a controversial asylum and immigration bill. The bill is designed to accelerate asylum procedures by cutting the maximum processing time from the current 120 days to 90 days after entering France.
39. Pacific Endeavor-2018, a communication exercise under the Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) started in Kathmandu, Nepal. The basic objective of 12 day exercise is to develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in the Asia Pacific region to collectively work in the wake of disaster.
40. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful tested supersonic endo-atmospheric interceptor missile developed under Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Air Defence (AAD) System from Abdul Kalam Island (earlier known as Wheeler Island) Odisha.
41. The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station.
42. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed Chandrayaan-2, India’s second mission to moon to January 2019.
43. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has now integrated its Mobile Apps namely DND 2.0 & MyCall with UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) Platform.
44. International Youth Day is observed every across the world on 12 August to draw attention to give set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. The theme for this year is ‘Safe Spaces for Youth’.
45. The Delhi Police inducted an all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, consisting of 36 commandos – the first ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations.

46. Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested from Indian Army Helicopter at Pokhran range. The weapon system was tested for its full range.
47. The NASA scientists, using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, on August 21, 2018 confirmed that there are frozen water deposits in the darkest and coolest parts of Moon's Polar Regions. The findings were published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).
48. In a tribute to the late former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Naya Raipur as 'Atal Nagar'.
49. "The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real-time data on the availability of vessels." The portal has been named as the Forum of Cargo Owners and Logistics Operators (FOCAL)"
50. The SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity is given to NHAI of Rs 25000 crore for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.
51. NITI Aayog has identified 117 districts as 'Aspirational Districts'. These districts have been selected on the basis of composite index which includes published data of deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census, Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure.
52. Google's latest Android operating system update, Android 9 Pie, was officially released to customers following a beta testing period that started earlier this year. Android Pie introduces a new gesture-based system interface that's similar to the interface of the iPhone X, with iPhone-like swipes for navigating through the operating system.
53. Google has launched a new video-based Q&A app called 'Cameos' on the App Store, which allows people to answer questions about themselves, then share those answers directly on Google. The app is aimed at celebrities and other public figures.
54. The World Humanitarian Day is observed across the world on August 19 to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and to gather support for people affected by crises around the world. The campaign launched on World Humanitarian Day is "#NotATarget".
55. ISRO has decided to launch 'Gaganyaan — India's first human spaceflight programme' by 2022. The mission will aim to send a 3-member crew to space for a period of 5 to 7 days.
56. India has jumped 22 places to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Index 2018. India, which was ranked 118 in 2014, jumped 11 places to be ranked 96 in 2018.
57. Seven Indian companies have been listed in Fortune's 500 list 2018 of world biggest corporations. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is the highest ranked company from India followed by RIL which jumped 55 places. The US-based retail company, Walmart has topped the list.
58. The 11th edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018 was launched in India on August 8, 2018. The index was based on the theme— 'Energizing the World with Innovation'. The India launch was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), one of the founding partners of GI along with WIPO
59. World Junior Squash Championships 2018 was held in Chennai, India. Egypt national junior squash team defeated England 2-0 in the final and emerged as the 2018 World Junior Squash Champions. India finished in 11th position
60. In Women's Hockey World Cup 2018, the Netherlands has been crowned the world champions for the eighth time and played over Ireland in the summit at London, UK. Kitty van Male, finished the tournament as the top scorer with eight goals. Spain won the third-place match by beating Australia to claim their first ever World Cup medal. India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.
61. The Indian women chess team at the Asian Nations Cup 2018 clinched the gold in the Blitz event held in Iran. It's India's first gold-medal finish at the event since 2014. They also won silver and bronze in the Rapid and Classical categories, respectively. While India finished with Gold, Vietnam settled for silver and China bagged bronze.
62. India's under-20 team won over Argentina under-20 in the final group stage match of the COTIF Cup held in Valencia. India was playing in the tournament for the first time.

Crossword – 0025



**Across**

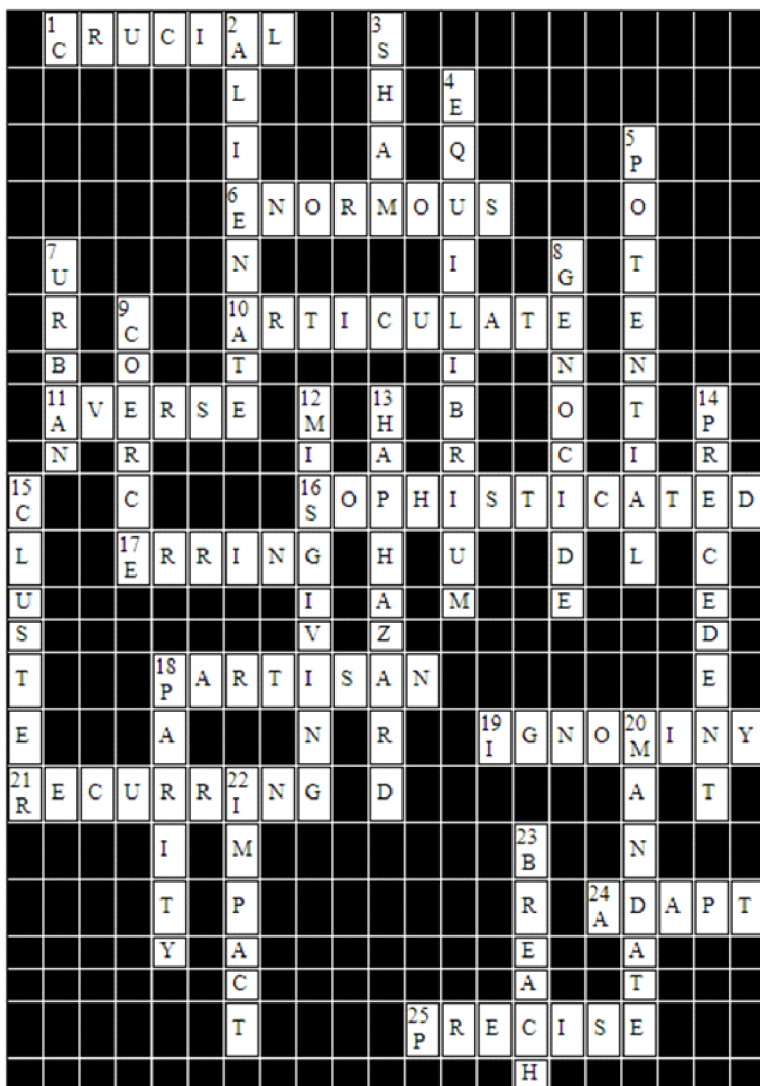
3. ex-Secretary-General of UN
4. Revolutionary ex-President of Zimbabwe
9. CJI of Jammu & Kashmir HC
11. Peace award named after Rajiv Gandhi
14. Kalaingar to fans
15. business group owned by Nanda family
18. Born on Christmas day
19. competitor to iPhone X

**Down**

1. Capital of Nepal
2. American astronaut with Indian parent
3. Airport in Bengaluru
5. Nobel laureate in Literature
6. New name of Naya Raipur
7. Master Golfer
8. Mobile app from TRAI
10. represents type of companies
12. Krishna Kutir is located
13. First robot that speaks Hindi
16. US retail giant present in India
17. Led by Indra Nooyi for 12 years

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword-0025 in the subject line to [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) latest by **16th September 2018**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

**Key to Crossword - 0024**



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

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