

# Abhyaas Newsboard...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

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## *Persons in News*

1. Kendrick Lamar received the Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn." Lamar is the first rapper in history to be given the award.
2. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Surat, Gujarat.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the Padma Shri award, one of India's highest civilian awards, to former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh. Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.
4. Veteran actor Anupam Kher will receive the Outstanding Achievement award at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.
5. Renowned Pakistani-British author Kamila Shamsie's book "Home Fire" has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018. The book is a contemporary reimagination of Sophocles' "Antigone".
6. Rafael Nadal (Spain) won his 11th French Open title by beating Austrian Dominic Thiem in straight sets. This is his 17th Grand Slam. In the women's category, Simona Halep (Romania) won her first Grand Slam over American Sloane Stephens.
7. Indian captain Virat Kohli has received the prestigious Polly Umrigar Trophy (Cricketer of the Year) award for two consecutive seasons (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the BCCI Annual Awards function.
8. Noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International, Bindeshwar Pathak, was honoured with Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.
9. Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu has been crowned Femina Miss India 2018 in a grand ceremony in Mumbai. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana was the first runner-up while Shreya Rao Kamavarapu from Andhra Pradesh secured the second runner-up position.
10. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has been conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance. The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
11. Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal in six years at the Salt Lake World Cup, in the USA defeating Germany's Michelle Kroppen in the recurve final.
12. Kalki Koechlin was conferred with the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.
13. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) reclaimed the world championship lead with a dominant victory in the French Grand Prix. Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished 2nd in the race.
14. Sixteen-year-old Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary set a new world record on the way to winning a gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. In the women's 25m pistol final, Manu Bhaker was fifth with 19 hits and Devanshi Rana was eighth with five. With 8 gold medals, 1 silver and 5 bronze, India continued to top the medal standings.
15. India sprinter Dutee Chand set a new national record in the women's 100-metre race when she clocked 11.29 seconds at the 58th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships being held in Guwahati, Assam.
16. Rani Rampal has been named as the captain of India's 18-member squad for the women's hockey World Cup to be played in London in July 2018. Hockey India announced the 18-member Indian women's team for the prestigious tournament.
17. Giuseppe Conte was sworn in as Prime minister of Italy's new populist government. Conte will head a government of ministers from the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the far-right League Party.

18. Pedro Sanchez has been sworn in as Spain's new Prime minister by King Felipe. He has replaced Mariano Rajoy. Sanchez took the oath to protect the constitution without a bible or crucifix - a first in Spain's modern history.
19. In Egypt, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in for a second four-year term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges.
20. Eminent scientist S Christopher has completed his term as the chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was given additional charge of the post.
21. MK Jain, Managing Director, and CEO of IDBI Bank, has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI. The central bank now has four serving RBI Deputy Governors.
22. Malaysia's king has approved the appointment of an ethnic Indian lawyer, Tommy Thomas as the new attorney general, amid protests from Islamic groups that the job must be held by a Muslim.
23. Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa has been elected president of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly.
24. Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar has been appointed vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for a period of 4 years or till he attains the age of 65 years.
25. An Indian-American woman, Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the Chief Finance Officer of the US' largest automaker, General Motors. She will succeed Chuck Stevens, the General Motor's present CFO, on September 1, 2018.
26. Ivan Duque has been chosen as the next Colombian president after a long and divisive campaign that often centred on a controversial peace process with leftist rebels the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
27. The ICICI Bank board has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO), creating a new top position at India's second largest private bank, to steer all its businesses. Chanda Kochhar, ICICI Bank's MD and CEO will remain on leave until a committee investigating allegations of impropriety completes its work.
28. The government appointed Arjit Basu as Managing Director of the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI). He will fill the position that fell vacant following the elevation of Rajnish Kumar as the chairman. With this, the SBI will have four managing directors.
29. Indian cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first batter from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket. Virat Kohli has scored 1983 runs in T20I.
30. Timothy Pereira, former football international who represented Tata FC, died after a prolonged illness. Pereira played for India in 1967-68.
31. Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh also known as 'Rasaraj' passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar.
32. Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away at the age of 79. Rao worked in different Telugu and English newspapers and also authored several books. He had played an active role in the separate Telangana agitation in 1969.
33. Noted mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav had passed away after a brief illness in Warangal city. Venumadhav served as MLC in 1971 in undivided Andhra Pradesh. He rose to international fame after his enthralling performance at the United Nations. He has been conferred scores of awards, including the Padma Shri in 2001.
34. Award-winning American poet and writer Donald Hall passed away at the age of 89. He was the United States Poet Laureate for 2007-'08 and received the Robert Frost Medal in 1991 and the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honour for artists, in 2010.
35. NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson, retired after a 22-year-long career. Whitson has spent 665 days over three International Space Station missions. She is the oldest woman to go into space and also the most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 missions.
36. Jammu & Kashmir's Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti submitted her resignation to the Governor after BJP announced to pull out of an alliance with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).
37. The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of India, Arvind Subramanian had resigned from the post and will return to the US because of "pressing family commitments". The announcement was made by Mr Arun Jaitley.

38. India's R Praggnanandhaa has become the country's youngest and the world's second youngest Grand Master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after reaching the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy. Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest ever GM, having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and seven months in 2002.

## *Places in News*

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian digital payment systems - RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI at the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in Singapore. With the launch, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).
2. China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite '*the Gaofen-6*' which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. The Satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
3. India received the first-ever cargo of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russia as New Delhi diversifies import basket to meet its vast energy needs. State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd will bring the shipload of LNG from Gazprom, a Russian supplier, at Petronet LNG Ltd's import terminal in Dahej, Gujarat.
4. Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July in the state of Uttarakhand.
5. India cricket captain Virat Kohli is ranked 83rd among the world's highest-paid athletes, according to a Forbes' compilation topped by American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather.
6. The state government of Andhra Pradesh and Singapore have signed several pacts for the development of a start-up area (1,691 acres) in the new capital, Amaravati, to transform it into a world-class city.
7. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has created a world record of distributing the maximum number of bee-boxes in one day. This was achieved by the KVIC in the Zangalee Army area at Kupwara in Kashmir.
8. Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya has been selected as 100th Smart City after evaluating the proposal submitted by it. Till now, 99 smart cities had been selected in four rounds of competition and with this announcement, selection of 100 cities has been completed under the Smart Cities Mission
9. Under 'India Smart Cities Award' 2018, Surat has been awarded for showcasing "great momentum" in the implementation of projects under the Smart Cities Mission. Bhopal and Ahmedabad were selected in the 'Innovative Idea' category for their "transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development".
10. According to the Cost of Living Survey published by global personnel consultants Mercer, Mumbai continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers Washington and Melbourne. Hong Kong is ranked as the world's costliest city to live in for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, Zurich, Singapore, and Seoul.
11. NITI Aayog launched the first Delta ranking, incremental progress, for the Aspirational Districts in the country. The ranking is based on self-reported data of districts between March 31 to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. Dahod district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points to rank first. West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points.
12. Mumbai's Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was announced at the Unesco world heritage committee meeting in Bahrain.

## *Events of Significance*

1. The First biannual Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference was inaugurated by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. The Exercise 'Gagan Shakti' was mentioned as the landmark exercise for IAF.
2. Rajnath Singh launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by various organisations registered or permitted under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.
3. Facebook partnered with the National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a Digital Literacy Programme (DLP). The DLP will be launched in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).
4. Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh. The rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state flower.

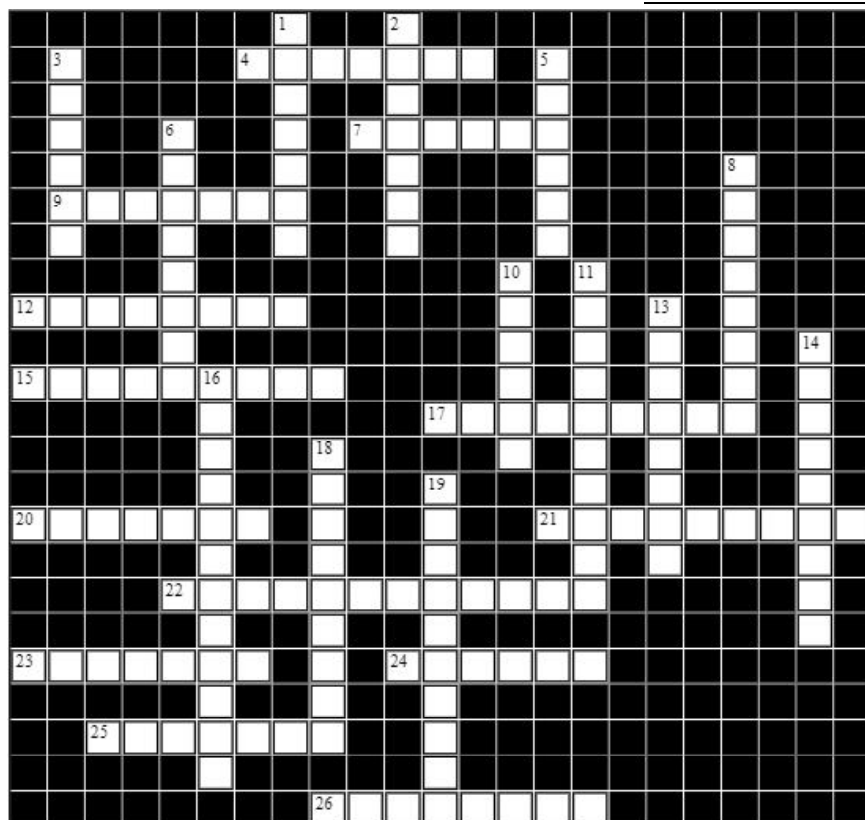
5. Tata Motors signed an MoU with the State Government of Maharashtra for deployment of 1000 Electric Vehicles (EV) across its range of passenger and commercial vehicles in the State.
6. The United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command, or PACOM, to *Indo-Pacific Command*, in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking.
7. The Income Tax Department has issued a new reward scheme titled "Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018" to seek people's participation in the Income Tax Department's efforts to unearth black money and to reduce tax evasion.
8. The Union Ministry of Culture introduced a new scheme called 'SevaBhojYojna' to reimburse the central share of CGST and IGST on items for food/prasad/langar/bhandara offered free of cost by charitable religious institutions.
9. India successfully carried out the flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion based missile from the Launch Centre-III of Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
10. According to Save the Children's "End of Childhood Index 2018", India ranks 113 among 175 countries with regards to where childhood is threatened as a result of poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labour, and child marriage. Singapore and Slovenia are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index.
11. India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Long Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-5 from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The state-of-the-art surface-to-surface missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has a strike range of 5,000 kilometres and can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
12. Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, 13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification. These beaches of Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
13. NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in Hyderabad under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India.
14. India has registered a significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recording a 22-percent reduction in such deaths since 2013. According to the Sample Registration System bulletin, the MMR has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.
15. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance will be awarded the SansadRatna Award 2018 for its outstanding performance. Veerappa Moily is the Chairman of the committee.
16. The 'Queen Pineapple' has been declared as the State Fruit of Tripura.
17. Indian Navy has rescued 38 Indians from Socotra island in Yemen where they were stranded for nearly 10 days after a severe cyclonic storm hit the area. The Navy had diverted its ship INS Sunayna from the Gulf of Aden to Socotra as part of the operation 'NISTAR' to rescue the Indians.
18. The 44th G7 summit was held on June 8–9, 2018, in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada.
19. Fifty-eight Indian companies featured on the 2018 Forbes 'Global 2000' list of the world's largest public sector companies. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), ranked at 83, retaining its spot as the most valued Indian company on the list followed by HDFC Bank, at 202.
20. US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un conducted their historic maiden talks at Singapore's Sentosa island. The United States has decided to provide security guarantees to North Korea, in exchange of Pyongyang's firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
21. The union government has launched 5,000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages and delivery of rail tickets through Common Service Centres (CSCs). The WiFiChoupals will enable people in rural areas with an effective Internet access for their various digital processes.
22. India stands 177th at the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings. India scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality. The Top 3 countries on the list are: Switzerland, France and Denmark.
23. The Indian Army has started 'Kashmir Super 30 Medical', which is a full-time coaching project for NEET aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir. This comes after the success of 'Kashmir Super-40', a similar initiative for engineering in which 28 out of 40 students cracked the IIT-JEE Mains 2017.



24. President Ram Nath Kovind will launch Solar Charkha Mission which will entail a subsidy of 550 crore rupees in the initial two years for 50 clusters. The scheme is aimed at linking five crore women and self-help groups to the initiative. 15 new technology centres will be set up and out of these, ten will be made operational this year.
25. Flipkart-owned payments platform PhonePe has entered into a partnership with Ola Cabs where users can book an Ola through the PhonePe app. With this integration, PhonePe users can also avail an AutoPay feature.
26. The Central Water Commission (CWC), India's apex technical organisation in the field of Water Resources has signed a Collaboration Agreement with Google for flood forecasting. This collaboration will help in effective flood management in India. Using its high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), Google would help to generate flood inundation maps with the forecast inputs of CWC.
27. The Telangana police have launched a mobile-based messenger application named 'Cop Connect' dedicated to provide real-time information to over 60,000 police officers across the State thus supporting the police department in improving quality of service delivered to the public.
28. World Refugee Day is held every year on 20th June to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees. The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is 'Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees'.
29. Nikki Haley, the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations announced the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), accusing the council of bias against US ally Israel.
30. US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit' that can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second - providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI). Summit will be eight times more powerful than its previous top-ranked system, Titan.
31. The 4th International Yoga Day was celebrated across the globe on 21st of June. In India Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of people in performing yoga asanas, in the main event organised at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The theme for Yoga Day 2018 is "Yoga for Peace". Vishwas Mandalik from Nasik and the Yoga Institute in Mumbai have been selected as recipients of the Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of yoga for the year 2018.
32. The world's first of its kind and state-of-the-art International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF) was launched at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
33. Microsoft has acquired Flipgrid, an education start-up with an app that lets students record and share videos on specific topics with their classmates.
34. PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Paperless Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi. Once ready, the new building will house Department of Commerce. The building will accommodate about 1000 officers and staff. It will be a completely paperless office with state of the art facilities such as smart access control, central air-conditioning, video conferencing, and completely networked systems.
35. The Gujarat government announced wind-solar hybrid power policy - 2018, aiming to make optimum utilisation of the land and grid. The policy provides 50% concession for cross-subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge when the generated energy is sold to a third party.
36. The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers- Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck. As per the scheme, farmers having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. The State and Central governments will give 60% subsidy on the cost of the project. The farmer is required to take 5% cost, while 35% will be provided to him as an affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5-6%.
37. At the Indian International Film Awards (IIFA), late star Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for MOM while Irrfan Khan was given the Best Actor Award for Hindi Medium. Vidya Balan's Tumhari Sulu was awarded the Best Film trophy.
38. The General Assembly of United Nations has decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The theme for 2018 is: "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."

39. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched the new Passport Seva App. Now, people can apply for a passport from any part of the country through the App. EAM Sushma Swaraj has launched Mobile Passport Application on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas (26 June) in New Delhi.
40. Britain's Queen Elizabeth granted royal assent to Prime Minister Theresa May's flagship Brexit legislation, ending months of debate over the legislation that will formally end the country's European Union membership. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill repeals the 1972 European Communities Act through which Britain became a member, and transfers decades of European law onto British statute books in a bid to avoid any legal disruption.
41. The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) proposed a draft bill to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) and set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). This move aims to reform higher education in India.
42. Pakistan has been placed on the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for failing to curb anti-terror financing despite its diplomatic efforts to avert the decision. The decision was taken at the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) plenary session in Paris where Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar represented Pakistan.
43. The Ministry of Shipping's flagship programme for port-led-prosperity 'Sagarmala' received the 'Gold Award' in infrastructure sector in the recently concluded 52nd Skoch Summit 2018 in New Delhi. The Sagarmala Programme also received the 'Order of Merit' at the Summit. The Skoch Awards recognize leadership and excellence in accelerating socio-economic changes.
44. HCL Technologies has acquired German IT and engineering services provider H&D International Group. Through this deal, HCL Tech will attain significant in-country front office and delivery capabilities, which will further enhance its domain expertise in the global automotive sector.
45. The National Statistics Day is observed across India on June 29 with an aim to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. The theme selected for the 2018 Statistics Day is 'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'. On the occasion, Vice President of India released a commemorative coin of Rs 125 and circulation coin of Rs 5 denomination as a mark of respect/homage to Prof. Mahalanobis.
46. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile application called 'ReUnite' which helps to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India. Parents and citizens can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birthmark, address, report to the police station, search and identify missing kids using this app.
47. The navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX). Indian Naval ships INS Shakti and INS Kamorta under the command of Rear Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, undertook Passage Exercise with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Madidihang (855) on leaving the Port of Makassar, Indonesia.
48. The US State Department categorised North Korea as one of the "worst human trafficking nations" for the 16th straight year, citing the use of forced labour. According to the annual '2018 Trafficking in Persons Report', North Korea has been included in the Tier 3 category, which is the lowest ranking, along with China, Russia and Iran. India has been placed in Tier 2 category for making significant effort to comply with the US standards.

## Crossword – 0023



## Across

4. emerging
7. to burn or seethe
9. extend
12. careful examination
15. maze
17. reprimand or rebuke
20. casual or superficial
21. to provoke or initiate
22. anxious or uneasy
23. distinguish
24. push forward
25. in the meanwhile
26. domination or supremacy

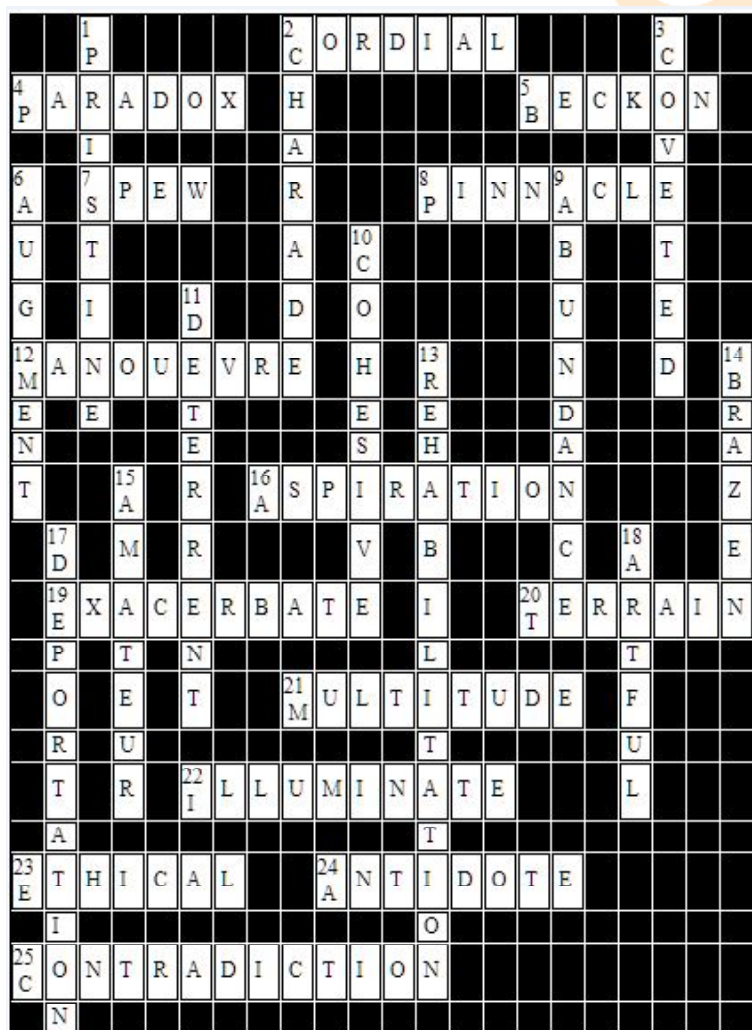
## Down

1. command or authorization
2. routine
3. related to finance
5. to try hard
6. traveller
8. friendliness
10. strong
11. awareness or knowledge
13. truth or accuracy
14. conciliation
16. scattered
18. polite substitute
19. susceptible

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword-0023 in the subject line to [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) latest by **20th July 2018**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail.

First correct solution entry will get a prize.

## Key to Crossword - 0022



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

Feel free to write to: [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) to resolve your lawprep queries