

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

Persons in News

1. President Ramnath Kovind has appointed senior judge of Supreme Court Madan Bhimarao Lokur (64) as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA). He is appointed in exercise of power conferred under Section 3 of the Legal Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was sworn-in as the 46th Chief Justice of India. He is the first Chief Justice of India from the north-east. He will have a tenure of about 13 months, from October 3, 2018 till his retirement on November 17, 2019.
3. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has redesignated R N Ravi, Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be the third deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, after former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief, Rajinder Khanna and serving diplomat Pankaj Saran.
4. India-born Gita Gopinath was appointed as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), becoming the first woman to hold the position.
5. Barham Salih, a Kurdish politician has been elected as the new President of Iraq. He has named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi as the Prime Minister of the country.
6. ICCI Bank CEO and MD, Chanda Kochhar quit her position with immediate effect in October 2018, after her plea for early retirement was accepted by the bank. Sandeep Bakhshi, the bank's COO has been named to succeed her.
7. Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
8. Dr Shekhar Mande has been appointed as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
9. Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as its new Managing Director and CEO.
10. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked incumbent prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksha as the country's new Prime Minister.
11. Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as the President of Ireland after receiving 56 per cent of the country's votes in the elections. Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1 per cent votes, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10 per cent.
12. Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro was on October 28, 2018 declared as the winner of Brazil's 2018 Presidential Elections by a wide margin. Bolsonaro swept the election results with 55.1 per cent of the votes cast, as against 44.8 per cent votes of his opponent, Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers' Party (PT).
13. Germany's Angela Merkel has announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks. She would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU). She has held the post since 2000.
14. Indian-American Nikki Haley announced her resignation as the US Ambassador to the United Nations. In office since 2017, Haley was the first woman tapped by Trump for a top-level administration post during his transition to the White House. She had scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian-American to be appointed to a cabinet-level post in any US administration. She would continue as the UN Ambassador till the end of the year.
15. Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid has given his assent to the controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by enacting it as a law. Bangladesh Government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh Awami League) has defended the digital law as necessary to combat cyber crime.

16. The 2018 Nobel Prizes were announced in October 2018. This year 12 new laureates have been awarded for achievements that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.
 - a) The Nobel Prize in Physics 2018 was awarded "for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics" with one half to Arthur Ashkin "for the optical tweezers and their application to biological systems" and the other half jointly to Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland "for their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses".
 - b) The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 was divided, one half awarded to Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes", the other half jointly to George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies."
 - c) The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018 was awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation."
 - d) The Nobel Peace Prize 2018 was awarded to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".
 - e) The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2018 was divided equally between William D. Nordhaus "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" and Paul M. Romer "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis."
17. The 2018 Nobel Prizes were announced, without a Literature Prize for the first time in 70 years due to a #MeToo scandal. The Swedish Academy was forced to announce the postponement of the Nobel Prize for Literature in May 2018 after 18 women made sexual assault allegations against French photographer Jean-Claude Arnault, 72, husband of member Katarina Frostenson. The Academy has decided to put off this year's Literature Prize until 2019.
18. Guadeloupean novelist Maryse Condé has been announced as the winner of the New Academy prize in literature, a one-off award intended to fill the void left by the cancellation of this year's scandal-dogged Nobel prize for literature.
19. Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand has been honoured with the Ramineni Foundation's Outstanding Person Award.
20. Anna Burns has become the first Northern Irish author to win the Man Booker Prize for her novel 'Milkman' in 2018. The book is about an 18-year-old girl, known as "middle sister", who is sexually harassed by an older paramilitary figure, called the "milkman"
21. Arshdeep Singh, a 10-year-old boy from Punjab, has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum. He won the award for the picture titled 'Pipe Owls',
22. Narendra Modi has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. The award committee, gave credit to 'Modinomics' for reducing the social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor.
23. Eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman has been awarded the 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
24. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has been bestowed with the first World Agriculture Prize. This prize, instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), was presented at a special session named Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security organised by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture.
25. Thangjam Tababi Devi has become India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level. She achieved this feat after winning silver medal at ongoing Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She won the medal after losing to Venezuela's Maria Giminez in the finals of the women's 44kg category.
26. Former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari passed away in New Delhi in October 2018. He was known as Vikas Purush and was instrumental in developing the industrial sector in Uttarakhand.
27. Former Chief Minister of Delhi, Madan Lal Khurana, passed away on October 27, 2018 after a prolonged illness. He was one of the founders of the Delhi chapter of the Jan Sangh, which in 1980 transformed into BJP. In addition to holding posts including national vice-president and Delhi president within the BJP, Mr. Khurana also served as

Governor of Rajasthan in 2004. He was the Union Minister of Parliamentary affairs and Tourism in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

28. Professor and Urdu writer Qazi Abdussattar, passed away in October 2018, following a long term illness. He had won the Padma Shri in 1974. He was the first recipient of the Ghalib Academy Award in 1978. Some of his important works include "Peetal Ka Ghanta", "Darashiko", "Khalid bin walid" and "Ghalib".
29. Environmentalist G.D. Agarwal, former IIT Kanpur professor, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, died after a heart attack in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
30. Four Himalayan peaks near the Gangotri glacier have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Places in News

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 to top ranked states and districts. Haryana ranked as best State, Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as best district. Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.
2. Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These five districts are Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad. With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.
3. The All India Council for Technical Education will establish the country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur, Rajasthan. ATALacademies will come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by next year.
4. The Union Cabinet has decided to establish the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh. NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.
5. Union Cabinet has approved establishment of two new permanent campuses of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Behrampur (Odisha).
6. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), in collaboration with the Assam Government, has launched a new Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facility connecting Neamati to Majuli Island in Assam. This service will reduce the road route distance of 423 km that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge to only 12.7 km with the use of river route.
7. The 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida from October 14 to 18, 2018. The IHGF fair is held biannually and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
8. Union Government has allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions. In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs has modified its earlier order which made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival.
9. Shahi Litchi from Bihar has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India. Muzaffarpur-based Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, had applied for the tag.
10. India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam. This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya. The Dhola-Sadia bridge with a total length of 9.15 kilometers is India's largest river bridge currently.
11. Indian Railways announced to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border. The proposed Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the world's highest railway line once launched.
12. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan officially inaugurated the headquarters of the newly-formed Niwari district in October 2018. This is the 52nd district of the state and would include three tehsils of the present Tikamgarh district - Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur.
13. The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multi-national maritime exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies was held at Simons Town, South Africa

14. The 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
15. Malaysia's new government said it will abolish the death penalty for all crimes and halt all pending executions. More than 1,200 people are on death row in Malaysia, which mandates hanging as punishment for a wide range of crimes including murder, drug trafficking, treason, kidnapping and acts of terror.
16. India's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
17. Sikkim won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018 for being the world's first 100 percent organic state.
18. The 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in Singapore.
19. Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.
20. The 12th Asia Europe Meeting Summit took place in Brussels, with Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu leading the Indian delegation. The theme of this year's summit is "Global Partners for Global Challenges".

Events of Significance

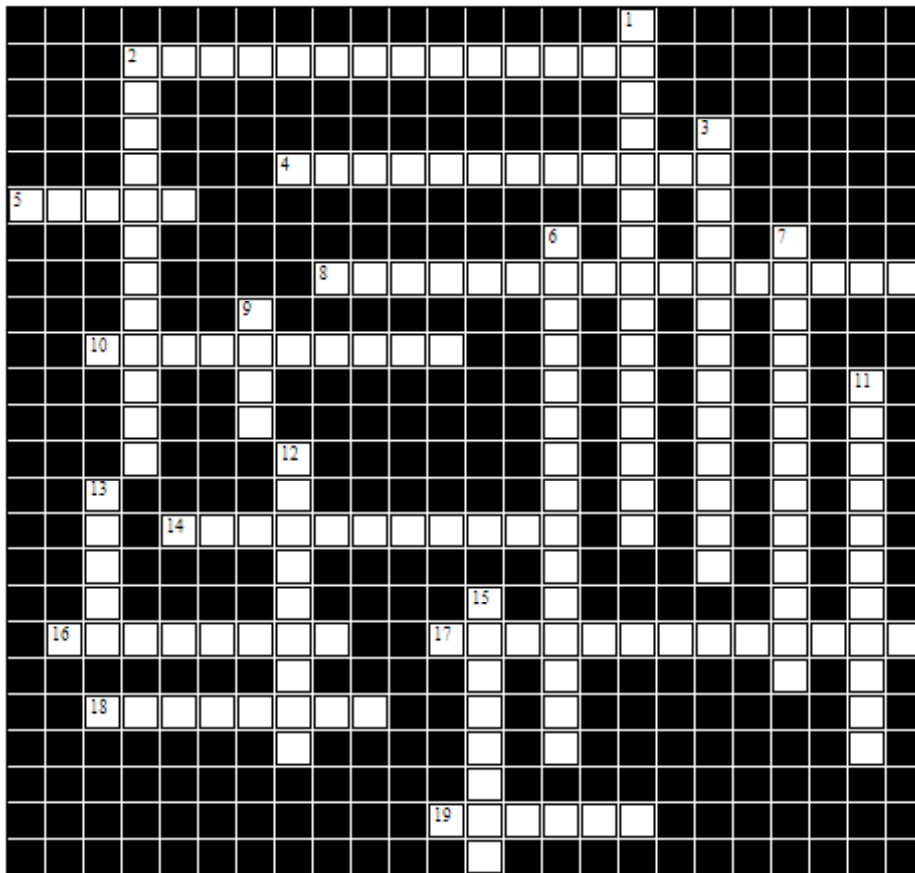
1. President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016. With this, Karnataka has become the first state in India to give legal protection to good Samaritans, who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within the 'golden hour'. This law will ensure that good samaritans are not harassed in any manner.
2. Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra. The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.
3. National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna. It will be India's and Asia's first Dolphin research centre. The announcement for the centre was made on the occasion of Dolphin Day (October 5).
4. Gujarat Forest Department has started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa infections. The Gir Sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in the world.
5. India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be started in January, 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 UT's. The first NES will be carried out by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through Environmental Information System (ENVIS) and its hubs and resource partners across the country.
6. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) to launch 'Prakriti' programme. The two MoUs have been signed for a period of 10 years. The main objective of the Prakriti programme is to provide a platform for school children to learn practical skills towards sustainable use of resources.
7. UN-backed fund Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US for enhancing climate resilience for the millions of people living in India's coastal communities, as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change. This GCF funded multi-dimensional project in India will focus on selected vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.
8. International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep in October, 2018. The theme of the conference was "Reef for Life".
9. Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have developed less polluting green firecrackers named SWAS, SAFAL and STAR. SWAS stands for safe water releaser, SAFAL stands for safe minimal aluminum and STAR stands for safe thermite cracker.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana. It has been sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar.

11. Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched India for Humanity initiative to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour his service to humanity. MEA has collaborated with the renowned charitable organisation Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS).
12. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). It will be set up by merging the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space – National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA). NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term.
13. The Union Government launched a national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' on the occasion of World Food Day (observed on 16 October) to sensitise people about eating safe food and being healthy. The campaign has been launched in association with states and led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
14. The North Central Railways (NCR) has launched two mobile apps, NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) for its employees and passengers, respectively, for locating assets and stations.
15. The 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Azad Hind government was observed on October 21, 2018. The Azad Hind Government was founded in Singapore on October 21, 1943 and headed by Subhash Chandra Bose.
16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) to the nation in New Delhi on the occasion of the National Police Commemoration Day (Observed on October 21). The day commemorates the supreme sacrifices of ten policemen while defending borders with China in 1959. The memorial has been created to recognise supreme sacrifices made by police personnel since independence.
17. The Union Cabinet has approved renaming the Jharsuguda aerodrome in Odisha as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport'. Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
18. Odisha Government has launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of construction workers for their technical education in the state.
19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi in October, 2018
20. India launched 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to assist victims of earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi Province of Indonesia.
21. India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.
22. 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, (IORA) adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region during the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida.
23. Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018. The Indian passport has secured the 81st rank.
24. As per the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI), published on October 10, 2018, the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide fell to 20.9, down from 29.2 in the year 2000. India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.
25. World Bank launches the first Human Capital Index as part of the World Development Report, Singapore tops the list. India was ranked at the 115th position
26. Indian Navy has inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea.
27. World Food Day is celebrated on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945. The theme for WFD 2018 is "Our Actions Are Our Future".
28. Global Competitiveness Index was published by the World Economic Forum's (WEF). United States topped the list and India was ranked 58th after jumping five spots from 2017, the largest gain among G20 economies.
29. Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) will form a new government in Bhutan. The party won 30 seats in the 47 member National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament.

30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of a national award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to honour those involved in disaster response operations.
31. US to unilaterally pull out of the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War that banned development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500-5,000 km.
32. The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran, Iran.
33. IDFC Bank proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First.
34. The 'Invest India' initiative of the Union Government on October 22, 2018 won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.
35. The Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme of the week this year is, 'Eradicate Corruption – Build A New India'.
36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Statue of Unity, which at 182 metres is the tallest in the world, as a tribute to freedom icon Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 143rd birth anniversary. The Sardar Patel statue, twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty, has been built at a cost of Rs. 2,989 crore and is located in Gujarat, 3.2 km downstream of the Narmada dam.
37. NITI Aayog has made an agreement with Microsoft India to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare and promote adoption of local language computing among others.
38. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated its Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993. NHRC also released a special silver jubilee logo and commissioned a documentary titled 'NHRC: 25 years, Billion Hopes', capturing the 25 years of its journey.
39. The 2018 Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 29th October to 3rd November. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week-2018 is Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India.
40. World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10 October every year. The theme this year is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'.

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Crossword – 0027**Across**

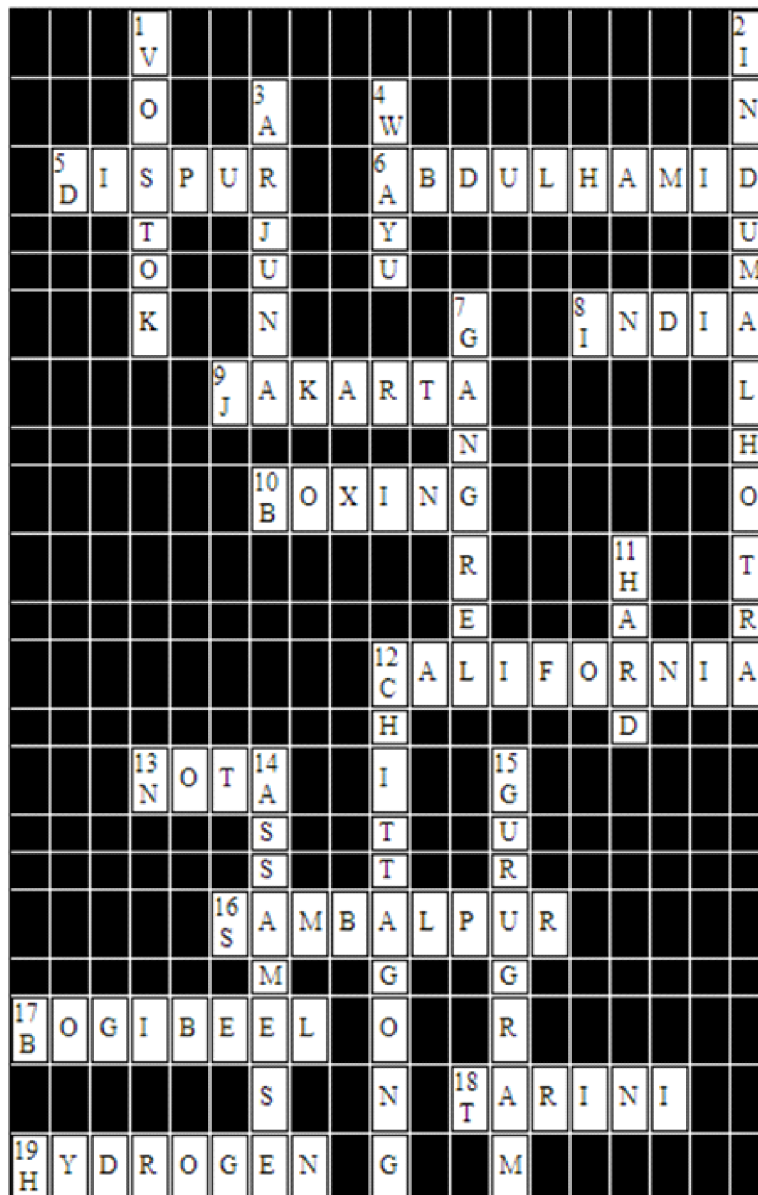
2. The first Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). (9,5)
4. World-renowned gynaecologist, human rights activist and Nobel Peace laureate from east Congo (5,7)
5. The Dhola–Sadiya Bridge is in this Indian state.
8. Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (9,7)
10. The first hour after a traumatic injury, when emergency treatment is most likely to be successful. (6,4)
14. The Gir Sanctuary is the abode to these species. (7,4)
16. Indian sculptor who has designed the Statue of Unity. (3,5)
17. New Prime Minister of Bhutan. (5, 8)
18. International French aircraft manufacturer of military, regional, and business jets.
19. The first island to be made a district in India.

Down

1. American film producer at the centre of the #MeToo movement (6,9)
2. The outgoing chairman of the NALSA. (6,5)
3. Founder and CEO of NuPower Renewables Pvt. Ltd (6,7)
6. Winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize. (7,8)
7. He has been dubbed the "Brazilian Donald Trump". (4,9)
9. A novel by Maryse Condé.
11. The Bhubaneswar Airport is named after him. (4,7)
12. Barham Salih succeeded him as the President of Iraq. (4,5)
13. Orchha is a town nestled on the banks of this river.
15. American musician and songwriter whose Nobel Prize in Literature unleashed a storm of criticism. (3, 5)

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword–0027 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by **13th November 2018**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. Exciting prizes to be won.

Key to Crossword - 0026



Note: Thirteen entries received in time of which three entries are entirely correct.

1. Mahitha (GVA171947)
2. Uday Reddy Y (GVA171930)
3. Prathibha (GVA182038)

Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month.

News Contributors

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