

# Abhyaas News Board ...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## News of the month

### Dastardly Attack on CRPF jawans



In a deadly attack on India's paramilitary forces, a large group of Naxals brutally killed 25 CRPF jawans, including their commander, and injured many more in a remote part of Chattisgarh's Sukma district on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The Naxals fired from hilltops at the 150-member battalion that was guarding workers at a road construction site at Burkapal-Chintagufa area in Bastar region. Reportedly, the weapons of the security forces were also looted. In the gun battle that ensued, CRPF jawans claimed there were casualties on the Naxal side as well. Back-up was drawn in from the proximate CRPF camps.

This was the worst attack by Maoists in Chhattisgarh since 2010 when 76 CRPF troopers were killed. Twelve CRPF men were killed in a similar Maoist attack in Sukma on March 11. The incident comes at a time when the country's largest paramilitary force is without a full-time chief after K Durga Prasad retired on February 28.

The CRPF has subsequently arrested 10 suspects in an anti-Naxal operation for their alleged involvement in the attack and one of them is a juvenile.

## The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

K. Vishwanath has been announced as the winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016. He is a film career spanning sixty years, Viswanath has directed fifty three feature films in a variety of genres, including films based on performing arts, visual arts, and aesthetics.

India has lost the Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar and the actor, Vinod Khanna.

As the day of the CLAT exam approaches, gear up with your revision of the current affairs of the last one year. Keep your cool and give your best.

**Padma Parupudi**

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## *Persons in News*

1. Sima Kamil was appointed as the President and CEO of United Bank Limited (UBL) in Pakistan. She is the first woman in Pakistan to head a major commercial bank.
2. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been selected for the US India Business Council Award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'. He will receive the award at the second annual West Coast Summit to be held in Menlo Park, California in May 2017.
3. P V Sindhu won the India Open Super Series title in women's singles category by defeating Rio Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain.
4. American singer and song writer Bob Dylan has finally accepted the 2016 Nobel Prize for literature. He got this prestigious award for creating new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition. He is first American to win the prize since novelist Toni Morrison in 1993.
5. Sunaina Singh, the vice chancellor of the English and Foreign Language University (EFLU), Hyderabad has been appointed as the new vice chancellor of Nalanda University (NU).
6. Justice Pradeep Nandrajog has been sworn in as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court. Prior to this appointment, Justice Nandrajog was a judge at the Delhi High Court.
7. Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away at the age of 84. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan (1987) and Padma Vibhushan (2002) and became fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi (2010).
8. BP Kanungo has taken over as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Prior to this appointment, he was holding the position of Executive Director of RBI. Malvika Sinha has been appointed the new Executive Director.
9. Senior IPS Officer Geeta Johari has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Gujarat. With this, she became first woman IPS officer to be appointed as DGP of the state.
10. K Prithika Yashini became India's first-ever transgender person to become a police official, after she took charge as sub-inspector in Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu.
11. Renowned playback singer, actor and music director S.P. Bala Subramanyam was awarded the NTR National Film Award for 2012. Hindi film actress Hema Malini was awarded the same award for the year 2013.
12. General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) has been conferred with honorary rank of general of Nepal Army. The title was conferred by Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari during a special function at the President's Office.
13. Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Quatrro Raman Roy has been appointed as the new chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for the year 2017-18.
14. Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar of Gorkha Rifles has been posthumously conferred the Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award. The late Lance Havildar had eliminated four terrorists during an operation in Jammu and Kashmir in June 2016.
15. Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai has been selected as Messenger of Peace by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. With this, she becomes UN's youngest-ever Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by the UN on a global citizen.

16. Pakistan's Field General Court Martial has sentenced to death Indian national and alleged RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) agent Kulbhushan Jadhav who was arrested last year on charges of spying. The death sentence was confirmed by army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa after the Field General Court Martial found him guilty of all the charges.
17. Colson Whitehead's celebrated novel *The Underground Railroad* has won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The novel is about an escaped slave that combined liberating imagination and brutal reality.
18. President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Justice Gita Mittal as the acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court by exercising his powers conferred by article 223 of the Constitution of India. Her appointment comes at the backdrop of the retirement of current Chief Justice Gorkh Raj Gokhale.
19. Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Saxena passed away at the age of 90. Saxena was an Indian Police Service officer of the 1950 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He served two terms as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
20. Gayatri Gopichand, daughter of National Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, has bagged both the singles and doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta. Gayatri defeated her doubles partner Samiya Farooqui to win the girls U-15 singles title.
21. Emma Morano, the world's oldest woman has passed away in Italy at the age of 117. She was the last known person born in the 19th century who was still alive. Emma Morano was born on 29 November 1899 in Italy and held the Guinness World Record titles for the oldest living person and oldest living woman.
22. Robert Taylor, a pioneer of Modern Computing and the Internet passed away at the age of 85. Rob Taylor was instrumental in creating the internet and the modern personal computer. Taylor's engineering team was also responsible for the development of Ethernet and the word processing program, Microsoft Word.
23. Rafael Nadal has won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record 10th time with a victory over Albert Ramos-Vinolas. Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas had won the men's doubles crown at the Monte Carlo Masters after defeating Spain's Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez in Monaco.
24. Astronaut Peggy Whitson has set a new space record for most days in space by a US astronaut. She has broken the previous record set by Jeff Williams who had spent a total of 534 days in space. Peggy Whitson, at present, is serving as the Space Station Commander of Expedition 51. She was recently launched to the ISS in November 2016 using a Russian Soyuz capsule. At the time of her launch, she had already accumulated 377 total days in space. At the time of her return back to Earth, she would have accumulated more than 600 days in space.
25. Nita Ambani has been made member of the prestigious Olympic channel and Olympic education Commission. Nita Ambani already holds the distinction of being India's first woman International Olympic Committee member. She was elected as an individual member of International Olympic Committee (IOC) last year. She will serve the IOC till she turns 70.
26. IPS officer Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar has been appointed as the Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The appointment has come two days after 25 CRPF personnel were ambushed by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district.
27. Srishti Kaur of India has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 at Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. She also bagged an award for the best national costume. Her costume featured a peacock, the Indian national bird.

28. Veteran actor and politician Vinod Khanna expired at the age of 70. He was said to be suffering from cancer. Some of his famous films are Mere Apne, Insaaf and Amar, Akbar, Anthony. He was last seen in 2015 in Shah Rukh Khan's Dilwale.
29. Srinath Narayanan from Chennai has become India's 46th chess Grandmaster after winning against Spanish Grandmaster David Anton Guijarro at the Sharjah Masters. Narayanan had become India's youngest FIDE rated chess player in 2002 when he was just eight years old.
30. Ankur Khanna has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of International Cricket Council (ICC).
31. Justice Navniti Prasad Singh took oath as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court after he replaced Justice Mohan Shantanagoudar, who was elevated as a Supreme Court judge.

## *Places in News*

1. The Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, the country's longest road tunnel that links Kashmir Valley with Jammu has been inaugurated. The 9-km-long tunnel passes through the lower Himalayan mountain range on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway 44. It reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar from the current 350 km to around 250 km.
2. Hyderabad became the first 'Giga-enabled' city in India after The Atria Convergence Technologies (ACT) Fibrenet launched 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) wired broadband internet service in the city. Hyderabad has the highest internet penetration in India.
3. The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPe) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh as Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament. The Institute will have the governance structure as well as legal mandate to grant degrees in a manner similar to that enjoyed by Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs).
4. China has unilaterally announced 'standardised' names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh. Experts feel that China's announcement is aimed at reaffirming its territorial sovereignty over the region. The move comes as a retaliation against Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.
5. The government has announced the names of ten new Iconic places under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative. Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission. The ten new iconic places that will be undertaken in Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative are: Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple (Ujjain), Charminar (Hyderabad), Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi (Goa), Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, Baijnath Dham (Devghar), Gaya Tirth (Bihar) and Somnath temple in Gujarat.
6. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has planned to build a new oil terminal at Motihari in Bihar to supply fuel to Nepal via the planned pipeline up to Amlekganj in Nepal. The old terminal functioning at Raxaul in Bihar will be shut down as it does not conform to the current OISD (Oil Industry Safety Directorate) guidelines.
7. Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to win Pierre L'enfant International Planning excellence award-2017 instituted by the American Planning Association (APA). Bhubaneswar has been chosen for its good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process.
8. Bhilar, a tiny hamlet in Satara district of Maharashtra is all set to become India's first 'book village'. The concept of book village is inspired by Britain's Hay-on-Wye, which is a Welsh town located in the United Kingdom, famous for its bookstores and literature festivals. Under this initiative, tourists and locals can come and read books, magazines, newspapers stacked at 25 artistically decorated locations around the village.

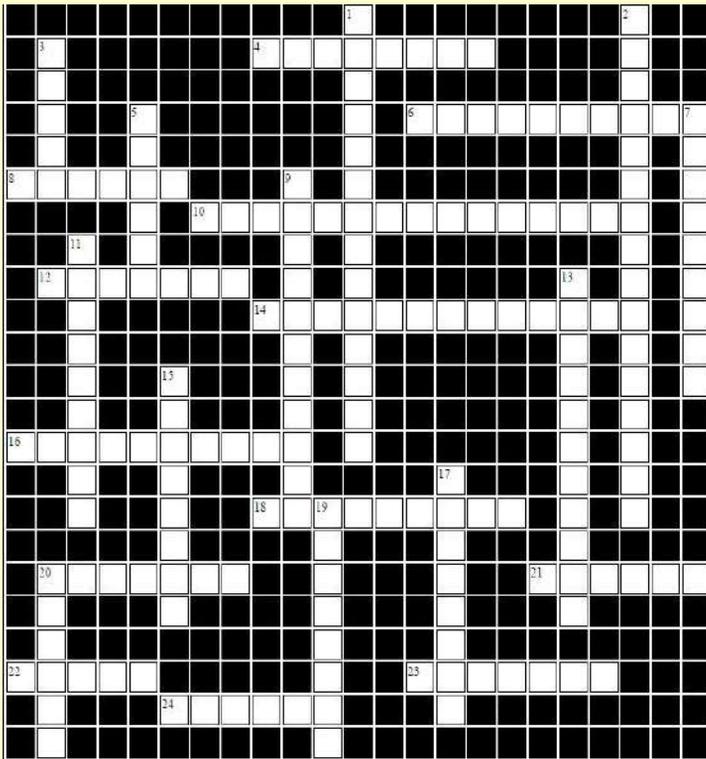
## *Events of Significance*

1. Tamil Nadu won the Deodhar Trophy by defeating the India 'B' team. The trophy is named after Prof. D. B. Deodhar (known as the Grand Old Man of Indian cricket). It is a 50-over knockout competition played on an annual basis among the 5 zonal teams – North Zone, South Zone, East Zone, West Zone and Central Zone.
2. The five associate banks of State Bank of India (State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore) and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank have officially merged with SBI. With this merger, SBI joins the league of top 50 banks globally in terms of assets.
3. Under the Central GST (CGST) Act, tax evasion of over Rs 5 crore under the GST regime will be cognizable and non-bailable offence with the police having authority to make an arrest without a warrant. If a person is arrested for a non-cognizable and bailable offence, the Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of CGST/SGST can release him on bail and he will be subject to the same provisions as an officer in-charge of a police station under section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an exhibition titled "Swachhagraha – Babu Ko Karyanjali – Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani" in New Delhi to mark the 100 years (centenary year) of Champaran Satyagraha. The exhibition will showcase Champaran Satyagraha and it will connect essential principles of Satyagraha with Swachhagraha. It will also showcase the ground covered by the Swachh Bharat Mission in creating a mass movement towards a clean India.
5. Parliament has passed the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017. It is the first national HIV law in South Asia. The Bill seeks to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It aims to prevent social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV).
6. President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the four supporting legislations on Goods and Services Tax (GST); namely The Central GST Act, 2017, The Integrated GST Act, 2017, The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, and The Union Territory GST Act, 2017.
7. The Haryana government has launched 'Operation Durga' similar to the 'anti-romeo squad' of Uttar Pradesh, to ensure women safety in the state. Under this operation, teams formed by the Chief Minister's Flying Squad visited public places such as schools, colleges, bus stands and railway stations and caught persons indulging in crime activities against women like eve-teasing, stalking, harassment and other such activities.
8. Australia has abolished the 457 Visa Programme used by thousands of temporary foreign workers, a majority of them Indians to address growing unemployment in that country. The 457 visa allows Australian employers to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers.
9. TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has unveiled India's first 'conceptualized, designed and manufactured articulated industrial robot' called "BRABO". BRABO stands for "Bravo Robot". The robot has been developed indigenously for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in India. The robot is primarily developed to complement the human workforce and repeatedly perform high volume, dangerous and time-consuming tasks ranging from handling of raw materials to packaging of finished products.
10. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off Visakhapatnam-Kirandul passenger train with first of its kind, see-through, vistadome coaches through a video link from Bhubaneswar. The Vistadome air-conditioned coach is a first-of-its-kind on Indian Railways that has been introduced with an aim to promote tourism. The 40 seat coach has been built by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu at a cost of INR 3.38 crores.

11. The Supreme Court has granted an exemption to six categories of disabled people from standing when the national anthem is played before the screening of a film in theatres. The six categories include people suffering from cerebral palsy, Parkinson disease, muscular dystrophy and other categories of disability.
12. The Union Cabinet has put a ban on the use of red beacons atop cars of VIPs. Only three categories were exempted from the ban. They are the President, Vice-President and Chief Justice of India. The exemption also applies to the emergency service vehicles. Accordingly, fire brigade, ambulance services, police vehicles and other emergency services will be allowed to use the blue beacon. The decision will come into force from May 1, 2017.
13. The Union Cabinet has cleared the Election Commission's proposal to buy new Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines. The machines are expected to be used in the 2019 General Elections.
14. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will feature Video gaming as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China. It will be included as a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia.
15. The Supreme Court in its latest ruling has set 25% of the net salary as the maintenance to be paid by a husband to his estranged wife. The Court has observed that the alimony paid to a woman must be "just and proper" and must be sufficient enough to ensure that a woman lived with dignity after separating from her husband.
16. The Uttarakhand Forest Department has deployed three drones for real-time monitoring of the forest fires. This is the first time that drones are used to monitor forest fires in India. Besides monitoring of forest fire, drones are already in use for wildlife conservation for nest status, aviation ethology, crocodile and water birds counting and monitoring.
17. Veteran filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath has been conferred Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The award consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs and a shawl. He was awarded the Padmashri in 1992.
18. The central government has informed the Supreme Court that it intends to provide unique identification number for cows as suggested by an expert committee to track cattle and prevent their trafficking. The unique ID will have the details like cattle's age, breed, sex, height, body colour, horn type, tail switch, lactation profile (in case of milch cattles) and other special marks. The IDs are proposed to be provided in the form of a polyurethane tag.
19. The largest hub in Northeast India for information technology has been inaugurated in Agartala. The hub is expected to create more employment opportunities for the youths and extend the e-governance to cover all the people of the region. This would facilitate famous IT companies to set off their business and services and boost export of software technology. This will be the largest hub in the region.
20. China has launched its first indigenously built aircraft carrier following the 68th-anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Chinese navy. It is China's second aircraft carrier built in the north-eastern port of Dalian. The new aircraft carrier will be able to operate China's Shenyang J-15 fighter jets and will be more dedicated to military and humanitarian operations. The design of the new aircraft carrier has been obtained from China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, which was bought second-hand from Ukraine in 1998 and refitted in China..
21. Uttar Pradesh state government has cancelled 15 public holidays marking the birth or death anniversaries of eminent personalities. Alternatively, on these days, the school and college students would be taught about these public figures through various programmes. Out of the 42 public holidays observed by the state, 17 pertained to birth anniversaries

22. The country's first electric taxi trial in the country would be launched in Nagpur from May 24. The first project of its kind will be undertaken by Nagpur Municipal Corporation. Mahindra and Mahindra is set to provide 200 taxis for the initiative.
23. The Home Ministry has planned to raise an all-woman India Reserve Battalion (IRB) in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision has been taken in the wake of girl students throwing stones at security forces in Srinagar a few days ago. The all-woman battalion will be one among the five IRBs that has been sanctioned by the Central government for the State last year.
24. North Korea has test-fired a ballistic missile defying global pressure and warnings from the United States and its main ally, China. The test was conducted from the Pukchang region present in the north of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. However, according to the US and South Korean officials, the test has failed and it is North Korea's fourth successive unsuccessful missile test since March. The missile launched is expected to be a medium-range weapon known as a KN-17 and appears to have disintegrated within minutes of taking off.
25. May 2, 2017 will be observed as Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas by National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) at 12 locations, namely, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur, Sahibganj, Kolkata, Raj Ghat (Hardoi), Bithoor, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), Vidhur Kuti (Bijnor) and Devprayag. The objective of the event is to spread awareness and promote active involvement of the masses in Swachh Ganga. The event envisages developing a sense of pride and ownership among masses and to actively support for Namami Gange programme.
26. Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities of Odisha have been notified as Scheduled Castes after President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2017. Last month, Rajya Sabha had passed the bill after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha in March. Accordingly, the Sualgiri, Swalgiri communities have been notified as Scheduled Castes in the modified list for Odisha.
27. Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to shift its financial year from the present April-March cycle to January-December. The state's budget session for the next financial year would be held in December-January.
28. Pakistan's 'border action team' (BAT) has beheaded two Indian soldiers by sneaking 200 metres into Indian Territory in the Krishna Ghati sector in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. During the raid, bodies of Naib Subedar Paramjit Singh (22 Sikh Regiment) and head constable Prem Sagar (200 BSF Battalion) were left mutilated.
29. The Real Estate Act which aims to protect the interests of homebuyers by ensuring transparency has come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) has asked all the states and Union Territories to implement the Act with letter and spirit. Since land is a state subject, real estate sector comes within the ambit of the state governments.
30. The US military dropped America's most powerful non-nuclear bomb on ISIS targets in Afghanistan. A GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), nicknamed the "mother of all bombs," was dropped by an MC-130 aircraft, stationed in Afghanistan and operated by Air Force Special Operations Command.
31. US based ecommerce giant Amazon has made its entry in United Arab Emirates (UAE) by acquiring Souq.com. This acquisition brings Amazon into a fast-growing market as it expands into a wide range of services. Souq.com is based in Dubai and is the largest e-commerce platform in the Arab world offering more than 400,000 products such as consumer electronics, fashion products, and household goods.

## Crossword - 0010



**Across**

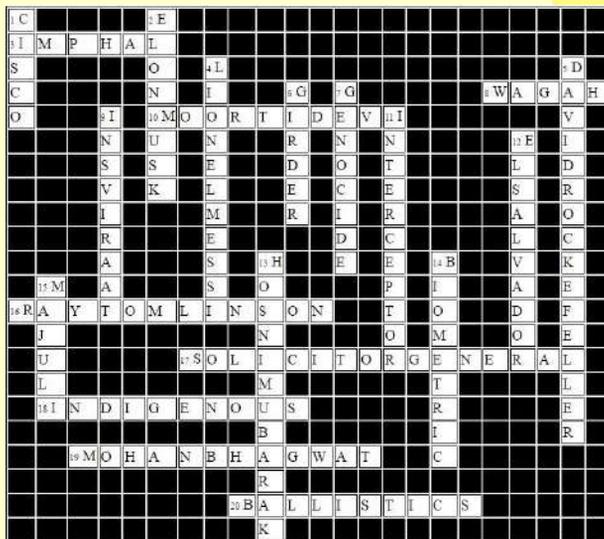
- 4. inflict a disfiguring injury
- 6. perceptible or identifiable
- 8. a mark of disgrace
- 10. former PM of Portugal and current Secretary general of UN (2 Words)
- 12. malicious coward
- 14. Spanish Badminton winner in Olympics (2 Words)
- 16. Chairperson and Founder of Reliance Foundation (2 Words)
- 18. Railway passenger car with a glass dome
- 20. provision for a spouse after separation or divorce
- 21. a way of doing things
- 22. district in Chattisgarh in the news recently
- 23. official order
- 24. conspicuous device to attract attention

**Down**

- 1. Innovator of the Jaipur gharana of music (2 Words)
- 2. supposedly a RAW agent (2 Words)
- 3. sphere of operation or influence
- 5. a small village
- 7. alienated or separated
- 9. First woman Chief Justice of Delhi High Court (2 Words)
- 11. source of the Yamuna river
- 13. Highest title a chess player can attain
- 15. NASSCOM chairman (2 Words)
- 17. Nobel prize winner in Literature, 2016 (2 Words)
- 19. pursuing stealthily
- 20. surprise attack from a concealed position

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0010 in the subject line to [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) latest by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

## Key to Crossword - 0009



**Note:** Only 2 entries received out of which only 1 entry is correct. Hoping to see better enthusiasm in this month.