

# Abhyaas News Board ...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## **68<sup>th</sup> Indian Republic Day celebrated**

The chief guest at the Republic Parade this year was Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi.

A contingent of UAE soldiers marched in the parade. The 149-member Presidential Guard, which was led by a UAE band consisting of 35 musicians, presented a ceremonial salute to the President and the Chief Guest. A contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG), popularly known as the Black Cat Commandos, also participated in the parade which was commanded by Lt General Manoj Mukund Naravane, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area.

The army showcased its Tank T-90 and Infantry Combat Vehicle and Brahmos Missile, its Weapon Locating Radar Swathi, Transportable Satellite Terminal and Akash Weapon System. The Indian Air Force tableau had the theme "Air Dominance Through Network Centric Operations". The tableau displayed the scaled down models of Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, AWACS, UAV, Apache and Communication Satellite. The Indian Navy's "Professional Force-Anchoring Stability, Security and National Prosperity" tableau showcased the lethal marine commandos proceeding for action, the indigenously built Kolkata Class Destroyer and the Kalvari Class next generation attack submarines. It also displayed a model of the P-8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

Tableaux from 17 states and Union Territories, six Central Ministries and Departments presented the varied historical, art and cultural heritage of the country. The heroic motor bike stunts of 'Dare Devils'- the motorcycle display team of Corps of Military Police - was a big hit with the parade viewers. The grand finale of the parade was a spectacular flypast by the IAF's Mi-35 helicopters, indigenous combat light aircraft Tejas, Jaguars and Sukhoi.

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai was lit up with the colours of the Indian tricolour.

## **The Editor's Column**

Dear Student,

The new year augurs a lot of new changes. Donald Trump takes office as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of USA. The world watches as he makes sweeping changes in his first few days in office.

Padma Awards announced as India celebrated the 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. A departure from the norm, the Budget has been presented on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Miss France wins the Miss Universe crown whereas Roger Federer wins his 18<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam title and Serena Williams her 23<sup>rd</sup> title.

Vinod Rai takes over the new BCCI chief and the Chairman of the Tata Group is N Chandra.

**Happy Reading !!**



**Padma Parupudi**

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## *Persons in News*

- The recipients of year 2017 Padma awards include 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees.

Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award for exceptional and distinguished service was given to the following persons - K J Yesudas (Art-Music), Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev (Others-Spiritualism), Sharad Pawar (Public Affairs), Murli Manohar Joshi (Public Affairs), Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao (Science & Engineering), Sunder Lal Patwa (Posthumous, Public Affairs) and P A Sangma (Posthumous, Public Affairs).

Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award for distinguished service of high order went to Vishwa Mohan Bhatt(Art-Music), Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi(Literature & Education), Tehemton Udwadia(Medicine), Shri Ratna Sundar Maharaj(Others-Spiritualism), Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati(Others-Yoga), H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner, Literature & Education), Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous, Literature & Education –Journalism).

Some of the Padma Shri Awardees include Kailash Kher (Art-Music), Anuradha Paudwal (Art-Music), T Hanuman Chowdary (Civil Service), Sanjeev Kapoor(Others-Culinary), Meenakshi Amma (Others-Martial Arts), Virat Kohli (Sports-Cricket), Deepa Malik (Sports-Athletics), Dipa Karmakar (Sports-Gymnastics), Sakshi Malik (Sports-Wrestling).
- Havildar Hangpan Dada, who killed four terrorists before laying down his life in Kupwara on May 26 last year, has been awarded Ashok Chakra, the highest peace time gallantry award. His wife Changsen received the award from the President.
- Shankar Balasubramanian, an Indian-origin British professor of chemistry and DNA expert at Cambridge University received Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution. He was recognised for his work as a co-inventor of Next Generation DNA sequencing (also known as Solexa sequencing), described as the most transformational advance in biology and medicine for decades.
- General Bipin Rawat took charge as the new 27th Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of India succeeding General Dalbir Singh Suhag who retired from the service. He had superseded two seniormost Lt Generals, Praveen Bakshi and PM Hariz.
- Supreme Court has sacked BCCI President Anurag Thakur and BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke after they failed to implement the reforms recommended by the Justice Lodha committee. The court found Mr. Thakur prima facie guilty of both contempt of SC proceedings and perjury (fabrication of false evidence).
- Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was sworn in as the 44th Chief Justice of India. He was administered the oath of office by President Pranab Mukherjee. He is the first person from Sikh community to become the CJI. Justice Khehar will remain in office from January 4, 2017 till August 4, 2017 i.e. till he attains the age of 65.
- Veteran actor Om Puri passed away following massive cardiac arrest in Mumbai at the age of 66. He appeared in commercial Indian, British, and Hollywood, independent films and art films. His last appearance was in a Pakistani comedy film, Actor in Law, which had released in September 2016. He had also lent his voice for the character of Bagheera in The Jungle Book.
- Pakistan's former Army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif (retired) was appointed head of Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism (IMAFIT), a Saudi Arabia-led military coalition of 39 nations. Raheel had retired as the Pakistan army chief in November 2016 and was succeeded by General Qamar Javed Bajwa.
- Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best player for the year 2016 at the inaugural Best FIFA Football Awards held in Zurich, Switzerland. Carli Lloyd of the US was awarded the Best FIFA Women's Player.

10. The United States Senate has confirmed Nikki Haley as the next Ambassador to the United Nations, making her the first Indian-American to serve on a Cabinet rank position in any presidential administration.
11. Outgoing US President Barack Obama selected four Indian-American scientists among 102 researchers for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). Pankaj Lal from Montclair State University, Kaushik Chowdhury from Northeastern University, Manish Arora from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Aradhna Tripathi from University of California, Los Angeles.
12. Delhi Police Commissioner and Senior IPS officer Alok Kumar Verma was appointed as new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. He will have a tenure of two years. He was selected by a three-member committee comprising PM Narendra Modi, Chief Justice J S Khehar and Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge. He will take over from interim director Rakesh Asthana, who was handed the reins of the premier investigating agency after former director Anil Sinha retired on December 2, 2016.
13. President Pranab Mukherjee has given Governor of Assam Banwarilal Purohit additional charge of Meghalaya and Governor of Nagaland PB Acharya additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh. These appointments come after President accepted the resignation of V. Shanmuganathan, as Governor of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.
14. Dr Vijay Bhatkar, architect of India's first supercomputer the Param series, has been appointed as the chancellor of Nalanda University. He will have term of three years from the date of his appointment as provided under Section 11(3) of the Nalanda University Act. He shall succeed George Yeo, former Foreign Minister of Singapore, who resigned after the Board of the University was reconstituted.
15. The Supreme Court has appointed former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai as head of four-member Committee of Administrators to run Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Other three members of the committee are noted historian Ramachandra Guha, former Indian women's cricket team captain Diana Edulji and managing director of IDFC Limited Vikram Limaye. They will function as the interim bosses of the BCCI and run the day-to-day administration of cricket body till the Lodha Committee reforms are fully implemented and elections held.
16. Tata Consultancy Services CEO Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of the \$103 billion Tata Group. Cyrus Mistry was removed as chairman on October 24 and the group patriarch Ratan Tata, served as interim Chairman since then. Rajesh Gopinathan has been appointed as the CEO of TCS.
17. Iris Mittenaere of France was crowned Miss Universe at the pageant held in Manila, Philippines . Miss Haiti Raquel Pelissier was the first runner-up while Andrea Tovar from Colombia was second runner-up.
18. Roger Federer has won the Australian Open, beating long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the finals in Melbourne, Australia. This is his fifth Australian Open title and his 18th Grand Slam singles title in total. In the Women's cup, Serena Williams beat her sister Venus Williams in the final to win her 23rd Grand Slam singles title.

## *Places in News*

1. Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China has withdrawn the visa-free facility for Indians who will have to complete a pre-arrival registration. Henceforth, Indian nationals must successfully complete pre-arrival registration online before they can visit or transit Hong Kong if seeking to enter the region during transit. This decision was taken on the ground to prevent illegal immigration as number of Indian asylum seekers was on the rise.
2. Donald Trump has taken over as the 45th President of the United States. He took over the reins from Barack Obama on 20 January 2017. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice John Roberts in front of about 8 lakh people who braved chilly weather to gather on the National Mall in the center of the capital to celebrate the occasion.
3. ISKCON's Govardhan eco village in Thane district has been conferred with the UNWTO Award for Innovation in the category of Non-Governmental Organisations(NGO) at the annual United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Tourism at Madrid in Spain. Govardhan village received this honour for its initiative of eco tourism as a catalyst for rural development.
4. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the dates for the assembly elections in five states – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. Elections will be held during the month of February and first week of March. Counting of votes for all the five states will take place on 11th March 2017.
5. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international exchange India INX at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT (Gujarat International Financial Tech) City Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India INX is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). It will enable Indian firms to compete on equal footing with offshore firms.
6. The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment), Act, 2017 to lift Supreme Court imposed ban on the traditional sport of Jallikattu. The bill amends section 2 of the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. It defines jallikattu as a traditional sport involving bulls. It allows state government to conduct it in notified places on any day from January to May. It also allows other sports involving bulls- vadamadu, manjuviratu, and erudhuidumvizha performed in different parts of Tamil Nadu. Earlier the state government had promulgated the ordinance in a bid to defuse the raging protests across the state demanding lifting of the ban on jallikattu..

## *Events of Significance*

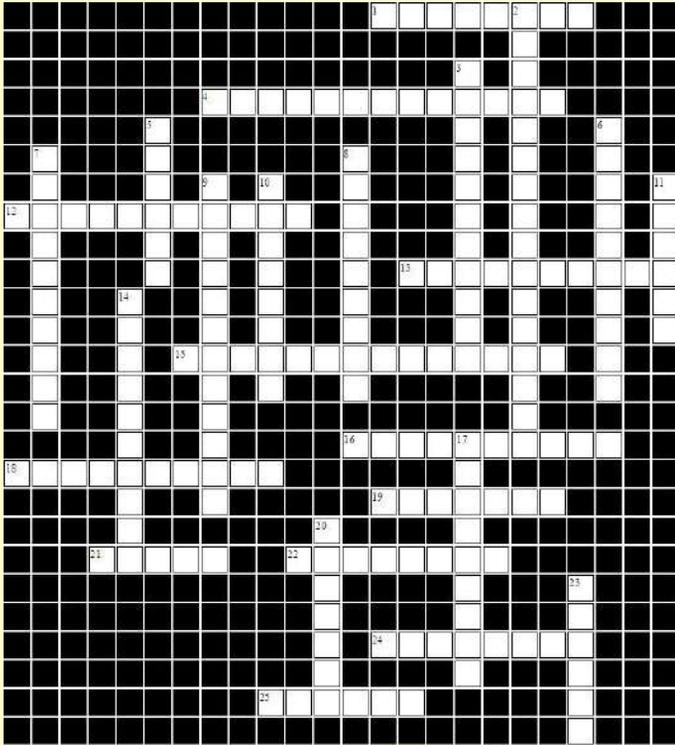
1. India and Pakistan exchanged the list of their nuclear installations and facilities under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations. This exchange is done between them every year on 1st January to prevent them from attacking each other's nuclear facilities. Both countries also exchanged the lists of nationals (including civil prisoners and fishermen) of each country lodged in their respective jails as per provisions of the Agreement on Consular Access.
2. India successfully test-fired its home-grown long range intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Agni-IV from the Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island off Odisha coast. The test was aimed at revalidating new technologies incorporated in Agni-IV system and checking the readiness of armed forces to launch the missile on its own.
3. Delhi Government has approved 'Good Samaritan Policy to encourage people to help road accident victims in emergency situation. Under this policy, monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims in the national capital. This policy will give bystanders incentive to help accident victims and more importantly provide them with legal protection..

4. An atomic clock at National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in New Delhi added 'leap second' (extra one second) to the Indian Standard Time (IST) at 5:29.59 hours on 1 January 2017 to synchronise with the Earth's rotational clock. The clock was programmed to add an extra second to the year 2017 in order to compensate for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation.
5. The Supreme Court in its latest verdict has held that election candidates cannot seek votes on the grounds of religion, caste, creed, community or language of voters. The ruling was given by a 4-3 majority of the seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur
6. Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched Mobile App for Haj Pilgrimage which will provide information and facilitate e-payments for the pilgrimage. This is the first time digital push has been given to the Haj application process and is a major initiative in the government's 'Digital India' programme.
7. Union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launched the Bunkar Mitra Helpline for Handloom Weavers on the occasion of Good Governance Day (on December 25, 2016). The helpline aims to provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers across the country for addressing their queries and seek guidance.
8. Google launched two new initiatives My Business and Digital Unlocked to train and help small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India to capitalise on the digitisation wave faster. Under My Business, Google will provide free websites and web tools to small businesses in order to bolster their digital presence. Digital Unlocked is a training programme to enable them to get online and connect to customers in different parts of the country. In addition, Google also launched Primer, a free mobile application designed to teach digital marketing skills in a quick, easy and interactive way.
9. The Union Sports Ministry has constituted a committee to frame comprehensive National Sports Development Code across sports disciplines. It will be headed by Injeti Srinivas, Sports Secretary. The committee will study the existing sports governance frame work, issues relating to sports governance in the country, recent developments related to sports governance. It will also study court judgments and international best practices and make recommendations on bringing out a comprehensive code across sports disciplines. The Members of the Committee would be Abhinav Bindra (Olympian), Anju Bobby George (Olympian), Prakash Padukone, (eminent sports person), Narinder Batra (President, FIH), Nandan Kamath (Lawyer), Bishweshwar Nandi (Coach) and Vijay Lokpally (Sports Journalist).
10. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the year 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The declaration recalls the potential of tourism sector to advance the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
11. The 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony was organized to honour the best in Motion Pictures and American Television for the year 2016. This year, La La Land, a romantic musical comedy-drama film won in all the seven categories including the top award of best musical or comedy. Veteran actress Meryl Streep was bestowed with the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.
12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a skill development program targeted at Indian youth seeking overseas employment to make India the Skill Capital of the World. It will be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through its training partners and in consultation with the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Union Skill Development Ministry.
13. Dangal was adjudged as the Best film of 2016 at the grand Annual 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards. Neerja and Kapoor & Sons with 5 awards each were the films wining highest number of awards.

14. The Supreme Court has described side effects of Endosulfan, a highly toxic agrochemical (pesticide) as devastating. It has directed Kerala government to release Rs. 500 crore compensation to over 5,000 victims in three months who have suffered from various deformities and health complications due to use of Endosulfan in the state. It also asked the state to consider setting up a centre to provide lifelong medical treatment to all the victims. The major numbers of victims were reported to be affected in Kasargode (Kerala) after Endosulfan was aerielly sprayed by state owned company on cashew plantations adjoining habitats where the victims are located.
15. NITI Aayog has called for a review of the provisions of the Right To Education (RTE) Act that stipulate children who do not perform well cannot be held back up to 8th Class. The government think tank pointed out that the purpose behind this provision in the Act was to minimise drop-out rate as demoralisation from failing a class may result children to withdraw from school altogether. However, despite good intention, the provision has a detrimental effect on learning outcomes, since it takes away the pressure to learn and to compete. So the NITI Aayog called for a revision of the RTE Act.
16. China has handed over two ships to Pakistan to safeguard the strategic Gwadar port and trade routes under the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These ships have been named as Hingol and Basol, after two rivers near Gwadar. They will be part of Pakistan Navy and are equipped with state-of-the-art guns. They will be used to protect the sea-lanes in the Arabian Sea. Besides, China will also provide two more ships to Pakistan Navy which have been named Zhob and Dasht after two districts in Balochistan.
17. India is ranked 60th among the 79 developing countries in 2017 Inclusive Development Index (IDI) released in World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Inclusive Growth and Development Report'. The index is based on 12 performance indicators and countries are ranked on IDI scores based on a scale of 1-7.
18. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) update released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth rate for the fiscal year 2016-17 to 6.6% from its previous estimate of 7.6% due to the temporary negative consumption shock of demonetisation.
19. Union Railway Ministry has unveiled 'Mission 41K' to save Rs. 41,000 crore on the Indian Railways' expenditure on energy consumption over the next 10 years. This target will be achieved by taking a slew of measures which include moving 90% of traffic to electric traction over diesel from present 50% of the total rail traffic. The railways will also procure more and more electricity at cheaper rates through open market instead of sourcing it through DISCOMs. The Electrification Mission will help Indian Railways to reduce dependence on imported fuel, change energy mix, and rationalize the cost of energy for Railways.
20. The Supreme Court has ruled that Canon law and decrees of divorce given by ecclesiastical tribunals or 'Church Courts' cannot veto the statutory law of divorce. Ruling in this regard was given by SC Bench of Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on writ petition filed in 2013 seeking a judicial declaration that divorce decrees passed by ecclesiastical tribunals are valid and binding.
21. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to formally pull US out of the negotiating process of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a mega trade deal of 12 Pacific Rim countries. TPP was one of the major international trade initiatives of his predecessor Barack Obama aimed to set trade rules for the 21st century and bind US allies against growing Chinese economic clout. During the Presidential election campaign, Trump had vowed to withdraw the US from the TPP which he argued was harmful to American workers and manufacturing.
22. The Union Cabinet has approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017, under which the IIMs will be declared as Institutions of National Importance. It will also enable IIMs to grant degrees rather than diplomas to their students. At present IIMs are not authorised to award degrees as they are registered as societies. Hence, they are awarding Post Graduate Diploma and Fellow Programme in Management.

23. The Union Government has launched Rubber Soil Information System (RubSIS), an online system for recommending appropriate mix of fertilizers to plantations of rubber growers depending upon their soil nature. It was launched for Kottayam (Kerala), the largest rubber growing district of India which will be extended to the entire traditional rubber growing region i.e. the states of Kerala and Tamilnadu.
24. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has reconstituted TOP committee with objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games under Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme. The committee will be headed by Abhinav Bindra, Olympic Gold Medalist. Its members are Anil Khanna, Prakash Padukone, Karnam Malleshwari, P. T. Usha, Murlidhar Raja, Anjali Bhagwat, Rekha Yadav, Dr. S.S. Roy and Inder Dhamija.
25. IndiaPost under Department of Posts (Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology) received final payments bank licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). With this, India Post became the third entity after Bharti Airtel and Paytm to receive final payments bank licence to roll-out banking operations commercially under the permit.
26. The Election Commission (EC) on Monday allotted the name "Samajwadi Party" and reserved the party's election symbol cycle to the faction led by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav. The Akhilesh Yadav faction in its affidavits to the Election Commission claimed support of 4,716 out of 5,731 Samajwadi Party delegates. They included 205 of 228 MLAs, 56 of 68 MLCs, 15 of 24 MPs, 28 of 46 national executive members and 4,400 of 5,731 national convention delegates. The Mulayam camp did not file any such affidavit.
27. The largest warship of the Indian Navy, INS Vikramditya, will be equipped with its own dedicated ATM. It will cater to over two thousand naval personnel deployed on the aircraft carrier. State Bank of India is providing the Navy the services for the ATM which will be on the satellite link.
28. Technology giant Apple has emerged as the most innovative company for 2016, according to Boston Consulting Group's (BCG's) annual list which ranks world's 50 most innovative firms for the 11th straight year. Google was ranked second, followed by electric carmaker Tesla on the list. Further, ride-hailing service Uber and home rental platform Airbnb were among the firms included in the list for the first time.
29. Transportation app Uber will soon launch its on-demand food delivery app 'UberEATS' in the Indian market. UberEATS is currently available in 58 cities globally, including Bangkok, Singapore, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Taipei.

## Crossword - 0007



### Across

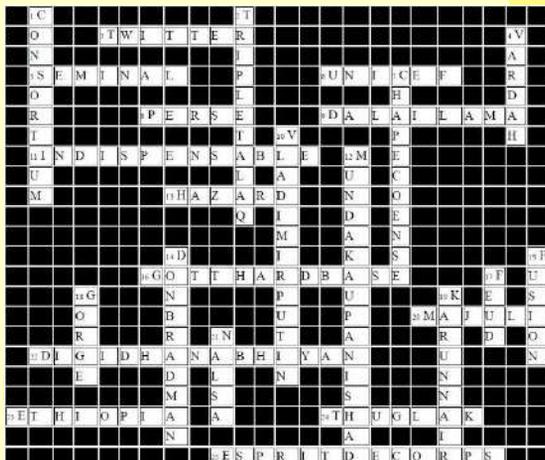
1. current BCCI president (2 Words)
4. very fast computer used in scientific applications
12. highest peace-time award (2 Words)
13. taming the bull
15. father and son fight for bicycle (2 Words)
16. home-grown
18. onlookers or spectators
19. an arrangement or spectacle
21. electric cars by Elon Musk
22. largest rubber growing district
24. food delivery on-demand
25. largest city of Switzerland

### Down

2. CEO of TCS (2 Words)
3. tallest structure in the world (2 Words)
5. Hare Krishna Movement
6. awards the title of "Sir"
7. after death
8. Australian Open/French Open/Wimbledon/US Open (2 Words)
9. founder of Isha Foundation (2 Words)
10. a special court
11. duration in office
14. obvious or self-evident (2 Words)
17. bravery
20. reinforce or strengthen
23. distribution company

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword - 0007 in the subject line to [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) latest by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

## Key to Crossword - 0006



**Note:** No correct entry received.. Hoping to see better enthusiasm in this month.