

# Abhyaas News Board ...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## **Election Results in 5 States**

### **Uttar Pradesh**

BJP and its allies won by a thumping majority in Uttar Pradesh. They garnered 325 seats whereas the Samajwadi Party & Congress alliance managed only 56 seats. Yogi Adityanath, the 5-time MP from Gorakhpur and mahant of the Gorakhpur temple, whose real name is Ajay Singh Bisht is the new Chief Minister while Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma are the deputy chief ministers.

### **Punjab**

Congress won the elections with 77 seats while AAP and its allies managed to get only 22 seats. Captain Amarinder Singh is the Chief Minister of Punjab, also holding the Home Department while Navjot Singh Siddhu is a Cabinet minister with portfolios of Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Archives and Museums.

### **Goa**

The electorate did not return a clear verdict with Congress and allies gaining 18 seats and BJP and allies 14 seats. However, other smaller parties promised to support BJP provided Manohar Parrikar is made the Chief Minister. Manohar Parrikar is now the Chief Minister of Goa holding both the Home and Finance portfolios.

### **Uttarakhand**

The electorate in Uttarakhand gave a clear mandate to BJP and they won 57 seats. The Congress managed only 11 seats. Trivendra Singh Rawat took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

### **Manipur**

There was no clear majority. Congress got 28 seats and BJP 21. 11 other MLAs supported BJP which paved the way for BJP to form the government. Nongthombam Biren Singh, a national footballer is the new Chief Minister of Manipur.

## **The Editor's Column**

Dear Student,

The Elections in the 5 states and the action that ensued after the results was spectacular and had the entire country on the edge of their seats. BJP got an overwhelming majority in UP even though they had not announced a CM candidate and neither did they have a single Muslim contestant. Though Congress had won more seats than BJP in both Goa and Manipur, they could not form the government in either state.

It is probably for the first time that four major high courts in India are headed by women judges. The high courts at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata have women chief justices now. Justice Indira Banerjee in Madras High Court, Justice Manjula Chellur in Bombay High Court, Justice Nishita Nirmal Mhatre in Calcutta High Court and Justice G Rohini in Delhi High Court. Incidentally there is only one Judge, Justice R Banumathi in the Supreme Court.

**Happy Reading !!**



**Padma Parupudi**

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## *Persons in News*

1. Captain of the Indian cricket team, 'Virat Kohli' has been named as the 'Captain of the Year' at the 10th annual ESPNcricinfo Awards. Former captain of the Indian women's cricket team, Ms. Shanta Rangaswamy has been nominated for the BCCI Lifetime Achievement award to recognize the contribution of women cricketers.
2. Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik lost a human rights case when an appeals court overturned a lower court finding that his near-isolation in a three-room cell was inhuman. A lower Oslo court had ruled in 2016 that the conditions violated a ban on "inhuman or degrading treatment" under the European Convention on Human Rights.
3. Bakri Hassan Saleh, a former army general and top aide to President Omar Al-Bashir was sworn in as Sudan's first Prime Minister since the post was scrapped in a 1989 Islamist-backed coup.
4. Eminent Malayalam author and journalist M P Veerendra Kumar was presented the 30th Moortidevi award by Bharatiya Jnanpith organization. Kumar was chosen for the prestigious award for his Malayalam travelogue 'Hymavathabhoovil', which dwells upon ancient trails of Indian culture, myth, literature, and people strewn in the plains, valleys, and mountains of India.
5. The Indian duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja became the first set of spinners to be jointly ranked number one in the ICC Test rankings for bowlers.
6. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the Nagpur-based Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University.
7. Assam's woman activist Sumitra Hazarika received the Nari Shakti Award from President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan. She is the President of Mission for Integration, Gender Equalisation, Harmony and Fight against Threat and was the only Assamese to receive the award this year.
8. The second highest peacetime gallantry award 'Kirti Chakra' went to a young officer, Major Rohit Suri, who was part of the surgical strikes last year. The seniormost Lieutenant General Eastern Army Commander Praveen Bakshi was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the highest Distinguished Service Medal.
9. Photojournalist Raghu Rai was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) ministry for "his remarkable contribution to the field.
10. Chief Justice appointments for High Courts - Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court Hemant Gupta has been appointed Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court. Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court P K Mohanty has been appointed the 'regular' chief justice there. Justice Navniti Prasad, a judge in Patna High Court has been appointed Chief Justice of Kerala High Court while Justice T B Radhakrishnan, acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, has been made Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court. Justice Indira Banerjee, presently a judge of the Delhi High Court has been appointed by the President as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
11. Three-time Member of Parliament and sitting MLA of Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh, Bhuma Nagi Reddy, died of cardiac arrest.
12. Hungarian-American chemist George Olah, who was awarded the 1994 Chemistry Nobel prize for his work on carbocations, died at his home in Beverly Hills, US.
13. Former national racing champion, Ashwin Sundar and his wife died in a car mishap. Sundar had won the national title in car racing and two-wheeler events on several occasions.

14. Senior Congress leader and Member of Rajya Sabha Haji Abdul Salam passed away after a brief illness at Imphal. Salam was the first Manipuri Muslim to be a member of Rajya Sabha from Manipur.
15. David Rockefeller, the world's oldest billionaire, passed away at the age of 101. Rockefeller, who held a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago, ran Chase National Bank for years.
16. John Hampshire, the former England and Yorkshire batsman who later became an international umpire, passed away after prolonged illness.
17. Internet pioneer Ray Tomlinson, who is credited with the invention of email, passed away at the age of 74.
18. Eminent jurist and senior advocate T R Andhyarujina passed away in Mumbai. Andhyarujina, who also served as Solicitor General during 1996-98, was part of the team of constitutional law expert H M Seervai in his initial days as a lawyer and witnessed from close-quarters the history-defining hearings in the 'Kesavananda Bharati Case'. Andhyarujina had also authored the books 'Judicial Activism and Constitutional Democracy in India' and 'Judges and Judicial Accountability'.
19. Renowned Meteorologist and former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (Pune) Dev Raj Sikka passed away. He is famously known as Monsoon Man and the Father of Indian Meteorology. He was the first to propose a link between the El Nino phenomenon and the Indian monsoon in 1982.
20. An Indian-origin surgeon in the UK, Dr Daya Gahir of Royal Stoke University Hospital in West Midlands region of England, with the help of a 3D printer, has successfully reconstructed a 53-year-old throat cancer patient's jaw using bone from one of his legs.
21. In Egypt, former President Hosni Mubarak has been freed from detention, six years after being overthrown.
22. Four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel won the 2017 Australian Grand Prix for Ferrari. It was Vettel's fourth win for Ferrari and his first since the Singapore Grand Prix in September 2015.
23. Chinese smartphone company OnePlus has roped in Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador for India. Amitabh Bachchan is the first major face that OnePlus India is associating with for its latest flagship smartphone, OnePlus 3T.
24. Tesla Inc founder and Chief Executive Elon Musk has launched a company called Neuralink Corp through which computers could merge with human brains. Neuralink is pursuing what Musk calls the "neural lace" technology, implanting tiny brain electrodes that may one day upload and download thoughts.
25. Argentina forward Lionel Messi has been banned from their next four competitive internationals starting with the World Cup's qualifier in Bolivia for swearing at a match official.
26. Srinath Narayanan is set to become India's 46th Grandmaster after he defeated Spanish GM David Anton Guijarro at the ongoing Sharjah Masters 2017 chess tournament.
27. The Union Defence Ministry has approved most of the proposals of a committee of experts, headed by Lt. Gen. D.B. Shekatkar (Retd) to bring host of reforms in the military and improve financial management.

## *Places in News*

1. The world's first university course to train intelligence analysts to fight cyber crime, has been announced to be introduced in Australia. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is driving the initiative in the wake of innovative methods of money transfer among organised crime and militant groups.
2. PM Narendra Modi has adopted Nagepur, a village dominated by backward castes, in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi under the second phase of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY). In the first phase of SAGY, the PM had adopted Jayapur village in Sevapuri Assembly segment of Varanasi.
3. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched initiatives to develop Majuli as India's first carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage.
4. El Salvador, Central America's smallest nation, has become the first country in the world to ban metals mining nationwide. The new law bans all exploration, extraction, and processing of metals both in open pits and mines. The level of environmental pollution in El Salvador is one of the highest in the region and the availability of drinking water is the lowest, according to UN data.
5. Odisha became the first state in the country to adopt Self Help Groups (SHG) based model for financial inclusion model to extend banking services in the unbanked areas through SGHs. In this regard, state government has inked agreement with the State Bank of India (SBI). The SHGs formed under the Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) will be eligible to provide banking services.
6. For the first time in India, four states Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have decided to conduct a synchronised elephant census in May 2017. These four together have the maximum number of human-elephant conflict-prone regions in India.
7. Haryana Government has announced Tirtha Darshan Scheme under which senior citizens above 60 years of age in the state will be able to go on a pilgrimage within the country at government expense.

## *Events of Significance*

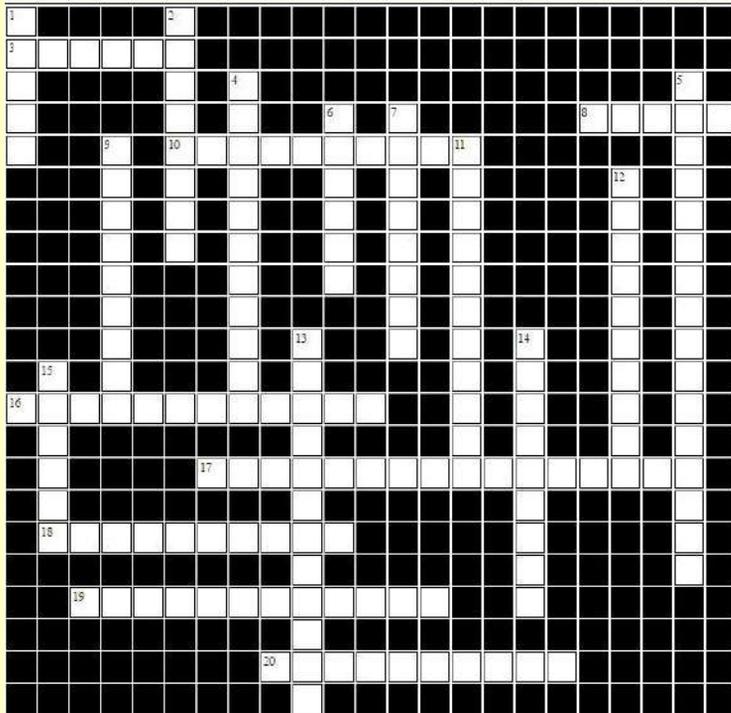
1. LTE mobile network operator Reliance Jio has announced collaboration with the networking giant Cisco to expand Jio's existing multi-terabit capacity with the first All-IP converged network in India. With this Jio can offer a combination of high-speed data, mobile video, VoLTE, digital commerce, media, and cloud and payment services.
2. The government has shifted the responsibility of promoting digital transactions in the country to the Ministry of IT and Electronics (MEITY) from NITI Aayog. MEITY is responsible for promotion of e-governance for empowering citizens as well as promoting inclusive and sustainable growth of electronics and IT in the country.
3. India successfully test-fired the supersonic interceptor missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast after receiving commands from the radars on the incoming missile. The interceptor missile "Prithvi" detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile, which was fired from Interim Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
4. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has entered the national Limca Book of Records for erecting maximum number of girders in a month on a single Metro line project in the country.
5. The railways will soon move towards Aadhaar-based online ticketing system to prevent touts from blocking a bulk of tickets, end fraudulent bookings and curb cases of impersonation.
6. The European Parliament has voted to end visa-free travel for Americans within the European Union. It comes after the US failed to agree visa-free travel for citizens of five EU countries -- Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania -- as part of a reciprocity agreement.

7. The world's oldest aircraft carrier in active service, INS Viraat, has been decommissioned on 6th March, 2017 in Mumbai after serving the Indian Navy for nearly 30 years. INS Viraat was commissioned in Indian Navy in 1987, before that the historic ship served Royal British Navy for 27 long years. It was built in 1943, during the Second World War.
8. The tallest national flag in the country measuring 360 feet was hoisted on Sunday at the Attari-Wagah joint checkpoint in Punjab. The flag can be seen from Lahore in Pakistan.
9. Vijayawada Airport in Gannavaram has been renamed as 'Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao-Amaravati Airport' after the legendary actor and founder of the ruling Telugu Desam Party, and the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The Tirupati Airport has been renamed as 'Sri Venkateswara Airport'.
10. Telecom operator Reliance Jio will provide free WiFi services at six cricket stadiums during the upcoming T20 World Cup matches. The WiFi network Jio Net will be available in Eden Garden at Kolkata, Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai), IS Bindra Stadium (Mohali), HPCA stadium (Dharamshala), Chinnaswamy Stadium (Bengaluru) and Feroz Shah Kotla (Delhi).
11. Patna Pirates has won the third season of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) by defeating U Mumba.
12. Manipur High Court has declared as illegal the over four month long economic blockade in Manipur called by United Naga Council (UNC). The bench consisting of Chief Justice RR Prasad and Justices N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Kh Nobin Singh passed the order on public interest litigation.
13. The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect which will replace the erstwhile Trade Mark Rules 2002 and streamline and simplify the processing of Trade Mark applications. In the revamped rules, the number of Trade Mark forms has been reduced from 74 to eight.
14. IDFC Bank has launched India's first biometric-based payment system 'Aadhaar Pay' in New Delhi. The Aadhaar Pay app has been developed by IDFC Bank under the guidance of the Ministry of IT, NITI Aayog, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
15. IIT-Madras won the 2017 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award for its solar-direct current (DC) inverter system. The system converts in-home power distribution from 230V Analog Current to 48V DC to directly power appliances and devices.
16. Bangladesh's Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army in the night of March 25, 1971.
17. The "wheat blast" disease, which first struck Brazil in 1985 and some other Latin American countries destroying three million hectares of cultivation, has now invaded India, affecting wheat crop in two bordering districts of West Bengal — Murshidabad and Nadia.
18. Britain's Parliament has passed the 'Brexit bill' paving the way for Prime Minister Theresa May to trigger negotiations for the UK's exit from the European Union. Subsequently, the UK government has formally submitted its request to leave the European Union by triggering Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, setting the clock ticking on a two-year negotiating period to end the U.K.'s 44 years of membership.
19. Heirs of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during Partition will have no claim over the properties left behind in India, with Parliament passing the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968. According to the Bill, "enemy property" refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm.
20. New Zealand's Whanganui River has been granted the same legal rights as a Person. The Whanganui River, considered part of the living landscape by the indigenous Whanganui Iwi people associated with it, has been granted legal personhood under a parliamentary bill. Two representatives from the local indigenous community — one appointed by the government, another elected by the community — will be entrusted with acting in the river's interests.

21. The Uttarakhand High Court has recognized the Ganga and the Yamuna as so-called living entities, giving the rivers that have seen years of damage at the hands of humans, a legal voice. The river flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and touches nearly 167 constituencies in the Lok Sabha.
22. Medha, the made-in-India train was flagged off for the maiden run from Dadar to Borivali, at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Mumbai. Medha has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, which has installed LED lighting to reduce energy consumption. The rake has a capacity of 6,050 passengers and the number of seats is 1,168.
23. The U.S. state of Kansas has recognized March 16 as 'Indian-American Appreciation Day' to honour an Indian techie Srinivas Kuchibhotla who was killed last month in a racially-motivated hate crime.
24. The Centre has designated 12 Olympians as National Observers in their respective disciplines to assist the Government, Sports Authority of India, and National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned in the preparation and implementation of the long-term development plan with respect to high priority and priority sports. In addition to shooter Abhinav Bindra, others named as National Observers are P T Usha and Anju Bobby George (athletics), Sanjeev Kumar Singh (archery), Aparna Popat (badminton), MC Mary Kom and Akhil Kumar (boxing), Jagbir Singh (hockey), Somdev Devvarman (tennis), Karnam Malleshwari (weightlifting), Sushil Kumar (wrestling), I M Vijayan (football), Khajan Singh (swimming) and Kamlesh Mehta (table tennis).
25. After making Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns and applying for PAN, the government has now moved to make Aadhaar mandatory for mobile phone connections.
26. The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is set to undertake an archaeological exploration to find out whether the Ram Setu is a natural or man-made phenomenon.
27. Railways has announced to set up Wi-Fi hotspot kiosks at about 500 stations and help people access an array of online services, including various government schemes. The Wi-Fi kiosks will function like a PCO for Digital India and enable people to use services like e-commerce, online banking, offer them access to open school/university and insurance schemes, e-ticketing for train and bus services among others.
28. A powerful cyclone bore down on coastal towns in Queensland on 27th March, 2017. Cyclone Debbie has been upgraded to Category Four cyclone with wind gusts up to 250 kilometres an hour.
29. A Yemeni court in territory controlled by the Houthi movement sentenced President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and six other top officials in his government to death for high treason.
30. The Mental Healthcare Bill, which decriminalizes suicide and guarantees the right to better healthcare for people with mental illness, was unanimously passed in the Lok Sabha. It mandates that a person attempting suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from "severe stress" and, therefore, shall not be tried or punished by law.
31. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has launched an online certification system for films through which producers need to submit their application digitally along with the film script to the website. The objective is to move towards clean cinema, clean India. The move will eliminate middlemen, thereby reducing corruption and ensuring transparency.
32. The Supreme Court has banned the sale and registration of Bharat Stage (BS)-III emission norm-compliant vehicles from April 1, 2017 saying the health of millions was more important than commercial interests. India will switch to the more efficient and stringent BS-IV norms, already in place in some parts of the country, including Delhi, from April 1.
33. The Supreme Court upheld the Tripura High Court order terminating the jobs of 10,323 teachers for faulty recruitment procedure.

34. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Anil Bajjal, on Wednesday directed Chief Secretary MM Kutty to recover Rs 97 Crore from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for projecting Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in government advertisements.
35. The biggest river festival of India, Namami Brahmaputra, began in 21 districts of Assam on the banks of the river Brahmaputra on 31st March 2017. The main purpose of the 5 day festival (31st March to 4th April) is to give a boost to the investment and tourism prospects in the state.
36. Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, “Bhoorsingh the Barasingha” to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction. Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.
37. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched two mobile applications —e-challan and m-parivahan to provide a comprehensive digital solution for enforcement of traffic rules.
38. Lok Sabha has passed four Bills relating to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). It paves way for implementing a new, consolidated indirect tax regime from the proposed date of July 1, 2017. The four bills passed were Central GST Bill, Integrated GST Bill, GST Compensation Bill, and the Union Territory GST Bill, 2017. These Bills were passed as Money Bills.
39. Scientists from the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) have switched on world’s largest artificial sun – a device developed to help shed light on new ways of making climate-friendly fuels. The artificial sun is giant honeycomb-like set-up of 149 spotlights, officially known as Synlight. It is located in Juelich. It uses xenon short-arc lamps normally found in cinemas to simulate natural sunlight.
40. The Law Commission of India (LCI) in its 267th Report has cautioned about the danger of hate speech to the Union Government and called for action from the government and Parliament. It held that hate speech has the potential to provoke individuals and society to commit acts of genocides, terrorism and ethnic cleansing. The Supreme Court of India in 2014 had referred to the Law Commission for means to arm the Election Commission to crack down on hate speech.
41. The Parliament has passed The Employees Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The Bill amends the Employee’s Compensation Act, 1923. It ensures compensation up to Rs 1 lakh to employee if an injured in an industrial accident and imposes hefty penalty in case of any violation by the employers.
42. The Lok Sabha has approved amendments to The Finance Bill, 2017 proposed by the Union Government to wind up eight tribunals These eight tribunals currently exclusively deal with disputes pertaining to employees’ provident fund (EPF), Competition law, Airports economic regulation, IT law, National highways, railways, copyrights and Forex.
43. India’s longest surface tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur district is complete. It will be open to traffic soon, following successful completion of trial runs for peak and off-peak hours. The 9-km-long tunnel at Chenani passes through the lower Himalayan mountain range on Jammu- Srinagar National Highway.
44. The Union Ministry of Agriculture has launched Mission Fingerling, a programme to enable holistic development and management of fisheries sector in India with a total expenditure of about Rs. 52000 lakh towards the Blue Revolution.
45. West Bengal Government has given official language status to endangered tribal language Kurukh, mother tongue belonging to the Dravidian family.
46. The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) formally handed over an indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) system dubbed as ‘SWATHI’ to Indian Army. The DRDO also handed over a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) recce vehicle Mk-I and NBC treatment drugs to the Indian Army.

## Crossword - 0009



### Across

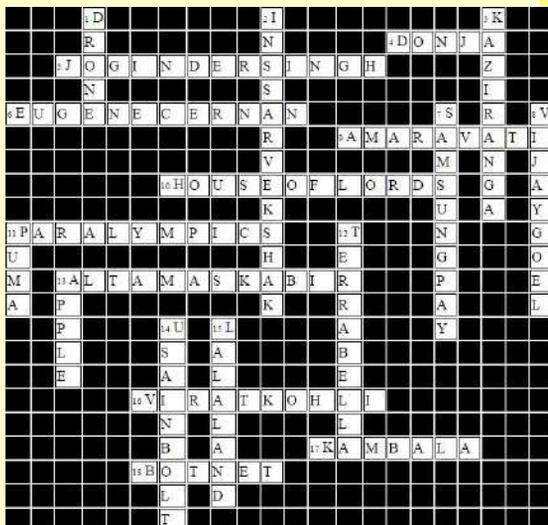
3. Capital of Manipur
8. Railway station in Pakistan close to the Radcliffe line
10. annual literary award in India
16. initiated communication over ARPANET (2 Words)
17. Second Law Officer of the Country (2 Words)
18. native to a region
19. Sarsangchalak of the RSS (2 Words)
20. study of projectiles

### Down

1. Largest networking company in the world
2. Business magnate, investor, engineer and inventor (2 Words)
4. Greatest footballer of all time - from Argentina (2 Words)
5. erstwhile Chairman of Chase Bank (2 Words)
6. beam used as a horizontal support in a bridge
7. extermination of a nation or race
9. oldest aircraft used to be flagship of Indian Navy (2 Words)
11. plane to deflect another from its intended course
12. Smallest county in Central America (2 Words)
13. Acquitted by the Court of Cassation (2 Words)
14. fingerprint, dna and retinal patterns
15. Largest River island in the world

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword - 0009 in the subject line to [abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com](mailto:abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com) latest by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

## Key to Crossword - 0008



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