

Abhyaas News Board ...

For the quintessential test prep student

News of the month

GST Rates Finalized



The stage is set for the GST rollout with all the states having agreed for the rollout on July 1st. Tax slabs for the various products/services are as follows:

No tax

Goods - No tax will be imposed on items like Jute, fresh meat, fish, chicken, eggs, milk, butter milk, curd, natural honey, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc

Services - Hotels and lodges with tariff below Rs 1,000

5% Slab

Goods - Apparel below Rs 1000, packaged food items, footwear below Rs 500, coffee, tea, spices, etc

Services - Transport services (Railways, air transport), small restaurants

12% Slab

Goods - Apparel above Rs 1000, butter, cheese, ghee, dry fruits in packaged form, fruit juices, Ayurvedic medicines, sewing machine, cellphones, etc

Services - Non-AC hotels, business class air ticket, fertilisers, Work Contracts will fall

18% Slab

Goods - Most items are under this tax slab which include footwear costing more than Rs 500, cornflakes, pastries and cakes, preserved vegetables, jams, ice cream, instant food mixes, etc.

Services - AC hotels, telecom services, IT services, branded garments & financial services.

28% Slab

Goods - pan masala, aerated water, paint, deodorants, shaving creams, hair shampoo, dye, washing machine, ATM, vending machines, etc

Services - 5-star hotels, race club betting, cinema

The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

The month of May is the month of entrance exams with the CLAT, AILET, SET and other law exams completed and results pouring in.

GST rates have been finalized. ICJ has stayed the execution of Kulbhushan Jadhav in Pakistan. Justice Leila Seth, the first chief justice of a state high court passed away.

The entire world has been affected by the ransomware attack on computers. Mumbai Indians are the winners of the tenth edition of the IPL.

Read on to go through the current affairs for the month of May 2017.

Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been presented the US India Business Council Award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'. He received the award at the second annual West Coast Summit held in Menlo Park, California. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT was also honoured with the same award for distinguished public service and her commitment to advancing US-India cooperation and Digital India.
2. Three Indian Scientist have been elected as the Fellows of The Royal Society, a premier scientific academy of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, for their "outstanding contributions to science". They are Krishna Chatterjee from Cambridge University, Subhash Khot from New York University and Yadvinder Malhi from Oxford University.
3. Hollywood actor Emma Watson has received the first-ever Genderless Acting Award for the Best Actor category at the MTV Movie and TV Awards. This is the first ever genderless award that doesn't separate nominees based on their sex. The 2017 edition of the MTV Movie & TV Awards were held on May 7, 2017, in Los Angeles, California.
4. Jhulan Goswami has become the highest wicket-taker in women's one-day internationals. Goswami has so far taken 181 wickets in 153 matches. She has broken the world record held by Australia fast bowler Cathryn Fitzpatrick who has taken 180 wickets. Additionally, the partnership of Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut scored 320 in 45.3 overs in 45.3 overs to become the world's first pair, either male or female, to forge a 300-run opening-wicket partnership in One-Day Internationals (ODIs).
5. Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat & Divya Kakran have bagged silver medals at the Asian Wrestling Championship held at the KD Jadhav Stadium in New Delhi.
6. C.A Bhavani Devi has become first Indian to win a Gold Medal in an international fencing tournament after she won the gold medal in the sabre event of the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship held at Reykjavik in Iceland.
7. Satyabrata Rout has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016. He is a professor from the Department of Theatre Arts, S N School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH). He has been awarded for developing a unique method of teaching and practicing direction and design achieved from his experience working with eminent theatre practitioners and scholars.
8. Prashant Ranganathan of Jamshedpur has emerged winner in the world's largest pre-college science competition in the environment engineering category for his work on biodegradation of pesticides. Prashant is among the 20 high schools students from various parts of the country who participated in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in the US.
9. Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize as a recognition for his contributions made in the field of astronomy. He is a pioneer in the field of time-domain astrophysics. He has been credited for building and conducting the Palomar Transient Factory, which is a large-area survey of the night sky that has turned up with thousands of stellar explosions. Shrinivas kulkarni would share the award with Andrej Udalski of the University of Warsaw and Neil Gehrels of NASA for their discoveries on time-domain astrophysics in the "Future" category of the prize.
10. Sanjay Gubbi of Karnataka and Purnima Devi Barman of Assam have won the prestigious Whitley Award for their contributions in wildlife conservation. Whitley awards are popularly known as Green Oscars.
11. United States senate has confirmed Amul Thapar as a judge to the Cincinnati-based Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is the second Indian-American judge of an appeals court. In 2013, Sri Srinivasan became the first Indian to get appointed to the DC circuit court of appeals.

12. Emmanuel Macron has been elected as the President of France after defeating Marine Le Pen. He has become the youngest President (39 years) and occupant of the Élysée Palace. He is also the first President of France outside of that country's two traditional main parties. He has appointed Edouard Philippe as the new prime minister of France. Philippe is the Mayor of the port city Le Havre since 2010 and is a member of the Les Républicains party.
13. Moon Jae-in has been declared winner in South Korea's presidential election. Moon will replace the ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was ejected from office in March after a corruption scandal for which she's awaiting trial. Park was South Korea's first female President who has been impeached in a corruption scandal.
14. Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected as the President of Iran. He was elected as president for his first term in 2013. He won 2013 elections by pledging to end Iran's isolation and improve civil rights at home.
15. Former Ethiopian Health Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has been elected as the new Director-General of the World Health Organisation. This election has earned the distinction of being the first election which saw the participation of all WHO member states in the voting process.
16. Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has resigned from his post honouring a power sharing agreement entered by him with the ruling partner Nepali Congress on August 3, 2016. As per the agreement, Dahal, who is the Chairman of CPN (Maoist Centre) was to have a brief stint of 9 months and will be succeeded by Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba. It was agreed that the government will be run on a rotational basis until elections to Parliament are held in February 2018.
17. A seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar has sentenced the Calcutta High Court judge, Justice C S Karnan to six months of imprisonment for repeated incidents of contempt of court. This is the first time that the Supreme Court has sent a high court judge to jail on charges of contempt. Further, the bench also comprising Justices Dipak Misra, J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur, P C Ghose and Kurian Joseph has prohibited media, both print and electronic from publishing any further orders if any passed by Justice Karnan.
18. The Supreme Court has held UB Group chairman Vijay Mallya guilty of contempt of court for transferring 40 million dollars to his children in violation of the court's order. The Supreme Court has ordered Vijay Mallya who is in the United Kingdom to appear before on the 10th of July to argue on the quantum of punishment.
19. Diplomat Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as India's next ambassador to France. He is currently serving as joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Mohan Kwatra will succeed Mohan Kumar who is due to retire soon.
20. Retired judge of Delhi High Court Justice Mukul Mudgal has been elected as the Chairman of FIFA Governance committee at the FIFA's 67th Congress held in Bahrain's capital city of Manama. Justice Mudgal was proposed for the vacant position by the FIFA Council after former chief Miguel Maduro was removed for his role in allegedly blocking Russian World Cup official Vitaly Mutko from retaining his seat on ruling council.
21. World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region. He has been appointed to boost awareness to stop the spread of hepatitis, which is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and cirrhosis.
22. Ovais Sarmad, an Indian national, has been appointed by the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the post of Deputy Executive Secretary, which is a key post in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As per the U.N. Information Centre in Delhi, the appointment has been made after making wide consultations with the Conference of Parties.

23. Anshu Jamsenpa, a native of Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh has scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest for the fourth time. Anshu Jamsenpa had already had ascended Mount Everest twice in a season that too taking only a gap of 10 days between the two climbs. She scaled the highest peak twice in May 2011 and again on May 18, 2013.
24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a two-part book series written by the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. The series is titled – M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger.
25. Air Marshal PN Pradhan has been appointed as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). IDS Integrated Defence Staff was established in 2001 to ensure a high degree of synergy between the Armed forces.
26. Ravichandran Ashwin has won the international cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017. He was presented with an award at a function held at the Cricket Club of India by former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and Harsh Goenka of RPG Enterprises. Ashwin has taken 99 wickets in the past 12 months.
27. KPS Gill, the former DGP of Punjab, who is often credited with rooting out militancy in Punjab has passed away at the age of 82. He was known as a 'super cop' for his work in the fields of policing and security. Gill led the 'Operation Black Thunder' in May 1988 to eliminate militants hiding in the Golden Temple.
28. Justice Leila Seth, who became the first woman Chief Justice of a State High Court passed away at the age of 86. She is the first woman to top the London Bar exam and also become the first female judge of the Delhi High Court. Justice Leila Seth had also served as member of the 15th Law Commission of India (1997 to 2000). She was also member of the Justice JS Verma committee which was mandated to take a relook at the criminal laws after the December 16 gang rape incident. The committee's work resulted in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, that widened the definition of rape and made the punishment more stringent.
29. Union environment minister Anil Madhav Dave passed away at the age of 60. Anil Madhav Dave was a Member of Parliament representing Madhya Pradesh. Dave was a minister with independent charge of environment, forest and climate change. He was very passionate on implementing environmental projects including conservation of the Narmada river. He had also founded an organisation called 'Narmada Samagra' for conservation of Narmada.
30. British actor Roger Moore, who played the much famed secret agent James Bond, has passed away at the age of 89. Roger Moore has acted as James Bond in seven films for 12 years between 1973 and 1985. His famous films include Live and Let Die and A View to a Kill.

Places in News

1. Madhya Pradesh is the first state to announce shifting of its financial year format to January-December from the present April-March cycle. The decision comes close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi making a pitch for shifting the fiscal year to January-December period during NITI Aayog's governing council meet.
2. Maharashtra is the first state to use the automatic weather station for farmers. The first automatic weather station was inaugurated at Dongargaon in Nagpur. The weather stations will be helpful in measuring the wind direction, wind speed, air temperature, relative humidity and record amount of rainfall. The information gathered by the weather stations would be shared among the farmers by making them available on Mahavedh portal (Maharashtra agriculture weather information network) as well as on the mobile application of Skymet.
3. Union Government has conducted a survey of the Cleanest Cities in the Country and the fastest moving cities on sanitation ladder under Swachh Sarvekshan-2017. Indore has been adjudged as the cleanest city in India while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh has been ranked as the dirtiest city among surveyed.

4. The Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, has accorded GI Tag for the much famed Banganapalle Mango of Andhra Pradesh. Henceforth, Andhra Pradesh government will be the registered proprietor of the GI tag for Banganapalle mangoes. The primary centre of origin of the fruit is Kurnool district whereas Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra are the secondary centres of origin.
5. World's highest railway bridge which will be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower is expected to come up over the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. The bridge will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar). The bridge will be a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. Once ready, it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.
6. World Economic Forum citing UN-Habitat data has named two Indian cities-Mumbai and Kota among the world's most crowded cities. Dhaka has topped the list followed by India's financial capital Mumbai. Kota in Rajasthan has been ranked seventh in the list.
7. Dubai has become the first city in the world to have its own Microsoft-designed font. The font, which will have typeface both in Latin and Arabic script, was launched by the Crown Prince of Dubai Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

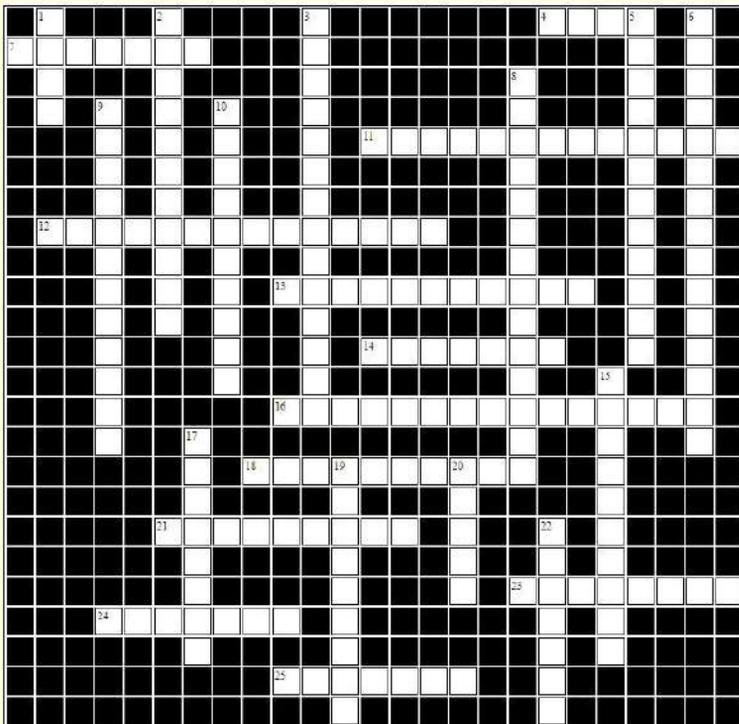
Events of Significance

1. Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas was observed on May 2, 2017 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. Over 30 more locations observed the day through the support of local NGOs, Ganga Vichar Manch and volunteers.
2. Scientists at IIT Roorkee have used the Jamun fruit to create low cost and more efficient solar cells. To create the solar cells, the researchers made use of naturally occurring pigment present in jamun as an inexpensive photosensitizer for Dye Sensitised Solar Cells (DSSCs) or Gratzel cells instead of the regular Ruthenium-based pigments.
3. The Real Estate Act which aims to protect the interests of homebuyers by ensuring transparency has come into effect from 1st May 2017. 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.
4. The Indian Railways is set to make use of the radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) for tracking of wagons, coaches and locomotives to ensure the effective and transparent functioning of the system. The RFID tags have been designed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS); the trackside readers that will be installed at stations and other key points would read the RFID tag fitted in the rolling stocks and would transmit the wagon identity over a network to a central computer.
5. The Minister for Human Resource and Development, Prakash Javadekar has launched Students for soldiers- a nationwide Vidya – Veerta Abhiyan to encourage Universities and educational institutions across the country to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers. The "wall of heroes" depicting portraits of brave soldiers who showed exemplary bravery in defending the nation is expected to instil a sense of patriotism and nationalism among students.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. China plans to launch its own online encyclopaedia next year rivalling Wikipedia and Britain's Encyclopaedia Britannica. The main objective of this project is to guide public thought. The project would be developed in such a way that it serves as a symbol of China's cultural and technological development and promotes its soft power and international influence.
9. Facebook has launched its "Express Wi-Fi" commercially in India and the service is now available via 700 hotspots across four states of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya. Facebook has also announced a partnership with Bharti Airtel for setting up an additional 20,000 hotspots covering millions of Indians over the next few months. "Express Wi-Fi" services will complement mobile data offerings by providing a low-cost, high bandwidth service allowing users to get online for accessing apps, downloading contents amongst other things at affordable rates.
10. Supreme Court's Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) has been inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. This digital filing system will mark Supreme Court's first towards becoming a paperless, digital court. Subsequently, all High Courts, District Courts, Sub-Division Courts will be integrated with the new system. Later on, all the jails in the country will be integrated by ICMIS software.
11. The International Court of Justice at The Hague has issued a provisional stay order preventing Pakistan from executing the death sentence awarded to the former naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav until the final verdict is released. India's team of lawyers led by senior advocate Harish Salve accused Pakistan of gross violations of international laws. They also pointed out the violations of the Geneva convention that deals with Consular relations. Pakistan had denied consular access to India despite 15 attempts. It also refused to give any details of Jadhav's arrest and trial until the death sentence was passed.
12. The Indian Railways has planned to acquire the End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipments to run nearly 1,000 trains without guards in the current fiscal. The EoTT system is designed in such a way that it will perform the guard's job. EoTT system comprises two units, namely, 'cab display unit' (CDU) which is fitted on the locomotive and 'sense and brake unit' (SBU) which is fitted on the last coach of the train. The units will be fitted with radio transmitter which can communicate with each other. The transmitter will send signals at regular intervals to the last coach to ensure that the train is running intact.
13. Kochi Metro will employ 23 members from the transgender community. This is the first time a government owned company has formally appointed members of the transgender community.
14. A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India JS Khehar has begun hearing petitions challenging the practice of triple talaq. The petitions that have been filed in the past two years by Muslim women, who have been affected by the practice of Triple Talaq, has prayed for the abolition of the practice as it was discriminatory and biased and violated their right to equality. The lead petition has been titled "Quest for Equality vs Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind". The case will be heard by five judges from five different communities, namely, CJI J S Khehar (Sikh) and Justices Kurian Joseph (Christian), R F Nariman (Parsi), U U Lalit (Hindu) and Abdul Nazeer (Muslim). A judgment in the case can be expected to be delivered in the month of June. The Supreme Court has stated that it would determine the constitutional validity of the triple talaq and would not examine the Islamic custom of polygamy, while hearing petitions challenging triple talaq.
15. Indian Army has planned to re-introduce cordon and search operations (CASO) as a part of its counter terrorism operations after a gap of 15 years. The major objective behind the reintroduction of combing operations is to bring the situation in the Kashmir Valley under control. Hereafterwards, Army will carry out CASO in a major way to flush out militants in the militancy-hit areas of Kulgam, Pulwama, Tral, Budgam and Shopian in south Kashmir, indicating a change in strategy.
16. Indian Railways will install 19,000 high definition CCTV cameras at over 983 stations across the country under the Nirbhaya Fund at an approved cost of Rs 500 crore in order to ensure round-the-clock security to passengers including women. The cameras will be installed at platforms and waiting areas. The CCTV footages would be monitored by trained RPF personnel and the concerned station master will also be given access to the CCTV camera footage.

17. A global ransomware cyberattack has crippled nearly hundred countries, including India. A cyber gang called Shadow Brokers, which is a mysterious organisation is held responsible for this massive cyberattack. The organisation has carried out the attack by stealing a hacking tool called 'Eternal Blue' from the National Security Agency (NSA), America's powerful military intelligence unit. The hacking tool Eternal Blue gives unprecedented access to all computers using Microsoft Windows. Ransomware is a type of malicious software when infected restricts the user access until a ransom is paid to unlock it.
18. West Bengal State government has made Bengali mandatory in all schools, including private English medium schools. Henceforth, it would be compulsory for all schools including English medium schools affiliated to boards other than West Bengal Board of Secondary Education to teach Bengali as an optional subject from Class I so that students can study it either as a second or third language.
19. Brand finance in its 2017 report that lists India's 100 most valuable brands has named Tata Group as the most valuable brand in India. Telecom operator Airtel has been ranked second in the list followed by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). IT firm Infosys and State Bank of India have been ranked fourth and fifth in the list.
20. After 30 years, Indian Army will get its first artillery guns called M777 from BAE Systems. Swedish Bofors guns were inducted in late 1980s after which Army has not inducted any modern artillery guns. The two M777s have arrived in New Delhi and will be tested at the Pokhran field firing range in Rajasthan.
21. A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar has banned open defecation and waste dumping on the floodplains of the Yamuna. It has also slapped an environment compensation of Rs 5,000 for people who violated the order. The NGT has also constituted a committee under the head of Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the cleaning works of the river. The Delhi government and the municipal corporations have been ordered to immediately take action against those polluting industries which function in residential areas.
22. NASA has named a new bacteria discovered on the filters of the International Space Station, ISS, as Solibacillus kalamii to honour the late president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The genus is Solibacillus and the species name is kalamii. Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory has found that the bacteria remained on board the International Space Station for 40 months. The new organism is found only on the ISS and has not been found anywhere on the earth.
23. IIT Kharagpur's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness and Madhya Pradesh government's 'Rajya Anandam Sansthan' (Department of Happiness) has signed an MoU to collaborate on the development of a Happiness Index for measuring the well-being of the residents of the state.
24. The Union Cabinet has approved the abolition of 25 year old Foreign Investment Promotion Board(FIPB). Henceforth, concerned ministries will be responsible for direct approval of foreign investment proposals. The decision falls in line with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's proposal to scrap FIPB in this year's Union Budget.
25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's longest river bridge – the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam and renamed it as Bhupen Hazarika Bridge. The bridge will connect Sadia, which is 540 Km from Guwahati and Dhola, situated 300 Km from Itanagar.
26. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have come up with new regulations that ban the sale of cattle for slaughter. The central regulation for cow protection has been notified at the backdrop of rising cases of violence against cow traders by Hindu vigilante groups. The rules have been notified under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960. Slaughter of cows are banned in most parts of the country except parts of the north-east India and Kerala. The new rules will be implemented in the next three months
27. Election contestants will have to declare their own and their spouses' sources of earning in the affidavits filed before contesting polls. At present, it is mandatory for the poll contestants to disclose the details of assets and liabilities for self, spouse and three dependents in Form 26 at the filing of nomination papers but not the source of income.

Crossword - 0011



Across

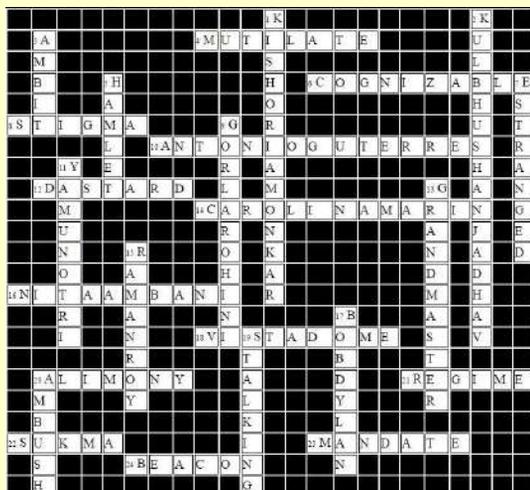
- 4. Radio Frequency tags used to identify objects
- 7. city in Rajasthan, test site for Indian nuclear programme
- 11. Indian Father of Green Revolution (2 Words)
- 12. recipient of Sangeet Natak Academy Puraskar 2016 (2 Words)
- 13. high profile lawyer representing India at ICJ (2 Words)
- 14. brilliant like a star
- 16. Highest military decoration for wartime heroism (3 Words)
- 18. played Hermione in Harry Potter movies (2 Words)
- 21. killing animals for food
- 23. HC judge who issued warrants against C.JI & other judges (2 Words)
- 24. clothing or attire
- 25. searching thoroughly

Down

- 1. city in Rajasthan famous for IIT preparation
- 2. Indian female freestyle wrestler (2 Words)
- 3. Renowned filmmaker from North-east India (2 Words)
- 5. Govt program to connect all citizens of India on a common platform (2 Words)
- 6. Indian Star of the Millenium (2 Words)
- 8. youngest President in the history of France (2 Words)
- 9. Highest mountain peak in the world (2 Words)
- 10. played James Bond (2 Words)
- 15. malware that is used to obtain ransom
- 17. one who represents Indian government in other countries
- 19. scientific study of the universe
- 20. fencing sword
- 22. known as 'super cop' of India (2 Words)

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0011 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by 20th June 2017. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0010



Note: Good attempt by Vaishnavi D for the crossword. However, it is not entirely correct. Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month.