

# Abhyaas News Board ...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## News of the month

Ram Nath Kovind takes oath as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India



Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India in the Central Hall of Parliament by the Chief Justice of India, Justice J S Khehar. Ram Nath Kovind, who was the former Governor of Bihar won the 2017 presidential election against opposition candidate Meira Kumar, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha bagging 65.65 per cent of the total votes which totalled 702,044 electoral college votes. The President of India is indirectly elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both houses of Parliament, the elected members of the Legislative assemblies of the 29 states and the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

After taking oath, President Kovind exchanged seats with out-going president Pranab Mukherjee. A 21-gun salute was also fired in honour of the new president. In his first address after swearing-in, President Kovind said he is proud to follow the footsteps of former eminent Presidents like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. S Radhakrishnan and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

The Vice-Presidential elections took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Venkaiah Naidu has been elected as the 13<sup>th</sup> Vice President of India after securing 516 votes in the election. The opposition candidate, former West Bengal Governor, managed to win only 244 votes.

## The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

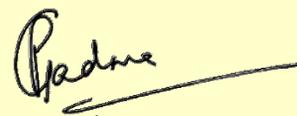
The month of July saw the election and swearing-in of the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India. Roger Federer won his 8<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon title. Women's cricket team gained prominence with the Indian Women's team participating in the 2017 ICC World Cup final losing out to England.

Bihar politics took a new turn with Nitish Kumar severing ties with RJD and forming the Government with the help of BJP.

GST has been rolled out across the country and though there were a lot of apprehensions, people and businesses are overcoming the teething troubles and getting used to the new regime.

Congratulations to **Poorvi Reddy** for bagging the prize for the crossword.

News bytes for this edition contributed by **Sri Ranga and Meghana**. Read on to go through the current affairs for the month of July 2017.

  
Padma Parupudi

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## *Persons in News*

1. K.K.Venugopal has been appointed as Attorney General of India. He is an Indian Constitutional lawyer and senior advocate in the Supreme Court. He was appointed by Royal Government of Bhutan to serve as the Constitutional adviser and awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
2. Ravi Shastri is the new chief coach for Indian cricket team till ICC World Cup 2019. He succeeds Anil Kumble who had resigned from the post after the ICC Champions Trophy 2017. Bharath Arun is the bowling coach and Rahul Dravid is the batting coach.
3. Achal Kumar Joti is the new Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is a retired IAS officer of the 1975 batch and was former Chief Secretary of Gujarat. He had retired from active service in 2013.
4. U.K. appointed the first woman president of Supreme Court, the senior-most judge in the country, Brenda Marjorie Hale following the retirement of the current President, Lord Neuberger.
5. Gopal Baglay is appointed as Joint- Secretary in Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Mr. Baglay is a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Officer (IFO).
6. Senior Naga People's Front (NPF) legislator TR Zeliang (65) was sworn in as the 19th chief minister of Nagaland. He was administered oath to office and secrecy by Governor P.B. Acharya. Earlier Governor had dismissed the Shurhozelie Liezietsu government under Clause (I) of Article 164 of the Constitution after he failed to prove majority on the floor of the Assembly.
7. RP Sanjiv Goenka Group Chairman, Sanjiv Goenka, has been named as the Chairman of the Board of Governors at IIT-Kharagpur. He will serve as the Chairman for three years. With this appointment, Sanjiv Goenka will serve his second term as the Chairman of Board of Governors at the IIT-KGP. He held his previous stint between 2002 and 2007.
8. Yoshiaki Ishizawa of Japan, Gethsie Shanmugam of Sri Lanka, Abdon Nababan of Indonesia, Tony Tay of Singapore, Lilia de Lima of Phillipines and the Philippine Educational Theater Association have been awarded Ramon Magsaysay awards in 2017.
9. Mithali Raj has set the world record by becoming the first player to cross 6,000 runs in the history of ODI. She is the captain of Indian cricket team. Raj has played both test and international cricket for India's women's cricket team. Mithali is nicknamed as the "Tendulkar of India's women's cricket".
10. England's women's cricket team won 2017 ICC World Cup title by defeating India at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. It was England's fourth Women's World Cup title. Tammy Beaumont of England was awarded Player of the Series title. She had made most runs (410) in the tournament. Dane van Niekerk of South Africa took most wickets (15) in the tournament.
11. French Yachtsman Francis Joyon set his solo record. He is a sailboat racer and held the record for the fastest single- handed sailing circumnavigation from 2008 to 2016.
12. Roger Federer wins the Wimbledon final against Marin Cilic. It was Roger's 8<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon trophy and over all 19<sup>th</sup> grand slam victory. Other Wimbledon winners are:
  - Women's singles: Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain) defeated Venus Williams (USA)
  - Men's Doubles: Łukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil) pair defeated Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavić (Croatia) pair
  - Women's Doubles: Russian pair Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina defeated Chan Hao-ching (Chinese Taipei) and Monica Niculescu (Romania).
  - Mixed Doubles Jamie Murray (UK) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) defeated Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (UK).
13. Sundar Singh Gurjar won the gold medal in the men's Javelin throw event at World Para Athletics championships.

16. Park Sung Huyn won her first U.S Open women golf title. Her nationality is South Korea and she resides in Florida, U.S.
17. Lilly King of the United States won the women's 100 meters breaststroke gold with a world record time of 1:04:13. The event was well-anticipated as her Russian rival Yulia Efimova had nearly achieved the previous world record in the semi-finals.
18. Katie Ledecky made history by becoming the first woman to win 14 world swimming championship gold medals. She is the current world-record holder in the women's 400-, 800-, and 1500-metre freestyle (long course). She also holds the fastest-ever times in the women's 500-, 1000-, and 1650-yard freestyle events.
19. Virender Singh clinched Gold in men's 74 kg freestyle wrestling in Deaflympics. The Deaflympics is organized for every four years. It was previously called *World Games for the Deaf*, and *International Games for the Deaf* are an International Olympic Committee (IOC)-sanctioned event at which deaf athletes compete at an elite level.
20. Martin Landau is no more. He was an American actor and played television series like Mission Impossible and Space. He won an Oscar for *Ed Wood*, and other awards like Screen Actors Guild Awards, Golden Globe Award and Saturn award.
21. Udipi Ramachandra Rao passed away. He is popularly known as U.R. Rao, a space scientist and former Chairman of the ISRO. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan(1976) and Padma Vibhushan(2017). He is the author of *India's Rise as Space Power* and *Agenda 21: Caring for the Planet Earth*.
22. Professor. Yash Pal, Veteran Scientist and popular science communicator passed away at the age of 90. Mr. Pal made significant contributions to the field of science and to the study of cosmic rays, high-energy physics, astrophysics and development, among others. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013.
23. Dharam Singh, former Karnataka CM dies in Bengaluru. Mr. Singh was the 17th Chief Minister. He headed the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government from May 2004 to February 2006.
24. Freedom fighter K.E. Mammen passed away due to age-related diseases in Neyyatinkara, Kerala. He was 96. He was a pacifist and adherent follower of Mahatma Gandhi.
25. Dr. Spencer Johnson passed away at the age of 78. His book "Who Moved My Cheese?" brought name and fame to Dr. Johnson. His other books include One Minute for yourself, The One Minute Manager and Peaks and Valleys: Making Good and Bad Times work for you.
26. China's most famous political prisoner, the Nobel laureate and democracy icon Liu Xiaobo passed away in custody following a battle with cancer. Liu was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.
27. Nitish Kumar resigned as Chief Minister of Bihar after differences with coalition partner RJD. Subsequently, he joined hands with NDA and formed the government in Bihar and also won the vote of confidence in the Bihar assembly. Sankarshan Thakur has written a book based on his life titled: *Single Man: The Life and Times of Nitish Kumar of Bihar* and Arun Sinha has authored a book called *Nitish Kumar and The Rise of Bihar*.
28. Hillary Clinton unveils her new book called What Happened. She also wrote: It Takes a Village – And Other Lessons Children Teach Us.
29. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has resigned from his post after the Supreme Court disqualified him in the Panama Papers case. In a landmark judgment, a five Judge bench of Pakistan Supreme Court unanimously ruled to register a case against Nawaz Sharif and his family guilty of money laundering. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is the interim Prime minister.
30. Nilanjan Ray a photographer, is believed to have spotted a rare white tiger for 1st time in the Nilgiris.

## *Places in News*

1. The Walled city of Ahmedabad has been declared as World Heritage City by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO. It is 600 years old city and it is the first Indian city to get the honour. The city was built by Sultan Ahmed Shah I of Gujarat Sultanate in 1411.
2. Okinoshima Island, Japan's men only island was declared as a UNESCO world heritage site. The island will be the 17<sup>th</sup> set of Japanese cultural assets to be granted this status. Okinoshima island is an ancient religious site in Japan that is considered sacred by the local Munakata Taisha. The entry of women is strictly banned and even men need to take purifying bath before entering the island.
3. Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill has got the assent of the President of India. Maharashtra is the first state to enact such a law. The bill provides for prohibition of social boycott of a person or group of persons, including their family members, by an individual or a group like caste panchayat. It states that social boycott is prohibited and its commission shall be an offence, the maximum punishment for which will be seven years in prison or fine up to Rs.5 lakh or both.
4. Odisha launches Operation Muskan to rescue missing children. It is ongoing operation in Odisha and conducted in two phases. The first phase is between 1<sup>st</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> July to rescue all missing children within the state and second phase is from 30<sup>th</sup> July onwards. Several teams visit different states and important cities to trace and rescue missing children of Odisha.
5. The U.S. National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2018 was passed by the US House of Representatives. The Secretaries of Defence and state are going to develop a new strategy for advancing defence co-operation between India and the U.S.
6. Rajasthan has become the first state to fix minimum qualification to contest election in several village co-operative societies and other co-operative bodies.
7. The Cook Islands has created one of the world's largest marine sanctuaries, protecting a vast swathe of the Pacific Ocean more than three times the size of France. Legislation setting up the 1.9 million sq km reserve passed through the tiny nation's parliament. Environmentalist Kevin Iro, who first proposed the idea more than five years ago, said it was a landmark achievement that would help preserve the ocean for future generations.

## *Events of Significance*

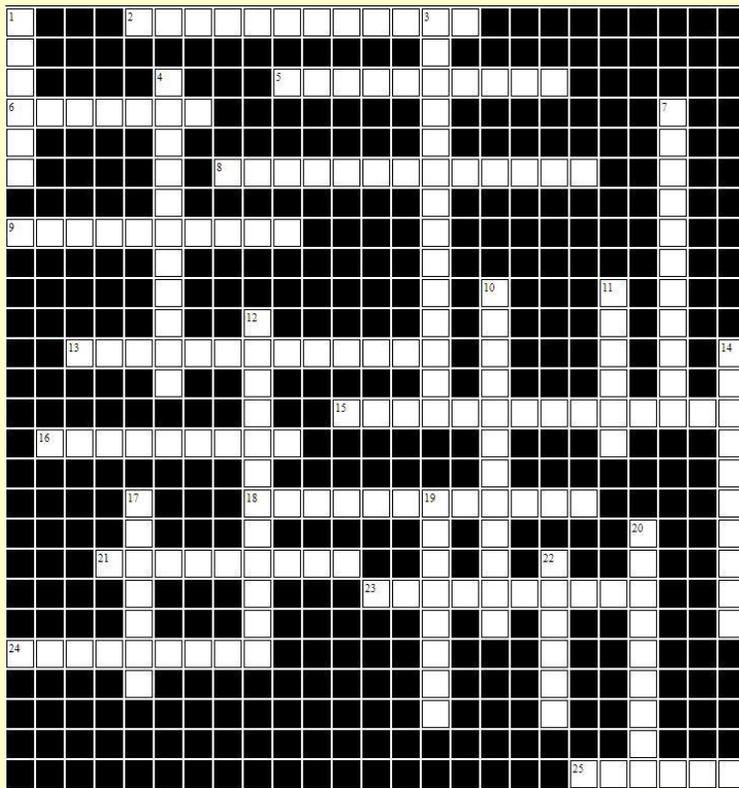
1. The 12th G20 summit being held in Hamburg, Germany saw the leaders agreeing to take concrete steps to stop funding of terror activities and a joint crackdown on the global network of terrorism.
2. GST has come into effect from the month of July. GST is an indirect tax applicable throughout India which replaces the taxes which were imposed by central and state governments. It was introduced as The Constitution (One hundred and first amendment) Act 2017 following the passage of Constitution of India 122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Bill. The GST is governed by a GST Council and its Chairman is the Finance Minister of India.
3. Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Jio Infocomm has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system. It is claimed to be world's longest submarine system.
4. National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE), India's 1st demutualised online national multi- commodities exchange will merge with Indian commodity exchange (ICEX).
5. President Pranab Mukherjee has approved the promulgation of prevention of cruelty to Animals Ordinance, 2017 which legalizes Kambala, bullock cart races and bull runs as traditional sports involving animals and exempt them from The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960.
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel to improve the diplomatic relationship between Israel and India. Israel Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu pleasantly welcomed Narendra Modi, who is the first Indian PM to visit Israel. India and Israel signed seven agreements on areas including space, technology, water and agriculture.

5. Under 'Make in India' India and Israel have entered into agreements to bid jointly for defence contracts. The Bharat Forge and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) have signed MoU in various sections like develop, market, build and manufacture selected air defence system. The MoU covers the establishment of a maintenance centre for selected air defence systems in Hyderabad in Telangana.
6. After several complaints of deterioration of basic education in the country, the HRD ministry has decided to remove the no detention policy. Under RTE Act, no child will be detained till completion of 1 to 8 grade.
7. International Asteroid day is observed on the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event(30<sup>th</sup> June 1908) the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth. It has its own declaration called 100X Declaration whose motto is to protect the mother earth from harmful asteroids.
8. The UN passed the treaty to ban nuclear weapons called 'Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons'. More than 120 countries are ready to adopt the treaty. The US, India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Britain, France and North Korea did not support the treaty.
9. India and Bangladesh have agreed to construct a bridge over Mizoram's Khawthlangtupui river to initiate and encourage trade and communication between 2 nations.
10. The World Population Day is celebrated on July 11 of every year which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. It was declared by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. The theme of 2017 year is: Family planning, Empowering people, Developing Nations.
11. Matunga becomes first Indian railway station to run by women ( MS Kulkarni) in Mumbai which connects Sion and Dadar.
12. On the occasion of Guru Purnima, President Pranab Mukherjee launched four major digital initiatives in order to push e-education. (i) SWAYAM (ii) SWAYAM PRABHA (iii) NATIONAL ACADEMIC DEPOSITORY (iv) NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY.
13. Smallest star was discovered by a group of scientists from the University of Cambridge. The scientists said the star is so small that our own planet looks larger than the star. The star is labelled as EBLM J0555-57Ab.
14. 'Pen- Pineapple- Apple-Pen (PPAP) is a new rhyme of UN to promote the United Nation's sustainable development goals. The rhyme is adopted by Japanese comedian Pikotaro.
15. The World Dance Day is celebrated on April 29 through promotion by the International Dance Council (CID), an umbrella organization within UNESCO for all kinds of dance. The date commemorates the birthday of Jean- Georges Noverre.
16. International Fruits Day is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> July. It began in 2007 at the Mauerpark in Berlin. Each year the organization votes for a particular fruit and labelled as Fruit of the Year. The Fruit of the year 2017 is Quince.
17. A group of Indian astronomers have discovered a massive super cluster of galaxies and named it as "Saraswati". The super cluster is about 4 billion light years away and spreads over a "great wall" about 600 million light years across. This is one of the largest super clusters to be discovered and also the farthest.
18. Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) established between India and European Union (EU) for investments of EU in India. It promotes EU investments in India. It has been established to identify and solve the problems faced by EU companies and investors with regard to their operations in India.
19. The World Youth Skills Day is observed on July 15<sup>th</sup> every year to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development. The 2017 theme is "Skills for All" .The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has established World Skills Day in November 2014.
20. The UN general assembly declared 18 July as "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. The Nelson Mandela Foundation is dedicating this year's Mandela Day to Action Against Poverty, honouring Nelson Mandela's leadership and devotion to fighting poverty and promoting social justice for all.
21. The trial Naval exercise, Malabar 2017 near Chennai in Bay of Bengal concluded successfully between India, the United States and Japan. In naval exercise USS Nimitz of the U.S, India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and Japan's helicopter carrier and its largest warship JS IZumo were displayed.

17. The India-Japan Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy came into force on July 20, 2017 with the exchange of diplomatic notes between Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary and H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India. The agreement was signed in Tokyo during the visit of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi in 2016.
18. The Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT-PPP) Bill, 2017 has passed by Lok Sabha. The 15 IIIT's established on PPP model to grant degrees and get statutory status.
19. India is going to lighten remote village in Egypt. The Solar Electrification Project, an off-grid system that is ideal for remote locations, has been launched at Agaween village in the Western Desert in Matrouh Governorate, close to the Libyan border.
20. Kumarswami Kamaraj birth anniversary to be declared as "Educational Development Day". He was a leader of the Indian National Congress and called as King Maker of Indian politics.
21. Lok Sabha passed Compulsory Education (Amendment) bill, 2017, which states that untrained teachers teaching in schools should acquire Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.El.Ed) and Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) qualifications by March 31, 2019 to hold their jobs as teachers.
22. The Rajya Sabha passed two bills on Jurisdiction and settlement of maritime claims and the Footwear Design and Development Institute. The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017, passed by the Lok Sabha in March, seeks to consolidate the laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings in connection with vessels, their arrest, detention, sale and other related matters. While earlier only the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras could take up maritime cases, the Bill extends the power to the High Courts of Karnataka, Kerala, Hyderabad, Orissa and Gujarat, besides any other High Courts as notified by the Centre.
23. "Sprites", the smallest spacecraft launched made it to low-earth successfully. It weighs 3.5 cmX3.5 cm and carried radios, sensors and computers each powered by sunlight and weighing just four grams.
24. Microsoft unveiled Kaizala, a mobile app for large group communications and work management. Kaizala makes it easy to connect and coordinate work with the entire value chain, including field employees, vendors, partners, and customers wherever they are.
25. The Supreme Court has ruled that the police cannot arrest the accused without conducting a preliminary inquiry under dowry harassment cases. The ruling was made by a SC bench of Justices A K Goel and UU Lalit. The Supreme Court passed the order keeping in view the fact of suspected misuse of the anti-dowry harassment law framed in 1983.
26. The parliament has passed The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha has passed it earlier. The bill aims at amending the Collection of Statistics Bill, 2008, which facilitates the collection of statistics related to social, economic, demographic, scientific and environmental aspects, by central, state and local governments. It also allows the appointment of statistics officers to collect information and contains provisions to ensure security of information.
27. Union Finance Ministry has launched Aaykar Setu, a new tax payer service module. The new e-initiative literally means taxpayer's bridge and will be available in android phones. It compiles various tax tools, dynamic updates, live chat facility and important links to various processes within the Income Tax Department (ITD) in a single module.
28. For its performance in the years 2014-15 & 2015-16, TATA steel has bagged PM'S trophy for Best Performing Integrated Steel plant. Tata steel has bagged award for 3 consecutive year.
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial at Pei Karumbu in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu on his second death anniversary. Mr. Modi will flag off Kalam Sandesh Vahini, an exhibition bus which will travel across the country and reach Rashtrapati Bhavan on 15th of October, which marks the birth anniversary of the former President. The majestic memorial has been designed and built by the Defence Research and Development Organization.

30. The Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in its 4th meeting has approved seven projects in the sector of sewage infrastructure, ghat development and research. Three projects each were approved in sewage sector in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Central Government will provide operation and maintenance cost for 15 years to all these six projects along with 100% central assistance. The study will be an extension of a research carried out by National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to identify the special properties of river's water.
31. The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2 in Mumbai, Maharashtra under the Jiyo Parsi scheme. The Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2 aims at containing the declining trend of population of the Parsi community and reverses it to bring their population above the threshold level. Jiyo Parsi scheme is a Central Sector Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India. It has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy (Counselling). The first phase of the scheme was initiated in 2013.
32. The Punjab government has recently announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under the scheme, the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates. The scheme aims to generate job opportunities for youth and providing better mobile transport in Punjab. Uber target is to create 10,000 entrepreneurial opportunities in one year and 45,000 in next five years.
33. Mumbai Metro announced the launch of India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo' which will help commuters pass the AFC gates using their mobile phones. Commuters will be able to generate a QR Code through 'OnGo' service for current or future journeys upto a week in advance by clicking the mobile app wherein they would pay for their journey. Mumbai Metro is a consortium formed by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, MMRDA and Veolia Transport SA, France.
34. The Madras High Court ruled that Vande Mataram should be sung in all schools and colleges across the state "at least once a week", and in government and private offices "at least once a month".
35. Scientists including one of Indian origin have developed new artificial intelligence (AI) software called SurfNet that can create three dimensional (3D) models from 2D photographs. When fully developed SurfNet could have significant applications in the fields of 3D searches on the internet researchers. In an advance version it can allow future robots to navigate in the real world.

## Crossword - 0013



**Across**

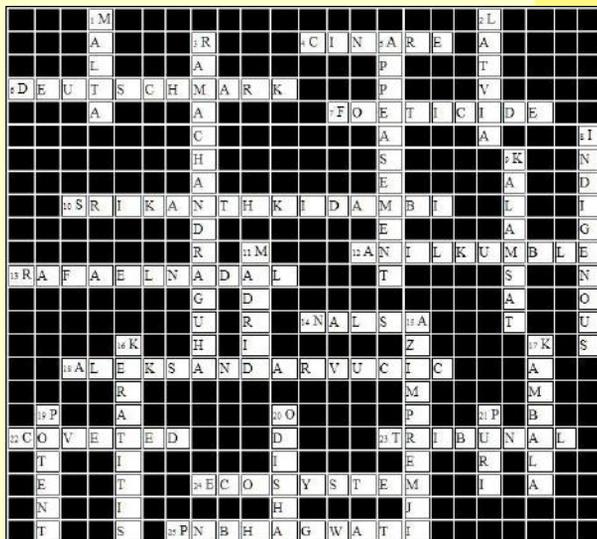
2. 32 DTH channels for educational programmes (2 Words)
5. highest runs-scorer of Women's International Cricket (2 Words)
6. world's smallest spacecraft launched
8. decline in quality
9. mobile app to file Income tax returns (2 Words)
13. shunning of a person by society (2 Words)
15. created characters Sniff, Scurry, Hem, Haw (2 Words)
16. a vessel that can be navigated under water
18. expectation and foresight
21. scheme to contain the decline of the Zoroastrian community (2 Words)
23. daughter of Jagjivan Ram (2 Words)
24. oldest tennis tournament in the world
25. fruit usually used to make jelly

**Down**

1. has the tagline "Building peace in the minds of men and women"
3. former First Lady of US lost Presidential election (2 Words)
4. relating to the scientific study of human population
7. also known as the World silent games
10. national song of India (2 Words)
11. to unfold or envelop
12. Magsaysay awardee for Asian Community Leadership (2 Words)
14. Legal case before SC of Pakistan brought by Imran Khan
17. mobile-first enterprise social network from MS
19. one who believes in non-violence
20. new super cluster of galaxies
22. yellow apple-like fruit used to make jams and jelly

**Note:** Solve this crossword and mail your solution with **Crossword - 0013** in the subject line to **abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com** latest by **20<sup>th</sup> August 2017**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

## Key to Crossword - 0012



**Note:** Four entries received in time of which two entries are entirely correct.

- 1) Poorvi Reddy (GVA)
- 2) Sri Ranga (GVA)

Prize goes to first correct entry (Poorvi Reddy)  
Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month.