

Abhyaas Newsboard ...

For the quintessential test prep student

News of the month

National Sports Awards Announced



The Union Government has announced the National Sports Awards for 2017.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2017

- Devendra – Para Athlete
- Sardar Singh – Hockey

Dronacharya Awards 2017

- Late Dr. R. Gandhi – Athletics
- Heera Nand Kataria – Kabaddi
- G.S.S.V. Prasad – Badminton (Lifetime)
- Brij Bhushan Mohanty – Boxing (Lifetime)
- P.A. Raphel – Hockey (Lifetime)
- Sanjoy Chakraverthy – Shooting (Lifetime)
- Roshan Lal – Wrestling (Lifetime)

Arjuna Awards 2017

- V.J. Surekha – Archery
- Khushbir Kaur & Arokia Rajiv – Athletics
- Prasanthi Singh – Basketball
- Laishram Debendro Singh – Boxing
- Cheteshwar Pujara & Harmanpreet Kaur – Cricket
- Oinam Bembem Devi – Football
- S.S.P. Chawrasia – Golf
- S.V. Sunil – Hockey
- Jasvir Singh – Kabaddi
- P.N. Prakash – Shooting
- Amalraj – Table Tennis
- Saketh Myneni – Tennis
- Satyawart Kadian – Wrestling
- Mariyappan & Varun Singh Bhati – Para-Athlete

Dhyan Chand Award 2017

- Bhupender Singh – Athletics
- Syed Shahid Hakim – Football
- Sumarai Tete - Hockey

The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

The month of August saw a lot of landmark judgments. The triple talaq practice has been set aside as unconstitutional in a 3:2 majority verdict of the 5 judge bench of the Supreme Court. The Right to Privacy has been confirmed as an integral part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty guaranteed in Article 21. The CBI court has convicted Sacha Dera Souda head Gurmeet Ram Rahin Insaan to 20 years for the rape of two female disciples in 2002.

Justice Dipak Misra has taken oath as the 45th Chief Justice of India after the retirement of Justice J S Khehar.

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 112 Gallantry Awards to armed forces and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day.

Congratulations to **Sri Ranga** for bagging the prize for the crossword. News bytes for this edition contributed by **Sri Ranga**. Read on to go through the current affairs for the month of August 2017.

Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, a custodian of the Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music, passed away. He was the youngest of the famous seven 'Dagar Bandhus'. Dhrupad is a Sanskrit blend of *dhruva* (immovable) and *pad* (verse).
2. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pakistan's petroleum minister, has been elected as the 18th Prime Minister of Pakistan by the National Assembly.
3. Arvind Panagariya, vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, announced his resignation. He is an Indian-American economist who will return to academics at Columbia University. Economist Rajiv Kumar will succeed him. Vinod Paul has been appointed as member of NITI Aayog.
4. Veteran Molecular Biologist Pushpa Mitra Bhargava passed away. He founded the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in 1977. He was the chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill 2013. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1986.
5. Sanjaya Baru was appointed as the Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), an association of business organizations in India. Pankaj Patel is the President of FICCI.
6. Peter O'Neill has been re-elected the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea by a newly elected Parliament. Port Moresby is the Capital of Papua New Guinea and Kina is its currency.
7. Mahabaleshwar Sail, an eminent Konkani writer, was awarded the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel Hawthian that captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa.
8. Justin Gatlin beat Jamaican Usain Bolt to win gold medal in 100m World Athletics Championships. Usain Bolt could finish only in the third place in his farewell athletic event to secure a bronze.
9. Justice Dipak Misra succeeded Justice J.S. Khehar as the 45th Chief Justice of India.
10. Indian shooter Kynan Chenai won a bronze in men's trap event at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan.
11. Lyricist Prasoon Joshi has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for a period of three years. Mr Joshi has replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.
12. Legendary Indian athlete Milkha Singh has been appointed as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region.
13. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) appointed Dilip Asbe to act as its chief executive officer in the wake of the retirement of A.P. Hota, its founding managing director.
14. Vishal Sikka of Infosys Ltd resigned as Managing Director and Chief Executive of the company. U.B.Pravin Rao has been appointed as the interim MD and Chief Executive. Nandan Nilekani has been brought back as the new chairman of Infosys after the resignation of R Seshasayee.
15. World's Most expensive player Neymar became the Goodwill Ambassador for Handicap International, pledging to work for millions who are "less visible" but deserve equality.
16. The Union Government announced the National Sports Awards. Para athlete Devendra and hockey player Sardar Singh will be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
17. Alibaba Group's Jack Ma is back on top as Asia's richest man following gains in the company's earnings and share price. Jack Ma is worth \$37.4 billion, according to the Forbes real-time billionaires list.
18. Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has written a book titled 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve'. The book is a collection of essays and speeches during his stint as RBI governor.

19. P.V. Sindhu won the Silver medal in World Badminton Championship 2017 held in Glasgow, Scotland. She lost the historic match to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.
20. NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, announced the winners of the Women Transforming India Awards, 2017. Laxmi Agarwal, Safeena Husain, Kamal Kumbhar, Subasini Mistry, Arunima Sinha and Jamuna Tudu were the 6 winners.
21. India's two-time Olympic footballer and East Bengal legend Ahmed Khan passed away. Khan was one of the most famous of the legendary quintet of forwards called the "Five Pandavas" who played for East Bengal in an India that had just become an independent nation.
22. Rajiv Bansal has been named the interim CMD of Air India. Bansal is an Indian Administrative Services officer from the 1988 batch. The government has appointed current Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani chairman of the Railway Board after the resignation of Ashok Mittal.
23. Oinam Bembem Devi, the flagbearer of Indian women's football for over the past two decades was named the winner of the prestigious Arjuna Award. Bembem becomes the second Indian woman footballer to win the award, the first being Shanti Mullick in 1983.
24. O Panneerselvam was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu, following the much speculated merger of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) factions.

Places in News

1. Archaeologists excavated a six-foot statue at Angkor Wat. It is one of the largest statues from the era to be unearthed in recent years. Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and the largest religious monument in the world. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple for the Khmer empire, gradually transforming into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.
2. Los Angeles successfully bids to host 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. The International Olympic Committee headed by its ninth President Thomas Bach will oversee the games and the host country's preparations.
3. The newly opened Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge in Switzerland creates record for the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge. The bridge is 1621 feet across and 279 feet high.
4. The Agriculture Ministry signed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) for setting up a regional centre of the global rice research institute IRRI in Varanasi to develop high-yielding rice varieties. The Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which has offices in 17 countries, is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the green revolution in 1960s.
5. The 8th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting was held in Manila, the Philippines. The MGC is an initiative by India and five ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting the two major river basins of Ganga and Mekong.
6. The 15th Ministerial Meeting of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) concluded at Kathmandu, Nepal.
7. Melbourne in Australia has been named world's most liveable city for a record seventh year in a row, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Report 2017.
8. The 16th edition of IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) World Championships 2017 was held in London. The USA topped the tally of medals with 30 medals.

9. The first regional center of the New Development Bank, set up by India and other BRICS nations, was officially opened by South African President Jacob Zuma and the bank's Indian head K.V. Kamath in Johannesburg, South Africa.
10. Manipur's Nungthaang Tampak village emerged as the '100 percent computer literate' village not only in the State but in the entire North East. Kerala's Chamravattom village is the country's first 100 percent computer literate village.
11. Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas State of US causing havoc and devastation in Houston. The storm displaced 1 million people and left around 65 dead. The Category 4 hurricane made landfall near Rockport, Texas and took two weeks to dissipate.

Events of Significance

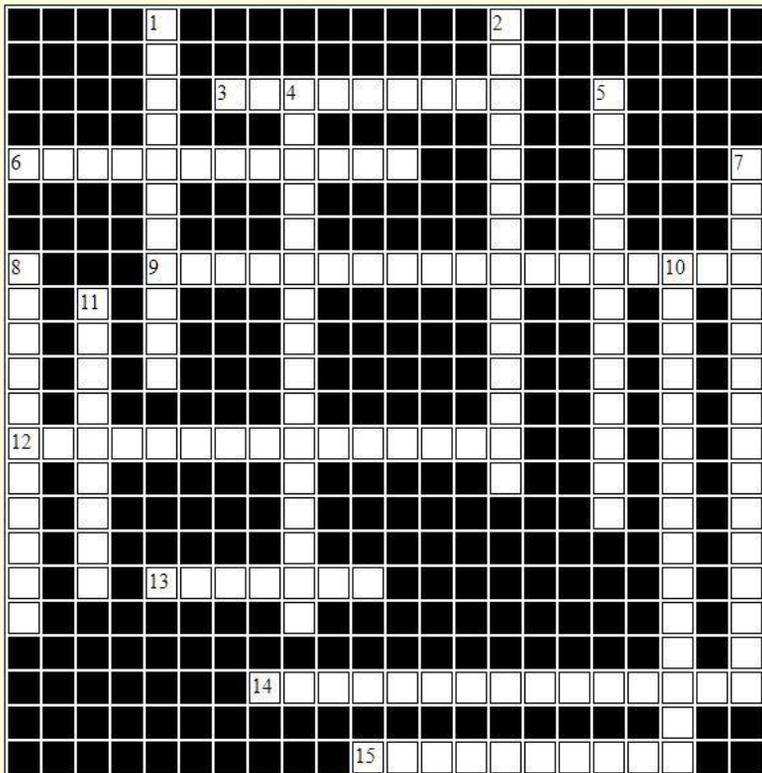
1. A Supreme Court bench led by the Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar took stance that the policy decision to introduce GM Mustard (genetically modified) into commercial markets will be subject to judicial scrutiny. There are serious apprehensions about the health hazards posed by GM crops.
2. Scientists create a new compound, named as BaZnGa, a term derived from the names of its constituent elements barium (Ba), zinc (Zn) and gallium (Ga). The new compound exhibits a unique crystal structure.
3. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Narendra Singh Tomar launched the third cleanliness survey named the Swachh Survekshan - 2018 to rank 4041 cities and towns across the country with a revised methodology. The survey will rank 500 cities with population above one lakh, and State capitals on all-India basis.
4. The Supreme Court has banned the use of five toxic heavy metals - lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead in the manufacturing of firecrackers. The bench was headed by Justice Madan B Lokur. The metals have been labelled as toxic by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The court also entrusted the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) with the responsibility of ensuring compliance by fireworks.
5. The Border Security Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to provide skill training to retired and retiring BSF personnel and the population living in the border areas. The collaboration between BSF and NSDC aims to train and provide gainful employment to retired BSF personnel and their families, school students, youth, differently abled persons for five years starting from 2017.
6. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into nine Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers in the month of July 2017. The APA Scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and determining the Arm's Length Price of international transactions in advance for a maximum period of five future years. Sushil Chandra is the Chairman of CBDT. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
7. The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) was recently declared as the world's first green metro after it added a green certification for all its major buildings and installations. DMRC was also awarded the platinum rating for its 10 residential colonies for adherence to green building norms by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). The declaration was made during the National Conference on Green Metro Systems by the IGBC. In 2008, DMRC became the first railway project in the world to be registered by the United Nations under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
8. Scientists from the United States have found that curcumin, the bioactive component of turmeric which is widely used in Indian cuisine, can be used to treat cancer in children. They have found that nanoparticles loaded with curcumin can target and destroy neuroblastoma tumour cells.
9. Airtel Payments Bank, India's first Payments Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to give further boost to digital payments in the country. First Airtel Payments Bank was opened in Rajasthan. Shashi Arora is the present MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank.

10. The Union Government has launched e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM) portal to provide a platform for farmers to sell agricultural produce. e-RaKAM is a first of its kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers from the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet.
11. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) appointed an expert committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice B. N. Srikrishna, that would study various issues related to data protection in the country and would suggest a draft data protection bill.
12. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed among India and various BRICS countries for establishment of the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BRICS-ARP), a proposal made by the Indian Prime Minister during the 7th BRICS Summit held in July 2015 at Ufa in Russia.
13. A new representative body US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being set up to enhance business relations between India and the US. The body will work with businesses and government leaders to achieve its goals of driving economic growth, job creation, innovation, inclusion and entrepreneurship.
14. A High-Level Committee, headed by Justice (retired) B.N. Srikrishna, set up to review the Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India submitted its report to the Union Law Ministry upholding the government's commitment to the speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to make India an international hub of arbitration.
15. Microsoft ties up with the State of Telangana to use its artificial intelligence-based MINE(Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare) platform to screen children for eye problems and prevent avoidable blindness.
16. Israel launched its first environmental research satellite named as 'Vens', (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite).It is a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.
17. The ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have signed an MoU to make indigenous regional positioning system - NavIC(Navigation with Indian Constellation) making it independent of the US clock system.
18. National Handloom Day was celebrated on August 7 to give stimulus to the sector and encourage the use of traditional handloom products. It was on this day that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905.
19. The Centre declared entire Assam, Meghalaya's border areas adjoining Assam, and three districts in Arunachal Pradesh as "disturbed" areas under the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for one more month, citing the insurgency prevalent in those areas.
20. India celebrated the 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement. This year's theme is "Sankalp Se Siddhi"- Attainment through Resolve.
21. India will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline, also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), according to a 2008 framework agreement signed by India, Pakistan and Afghanistan to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan.
22. India ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases, reaffirming its stand on climate action. With this, India became the 80th country to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.
23. The Lok Sabha passed the bill to approve the amalgamation of State Bank of India (SBI) and its associate banks and to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959, State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956.

24. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an interim ban on the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in the entire national capital. The bench was headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar.
25. The Government of India decided to launch a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana"(AGEY) as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas.
26. The International Youth Day was observed across the world on 12th August with the theme 'Youth Building Peace'.
27. Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children. The three-minute video was directed by filmmaker Govind Nihalani.
28. Jharkhand Assembly passed Religious Freedom Bill 2017, which aims to stop forced conversions in the State.
29. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Somalia free of polio. The UN health agency announced that it had not recorded any case of polio disease in Somalia in the last three years.
30. 'Gaj Yatra', a nationwide campaign to protect elephants, was launched in Karnataka on the occasion of World Elephant Day on 12th August. The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range States.
31. The Reserve Bank of India has started issuing Rs. 200 denomination notes that will ease pressure on lower denomination currency bills. It will also shortly issue Rs 50 denomination bank notes in the Mahatma Gandhi (new) series signed by the RBI governor, Dr. Urjit Patel.
32. Versius, the world's smallest surgical robot has been developed by British scientists. The robot mimics the human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of laparoscopic procedures.
33. The Supreme Court of India pronounced that individual privacy is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar ruled that the right to privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty, thus coming under Article 21, and comes under the various fundamental freedoms in PART III of the Indian Constitution.
34. Software giant Microsoft has announced its 'Project Brainwave' deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI).
35. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to the Indian Navy, at Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).
36. The first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will start in Delhi. The Rural Games will aim at popularising the indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc.
37. India and China have agreed to withdraw their troops from Doklam after being in a standoff for over two months. The standoff had started after India objected to China constructing a road in the disputed area.
38. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the country's first 'Videsh Bhavan'. The Bhavan integrates all offices of the Ministry of External Affairs in Maharashtra.
39. Gobindobhog rice, a specialty from Burdwan district of West Bengal has been granted geographical indication status by the Geographical Indications Registry.
40. Google-owned YouTube has refreshed its iconic logo and introduced some major design changes to its desktop and mobile apps.
41. Over 20 people died when the Utkal Express derailed near Muzaffarnagar. 74 passengers were injured as nine bogies of the Kaifiyat Express derailed in UP's Auraiya district. Railways Board chairman Ashok Mittal submitted his resignation to Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu.
42. The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Myanmar for the conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan, Myanmar. These are Buddhist temples built in traditions originating as stupa in historic South Asia.

43. The Union government launched the second AGRI-UDAAN program in New Delhi. It aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture.
44. The launch of IRSO's navigation satellite IRNSS-1H onboard PSLV-C39 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh was unsuccessful. The heat shield did not separate as a result of which the satellite did not complete the 4th stage. The IRNSS-1H was being sent to space to back up and replace the functions of India's first navigation satellite IRNSS-1A (launched in July 2013) as its three rubidium atomic clocks on board had stopped functioning.
45. The Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of the first phase of reforms to be made in the Indian Army, based on recommendations of Lt. Gen. Shekatkar Committee. This is being done with the aim of enhancing combat capability and also optimising and rebalancing defence expenditure of Indian Army in a phased manner by December 2019. It is also the first ever reform exercise being undertaken in the Indian Army since 1947.
46. Special CBI judge Jagdeep Singh sentenced Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insaan to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in Rohtak jail. The sentencing came three days after the CBI court in Panchkula held Ram Rahim guilty of rape and criminal intimidation of two female disciples in 2002.
47. The Indian Coast Guard Ship Varuna, which was part of the First Training Squadron of the Navy, was decommissioned with full armed forces honors at a ceremony recently. The ship had an illustrious service spanning about 30 years. ICGS Varuna has now been replaced by ICGS Sarathi in the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy.
48. PM Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of young entrepreneurs and CEOs startups at an event organised by NITI Aayog. The event called 'Champions of Change' was organised by India's policy think-tank, was aimed at bringing together young businessmen at a place and share ideas.
49. The Supreme Court set aside by a majority verdict(3:2) the practice of divorce through triple talaq among Muslims, saying the practice was void, illegal and unconstitutional. The apex court held that triple talaq is against the basic tenets of the Quran. While Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justice S Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting on hold for six months the practice of triple talaq and asking the government to come out with a law in this regard, Justices Kurian Joseph, RF Nariman and UU Lalit held it as violative of the Constitution.
50. NITI Aayog has suggested establishment of a judicial performance index(JPI) to check delay in finalisation of cases in the lower judiciary. It was suggested as part of 'Three Year Action Agenda (2017-20) recommendations for far-reaching reforms to expedite justice delivery system, particularly lower courts where nearly 3 crore cases have been pending for years.
51. The Parliament has passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha had passed it earlier. The amendment to the 2009 Act seeks to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
52. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 112 Gallantry Awards to armed forces and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day. The Awards include five Kirti Chakras, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 85 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). Out of the 112, 19 are posthumous. Those awarded the Kirti Chakra include Major Preetam Singh Kunwar of Garhwal Rifles, Havildar Giris Gurung (Posthumous) from First Gorkha Rifles; Major David Manlun (Posthumous), of Naga Regiment; Pramod Kumar (Posthumous) and Chetan Kumar Cheeta from CRPF.

Crossword – 0014 (based on idioms)



Across

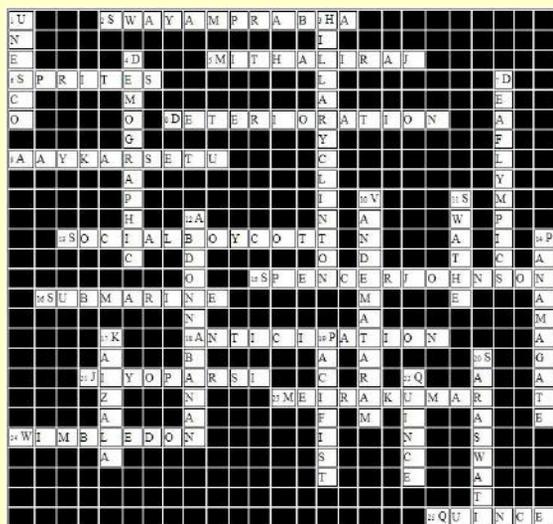
3. behave in silly manner (2 Words)
6. finish before the deadline (3 Words)
9. support the losing party (5 Words)
12. huge money given on retirement (2 Words)
13. raise a false alarm (2 Words)
14. occurs infrequently (5 Words)
15. compromise on quality (2 Words)

Down

1. slow to utilize opportunity (3 Words)
2. unfamiliar surroundings (4 Words)
4. clumsy person (5 Words)
5. to die (3 Words)
7. issue of disagreement (3 Words)
8. success right in the beginning (2 Words)
10. a heavy downpour (4 Words)
11. be suspicious (3 Words)

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0014 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by **15th September 2017**. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0013



Note: Ten entries received in time of which six entries are entirely correct.

- 1) Sri Ranga (GVA)
- 2) Shivani Reddy (GVA)
- 3) Kasarla Meghana (GVA)
- 4) Sulochana (KKP)
- 5) Poorvi Reddy (GVA)
- 6) K Vishal Reddy (GVA)

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