

Abhyaas Newsboard ...

For the quintessential test prep student

News of the month

Cabinet Reshuffle 2017:

Four ministers - Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal & Nirmala Sitharaman have been elevated to Cabinet rank.

Revised Portfolios of Cabinet Ministers

1. Rajnath Singh: Home Affairs.
2. Sushma Swaraj: External Affairs.
3. Arun Jaitley: Finance; Corporate Affairs.
4. Nirmala Sitharaman: Defence.
5. Nitin Gadkari: Road Transport; Shipping; Water Resources, River Dev & Ganga Rejuvenation.
6. Suresh Prabhu: Commerce and Industry.
7. Piyush Goyal: Railways; Coal.
8. Sadananda Gowda: Statistics & Program Implementation.
9. Uma Bharati: Drinking Water and Sanitation.
10. Ramvilas Paswan: Consumer Affairs, Food & PDS
11. Maneka Gandhi: Women and Child Development.
12. Ananthkumar: Chemicals and Fertilizers; Parliamentary Affairs.
13. Ravi Shankar Prasad: Law and Justice; Electronics and Information Technology.
14. Jagat Prakash Nadda: Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
15. Ashok Gajapathi Raju: Civil Aviation.
16. Anant Geete: Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
17. Harsimrat Kaur Badal: Food Processing Industries.
18. Narendra Singh Tomar: Rural Development; Panchayati Raj; Mines.
19. Chaudhary Birender Singh: Steel.
20. Jual Oram: Tribal Affairs.
21. Radha Mohan Singh: Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
22. T C Gehlot: Social Justice and Empowerment.
23. Smriti Irani: Textiles; Information & Broadcasting.
24. Harsh Vardhan: Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
25. Prakash Javadekar: HR Development.
26. Dharmendra Pradhan: Petroleum and Natural Gas; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
28. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: Minority Affairs.

The Editor's Column

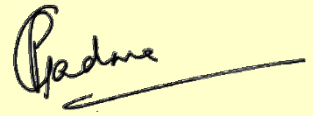
Dear Student,

The month of September started with a cabinet reshuffle. Nirmala Sitharaman became India's second woman defence minister. Incidentally, both External Affairs and Defence portfolios are currently held by women.

Governors for a few states have been newly appointed. After Hurricane Harvey in Texas, it was Hurricane Irma that caused havoc and destruction in Cuba and South Florida.

Congratulations to **Revathi** for bagging the prize for the crossword. News bytes for this edition contributed by **Poorvi Reddy**.

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



Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. Anita Karwal has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). She will be replacing Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, who has been appointed as the Director General of the National Skill Development Agency.
2. Sunil Arora has been appointed as the Election Commissioner of India, replacing Nasim Zaidi who had retired in July 2017. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is Achal Kumar Joti while the other Election Commissioner is Om Prakash Rawat.
3. Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He will succeed Shashi Kant Sharma.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducted nine new members into his Council of Ministers including former head of the Indian delegation at the United Nations Security Council Hardeep Puri, former Home Secretary R.K. Singh, former Police Commissioner of Mumbai Satyapal Singh and former chief of the Delhi Development Authority K.J. Alphons.
5. Vivek Goenka, chairman and managing director of Express Group was unanimously elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India(PTI). N Ravi, former editor-in-chief of the Hindu was elected Vice-Chairman.
6. Sjoerd Marijne has been named the new coach of the Indian Men's Hockey team. Dhronacharya Award winner Harendra Singh will be the High Performance Specialist coach for the women's team.
7. Prince Charles became the longest serving Prince of Wales breaking Prince Albert's record who held the title for 59 years before becoming king.
8. Prakash Padukone has been selected for the first lifetime achievement award by the Badminton Association of India.
9. The US Open winners: Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal, Women's Singles - Sloane Stephens, Men's doubles - Jean Julian Rojer and Horia Tecau. Women's Doubles - Martina Hingis and Taipei Chan Yung-jan. Mixed Doubles - Martina Hingis and Jamie Murray.
10. Halimah Jacob became the first woman president of Singapore.
11. The first and only five star ranked IAF officer in India, Arjan Singh passed away.
12. P.V. Sindhu became the first Indian to lift the Korean Open Superseries title. She defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.
13. Chris Gayle became the first cricketer to hit 100 sixes in T20 cricket.
14. Y.C. Modi has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency.
15. Father of nephrology in India Dr. K.S. Chugh passed away.
16. New Zealand became the first self governing country in the world to grant national voting rights to women.
17. Three Indians have been featured on the Forbes List of the Greatest Living Business Minds: Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal, Vinod Khosla.
18. General Motors CEO Mary Barra topped Fortunes 2017 list of Most Powerful Women for the third time in a row.
19. Kuldeep Yadav became the first Indian spinner to take a hat-trick in ODI cricket.
20. US based Materials and Research Society conferred its highly prestigious Von Hippel Award on Bharath Ratna Prof. C.N.R. Rao. He became the first scientist to receive this award.
21. Paramjit Singh Pammi, a mechanic from Punjab's Nabha has been chosen to be honoured with 'Bhagat Puran Singh Award for Service to Humanity'. He saved 400 road accident victims.
22. M.C. Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as International Boxing Association's representative for the IOC Athletes Forum.

23. Thailand's supreme court sentenced former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in absentia to five years in prison after finding her guilty of mishandling a rice scheme which led to at least \$8 billion in losses.
24. A stadium in Kentucky, the USA, is set to be named after former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar who will head to Louisville to inaugurate Sunil Gavaskar Field.
25. Indian women cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been included in BBS's list of the 100 most influential women of 2017.
26. Eminent writer and journalist from Assam, Radhika Mohan Bhagawati passed away.
27. Senior journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh was shot dead at her house in Bengaluru by three assailants. She was running her own newspaper Gauri Lankesh Patrike. She has been posthumously accorded with the prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War.
28. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new Governors for a few States. Tamil Nadu - Banwarilal Purohit, Arunachal Pradesh - Brigadier B.D. Mishra, Meghalaya - Ganga Prasad, Assam - Jagdish Mukhi, Bihar - Satyapal Malik, the Andaman and Nicobar islands - Admiral D.K. Joshi.

Places in News

1. President Ram Nath Kovind laid down the foundation stone for Link-4 Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation(SAUNI) Scheme in Rajkot district.
2. India's first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati. Hyperloop Technology is brainchild idea of technology entrepreneur Elon Musk who dubs it as the fifth mode of transportation. It is system of magnetically levitating capsules (pods) that are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes.
3. The Parali I Island, one of the biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands of the Lakshadweep group has disappeared due to coastal erosion and environmental degradation.
4. London has topped the 2017 Global Financial Centers Index. Mumbai was ranked 60th. The index is ranking of the competitiveness of financial centres based on aggregate of indices from five key areas: business environment, financial sector development, infrastructure factors, human capital, reputation and general factors.
5. India's state of the art virology laboratory was inaugurated at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata, West Bengal.
6. India-Japan Annual Summit took place at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project is being seen as one of most important flagship programmes in the bilateral relations of the two sides.
7. The central government has decided to grant citizenship to nearly one lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees who have been settled in Arunachal Pradesh.
8. Karnataka has become the first Indian State to have an electric vehicle policy after the State Cabinet approved the Karnataka Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy.
9. Tunisia abolished a 44-year old ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslims.
10. President Ram Nath Kovind launched a fortnight long 'Swachhta Hi Seva' sanitation campaign at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
11. The Odisha government has passed a bill to launch the first-ever Odia language university at Bhubaneswar for post graduation in literature and linguistics among other subjects.
12. India's first Center for Animal Law was inaugurated at NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi.

13. The 13th edition of Yudh Abhyas 2017 an annual bilateral military exercise between India and the United States took place at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, US
14. Nepal has begun the first ever survey to re-measure the Mount Everest to check if its height was altered by the earthquake.
15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Sarovar Dam at Gujarat's Kevadia. It is India's biggest dam and the second biggest in the world.
16. Gorakhpur, Odisha and Thane will see the launch of India's ambitious 'Zero Hunger' program through interventions in farm sector on World Food Day.
17. India's first electric bus service was launched at the Rohtang pass area in Himachal Pradesh.
18. Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport became the first airport in India to offer a wheelchair lift.
19. The first helicopter service was started from Srinagar to world's second coldest inhabited place Drass, under the Udan Scheme.
20. Saudi Arabia's King Salman issued a royal decree allowing women to drive ending its status as the only country in the world to impose such a ban.
21. Union Ministry of Shipping has renamed Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust by exercising powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act,1908.
22. Dubai has started testing world's first two seater self-flying taxi called Autonomous Air Taxi for transportation.
23. Russia today destroyed the last batch of its chemical weapons stockpile fulfilling its obligation under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
24. Madhya Pradesh Government has inaugurated India's first cow sanctuary Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya in Agar Malwa district.
25. In order to restrict smoking in public places the Karnataka government has banned the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco products.
26. Interpol has admitted Palestine and the Solomon Islands as member States.
27. Jordan, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched Sahara Forest Project near the southern port city of Aqaba to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water.
28. Assam Government has extended term of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 and declared entire state a Disturbed Area for six more months under Section 3 of AFSP Act.

Events of Significance

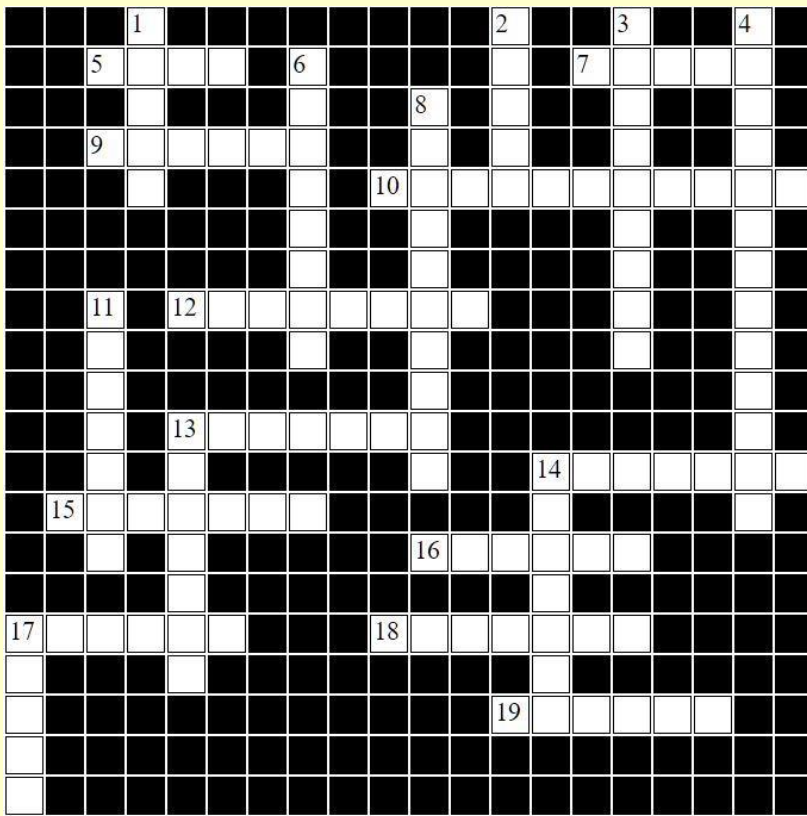
1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Rajaswa Gyan Sangam 2017, a joint conference of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC), at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. India's largest autonomous public research and development organisation – The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – has been ranked as the 9th best government organisation in the world, according to the Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017. This report was topped by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
3. The Union Ministry of Science & Technology is creating FarmerZone, a collective open-source data platform for smart agriculture by using biological research and data to improve lives of small and marginal farmers.
4. The world's largest and powerful X-ray laser- European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany. It will help scientists look into the inner workings of atoms, viruses and chemical reactions. Its central fixture boasts world's longest 1.7 kilometres superconducting linear accelerator.

5. UNESCO announced the winners of 2017 International Literary Prizes. The Confucius Prize has been given to AudITICoProgram of Colombia, The Citizens Foundation of Pakistan and FunDza of South Africa. The King Sejong Literary Prize has been given to Centre for the Study of Learning & Performance and The We Love Reading Organisation of Jordan.
6. Former Indian Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first wicketkeeper to have 100 stumpings in ODI cricket surpassing the record of Kumara Sangakkara who has 99.
7. The National Teachers' Day is observed every year on 5th September in India to commemorate the birthday of country's first Vice President and second President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. On this occasion, Environment Ministry launched Prakriti khoj, an environment awareness initiative.
8. India and Myanmar have signed 11 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw.
9. Draupadi Murmu, Governor of Jharkhand, has given her assent to the Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017. The Bill seeks to bring strict anti-conversion laws under which forceful or allurement induced religious conversion will be non-bailable offence.
10. The Union Government as part of its labour law reforms has undertaken an initiative to rationalize 38 Labour Acts by formulating 4 labour codes viz Code on Wages, Code on Social Security, Code on Industrial Relations and Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions. The codification of labour Laws will remove multiplicity of definitions and authorities to facilitate easy compliance without compromising wage and social security to workers.
11. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has launched National Nutrition Strategy aimed at 'Kuposhan Mukh Bharat'. It intends to bring nutrition to the central focus of the National Development Agenda. It lays down a structure for targeted action to address India's nutritional needs.
12. The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) has launched Diksha Portal for providing digital platform to provide assessment resources for teachers to learn and train themselves.
13. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All (UJALA) zero subsidy scheme was set up in Melaka, Malaysia under the Union Ministry of Power. This highlights success of Indian model UJALA scheme to promote efficient lighting, using efficient equipment to reduce electricity bills and preserve environment at a global level.
14. The Indian Army has accepted the final plan to induct women in military police, breaking gender barriers in the defence forces of the country. Under this plan, 800 women will be inducted initially with an annual intake of 52. The induction of women will aid investigation of gender specific criminal offences.
15. The International Literacy Day (ILD) is observed annually on 8th September to emphasize the importance of literacy among all individuals across communities. This year it is the 51st International Literacy Day. The theme declared by UNESCO for this year is 'Literacy in a digital world'.
16. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited which currently has a Navaratna status is to get a Maharatna status. BPCL will be the eighth Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to get the coveted Maharatna status. This will enable BPCL Board to get enhanced powers and help in the expansion of its operations.
17. Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch 'Project Insight' to monitor high value transactions and to curb circulation of black money.
18. International Astronomical Union has named two mountain ranges on Pluto as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes after Tenzing Norgay and Hillary Edmund.
19. The International Day for South-South Cooperation was observed on 12th September 2017 by the United Nations (UN). The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
20. Union Cabinet has given its approval for the introduction of Payment of Gratuity(Amendment) Bill,2017. It seeks to amend the Payment of Gratuity Bill,1972. It seeks to increase the maximum gratuity of employees in the private and public sector.

21. Labourers from the organised and unorganised sector will be allotted a unique identification number as a part of labour reforms.
22. HDFC Bank surpassed Tata Consultancy Services to become India's second most valued firm in terms of market valuation.
23. India has been ranked 103rd among 130 on the World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Index 2017. Norway topped the index.
24. The External Affairs Ministry has launched Operation Insaniyat to provide humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh on account of the large influx of Rohingya Muslims in the country.
25. National Engineer's Day observed on September 15. The theme for this year was 'Role of Engineers in a Developing India'. Engineers' Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya who made an immense contribution to the development of the nation.
26. The Indian contingent of swimmers won 47 medals including eight gold at the 9th Asian Age-group Aquatic Championship.
27. Aiming at developing villages of freedom fighters in the State, the Jharkhand Government has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana. Villages of many tribal freedom fighters will be developed and their habitants will be provided basic amenities.
28. India is going to conduct its first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2017 at New Delhi from 10th to 13th October.
29. India is collaborating with Russia to build Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh, the first initiative under an Indo-Russia deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. This will also be India's first atomic energy venture abroad.
30. China started operating the world's fastest bullet train, Fuxing between Beijing and Shanghai.
31. The first of the six Scorpene-class submarines INS Kalvari was delivered to the Indian Navy by the ship manufacturers Mazagon Dock Limited headquartered in Mumbai.
32. The world's largest aircraft 'Stratolaunch' built by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen completed its first engine test.
33. The Rajkumar Rao starrer black comedy film 'Newton' has been selected as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category at Oscars 2018.
34. NITI Aayog's SATH- Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital was launched at Guwahati, Assam.
35. Microsoft and Facebook have announced the completion of their 6,600km undersea internet cable Marea across the Atlantic Ocean. It will be managed and operated by telecom infrastructure company Telxius.
36. The Prime Minister has constituted an Economic Advisory Council to analyse and advise on policy matters referred by PM Modi. Head of the Council is Bibek Debroy.
37. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Saubhagya- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana. The aim is to provide electricity to all rural and urban households.
38. Germany has passed a new law banning drivers from covering their faces.
39. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched a web portal called 'PENCIL' for effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project. PENCIL stands for Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour.
40. INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft intended for extended coastal and offshore surveillance and patrolling was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Mumbai.
41. Indian Army is planning to develop the Pinaka guided rockets to counter Pakistan's threat of using tactical nuclear weapons.
42. Apple has been named the most valuable brand for the fifth consecutive year by Interbrand in its Best Global Brands Report 2017.

43. World Tourism Day celebrated on 27th September with the theme 'Sustainable Tourism - a tool for development'.
44. India has been placed at 40th position out of 137 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index report 2017. Switzerland topped the list.
45. The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Divyang Sarathi, the accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to 'Divyangjans'.
46. According to World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, India with six installed nuclear reactors ranks 3rd in the world. China is leading the record.
47. The CISF security cover at Mumbai airport has been rated the best airport security in the world by quality-rating agency World Quality Congress.
48. The United Kingdom has selected 'My Pure Land' directed by British-Pakistani filmmaker Sarmad Masud as its official entry to Oscars 2018. It will be Britain's first Urdu language film to contend for the Oscars.
49. Russian and US space agencies, Roscosmos and NASA have agreed to jointly build a deep space gateway, the first ever astronaut tended space station around the Moon.
50. The Maharashtra government will acquire the decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Viraat and turn it into a naval museum.
51. Gujarat will become the first big State to use Electronic Voting Machine equipped with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in the coming Assembly elections to make the election process more transparent.
52. Krasava, the official match ball for 2017 FIFA Under 17 World Cup was launched. It is the first official FIFA tournament to be held in India.
53. Saudi Arabia has voted to allow women to issue fatwas, following a vote in Saudi's advisory council.
54. Around 22 persons were killed and 39 injured in a rush hour stampede on a narrow foot-over-bridge (FOB) linking Elphinstone Road and Parel suburban stations in Mumbai.
55. NITI Aayog in partnership with US Government is going to host the 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad. The theme for this year is 'Women first, prosperity for all'. This is the first GES to be held in South Asia.
56. An expert committee headed by former Lok Sabha secretary general T.K. Viswanathan to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech has submitted its report to Union Home Ministry. The committee was formed after Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 in Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India.
57. Scientists have successfully detected gravitational waves for fourth time coming from merger of two massive black holes. It was for first time, these waves were simultaneously detected by US-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) and Italy-based Virgo detectors.
58. ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also known as Mangalyaan, completed three years in Martian orbit.
59. The Union Cabinet approved revamped Khelo India programme that aims at mainstreaming sport as tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.
60. Commemorative coins of Rs 100 and Rs 10 denominations were released on the occasion of 101st birth centenary of noted Carnatic musician Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
61. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from "endangered" to "vulnerable". It was changed after three-year assessment process by international experts.
62. India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition named as Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa.

Crossword – 0015 (based on places)



Across

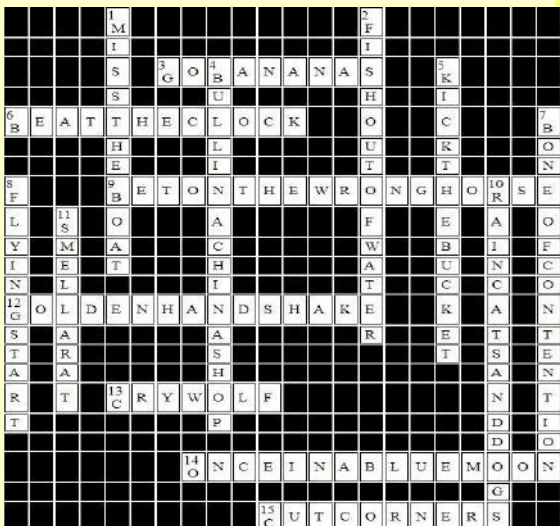
5. City of Popes
7. Diamond city of India
9. Spice Garden of India
10. Kashmir of Europe
12. City of Bridges
13. Island of Pearls
14. Detroit of Asia
15. Emerald Island
16. Dark Continent
17. Pink City
18. Land of Thousand Lakes
19. Land of the midnight sun

Down

1. Land of Morning Calm
2. Gift of the Nile
3. Down Under
4. Herring Pond (2 Words)
6. Land of White Elephants
8. Britain of the South (2 Words)
11. City of Skyscrapers (2 Words)
13. Cockpit of Europe
14. Windy City
17. Land of rising sun

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0015 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by 16th October 2017. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0014



Note: Two entries received in time of which only one entry is entirely correct.

Prize goes to Revathi of Gyanville Academy.

Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month.