

Abhyaas Newsboard ...

For the quintessential test prep student

News of the month

Padma Awards and Gallantry Awards:

Padma awards for the year 2018 have been given out. 85 recipients have been selected for the prestigious awards including 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri awards. Fourteen of the awardees are women, while 16 persons are foreigners and three are being awarded posthumous.

Padma Vibhushan - Illaiyaraja, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, P Parameswaran

Padma Bhushan - Pankaj Advani, Philipose Mar Chrysostom, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous), R. Nagaswamy, Ved Prakash Nanda (Overseas Citizen of India), Laxman Pai, Arvind Parikh, Sharda Sinha

Padma Shri - includes Kidambi Srikanth, Pandit Shyamlal Chaturvedi, Arvind Gupta, Sitavva Joddati, Malti Joshi, Manoj Joshi and others

President Ram Nath Kovind also approved 390 gallantry awards and other Defence decorations for Armed Forces personnel and others including one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras and 28 Param Vishisht Seva Medals among others.

Ashok Chakra was awarded posthumously to Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala, a Garud commando of the Air Force, who died fighting terrorists in Bandipora of Jammu & Kashmir in November 2017. Kirti Chakra was awarded to Major Vijayant Bisht of the army, who led an ambush in Chorgali forest of the Uri district in Jammu & Kashmir.

Others include four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 86 Sena Medals (Gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), two Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 38 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 13 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), one Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 121 Vishisht Seva Medals.

The Editor's Column

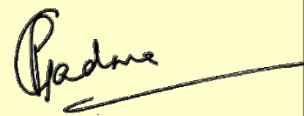
Dear Student,

The month of January saw the 69th Republic day celebrations with the 10 heads of the ASEAN nations as the guests of honour.

Roger Federer claimed his 20th grand slam title winning the Australian Open against Marin Cilic.

Four judges of the Supreme Court, Justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan Lokur and Kurian Joseph have raised allegations against the Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra that the rostering of cases in the Supreme Court by the CJI is biased. They are in the process of sorting out the issue.

Read on to go through the current affairs for the month of January 2018.



Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe named ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) chief. He will replace Lokesh Chandra.
2. Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale has been appointed Foreign Secretary of India. He has succeeded S. Jaishankar.
3. Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
4. Famed Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri passed away. Anwar Jalalpuri is best known for his translation of shlokas of the Bhagavad Gita into Urdu verses.
5. G. Sathyan has become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation rankings.
6. Rajinder Khanna was appointed the deputy National Security Adviser (NSA). He was the former chief of the country's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
7. Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, died.
8. Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).
9. Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), passed away in Dublin, Ireland.
10. Aanchal Thakur made history as she won India's first ever international medal in skiing. The 21-year-old Manali resident clinched bronze in the coveted Alpine Eder 3200 Cup.
11. National Payments Corporation of India has appointed Dilip Asbe as Managing Director and CEO of the organisation.
12. Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon has become the richest man in the history, overtaking the wealth Bill Gates ever had to his name, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
13. Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
14. The Indian Olympic Association appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
15. The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the name of senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. She will be the seventh woman judge since independence to make it to the Supreme Court. At present, Justice R Banumathi is the lone woman judge in the apex court.
16. Roger Federer clinched his 20th grand slam title winning the Australian Open Mens Cup defeating Marin Cilic.
17. Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has formally confirmed his retirement from football.
18. Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography named 'Imperfect', in Mumbai. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain.
19. Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Union Minister Raghunath Jha passed away in Delhi.
20. Australian captain Steve Smith has been crowned the International Cricket Council's Test Player of the Year for a second time, while Indian captain Virat Kohli has been honoured twice in the ICC's annual awards.
21. Facebook has appointed outgoing American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault to its board, making him the first African-American to be on the board.
22. Famous Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri passed away after a brief period of illness, marking the end of a chapter in Bengal's history of the cartoon.

23. Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel has been named as the new governor of Madhya Pradesh.
24. Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat was appointed as the next chief election commissioner (CEC) of India. Mr Rawat is the 22nd CEC of India. He succeeded Achal Kumar Jyoti. The government also appointed former finance secretary Ashok Lavasa as an Election Commissioner.
25. Industry Chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General.
26. Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with the 24th Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
27. Ursula K. Le Guin, the award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer who explored feminist themes and was best known for her Earthsea books, passed away.
28. Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank, has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
29. Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle will be given the 'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'. She will be the fifth winner of the award. The name of Asha Bhosle is in the Guinness World Records for recording over 11,000 songs in 20 different languages.
30. Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards - Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015), Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi (2016), Manipur's Governor Najma A. Heptulla (2013), BJP's Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014) and five-time Rajya Sabha member Bhartruhari Mahatab of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).
31. Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen has been elected as the Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum. It is a new organisation set up to enhance business relations between India and the US.
32. Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan took charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
33. The world's oldest man Francisco Nunez Olivera died just over a month after celebrating his 113th birthday.
34. Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar, who has been working extensively for the development of the language, was honoured with this year's Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award.

Places in News

1. Arunachal Pradesh has been declared open defecation free ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019.
2. Saudi Arabia and the UAE introduced value-added tax (VAT). These are the first two countries in the Gulf which have introduced the VAT system.
3. Pakistan has allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions for bilateral trade and investment activities.
4. HDFC Bank has announced a partnership with the Rajasthan government to promote and nurture startups in the State.
5. State-owned gas utility GAIL has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

7. Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
8. The World Book Fair started in New Delhi. Environment issues like climate change, global warming, and water pollution will be the main themes for this year's fair.
9. Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay for men and women.
10. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the State government, which was recently approved by the centre. The logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of 'Biswa Bangla' at the centre.
11. Haryana has become the first State in the country to launch High Risk Pregnancy portal.
12. Music composer A. R. Rahman has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sikkim.
13. The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway has found its way into the Limca Book of Records for having an all-women staff.
14. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a three-day International Dharma-Dhamma conference at Rajgir in Bihar. The conference has been jointly organised by India Foundation, Nalanda University, Ministry of External Affairs, ASEAN-India and Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha.
15. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' – an assistance scheme for Artists in the State.
16. The Election Commission of India, Achal Kumar Jyoti announced dates for elections to the Assemblies of Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland.
17. Maharashtra has become the first State in the country that has come out with a public cloud policy, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud.
18. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the list of nine new Smart Cities - Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Erode in Tamil Nadu, Diu in Daman and Diu, Bihar Sharif in Bihar, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.
19. Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India (21.8 per cent share at market value), followed by the US and the UK, according to a census by the Reserve Bank of India.
20. The fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The decision to hold the Festival in Lucknow was taken at the first preparatory meeting for the 4th India International Science Festival (IISF).
21. The first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra of Puducherry was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs at Karaikal.
22. The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'. It is India's first garbage festival.
23. Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018. Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
24. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced, the 2018 edition of the Women's World T20 will be hosted by West Indies in November 2018.
25. Kolkata has become the first Indian Metro to get a floating market. The market will be located on a water-body with boats doubling up as shops.
26. A three-day international bird festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in February 2018 with nearly 200 leading ornithologists expected to attend.
27. Rwanda has become the first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million population.

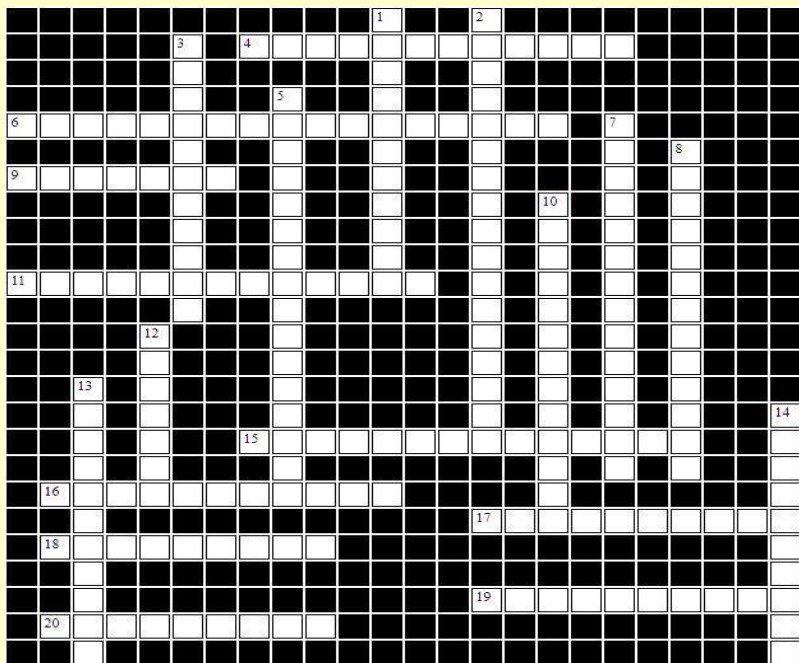
Events of Significance

1. Israel withdraws from the UNESCO after the withdrawal of US citing anti-Israel bias.
2. Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated an online portal NARI for the empowerment of women. NARI stands for National Repository of Information for Women.
3. US based astronomers have found 'the first direct observational evidence' of a black hole's influence on star formation.
4. The unusual and efficient whistle language commonly called 'bird language' used for communication by villagers in remote northern Turkey entered the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
5. The Centre unveiled the contours of the 'Electoral Bonds' scheme, which seeks to ensure the flow of clean money to political parties, without revealing the donors' names.
6. The Union Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing. The Agreement will facilitate regulation and harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people of both the countries.
7. The Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank has operationalised its first desktop ATM in Telangana.
8. India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
9. The world's biggest cleanliness survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018' was launched in India by PM Narendra Modi. The survey will evaluate achievements in cleanliness level of urban areas.
10. The country's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has registered an increase from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17, according to the All India Higher Education Survey.
11. The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs. 10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi series. The new denomination has the motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse. The base colour of the note is chocolate brown.
12. Golden Globe Awards 2018 - Best motion picture, drama - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri. Best motion picture, animated - Coco. Best motion picture, foreign language - In the Fade. Best director, motion picture - Guillermo del Toro, 'The Shape of Water'. Best motion picture, musical or comedy - Lady Bird.
13. The Prime Minister inaugurates the first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in Delhi on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The day is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
14. Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named 'Pratyush' to the nation in Pune. It is established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.
15. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a common card for rides on public buses and the metro. Delhi is the first city in the country to have a common mobility card, which can at present be used on 200 DTC and 50 cluster buses plying on different routes, apart from metro trains.
16. The Supreme Court said playing the national anthem before screening movies in cinema halls is not mandatory. The bench was headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra.
17. Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered with mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
18. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a concept of 'Virtual ID' to further strengthen privacy and security of Aadhaar number holders. The Aadhaar number holder can use 'Virtual ID' in place of an Aadhaar number whenever authentication or KYC services are performed.

19. In a major digital initiative to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations, the Ministry of Railways has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App.
20. China became Nepal's second internet service provider, breaking India's monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.
21. India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
22. The 70th Army Day was celebrated on 15th January.
23. The World Economic Forum has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index - below China's 5th place, but above other BRICS peers.
24. Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India.
25. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 3rd edition of the geopolitical conference, 'Raisina Dialogue'.
26. India, for the first time, took part in a two-day meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing, China.
27. North and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics in the South. They also agreed to field a joint women's ice hockey team after rare talks at the truce village of Panmunjom.
28. India test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which has a strike range of over 5,000km. It was test fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 'iCreate Centre' at Deo Dholera in Ahmedabad. iCreate paves way for the two nations to jointly script new stories of success through innovation.
30. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2016 at a function held in New Delhi.
31. India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group. It is an informal forum which seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
32. Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya, the Indian Navy's largest ship and its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the Indian Army's highly-decorated and battle-hardened Bihar Regiment and the Indian Air Force's No 6 Squadron.
33. The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched the National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal in Delhi. This initiative is a significant step towards driving accountability and transparency for corporate India.
34. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), announced the 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
35. India overtakes the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market, trailing only China, according to a new report by analyst firm Canalis.
36. India was ranked at the 62nd place among emerging economies on an Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum. In the report, China is on 26th position and Pakistan is on 47th.
37. The Election Commission of India celebrated the 8th National Voters' Day across the country on 25th January for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. The national level function was held in New Delhi.

38. India ranks 177 among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2018, according to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum. India ranked 141 in 2016 report.
39. The country celebrated its 69th Republic Day on 26th January in Rajpath, New Delhi. Heads of ten ASEAN countries were chief guests on the Republic Day.
40. The President has approved the Padma Awards for 85 individuals, which includes 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri. Fourteen of the awardees are women and 3 persons have been awarded posthumously. In sports personalities, former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and multiple world champion cueist Pankaj Advani have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan.
41. India and Vietnam released first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.
42. The Economic Survey, an annual publication of the Finance Ministry, is presented in both houses of Parliament during the Budget Session. It is a review of the developments in the country's economy over the previous one year. It presents a summary of the performance of the government's major development programmes undertaken during that period. It also details the main policy initiatives of the government.
43. Oxford Dictionaries has chosen 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi word of 2017. The word gained popularity due to Aadhaar card, which was in news in 2017. The announcement was made in the Jaipur Literature Festival.
44. Armies of India and Vietnam have begun a six-day-long military exercise in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. The exercise named 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between the two countries.
45. Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched a 2.8 PetaFlop capacity high-performance computer system 'Mihir' in Noida. The system will be able to predict weather and climate accurately.
46. Google has introduced a new app named 'Bulletin' that allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities. This is a free, lightweight app for telling a story by capturing photos, video clips and text right from your phone, published straight to the web.
47. Indian Navy launched 'INS Karanj', the third of the six indigenous Scorpene-class submarines. The submarine, equipped with superior stealth features and precision-guided weapons, has been built at Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
48. India has slipped to 42nd place on an annual Global Democracy Index according to the data compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit. India has moved down from 32nd place last year.
49. India has joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The agreement was signed in 2011, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Crossword – 0019 (Padma awards)



Across

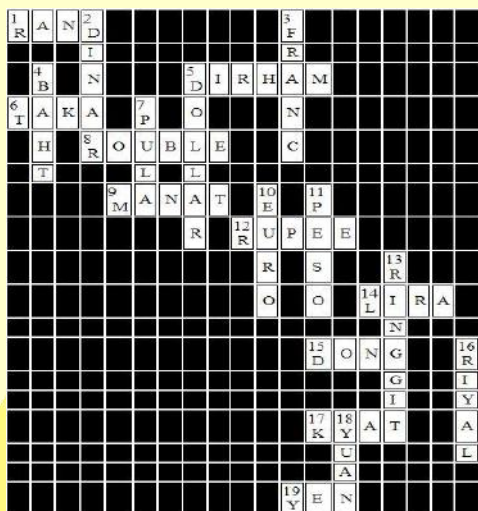
4. distinguished service of a high order (2 Words)
6. Renowned Hindi poet (2 Words)
9. Chairman of India's largest industrial group (4 Words)
11. Foreigner to receive Bharat Ratna (2 Words)
15. Mathematician born in Canada (2 Words)
16. Renowned Supreme court lawyer (2 Words)
17. First Chancellor of Nalanda University (2 Words)
18. American Philanthropist for extensive social work in India (2 Words)
19. Conductor of Western Classical Music (2 Words)
20. distinguished service (2 Words)

Down

1. Former World No. 1 in Badminton (2 Words)
2. founder of Andhra Mahila Sabha (2 Words)
3. Highest civilian award of the country (2 Words)
5. Nobel laureate in Physiology (3 Words)
7. exceptional and distinguished service (2 Words)
8. Ustad known for shehnai (2 Words)
10. Bharat Ratna who served as Diwan of Mysore (2 Words)
12. One of the best wicket keepers in Cricket (3 Words)
13. Filmmaker from West Bengal (2 Words)
14. Known as Hockey Wizard (2 Words)

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with Crossword – 0019 in the subject line to abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com latest by 15th February 2018. Do mention your name and enrolment id in the mail. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0018



Note: Seven entries received in time of which five entries are entirely correct.

1. Sri Ranga (GVA)
2. Sankurathri Akhil Sai (KKP)
3. Kaustubh M (GVA)
4. Rohit K (GVA)
5. Rhea Chabda (SBD)

Prize goes to Sri Ranga(GVA) batch.

Hoping to see more enthusiastic participation this month.