

The Hindu Crossword No. 2609

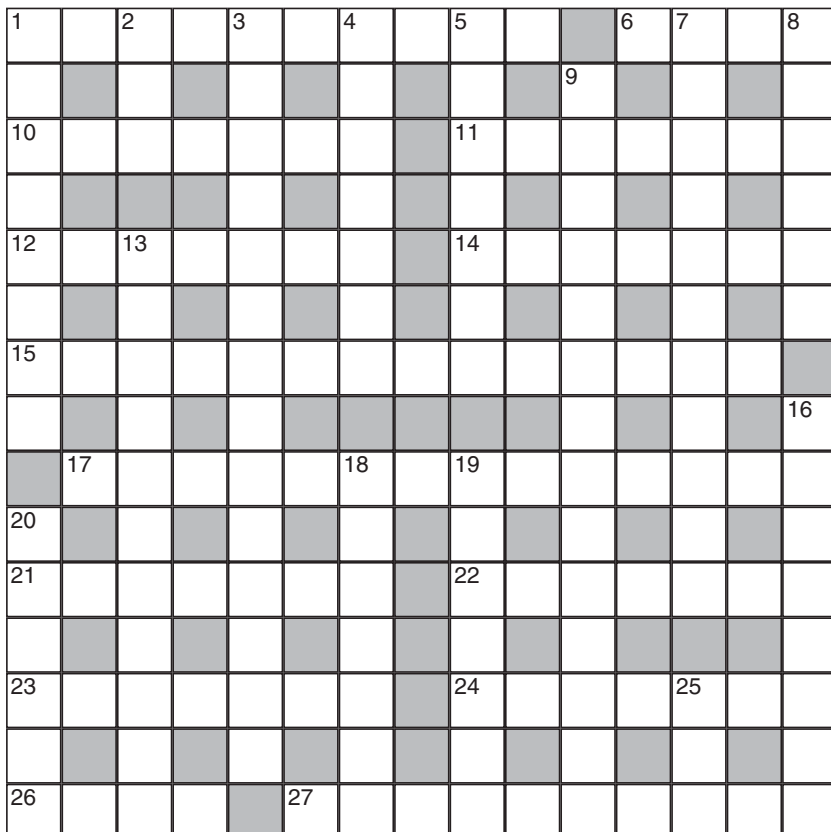
Across

- 1 To start an argument deliberately, choose a sappy gift full of hearts (4, 1, 5)
 6 Loot is produced by foremost of stage-managers, habitual joker (4)
 10 Fellow leaving centre holding toy sea creature (7)
 11 Twirl endlessly round object? This part of a plant can (7)
 12 Father to sit holding ring for baby (7)
 14 Airborne soldier comes into quayside, reportedly – there's a contradiction here! (7)
 15 Excitedly circles lot, to me a much sought-after object (10,4)
 17 Inhabits floors, for a change efficiently arranged (7,7)
 21 Descriptive term, extremely elegant, used about religious article (7)
 22 Recruits strangely silent about closure of barracks (7)
 23 Game John dealt with in periodical (3,4)
 24 Forward (including gratuity) the minister's wages (7)
 26 Reportedly recognises beak (4)

- 27 Put in jeopardy as grenade exploded by border (10)

Down

- 1 View shown in brochure American dropped (8)
 2 Cross Copper Belt, ultimately (3)
 3 Where juvenile delinquents were once taken in official coach? (8,6)
 4 Have a look at cricket perhaps, around start of play (7)
 5 Keen to goad fiery person (7)
 7 Worried less about a number of baseball games (5,6)
 8 'Splendid gathering in high spirits around LA' ('Times') (6)
 9 Illegal practice involving still and gin allies drunk (7,7)
 13 Aurora borealis as seen from hilltop – rag's spread (5,6)
 16 Unique team? Daughter is biased (3-5)
 18 Figure in old trick involving label (7)
 19 Plant releases one ahead of article (7)
 20 Never mind housing for despicable people! (6)
 25 Nobleman, for the most part getting attention (3)



Solution No. 2608

