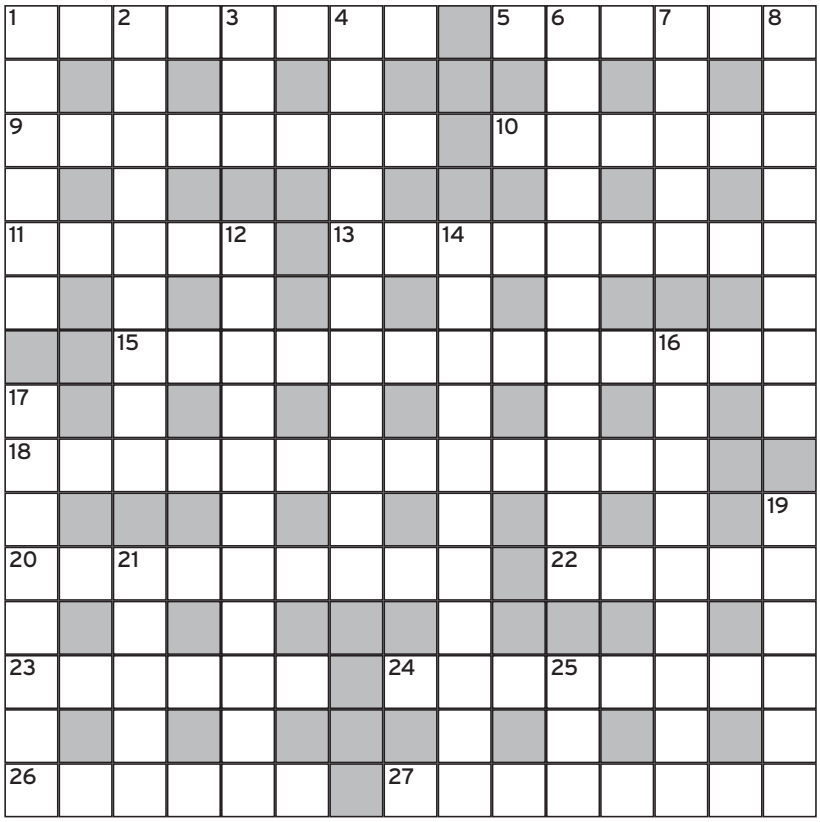
The Hindu Crossword No. 2653

Across

1 Bitter attack made by Diane before a race (8)
5 Man, a Scottish island? (6)
9 Where the bigwigs sit and work during pitched battle? (3,5)
10 Bottle, a drop of Rioja, brought into small restaurant (6)
11 Free, the BBC? Not initially (5)
13 Confused outpouring from a boy after argument (4,5)
15 Game, the man given courage by second drink (4-3-6)
18 Girl (restaurant employee) one nicked, here in Surrey (8,5)
20 Excited rangers following me, a diving duck (9)
22 Willing to study? Yes, at first (5)
23 Go about with couple (6)
24 Society bringing great delight to staff (4,4)
26 Eager to hang paintings around study (6)
27 Said about one card game that's novel (8)

Down

1 Diversion caused by daughter changing route (6)
2 Repast with pie freshly baked for an hors d' oeuvre (9)
3 Little girl, one captured by artist (3)
4 I saw lobster cooked in the servants' quarters (5,6)
6 HGV, sort partner crashed (11)
7 Delicate, female at bar (5)
8 Need bar refurbished round east of city (8)
12 Joy involves one male in murder (11)
14 Flighty creature brewed ale, surprisingly, in outskirts of Redcar (4,7)
16 Waterproof for boy caught in awful rain after onset of typhoon (9)
17 Verse by me turned up in a song and a prayer (3,5)
19 Character making percussion instrument's sound (6)
21 Quickly accomplished air attack across centre of Memphis (5)
25 Food item, for example, put on top of gammon (3)



Solution No. 2652

P	A	I	R	■	C	H	A	U	F	F	E	U	S	E
A	■	N	■	B	■	O	■	N	■	O	■	N	■	D
R	E	D	C	A	R	P	E	T	■	L	E	T	O	N
A	■	I	■	T	■	S	■	I	■	L	■	R	■	A
P	R	A	C	T	I	C	A	L	J	O	K	E	R	■
H	■	■	■	I	■	O	■	■	■	W	■	A	■	T
R	I	P	E	N	■	T	E	S	T	M	A	T	C	H
A	■	E	■	G	■	C	■	E	■	Y	■	E	■	E
S	U	N	B	A	T	H	E	R	■	L	I	D	O	S
E	■	I	■	V	■	■	■	V	■	E	■	■	■	E
■	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	H	A	M	M	E	R
I	■	S	■	R	■	O	■	T	■	D	■	I	■	P
S	O	U	S	A	■	R	E	I	T	E	R	A	T	E
I	■	L	■	G	■	S	■	M	■	R	■	M	■	N
S	C	A	L	E	M	O	D	E	L	■	M	I	N	T