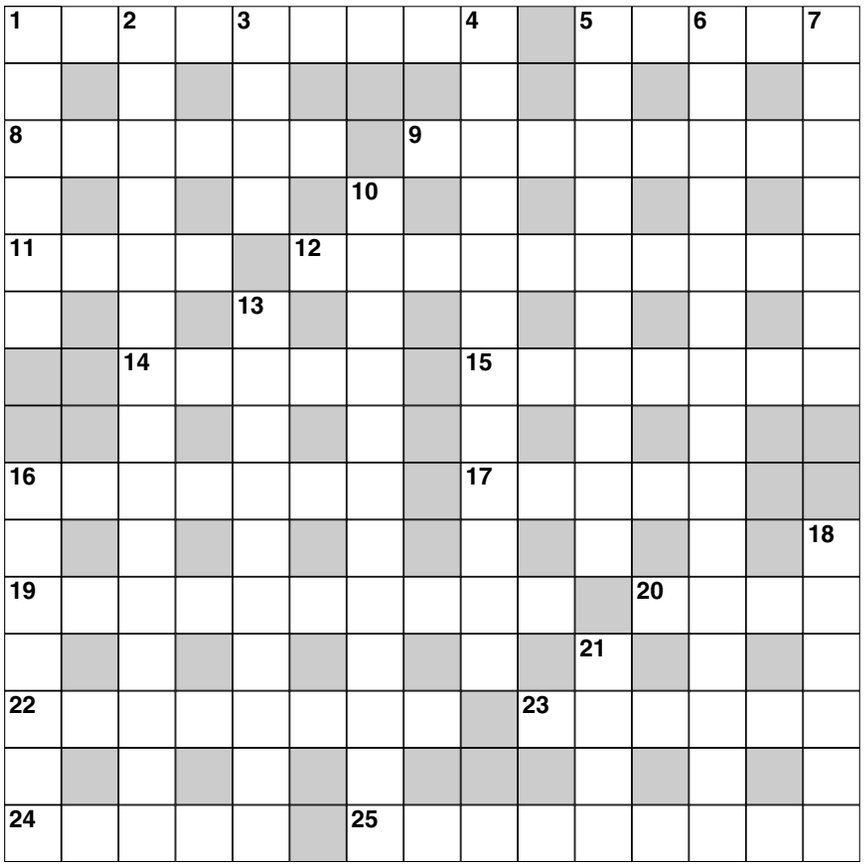
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 8797

Across

1 A grim pact rendered down to earth (9)
5 In the bomb bay his task is to get the target (5)
8 State of the queen in Indian art... (6)
9 ... disproves that net focus varies (8)
11 Bit of stone denoting dependability (4)
12 Gentleman's gentleman (10)
14 Relative sound of a French resort (5)
15 One time partner, large case in point (7)
16 Plunder makes attendant sick inside (7)
17 This material from Betul leads in quality (5)
19 Royal Engineers appeal for a replica (10)
20 Clumsily handle a heavy hammer (4)
22 Bitter criticism of help returned by an ethnic group (8)
23 Digging up was fashionable in a Chinese dynasty (6)
24 Initially, the only thing everyone desired was to be carried (5)
25 A soothing application that oilmen let slip (9)

Down

1 Indian dish which is a big hit among airborne soldiers (6)
2 Big animal in the arena: plant chief shocked (7,8)
3 Spy with a naevus (4)
4 A random sample from an angry part of the community (5,7)
5 African brand of car, having the needed power and within one's means (10)
6 Stimulant chemical Thai meatmen processed, mixing constituents of hemp (15)
7 Decorative badge seen upturned in a silhouette so richly coloured (7)
10 Playing bagatelle? Get a piece of furniture (4-3,5)
13 What an escaped convict could be when the law catches up with him (10)
16 Can a fairy spot a gemstone? (7)
18 A lantern with which to step out of the car, maybe (6)
21 Brook a bit of brilliance (4)



Solution to Puzzle 8796

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