

**1Across Grids**  
**Manpasand**

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“If you solved, this I must say ‘Well fought’

Look at the end of all you sought

All except first primes seven

But not without exception

The sixth drops by one

And # 8 fills in for seven

With trial and error will surface

A universal fact that is a phrase

Connected to the thread

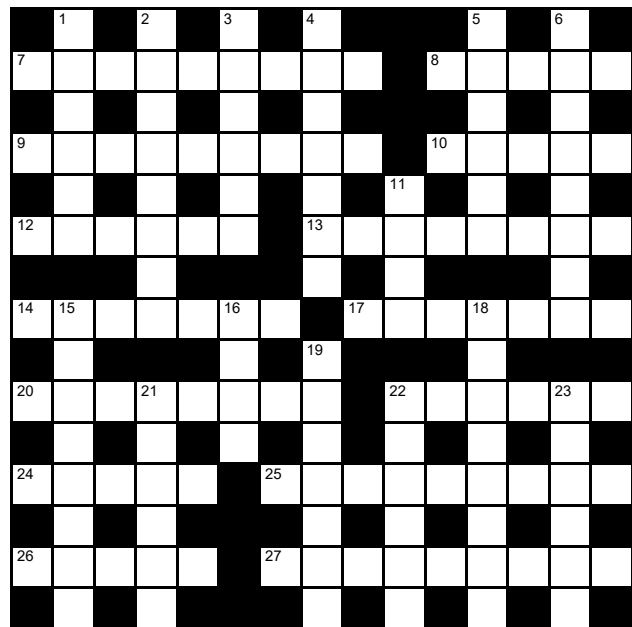
Bung it in before you go to bed”

**Across**

- 7 All females on the left and right were dressed up for send-off parties (9)
- 8 A North Indian bureaucrat’s backing a sporting champion (5)
- 9 Soldier finally leaves command centres seeking quiet places to go (9)
- 10/22D/16 Arjun, say, gets a damsel to concede nothing (4,1,,6,4)
- 12 Substitute fellow 's digging the ground in the middle (4,2)
- 13 Airport played a Byzantine hymn (8)
- 14 Giacomo Casanova was one flummoxed by a ploy (7)
- 17 Offshore banks? (7)
- 20 God entered secretly (2,6)
- 22 Island withdraws free place of worship (6)
- 24 Head of Programming walks out of Oracle's home town (5)
- 25 This collector is left negotiating Brexit (2-7)
- 26 Maharaja wantonly arrests a fighter (5)
- 27 Smoking grass, dear, is concerning (2,7)

**Down**

- 1 Arab country’s retreat outside Tanzania’s borders (6)
- 2 Outbreak of leptospirosis infected the partner with devastating effect (8)
- 3 At the centre, pizza pot's leaking hot concentrate (4,2)
- 4 The Tamil coast is replete with recurrent wind and rain, say (7)
- 5 Well-done masala dosas without mixed fresh vegetables is a crunchy snack (6)
- 6 Non-partisan Hazare loudly told a story (8)



- 11 With oil, kale and spinach heads are sauteed in these (4)
- 15 Very old retreat, say, in Lonavla- almost done up (8)
- 16 See 10 Across
- 18 A born criminal- mad and lecherous, to start with - might be this (8)
- 19 Commie leader of China’s wearing smart pants (7)
- 21 Off-limits, chary Osama re-created a place to meditate (6)
- 22 See 10 Across
- 23 One end is, in some way, restricted (6)