

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 7/12/2024) Solution

¹ S	C	² R	A	³ P	E	⁴ S		⁵ B	I	⁶ T	U	⁷ M	E	⁸ N
W		A		L		E		L		O		E		I
⁹ I	N	T	R	A	V	E	N	O	U	S	D	R	I	P
N		I		C		K		O		S		C		I
¹⁰ G	R	O	V	E	L		¹¹ A	D	H	E	S	I	O	N
D				N		¹² B		H		R		L		
¹³ O	V	¹⁴ E	R	T	H	E	T	O	P		¹⁵ B	E	A	¹⁶ T
O		X		A		A		U		¹⁷ S		S		H
¹⁸ R	O	O	K		¹⁹ F	R	A	N	C	H	I	S	E	E
		N		²⁰ P		I		D		O				D
²¹ S	W	E	A	R	I	N	G		²² P	E	R	²³ S	I	A
I		R		I		M		²⁴ G		L		T		M
²⁵ T	R	A	N	S	F	I	G	U	R	A	T	I	O	N
E		T		E		N		N		C		N		E
²⁶ D	R	E	A	D	E	D		²⁷ S	C	E	N	T	E	D

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SCRAPES	Vessel with cargo of inferior ecstasy hits rock bottom? (7)	SS outside (CRAP + E)
5 BITUMEN	Big contracted trade union workers tarred road (7)	BI(g) + TU + MEN
9 INTRAVENOUS DRIP	Drug supplier, in drug-induced state, pushed around greedy detective (11,4)	(IN + TRIP) outside (RAVENOUS + D)
10 GROVEL	Small wood facing large fawn (6)	GROVE + L
11 ADHESION	Firm contact had switched sound around (8)	Anagram of HAS + (NOISE reversed)
13 OVER THE TOP	Brazen male, with backing of corporation, is flamboyant (4,3,3)	OVERT + HE + (POT reversed)
15 BEAT	Defeat brutal person without weapons ultimately (4)	BEAST minus weapon(S)
18 ROOK	Cheat is caught - given up by criminal (4)	CROOK minus C
19 FRANCHISEE	Authorised dealer from large farm is in charge (10)	(RANCH + IS) inside FEE
21 SWEARING	Promising auditor buoyed by a change of fortune (8)	EAR inside SWING
22 PERSIA	Is agent withdrawn by a part of Asia once? (6)	(IS + REP) reversed + A
25 TRANSFIGURATION	Change to form replaced unfair GST with fixed allowance (15)	Anagram of UNFAIR GST + RATION
26 DREADED	A deed falsely initiated by doctor is awful (7)	Anagram of A DEED after DR
27 SCENTED	Time put into display by head of department featuring perfume (7)	T inside SCENE + (D)epartment

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 SWING DOOR	Flapper's gown is tossed around party room initially (5,4)	Anagram of GOWN IS outside DO + (R)oom
2 RATIO	Operation not limited by unrestricted correspondence (5)	OPERATION without OPEN on the outside
3 PLACENTA	Political group raised money given by a supplier in development (8)	ALP reversed + CENT +A
4 SEEK	Look for outspoken member of Hindu sect (4)	Sounds-like SIKH
5 BLOODHOUND	Detective left hood beaten up in vault (10)	(l + anagram of HOOD) inside BOUND
6 TOSSER	One having a fling ordered roses after short time (6)	Anagram of ROSES after T
7 MERCILESS	Hard relic fractured in hot water (9)	Anagram of RELIC inside MESS
8 NIP IN	Form of identification needed after Northern Ireland visit (3,2)	PIN after NI
12 BEAR IN MIND	Remember drunken marine wearing tie (4,2,4)	Anagram of MARINE inside BIND
14 EXONERATE	Clear old friend, one found with speed (9)	EX + ONE + RATE
16 THE DAMNED	Condemned people hated men converted by reverend at the end (3,6)	Anagram of HATED MEN + reveren(D)
17 SHOELACE	Holes fixed by fine line used to secure footwear (8)	Anagram of HOLES + ACE
20 PRISED	Used leverage to lift end of floorboard behind piano (6)	[RISE + floorboar(D)] after P
21 SITED	Having vision, it's said, put in place (5)	Sounds like SIGHTED
23 STINT	Period pieces collected by Justin Trudeau (5)	juSTIN Trudeau
24 GUNS	Weapons, compact, turned up (4)	SNUG reversed