

# AFR Cryptic AJ (New Year Special 2026) Solution

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

Answer	Clue	Explanation
ALONE	A learner driver dealt with one without assistance (5)	A + L + ONE
BREASTPIN	Jewellery and rings, primarily paste, must be tossed in bin (9)	[(R)ings + anagram of PASTE] inside BIN
CLAY	Earthy material left in region of island (4)	L inside CAY
DIED	Failed papers recalled by top journalist (4)	ID reversed + ED
ENGAGED	Crack and ecstasy, carried by target, may be taken (7)	(GAG + E) inside END
FOUR CORNERS	ABC program for sure upset about podiatrist's concern (4,7)	Anagram of FOR SURE outside CORN
GAUNT	Face of grieving relative is abnormally thin (5)	(G)rieving + AUNT
HERE AND NOW	The man ordered one drawn immediately (4,3,3)	HE + anagram ONE DRAWN
IN A WORD	One on ward suffering disorder briefly (2,1,4)	I + anagram of ON WARD
JAVELIN	Judge disrupted an evil event for tossers (7)	J + anagram of AN EVIL
KINETIC	Family reversed call due to motion (7)	KIN + (CITE reversed)
LAGERPHONE	Record broken by mature shearer finally - perfect top ringer (10)	LP outside [AGE + sheare(R)] + HONE
MAKE HASTE	Friend, carrying keg, nearly has to hurry (4,5)	MATE outside [KE(g) + HAS]
NEWSHOUND	Fresh sound plugged by hot reporter (9)	(NEW + SOUND) outside H
ON BOARD	Flying baron involved in overdose (2,5)	Anagram of BARON inside OD

[illegible]