

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 21/2/2026) Solution

¹ I	N	² T	R	³ O	S		⁴ I	⁵ M	M	⁶ O	R	⁷ T	A	⁸ L
M		O		P		⁹ D		I		S		E		O
¹⁰ M	Y	S	T	E	R	I	E	S		¹¹ A	L	L	I	N
A		S		R		S		R		K		S		E
¹² T	E	E	N	A	G	E		¹³ E	X	A	C	T	O	R
U		R		T		N		P				R		S
¹⁴ R	O	S	T	I		¹⁵ C	A	R	N	¹⁶ I	V	A	L	
E				V		H		E		N				¹⁷ M
	¹⁸ L	¹⁹ I	B	E	R	A	L	S		²⁰ F	A	²¹ T	W	A
²² F		N				N		E		A		A		R
²³ A	C	R	O	²⁴ B	A	T		²⁵ N	E	T	T	I	N	G
T		U		A		M		T		U		L		I
²⁶ H	O	I	S	T		²⁷ E	L	E	V	A	T	I	O	N
O		N		O		N		D		T		N		A
²⁸ M	A	S	O	N	I	T	E		²⁹ B	E	N	G	A	L

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 INTROS	Trendy class recalled opening passages of music (6)	IN + (SORT reversed)
4 IMMORTAL	Unforgettable time spent in base (8)	T inside IMMORAL
10 MYSTERIES	Strange events televised initially in my long-running TV program (9)	(T)elevised inside (MY)SERIES)
11 ALL-IN	Exhausted, a large duck turned back (3-2)	A + L + (NIL reversed)
12 TEENAGE	Juvenile is far away from a free agent after change of management (7)	Anagram of A FREE AGENT minus FAR
13 EXACTOR	Former player is demanding one (7)	EX + ACTOR
14 ROSTI	Serving of crostini is a tasty dish (5)	cROSTIni
15 CARNIVAL	Four involved in erotic merrymaking (8)	IV inside CARNAL
18 LIBERALS	Politicians start to brag in organised rallies (8)	(B)rag inside anagram of RALLIES
20 FATWA	Rich state's religious decree (5)	FAT + WA
23 ACROBAT	A tumbler and a mug kept on board boat (7)	A + (ROB inside CAT)
25 NETTING	Clearing gauze, for example (7)	Double Definition
26 HOIST	Give a lift to one engaged by media personality (5)	I inside HOST
27 ELEVATION	Amount of oxygen inhaled by the Spanish native changed with altitude (9)	O inside (EL + anagram of NATIVE)
28 MASONITE	Son and I invested in partner's particle board (8)	(SON + I) inside MATE
29 BENGAL	Indian material being manufactured without iodine and aluminium (6)	Anagram of BEING minus I + AL

