## **PSEUDOKU**

**August 14, 2010:** Some time ago, in "*Fly, getting sad* ...," I'd pointed out how all sorts of funny things happen to the crosswords in Chandigarh's newspapers, because of the 'tender loving care' bestowed on them by their editor and printer. I don't care much for doing sudokus, but since these are freely available in abundance at all levels from websites specializing in them, I'd assumed that at least they must be appearing unscathed, but now I've come to realize that this is far from being the case.

For example, the scan on the next page shows yesterday's sudoku from "*The Tribune*," and then the *two* (for boxes with two entries take always the first entry or always the second entry) solutions that I'd obtained for the same yesterday, and today's official answer makes it *three*! Okay, okay, maybe this esteemed daily does not subscribe to the accepted convention that a sudoku must have one and only one solution, but then, shouldn't it give us *all* the solutions in the next day's paper, or at least, tell us why the one being given is in some way better than the others?

To conclude, dear reader, here is some homework for you:-

(1) Exactly how many solutions does yesterday's 'pseudoku' have in all?

(2) There is nothing pseudo about today's sudoku (it is a quickie with one and only one solution) but who knows, maybe the printer shall be again in form tomorrow, and may even forget to print any number, thus giving us *the ultimate pseudoku*, that is, one with all 81 boxes empty! How many solutions does this have in all?

K. S. Sarkaria.

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