जितना कठिन संघर्ष होगा जीत उतनी ही शानदार होगी
Jugaad jurisprudence, the Tamil Nadu way

After more than 10 days of high suspense, the Governor finally chose what was always the correct option.

Revenge of America’s deep state

It rallies by forcing its evil and obstructing forces to stop Russia ties.

The bumps ahead

Somehow, there’s a hint of another 11 years of troubled relations.

Letters to the Editor

Send us your views at letters@thehindu.com. Please include your name and contact details.

Britain’s moral failure

The United Kingdom government is backing a contract with the US’s criminal justice system.

The story of controversial ordinance

The new Ordinance on Controversial and United Future and its implications.

Would elections be state-funded?

To ensure voters’ electoral power, elections should be funded by the state.
Michael Flynn’s - Mr. Trump’s National Security Adviser for 24 days, the shortest- was seen as a key architect of the new administration’s foreign and security policies.

He was one of the first military figures to endorse Mr. Trump and had been closely associated with him through his rise to the White House.

See an underlying pattern in them, which points to a growing tussle between the Trump team and U.S. intelligence agencies.

The U.S. deep state, a web of military (intelligence), political and other interests operating behind the scene to ensure the status quo prevails, may not be as visible to the public as in dictatorships.

However Mr. Trump’s attack on the establishment and his seemingly friendly approach towards Russia- clearly upset the deep state.

The Russia factor

So the tussle between Mr. Trump and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had concluded that Russia had interfered in the U.S. election to help Mr. Trump become President.

Russian hackers attacked Democratic campaign servers, stole emails and gave them to WikiLeaks, which released them to the public apparently hurting Hillary Clinton’s chances in the election.
Barack Obama - acted on the intelligence reports, imposing fresh sanctions on Russia and expelling 35 Russian diplomats.

Another report that came a month later, again leaked by intelligence officials, claimed that Russia had "compromising personal and financial" information about Mr. Trump.

What connects all these exposés and allegations is the Russia factor.

Mr. Trump had sought better cooperation with Moscow in the war against the Islamic State.

He had also challenged certain accepted notions among the Washington establishment such as the role and relevance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

This was unacceptable for the deep state, for which the presidency is temporary and the system permanent.

This doesn’t mean that the leaks are bad- Any attempt to make information public, irrespective of its cause and effect, is welcome.

Muslim ban- His belligerence on West Asia is unlikely to invite significant opposition

Mr. Trump could either fight back or make peace- after Mr. Flynn’s resignation, he has signalled both.

He attacked the intelligence agencies on Twitter on Wednesday, while the White House indicated that the promised détente with Russia was over.

Mr. Flynn has set in motion a process- With chaos engulfing his government, Mr. Trump will be forced to conform.
The bumps ahead

- **Economy** that relies on **public investment** and **private consumption** to revive private investment and growth, the last round of official statistics on prices and industrial activity signal testing times ahead.
- **First**, industrial output plummeted (fall) by 0.4% in December 2016, led by a 2% decline in manufacturing and a 6.8% decline in consumer goods.
- **Now**, wholesale prices have risen at the fastest pace in two and a half years this January, at 5.25%-
  Consumer level slowed to 3.2% in the same month
- **By contrast**, consumer prices had risen fractionally faster (3.4%) than wholesale prices (3.39%) in December.
- This divergence in wholesale prices and the prices consumers pay is unlikely to last long — with the former expected to stay firm (solid) for a few months to come, the latter will eventually catch up.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** may no longer track wholesale prices for monetary policy purposes, and food prices are not a problem thanks to a normal monsoon, at least for now.
- But as RBI Governor Urjit Patel pointed out, consumer prices of non-food articles and fuel have been hard to contain since September 2016.
- Such sticky core inflation is driving the latest wholesale price surge with fuel and power rising a sharp 18.14%, manufactured products growing by almost 4% (thanks not to demand but upward commodity prices) and minerals by 1%.
A rise in oil prices beyond $65 a barrel would be a cause for concern—higher shale gas output.

This poses a risk to India’s growth hopes.

Higher oil price-led inflation will bring back into focus the high excise duties on petroleum products that have boosted the Centre’s tax kitty over the past couple of years.

Those duties were raised when prices were low to protect consumers from an upward price shock, the government had argued.

Cutting those duties will upset revenue calculations, but leaving them untouched will impose its own costs.

The RBI has cited ‘transitory effects of demonetisation on inflation and output.

If inflation spikes in the coming months, it could further crimp consumer spending, with obvious consequences for the investment cycle and job creation.
Should elections be state-funded?

- Yogendra Yadav- State funding is a possible solution but it alone will not do away with the black money-electoral politics nexus(बंधन).
- MANISH TEWARI- It is based on the presumption that there would be no private funding- This is antithetical(विरोधात्मक) to democracy.
- S.Y. Quraishi- It is easier to monitor the funding of political parties than seek state funding of elections.
Story of a controversial ordinance

- The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance has been promulgated many times.
- Recent promulgation of the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance saw some controversy as it was the fifth time that the law was being introduced through the ordinance route.
- President Pranab Mukherjee approved it although he had reservations about its repeated re-promulgation.
- The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in March 2016, but the Rajya Sabha sent it to a Select Committee.
- After the wars against China in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, property belonging to the nationals of these two countries was taken over by the Union government under the Defence of India Acts.
- Enemy Property Act, 1968 was passed - all such immovable and movable property in a ‘Custodian’.  
- The son of a person whose property in India had been taken over after he emigrated to Pakistan wanted it to be returned to him on the ground that he (the son and legal heir) was a citizen of India, and the property concerned was no more enemy property after his father’s death.
- After years of litigation, the Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the Custodian did not have any title to the property and was only a trustee managing it - Indian citizens, could get it back.
The Centre promulgated an ordinance in 2010 to get over the implications of the judgment so that valuable property, numbering in thousands and worth thousands of crores of rupees, would continue to be with the Custodian.

The ordinance lapsed then, and was issued afresh in January 2016. Since then, it has been issued again repeatedly.

Pakistan had sold or disposed of property belonging to Indians nationals and firms in 1971 itself, while in India such property is in the hands of a Custodian.

Currently, immovable properties belonging to Pakistani nationals in India number 9,280, and comprise 11,882 acres. The total value is estimated to be ₹1,04,340 crore.

There are 149 properties belonging to Chinese nationals in India.
State within a state is a political situation in a country when an internal organ ("deep state"), such as the armed forces and civilian authorities (intelligence agencies, police, administrative agencies and branches of governmental bureaucracy), does not respond to the civilian political leadership.

WikiLeaks is an international non-profit organisation that publishes secret information, news leaks, and classified media from anonymous sources. Its website, initiated in 2006 in Iceland by the organisation Sunshine Press, claims a database of 10 million documents in 10 years since its launch. Julian Assange, an Australian Internet activist, is generally described as its founder, editor-in-chief, and director.

Indian Citizenship Ministry of Home Affairs. A person born in India on or after 26th January 1950 but before 1st July, 1987 is citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his parents. Considered citizen of India by birth if either of his parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.

The conferment of a person, as a citizen of India, is governed by Articles 5 to 11 (Part II) of the Constitution of India. The legislation related to this matter is the Citizenship Act 1955, which has been amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1986, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1992, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003, The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005 and Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015.