असफलता एक चुनौती है, स्वीकार करो, क्या कमी रह गयी देखो और सुधार करो, जब तक न सफल हो नींद-चैन को त्यागो तुम, संघर्षों का मैदान छोड़ मत भागो तुम, कुछ किए बिना ही जय-जयकार नहीं होती, कोशिश करने वालों की कभी हार नहीं होती।
Big thaw on the Korean peninsula

The onus is on the US to show it is serious about a diplomatic resolution to the North Korean nuclear threat. A conciliatory move by President Donald Trump is a welcome sign that it is serious about a diplomatic resolution. Though the US has in the past shown that it is able to deter North Korea from pursuing its nuclear agenda, the world cannot afford to see a nuclear confrontation between the US and North Korea.

Federalism and fairness

If the Indian government is serious about promoting federalism, it must ensure that states have the resources to govern themselves effectively. The recent increase in states' share of tax revenue is a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to ensure that states have the resources they need to provide quality education, health care and infrastructure.

A clarifying vote

The recent election in Karnataka has clarified the political landscape in the state. It has also provided an opportunity for the central government to take a strong position on issues such as君、经济发展和反腐。The election has also shown that the state's electorate is hungry for change and that the political parties need to adapt to the new reality.

The dream he had

The recent visit of the US President to India has been a significant event in Indo-US relations. The US President's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region is a welcome development, as it will help to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Sharing data across borders

The recent agreement between India and the US to share data across borders is a significant development. It will help to strengthen the bilateral relationship and will also help to improve the efficiency of data sharing between the two countries.

Tragedy of errors

The recent accident in a power plant in India has caused several fatalities and injuries. It highlights the importance of ensuring that safety regulations are followed at all times. The government needs to take immediate action to prevent such incidents from happening again.

Mills and wheat over rice and meat

The recent decision to abolish the minimum support price for wheat and rice is a significant development. It is expected to help to increase the availability of these crops in the market, which will benefit farmers and consumers alike.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary words:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discourse (noun)</td>
<td>= Dialogue, conversation (बातचीत)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autonomy (noun)</td>
<td>= Self-government, independence (स्वराज्य)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal (adj)</td>
<td>= Uttered, oral (मौखिक)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rile (verb)</td>
<td>= Make annoyed or irritated (क्रोधित करना)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indeed (adv)</td>
<td>= Really (वास्तव में)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secede (verb)</td>
<td>= Differ (अलग होना)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indestructible (adj)</td>
<td>= Unbreakable (अविनाशी)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestige (noun)</td>
<td>= Remainder, indication (अवशेष)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set the cat among the pigeons (idiom)</td>
<td>= do something that is likely to cause trouble or controversy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary words:

Skew (verb) = Suddenly change direction
Prudent (adj) = Judicious, well judged (विवेकी)
Headway (noun) = Progress, advance (उन्नति)
Shard (noun) = Piece, fragment (टुकड़ा)
Cumbersome (adj) = Difficult, unmanageable (कष्टकर)
Workaround (noun) = A method for overcoming a problem in a system or program
Bilateral (adj) = Involving two parties, especially countries (द्विपक्षीय)

Federalism (definition)= It is a type of a government in which the power is divided between the national government and other governmental units.
Federalism is once again the focus of political discourse in India. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah set the cat among the pigeons when he highlighted Kannada pride by unveiling an official state flag last month. Then in a Facebook post on “Regional Identity & Federalism”, he advocated the need for States to have both financial and cultural autonomy.
Since quitting the National Democratic Alliance, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has also been vocal in criticising the Central government for taxing the southern States to spend on the northern States.

And also in March, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam’s working president M.K. Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of 10 non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States expressing concern over the terms of reference for the 15th Finance Commission.
The Centre’s direction to use the 2011 Census instead of the 1971 Census for population data has riled the south. As the population in these States has stabilised, the concern is that their share of tax allocation would reduce.

There are principally three distinct yet inter-related strands to the debate — a constitutional claim for autonomy; a demand for fairer distribution of taxes; and an assertion of linguistic and cultural rights.
Constitutional context

✓ In his Facebook post, Mr. Siddaramaiah asserted that while India became a “union of states with a strong center” in 1947, now “from a union of states, we are evolving into a federation of states”. This is indeed a strong claim to make as Article 1 of the Constitution declares India as a “Union of States”.

✓ On November 4, 1948, while moving the Draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, B.R. Ambedkar responded to the question as to why India is a “Union” and not a “Federation of States”: 
“The Drafting Committee wanted to make it clear that though **India was to be a federation**, the federation was not the result of an agreement by the States to join in a federation and that the federation not being the result of an agreement no State has the right to secede from it.

The federal form of government in the United States, which is described as an **indestructible union composed of indestructible States**, India is an **indestructible union of destructible States**.
The units of Indian federation have undergone multiple transformations since 1947. This is because Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to create new States. While such a provision can be seen as giving the Union too much power, it has arguably been central to holding India together since it allows the federation to evolve and respond to sub-national aspirations.

After successfully “holding together” as a federation for over 70 years, the larger question is whether there is a need to reconsider the distribution of powers between the Union and the States.
A viable(workable) federation

☑ Over the last couple of decades there has been a shift in political and economic power from the Centre to the States.

☑ The 14th Finance Commission, in 2015, recommended raising the share of States in the divisible pool of Central taxes from 32% to 42%.
A viable(workable) federation

✓ However, beyond this measure, the Centre has not inspired much confidence regarding its commitment to federalism.

✓ States such as Karnataka have asserted their linguistic and cultural rights in the wake of the Centre’s interventions.

✓ Now, the skewed terms of reference for the 15th Finance Commission have brought the south together in making a strong case for fiscal federalism.
While the southern States contribute to the nation **economically**, they don’t occupy a central space **politically** and are further marginalised **culturally**.

Finally, unless the concerns regarding fairness are addressed from constitutional, financial and cultural fronts, the fault lines developing in our federation could deepen further.
The funding would flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions.

The funding to states would be made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans, which would describe each state’s strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education.
Question of the day/ आज का सवाल

Q^n
“While the southern States contribute to the nation economically, they don’t occupy a central space politically and are further marginalised culturally” Explain in your own words.
Qn.
Write the Synonym and Antonym of the words given in today’s slide.
Thank you