

DELHI ELECTION 2025

DELHI ELECTION VERDICT : BJP's TRIUMPH, ~~AAP's Rout, Congress's Decline~~

Diary Times Desk : With the BJP poised to reclaim the power center of national politics, Delhi, ending Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party's unchallenged decade-long run, here is an analysis of what the capital's historic verdict means for major players in the field. The decisive mandate in favour of the BJP, which has won the Delhi Assembly for the first time since 1998, further stamps the prominence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the saffron polity. This is the BJP's third straight major win after Haryana and Maharashtra. With the Delhi win, the BJP has further consolidated its position in North India. A comprehensive win across segments in the capital—community votes, women, first-time voters, villages, Dalit segments—means the BJP will continue to project itself as the party of people's preference. The fact that a faceless BJP won Delhi against AAP stalwart Arvind Kejriwal and decimated him in his own segment signals a massive surge for saffron sentiments in the capital and anti-incumbency against the AAP. The Delhi win will strengthen saffron prospects in the Bihar elections, with the party set to also focus on Punjab, the only other state where AAP rules. Further within the organisation, the win in Delhi is a clear endorsement of PM Modi and his lieutenant Amit Shah's policies and means they may no longer need to defer much to their parent RSS in matters of party policy, something they were required to do after failing to muster a majority on their own in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The first impact of the Delhi win will be on the BJP president's election expected in March, and Modi and Shah can now have a candidate of their choice, the RSS notwithstanding. The embarrassing loss of the AAP and its chief Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi shows a fall for a party.



PM NARENDRA MODI

PEOPLE'S POWER SUPREME; DEVELOPEMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE WON : PM Modi on Delhi Poll Results



Diary Times Desk : People's power is supreme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as the BJP headed for a big win in the Delhi Assembly elections. Modi asserted that his party will leave no stone unturned for the city's all-round development and making the lives of its residents better. Development and good governance have won, the prime minister said as he thanked Delhi's voters for giving the BJP a historic win. "We guarantee that we will leave no stone unturned to ensure the all-round development of Delhi and to make the lives of its people better. Along with this, we will also ensure that Delhi plays an important role in building a developed India," he added. Modi said he was proud of BJP workers who toiled day and night for such a massive mandate. "We will now be dedicated to the service of the people of Delhi with more strength," he added. The BJP is set to end its 27-year drought in Delhi as the party was headed for a nearly two-third majority in the 70-member Assembly.

Many Himachalis are behind BJP's victory in Delhi

There are many Himachali heroes behind BJP's victory and AAP's defeat in Delhi. First of all is Jagat Prakash Nadda who ended BJP's three decade-long drought of Delhi's throne by the end of his second term. Then Anurag Thakur whom Nadda pushed into campaigning with full force. But there are others too. Especially Rakesh Pathania, the fighter from Nurpur, was behind Manish Sisodia's defeat. Rakesh Pathania was the in-charge of Jangpura seat this time. So obviously he cannot be deprived of the credit. The special thing is that last time also he had made Sisodia face tough competition in Patparganj seat. He was in-charge there too although Sisodia had won by 1800 votes then, but BJP kept Rakesh Pathania on to corner Sisodia looking at Pathania's performance and succeeded too. It is to be seen what reward the high command gives Rakesh Pathania which he deserves. You must remember that Pawan Rana is also from Himachal Pradesh and he is the organization minister of Delhi, a part of the credit also goes to him. And Anurag Thakur has also contributed a lot to the victory of BJP in Delhi. And at the same time, there are some star campaigners behind the defeat of Congress in Delhi due to whom Congress lost in Delhi.

PM Modi interacts with global and Indian leaders at WAVES Summit Advisory Board meet

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with global and Indian leaders at the WAVES Summit Advisory Board Meet on Friday evening. As per the details, the Prime Minister engaged in a virtual interaction with top professionals and industry leaders from India and around the world, who are part of the Advisory Board of the WAVES Summit. The high-profile meeting featured tech giants, business tycoons, film industry icons, and creative visionaries, including Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Mukesh Ambani, Anand Mahindra, Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Chiranjeevi, Mohanlal, Rajnikanth, Aamir Khan, AR Rahman, Akshay Kumar, Ranbir Kapoor, and Deepika Padukone, among others. The discussion was focused on innovation, global leadership, India's cultural and technological influence, and strategies to enhance India's position on the world stage. The WAVES Summit, known for bringing together thought leaders from various domains, aims to foster cross-industry collaborations and drive India's growth in the digital and creative economy.



President Droupadi Murmu meets President of UN General Assembly, lauds his effort for "Pact of Future"

Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu met with the President of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly Philemon Yang and lauded his effort in the adoption of "Pact for the Future" in September of last year. President Murmu assured Yang India will "continue to champion" the causes of Global South, including at United Nations. "Mr Philemon Yang, President of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President appreciated his leadership in the adoption of the "Pact for the Future" in September 2024, and said that India will continue to champion the causes of the Global South, including at the UN" President of India said in a post on X. Philemon Yang met Murmu on the third day of his four day visit to India. He arrived in India on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Yang paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat in New Delhi.

SAD's Badal congratulates people of Delhi for 'exposing lies and deceit' of AAP



Diary Times Desk : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) senior leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday congratulated the people of Delhi for 'exposing the lies and deceit' of the AAP. The BJP was set to stage a comeback in Delhi after more than 26 years, sweeping the AAP away from the national capital in another big win to extend its saffron footprint in the country. Reacting to the latest trends, Badal claimed that the AAP 'destroyed' Punjab in a manner similar to what it did in Delhi. "I congratulate the people of Delhi for exposing the web of lies and deceit of the AAP. It formed the government in Punjab by misleading the people," Badal said. Sharing a clip of his interaction with the media in a post on X, the SAD leader alleged that the AAP was engaging in massive corruption and diversion of funds in Punjab, like it did in Delhi. "I appeal to Punjabis to pack them off in the same manner as Delhiites in the forthcoming Assembly elections," Badal said.

BJP's Parvesh Verma, Marwah emerge giant slayers by defeating Kejriwal, Sisodia

Diary Times Desk : BJP's Parvesh Verma and Tarvinder Singh Marwah emerged as the biggest giant-slayers in the high-octane Delhi Assembly elections, defeating AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in the New Delhi and Jangpura constituencies, respectively. In a fierce triangular contest in the New Delhi seat, Verma secured 30,088 votes, while Kejriwal trailed behind with 25,999 votes. Congress' Sandeep Dikshit finished third with 4,568 votes. Verma, a two-time MP from West Delhi, had launched his campaign against Kejriwal even before BJP officially declared his candidature, positioning himself as the chief challenger to the former three-time Delhi chief minister. His victory over Kejriwal not only boosts his stature as one of the BJP's most prominent Jat leaders in the capital but also strengthens his position as a potential contender for the chief minister's post. Verma, a management graduate, has been active in politics since his youth, beginning with the RSS before rising through the BJP's ranks. He first became an MLA from Mehrauli in 2013 before securing consecutive Lok Sabha victories from West Delhi in 2014 and 2019. Currently, a BJP national executive member, Verma has also been involved in social work through Rashtriya Swabhiman, a non-profit organisation founded by his father, former Delhi chief minister Sahib Singh Verma.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

09-02-2025



Aries

Today, special guests will arrive in your family due to a religious event. For working people, if you get success in the workplace, you will be recognized as a leader among your colleagues. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Gemini

Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For working people, if you get success in the workplace, you will be recognized as a leader among your colleagues. People doing business may have a detailed discussion about expanding their business with their business partner. Problems may increase due to deterioration in the health of children.

Leo

Today, you should take special care while traveling. Employed people may get a salary increase due to completing their projects in time in their workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Libra

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. People in employment may have to face problems due to arguments with opponents in the workplace. Businessmen should focus on teamwork, otherwise, due to increased stress, business will suffer losses. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

Sagittarius

Today you should spend more time with family. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business may have to face the problem of financial crisis due to heavy losses. Paralysis patients should immediately consult a doctor in case of any problem.

Aquarius

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today.

Taurus

Today you should pay special attention to worship. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

Cancer

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to lose their jobs due to disputes with colleagues in the workplace. There are chances of people doing business making financial gains due to good relations with consumers. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Virgo

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. For employed people, progress in the workplace will strengthen your relationship with your boss. People doing business should work on some long term plan due to loss of money. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Scorpio

Today is going to be a challenging day for you. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.

Capricorn

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Pisces

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. People in employment may be promoted to the post of a senior officer due to their better performance in the workplace. People doing business may have a detailed discussion about expanding their business with their business partner.



Delhi Election: BJP wins, celebrations in Himachal Pradesh, party workers burst crackers and distribute laddus

Diary Times Desk : Party workers are celebrating at various places in Himachal Pradesh on BJP's victory in Delhi. On Saturday, BJP officials and workers celebrated at Gandhi Chowk in Hamirpur district. BJP officials burst crackers and congratulated each other on BJP's victory. During this, District President Rakesh Thakur, Desraj Sharma, Narendra Atri, Robin, Ajay and other officials and workers were present. District Kullu BJP celebrated BJP's big victory in Delhi Assembly elections. District BJP leaders, led by former MP Maheshwar Singh, burst crackers and fireworks. Laddus were also distributed in happiness. Former MP Maheshwar Singh has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National BJP President JP Nadda along with all BJP workers for this victory. He said that this is the victory of truth and the victory of fulfilling the guarantees given by the central government. He said that Kejriwal has done politics of lies. BJP officials including Narottam Thakur and Danvendra Singh were present on this occasion. On BJP's spectacular victory in Delhi assembly elections, party leaders and workers celebrated with great enthusiasm in BJP national president JP Nadda's home district. Immediately after BJP's victory was confirmed, workers celebrated the victory with drums and sweets and fed each other laddus.



Himachal Pradesh: Student who failed in exam threatens to blow up Himachal Education Board with a bomb, writes in mail...

Diary Times Desk : A student who failed in the examination has threatened to blow up the Himachal Pradesh School Education Board with a bomb. In this mail in the name of someone named Shivank, he has said that he has failed in the examinations held in 2024. On Friday, someone threatened to blow up a department of the board with a bomb through mail. The subject of the mail reads, 'Be careful, I will shoot you with a bullet...', while inside the e-mail it is written that HP Boss you are gone. You failed me in my result, right? Now you are gone, okay? Goodbye and see you again. I will blow you up with a bomb. Understood - you have failed me in 2024... Goodbye HP Boss. In this context, the Secretary of the School Education Board, Dr. Major Vishal Sharma said that on Saturday the responsibility of registering a report in the cyber cell has been given to the staff, he said that this matter cannot be taken lightly. It is worth noting that for the first time in Himachal Pradesh such a case has been reported that the board has been threatened with a bomb. As of now, nothing is known about the person who made the threat and everything will be revealed through police investigation.

Himachal Pradesh: The way is cleared for outsourced recruitments, Supreme Court stays the interim order of Himachal High Court

Diary Times Desk : The path to recruitment through outsourcing in Himachal Pradesh seems to be getting easier. The Supreme Court has put an interim stay on the orders of the High Court, giving relief to the Himachal government on outsourcing recruitments for the time being. The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the respondent and asked to file a reply within four weeks. A division bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice KV Vishwanathan of the apex court heard the matter. Senior Supreme Court advocate Kapil Sibal pleaded the case on behalf of the Himachal government. He told the court that the Himachal High Court has banned recruitments in the outsourcing policy in the state on 7 November 2024. The High Court had ordered the government to make rules to bring transparency in the outsourcing recruitment.

Delhi Election Result: Pratibha Singh spoke on Delhi election result, it is sad that the results did not come as expected

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Congress President Pratibha Singh has termed the Delhi Assembly election results as disappointing and said that these election results did not come as per expectations for the Congress, which she is sad about. Congress stands with the people on issues of public interest and will always stand with them. The party will introspect on the reasons for the defeat and the shortcomings will be removed. Giving her reaction on the Delhi Assembly election results, Pratibha Singh said that Congress leaders worked very hard in the Delhi elections. She enumerated the development works done by the Congress' Sheila Dikshit government in the past and also put forward the party's future development plans. She said that Congress respects public opinion. Congratulating the leaders elected in Delhi on their victory, she expressed hope that the new government will fulfill the aspirations.

Road accident in Hamirpur: Himachal pilgrims returning from Maha Kumbh, traveler met with an accident, two died; 11 injured

Diary Times Desk : 13 people from Chadiyar, who were returning after taking a royal bath from Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, met with an accident. Two of the 13 people who met with the accident died, while others were injured. The deceased include 60-year-old Nirmala alias Guddi Devi, wife of Pritam Rana and 50-year-old Surendra Rana, son of Kapoor Chandra, of Doli village in Chadiyar. Surinder Rana was also a journalist from Chadiyar with Daily News. Apart from this, 62-year-old Sudarshan, 45-year-old Vipul Sharma, 50-year-old Jeevana Devi, 60-year-old Sudesh Kumari, wife of Rajendra Sharma, 65-year-old Sunil Kumari, wife of Vakhtawal, 56-year-old Kusum Lata, wife of Anil, 60-year-old Chandni, wife of late Swaroop Rana, 50-year-old Anjubala, wife of Surendra Rana, 43-year-old Anjana Kumari, wife of Anil Sharma, 55-year-old Raksha Devi, wife of Arjun Rana, 68-year-old Sheela Rani were injured.

Himachal: Fire broke out due to gas cylinder leak in Deotsidh, loss of three lakhs, fire was controlled with the help of hydrant

Diary Times Desk : The warehouse of the shop was burnt to ashes due to a gas cylinder leak in the Lower Market of Siddhpeth Baba Balak Nath Temple Deotsidh in Northern India late in the evening. Due to the fire, all the goods kept in the warehouse were burnt to ashes. The shopkeeper has suffered a loss of three lakh rupees due to the fire. However, the fire was controlled with the help of the fire hydrant of the temple trust, due to which the rest of the shops were saved from damage. Chakmoh resident shopkeeper Rajiv said that he has been running a roti prasad making shop near Santoshi Mata Temple Deotsidh for years. Late Saturday evening, he was making roti prasad in the warehouse for Sunday. Meanwhile, suddenly the gas cylinder leaked. Due to the gas leak, the ghee caught fire and suddenly the fire took a terrible form. Due to the fire, the goods kept in the warehouse for making roti, ghee and other goods were completely burnt. He said that the warehouse had stock for making prasad in the Chaitra month fair, but everything was burnt due to the fire.

Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said- The country only trusts Modi's guarantee, the disaster in Delhi is over

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the country has faith only in the guarantee of Narendra Modi. Today, the people of Delhi have chosen the good governance and development politics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by giving a massive majority. Now, only 'Modi is Modi' in the heart of Delhi. I am very grateful to the people of Delhi for giving good governance and double engine government to Delhi. Aam Aadmi Party encouraged the politics of lies, anarchy, drama and allegations and counter-allegations. Today, the people of Delhi have rejected it and accepted the good governance and effective administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the God-like people for giving full blessings to BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections. Hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the countrymen for this mandate. Jairam Thakur said that for a very long time, a party had created an atmosphere of anarchy in Delhi, that period of "disaster" is ending today.

'AAP's Leadership Doesn't Believe In Democracy': Swati Maliwal

Diary Times Desk : AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal and someone associated with Arvind Kejriwal since his India against corruption days says the arrogance of Mr Kejriwal was punished by the public. She also blamed him for being someone who allows women to be hit and bet up inside their home. Ms Maliwal, once a close associate of Mr Kejriwal, has emerged as one of his most vocal critics in recent times. Ms Maliwal, who also served as the chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women, has publicly expressed her disillusionment with Mr Kejriwal's leadership and his party's direction. In May 2024, Ms Maliwal accused Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of Mr Kejriwal, of assaulting her at the Chief Minister's official residence. She alleged that during a visit to discuss pressing issues, she was "beaten badly" in the drawing room while Mr Kejriwal was present in the house.

Manish Sisodia concedes defeat in Delhi's Jangpura: 'I lost by 600 votes'

Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia on Saturday conceded his defeat in Delhi's Jangpura constituency. BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah won the seat. According to the Election Commission's data, Marwah was leading Manish Sisodia by 572 votes after the end of the ninth round of counting. By 12.41 pm, Marwah polled 34632 votes, Sisodia polled 34060 votes and Congress's Farhad Suri polled 6866 votes. When a reporter asked Manish Sisodia if the result was final, he replied in the affirmative. He further said he would analyse the reasons behind the loss later. "Party workers fought well. We all did hard work. People have supported us as well. But, I lost by 600 votes. I congratulate the candidate who won. I hope he will work for the constituency," Manish Sisodia said. He won the Patparganj constituency thrice – in 2013, 2015 and 2020. However, his seat was changed this time as he contested the election from Jangpura. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is poised to win the Delhi assembly election. The party is leading in 48 seats; AAP in 22 seats. Several other AAP leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal and Saurabh Bharadwaj, were set to lose in their respective seats. Tarvinder Singh Marwah switched to the BJP from Congress in 2022. He had been a member of the Delhi assembly thrice – 1998, 2003 and 2008.

"Setback For AAP, Will Continue Fight Against BJP": Atishi On Delhi Loss



Diary Times Desk : Outgoing Delhi Chief Minister Atishi today said the loss for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the assembly elections was a "setback", but vowed to continue the "war" against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which clinched a huge victory in the national capital after nearly three decades. Speaking to reporters after retaining the Kalkaji seat, she thanked the people of her constituency for "showing trust" in her. "We accept the people's mandate. I have won but it's not the time to celebrate but to continue the 'war' against the BJP," she said. Ms Atishi managed to hold on to the south Delhi seat despite shock defeats of top AAP leaders, including party chief Arvind Kejriwal and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. The 43-year-old leader, who won the seat in 2020, defeated BJP's former MP Ramesh Bidhuri and the Congress's Alka Lamba. She became the Chief Minister after Mr Kejriwal stepped down when he got bail in a corruption case linked to Delhi's now-scrapped liquor policy.

Union Cabinet Approves New Income Tax Bill To Replace Six-Decade-Old Law: Report

Diary Times Desk : The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the New Income Tax Bill on Friday (7 February), setting the stage for a major overhaul of India's direct tax system. The new legislation is expected to replace the existing Income Tax Act of 1961, making direct tax laws simpler, clearer, and easier to understand, reported news agency PTI. According to government sources cited in the PTI report, the new bill does not introduce any additional tax burden but aims to streamline existing provisions. It will not have provisos and explanations or long sentences. The bill has reportedly been drafted within six months and efforts have been made to simplify the language to make tax compliance easier for taxpayers and make it easier to read and understand. The bill will now be introduced in Parliament next week and sent to the Standing Committee on Finance for further deliberation.

"Delhi People Voted For Change, They Were Fed Up": Priyanka Gandhi

Diary Times Desk : With the BJP poised to form government in Delhi after more than 26 years, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said that people of the national capital "voted for change" as they were "fed up with the way things were" Priyanka, also the MP from Wayanad, told reporters here that it was obvious during the party's meetings ahead of the Delhi polls that people wanted change. "They were fed up with the way things were and they wanted change. I suppose they voted for change. My congratulations to all those who have won." "For the rest of us, it just means we have to work harder, stay there, be on the ground and be responsive to the people's issues," she said. Priyanka is on a three-day visit to Kerala. According to the latest Election Commission of India (ECI) trends, the saffron party was ahead in 45 of the 70 assembly seats and AAP in 21. The BJP and AAP have won two seats each, according to the ECI website. The Congress, on the other hand, is poised to draw a blank for the third consecutive assembly polls.



"To Infinity And Beyond": Jeet Adani's Post A Day After Wedding To Diva Shah

Diary Times Desk : Billionaire Gautam Adani's son Jeet married Diva Jaimin Shah in an intimate ceremony, with a small group of friends and family in attendance, yesterday. "Mr. and Mrs. Adani - To infinity and beyond!" posted Jeet Adani on social media today. The Adani wedding festivities started at 2 pm yesterday and the rituals were performed according to Jain tradition at Shantigram in Ahmedabad. A very small number of family and friends were invited to the wedding. No celebrity was invited. "With the blessings of Almighty God, Jeet and Diva tied the sacred knot of marriage today," Gautam Adani said in a post on X. "It was a small and extremely private function, so we could not invite all the well-wishers even if we wanted to, for which I apologize." The industrialist announced a donation of Rs 10,000 crore to various social causes including building infrastructure in healthcare, education and skill development. Mr Adani has two sons – Karan and Jeet.

BJP's Parvesh Verma's Wife On Why Delhi Chose Him Over Arvind Kejriwal

Diary Times Desk : The Bharatiya Janata Party is set to make a comeback in the national capital after more than 26 years as it posted a stunning win against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Even as the BJP leaders and workers are celebrating the Delhi assembly election results, one name that has emerged as a giant slayer is the party's New Delhi candidate who defeated Arvind Kejriwal. Parvesh Verma defeated Mr Kejriwal in the high-profile seat by a margin of 4,089 votes. Mr Kejriwal earned the giant slayer tag in 2013 when he defeated Congress' Sheila Dikshit in the same constituency, ending the party's 15-year rule under her. Sheila Dikshit's son Sandeep was fielded by the Congress for a direct contest with Mr Kejriwal and Mr Verma. The people were in the mood for a change. They wanted a different government. They wanted a government which could work and make New Delhi a different place. Because for the last 11 years, they were just fooled around with false promises.

Missing commuter plane found crashed on Alaska sea ice and all 10 aboard died

Diary Times Desk : A small commuter plane that crashed in western Alaska on its way to the hub community of Nome was located Friday on sea ice, and all 10 people on board died, authorities said. The crash appeared to be one of the deadliest in the state in the last 25 years. Mike Salerno, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard, said rescuers were searching the aircraft's last known location by helicopter when the wreckage was spotted. Two rescue swimmers were lowered to investigate. "It's hard to accept the reality of our loss," U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said during an evening news conference. Nome Mayor John Handeland choked up as he discussed the deaths and the response effort. "Nome is a strong community, and in challenging times we come together and support each other. I expect the outpouring of support to continue in the coming days as we all work to recover from this tragic incident," Handeland said. A prayer service was scheduled for later in the evening.

Judge Halts Access to Treasury Payment Systems by Elon Musk's Team

Diary Times Desk : A federal judge early Saturday temporarily restricted access by Elon Musk's government efficiency program to the Treasury Department's payment and data systems, saying there was a risk of "irreparable harm." The Trump administration's new policy of allowing political appointees and "special government employees" access to these systems, which contain highly sensitive information such as bank details, heightens the risk of leaks and of the systems becoming more vulnerable than before to hacking, U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer said in an emergency order. Judge Engelmayer ordered any such official who had been granted access to the systems since Jan. 20 to "destroy any and all copies of material downloaded from the Treasury Department's records and systems." He also restricted the Trump administration from granting access to those categories of officials. The defendants — President Trump, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the Treasury Department.

Singapore ranked as world's most powerful passport. India ranks...

Diary Times Desk : The world's most powerful passport is that of Singapore, while India's falls significantly lower at 80th position, which it also shares with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan, according to the 2025 Henley Passport Index. The index is by Henley & Partners, a global government advisory firm, which ranks all the world's 199 passports according to the number of destinations they can access. Henley says this is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The Singaporean passport with access to 193 countries out of the total 227, is followed by the passports of Japan and South Korea in second position with access to 190 countries, and those of seven countries in the third position, which includes Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Spain with access to 189 countries. Afghanistan stood at the bottom of the list at the 99th position with access to only 25 countries. Meanwhile, Syria with access to 27 countries came 98th place, and Iraq with access to 30 countries came 97th place.



Hamas parades 3 frail hostages in Gaza before release, images shock Israelis



Diary Times Desk : Hamas on Saturday released three more Israeli hostages, after nearly 500 days of captivity, to the humanitarian aid organisation Red Cross. The three hostages -- Eli Sharabi, Or Levi and Ohad Ben Ami -- were released as part of the ongoing ceasefire deal with Israel. However, their frail and emaciated condition drew widespread condemnation from the global community. Soon after their release, the international media highlighted the thin and frail images of the Israeli nationals, who were reportedly in a worse state as compared to the 18 hostages freed last month. Reacting to the visuals of the emaciated Israeli hostages being paraded on a stage in Gaza, an infuriated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "We will not gloss over the shocking scenes that we saw today." In Tel Aviv, Sharabi's family waited with bated breath as the live broadcast of him walking out of captivity was aired today, reported news agency Associated Press. "He looked like a skeleton, it was awful to see," Ohad Ben Ami's mother-in-law, Michal Cohen was quoted as saying to Channel 13 news.

Justin Trudeau Warns Donald Trump's Canada Annexation Threat Is A "Real Thing"

Diary Times Desk : Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau believes US President Donald Trump's threat to annexe Canada to make it the 51st state of America is a "real thing" to access its vast supply of critical minerals. The outgoing Prime Minister made the response during a summit of business and labour leaders called to coordinate a response to Trump's looming threat of a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian imports. "I suggest that not only does the Trump administration know how many critical minerals we have but that may be even why they keep talking about absorbing us and making us the 51st state.

Japan's \$1 trillion investment in America: Defence, AI, and trade take centre stage

Diary Times Desk : In a landmark development, Japan has pledged a massive \$1 trillion investment in the United States, covering defense, energy, and strategic industries. The announcement follows high-level talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, focusing on military cooperation and economic collaboration. Japan has committed to doubling its defense spending by 2027, with Trump confirming, "Japan is committed to double its defense spending by 2027 compared to my first term. They've invested a lot of money, \$300 billion in goods and services each year. And I'm pleased to say that this week, my administration approved nearly a billion dollars in foreign military sales to Tokyo." The discussions also touched upon artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and semiconductor cooperation. Meanwhile, Japan has shifted its focus from acquiring U.S. Steel to making strategic investments. Trump clarified, "Nissan's going to be doing something very exciting about U.S. Steel. They'll be looking at an investment rather than a purchase... We didn't like the idea."

'Will announce reciprocal tariffs next week': Donald Trump

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump said he plans to unveil reciprocal tariffs next week in a major escalation of his trade war with US economic partners. Trump made the announcement during a meeting with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Friday and said the action would affect "everyone," without specifying exactly what measures he plans to take. "I'll be announcing that next week — on reciprocal trade — so that we're treated evenly with other countries. We don't want any more or any less," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, adding that he planned to hold a press conference on the matter. He said he planned to hold a meeting on the issue Monday or Tuesday. At a White House press conference later on Friday Trump suggested that the reciprocal tariffs could come in lieu of the 10-20% universal import duty plan at the center of his economic message during the campaign. He said he was inclined to do "mostly" reciprocal tariffs over global import duties. "I think that's the only fair way to do it. That way, nobody's hurt. They charge us. We charge them. It's the same thing," Trump said. "I seem to be going in that line.

BJP sets sights on Punjab after Delhi victory, eyes 2027 state election

Diary Times Desk : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is riding high on the momentum of its recent victory in the Delhi election. Party leaders in Punjab, under the leadership of state president Sunil Jakhar, have declared that Punjab is the next political frontier for the party to conquer. BJP's optimism is bolstered by its improved vote share, which increased from approximately 6 to 18 per cent in the Lok Sabha election last year. The encouraging response in the MC election further strengthens the party's belief that it stands a good chance of forming the government in Punjab in the 2027 election. However, this optimism is contingent on convincing the electorate that BJP is genuinely pro-farmer and pro-Sikh. Sunil Jakhar took to X to emphasise that Punjab is the party's next target. "The party has finally won the Delhi election after a gap of 27 years under the leadership of Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and JP Nadda. Now, Punjabis are looking towards this leadership to free them from the environment of fear under the AAP government in Punjab," he wrote. BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who hails from Amritsar, said, "Like Delhi, Punjab too under the AAP government has become a perfect example of greed and mis-governance. BJP will bring development and prosperity in Punjab."



House junks agenda on property tax hike

Diary Times Desk : Reeling under a financial crisis, the Municipal Corporation's (MC) proposal to increase property tax by four times was unanimously rejected by councillors during a General House meeting today. Municipal Commissioner Amit Kumar, however, recorded a dissent note, emphasising the need for the tax hike due to the poor financial status of the MC. The proposal, introduced as a "table agenda" without Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla's approval, evoked strong objections from BJP councillors, who argued that it lacked the Mayor's signature. Meanwhile, Congress-AAP councillors accused the newly elected Mayor of pushing an "anti-people" proposal. Despite the political debate, all councillors voted against the tax hike. Defending the proposal, the Commissioner said, "The MC is facing an acute financial crisis and is struggling to pay staff salaries. Though the agenda has been rejected, my dissent note will be recorded as the hike in property tax is essential given the MC's fiscal problems." The property tax structure in Chandigarh has remained unchanged since its introduction —3% on the annual rateable value of commercial, industrial and institutional land and buildings since 2004, and a similar tax on residential properties since 2015.

For BJP, Punjab next stop: Ravneet Bittu tells Bhagwant Mann 'start packing your bags'

Diary Times Desk : As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is storming back to power in Delhi with a setback to the Aam Aadmi Party, BJP leader and Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu took a potshot at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, claiming that "it's now his turn to pack the bags". Speaking to media, Bittu said Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Atishi's Chief Minister house 'Sheesh Mahal' has now been vacated by the people. "Bhagwant Mann should now start packing his bags... Today the whole country is celebrating the victory of Delhi's BJP workers... When the BJP comes to power in Punjab, no one will have to sell their house, property, or land to go abroad. Everyone will get work here. This is Narendra Modi's vision," he said. Meanwhile, Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar too targeted the Kejriwal-led party, stating "PM Modi now have to make Punjab AAP-free". "Congratulations to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National President JP Nadda and all BJP workers for making Delhi AAP-free under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Due to their hard work, lotus has bloomed in Delhi after 27 years. Now the Prime Minister will have to take up the task of making Punjab AAP-free."

Surajkund mela kicks off, showcasing global art, craftsmanship

Diary Times Desk : The 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela was inaugurated by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today. The 16-day-long event, running from February 7 to February 23, will showcase the artistic talents of craftsmen and artisans from across India and various international participants. Addressing the gathering, Shekhawat highlighted India's growing prominence as a cultural tourism hub. "With India hosting major events like the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, the country has emerged as a prime destination for cultural and artistic tourism," he said. The inauguration was attended by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini along with Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma. Shekhawat described the Mela as a symbol of India's unity, culture and artistic legacy. "It is not just a marketplace for crafts but a crucial platform for artisans to showcase their ancient skills. The event aligns with the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' (One India – Best India), as promoting art and culture has been a priority for the Modi government," he said. He also emphasised the growing significance of the "Orange Economy," which recognises cultural and creative industries worldwide.

Kaithal youth's American dream ends in deportation nightmare

Diary Times Desk : For 22-year-old Ankit, a resident of Kasan village in Kaithal, the dream of a better future in the US turned into a harrowing nightmare. Deported by the US government three days ago, he returned home not as a successful breadwinner but as a broken man, drowning in debt and despair. Now back with his family, uncertainty looms over his future. "I left with the hope of earning money and changing my family's life. Now, I am left with nothing – no money, no job, just unbearable debt. What will I do now?" he asked, his voice heavy with grief. Ankit's younger brother, Ankush, revealed that the family had invested everything into this journey, spending Rs 40-45 lakh, which they borrowed from relatives and moneylenders. His story mirrors the plight of many desperate youths seeking a better life abroad, often falling victim to human traffickers and harsh immigration policies. "There are no jobs here and no opportunities. I had no choice but to take the 'donkey' route."

People of Delhi showed faith in Modi's policies: Haryana CM Saini

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attributed BJP's victory in Delhi to the people's faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. Speaking to reporters at Jyotisar Tirtha, Saini claimed that the AAP government, led by Arvind Kejriwal, had neglected the people of Delhi and focused on personal gains. Saini alleged that the AAP government was corrupt and had failed to provide basic amenities to the people. He also accused Kejriwal of trying to shift the blame to Haryana. In contrast, Saini emphasised that the BJP government would ensure the development of Delhi with the double-engine government, and will focus on providing clean water to all citizens. He said, "Haryana is already supplying clean water to Delhi, and now the BJP government will clean Delhi's water too, ensuring that every citizen gets adequate and clean water." The Chief Minister was accompanied by former MoS Subhash Sudha, BJP district chief Sushil Rana, chairman of 48-kos Tirtha Monitoring Committee Madan Mohan Chhabra and several BJP leaders.



2 dead as car falls into gorge in Shimla's Chopal

Diary Times Desk : Two persons were killed after a car they were travelling in plunged into a deep gorge in Shimla's Chopal Tehsil, police said on Saturday. The deceased Ram Krishan Sharma and Surjeet Singh Kalsaik, both residents of Badlaog village in Chopal, were on their way to home from Chambli village when the incident occurred. The accident took place on Saturday on Chopal-Jhina link road when the driver lost control of the vehicle near Chambli, due to which the vehicle went into a deep gorge. Acting upon the information, a police team reached the spot and recovered the bodies. The bodies were taken to Civil Hospital, Chopal, for postmortem. Shimla SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said police is conducting an investigation.

'Have fun', CM tells 50 students going on foreign tour

Diary Times Desk : "Have fun on the tour," Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told 50 students as they embarked on a 10-day exposure tour of Singapore and Cambodia. It's the first time students of government schools have been sent on a foreign exposure trip from the state. Understandably, the students and their parents were delighted. "I had never thought that I would be sent on a foreign trip by the government. I am extremely happy and looking forward to making memories for life on the trip," said a girl student from Chamba. The students will explore historical landmarks and gain insights into cultural heritage, architecture, science and technological advancements in both the countries. For the tour, 20 students each have been picked from Class XI and Class XII on the basis of their performance in the Class X board examination. In the remaining 10 spots, the students, who excelled in sports and cultural activities, were accommodated. Incidentally, most of the students picked for the tour were visiting even Shimla for the first time and only a few have been to Delhi. While interacting with the students, the Chief Minister and Education Minister Rohit Thakur revealed that they got a chance to go abroad.

CII, BBN industries back steel body against power tariff hike



Diary Times Desk : The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Himachal Pradesh, and the Baddi-Barotiwala Nalagarh Industries Association (BBNIA) have lent support to the Himachal Steel Industries Association's cause of increased power tariff. A delegation of the CII, led by its chairman Navesh Narula and vice-chairman Deepan Garg today sought the intervention of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh in the issue of rising electricity tariffs and the additional cess that was adversely hitting business in the state. Narula said that the discontinuation of electricity subsidies had significantly impacted industries, eroding one of the state's key competitive advantages. "Affordable electricity was the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) of Himachal Pradesh, which attracted industries to the region. However, with the recent tariff hikes, this advantage no longer exists," he stated. Garg pointed out that "Himachal Pradesh is no longer cost-effective in terms of electricity rates compared to its neighbouring states, which can lead to businesses reconsidering their investments in the region." The Chief Minister assured the delegation that corrective measures would be taken. He expressed the government's commitment to supporting the industrial sector and assured that a revision in electricity tariffs would be considered at the earliest.

Claims of 89 landless Pong Dam oustees accepted in Dehra

Diary Times Desk : There is a ray of hope for landless Pong Dam oustees residing on forestland in the Dehra Assembly constituency. The subdivision-level committee headed by Dehra SDM Shilpi Beakta has approved the claims of 89 oustees residing on forestland under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. Shilpi told The Tribune that the subdivision-level committee had accepted the claims of 89 oustees residing on forestland in Dehra for the purpose. The claims would be sent to the district-level committee headed by the Kangra Deputy Commissioner in a day or two. Once the district-level committee approves the claims, titles under the FRA would be allocated to the landless dam oustees, she added. She said that other landless dam oustees residing on forestland in Dehra had been asked to submit their claims for settlement till February 28. Sources said that after the district-level committee accepts the claims of the oustees, they would be allocated titles for the use of forestland on which they had been residing for the past many decades. This would give them the legal right over the land that they had allegedly encroached upon. The sources said that the cases of the oustees had been processed on the insistence of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Merger of cadres will hit patient care: IGMC faculty

Diary Times Desk : The State Association of Medical and Dental College Teachers (SAMDCOT), IGMC, Shimla, has expressed concern over the decision to merge the cadres of all medical colleges and urged the authorities concerned to reconsider it. The association said the policy, if implemented, could endanger patient care, undermine the quality of medical education and destabilise faculty structures. "We urge the government to focus on improving infrastructure, increasing financial incentives and supporting the professional development of medical faculty rather than disrupting a system that has been working for years," the association demanded. The association claimed that the policy would have disastrous consequences for patient care. "By merging cadres across medical colleges, we risk destabilising the teaching and operational environment, leading to inconsistencies in faculty seniority and overall effectiveness," the association said. The association said the proposed policy of cadre merger will create disruption in the faculty structure, leading to instability and lack of ownership in patient management.

Youth Congress should act as bridge between govt, people, says CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today called upon the youth to make the general public aware of the policies and programmes of the Congress government in the state. "Also, make people aware of any misleading propaganda of the Opposition," he said while speaking during the swearing-in ceremony of Chhatar Singh Thakur as the president of the state Youth Congress here. He said, "The newly-elected office-bearers of the Youth Congress have a huge responsibility to fulfil with dedication and honesty. The Youth Congress will have to act as a bridge between the government and common people, especially the youth." State Congress president Pratibha Singh said that the Youth Congress had contributed a lot to forming the party's government in the state. She congratulated Chhatar Singh and his executive and expressed hope that all office-bearers and workers of the Youth Congress would work unitedly to strengthen it. Chhatar Singh thanked the youth for voting for him and said that he would make all efforts to meet their expectations.



Virat Kohli fit to play second ODI against England

Diary Times Desk : Virat Kohli is fit to play the second ODI against England in Cuttack on Sunday after missing the first game due to a knee injury. India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak confirmed his availability on the eve of the match. "Kohli is fit, yes, he is practicing with us today," Kotak said in Cuttack. "He is good to go." Kohli went on train with the squad for an hour on Saturday evening, watched by a strong crowd of spectators. He began with short sprints, without any strapping on his legs, moving with ease. After a 7-8 minute run, he batted in the nets and didn't seem restricted in his footwork. Kohli had suffered swelling on his right knee while training a day before the series opener in Nagpur. He was replaced in the XI by Shreyas Iyer, who revealed after scoring a half-century that he had not been slated to play the first ODI, with debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal pairing with Rohit Sharma at the top of the order. With Kohli now fit, it remains to be seen how India tinker their line-up to bring him back. If Jaiswal is benched then Shubman Gill, who batted at No. 3 and scored 87, could move up to open, leaving the No. 3 spot for Kohli. If Shreyas is benched, then Kohli and Gill could bat at Nos. 3 and 4. Kohli hasn't played an ODI since the tour of Sri Lanka in August last year. The ongoing series against England is India's last 50-over assignment before the Champions Trophy begins on February 19.



Time to have tough chat with Jasprit Bumrah: Ex-South Africa pacer gives important suggestion to Gautam Gambhir, Ajit Agarkar

Diary Times Desk : Jasprit Bumrah hasn't recovered from his back injury, and the pacer is likely to miss the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. He hasn't started bowling yet, and the BCCI recently withdrew him from the ongoing three-match ODI series against England. According to reports, he will consult the surgeon in New Zealand, who operated on his troubled back in 2023. Former South Africa fast bowler Vernon Philander wants the team management and the selectors to rest him from the less important matches and keep him ready for the big clashes. He highlighted the roles of chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir in keeping Bumrah fit in the future. "It is important to manage his workload between the tournaments," Philander said in a media interaction during the SA20 tournament. "Play him in important matches and give other bowlers a chance in less important games," he added. India are currently operating with Mohammed Shami, Harshit Rana, and Arshdeep Singh in white-ball matches against England.

Yashasvi Jaiswal over Shreyas Iyer is Rohit and Gambhir's call: Sitanshu Kotak

Diary Times Desk : Shreyas Iyer not being selected for the first XI in the Indian team is captain Rohit Sharma and coach Gautam Gambhir's call, said batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Saturday, February 8. Addressing the press conference in Cuttack, Kotak said that he did not want to comment on the decision of why Yashasvi Jaiswal was preferred over Shreyas Iyer in the first ODI match vs. England. While Shreyas Iyer played in the opener of the 3-match ODI series, he revealed that he received a late call from captain Rohit Sharma that he was going to be a part of the playing XI. Shreyas had revealed after the first ODI that he replaced Virat Kohli in the playing XI, as the latter had suffered an injury to his right knee. Sitanshu Kotak confirmed that Virat Kohli is fully fit for the second ODI and would make it to the playing XI of the side.

Tanush Kotian leads another rescue act for Mumbai

Diary Times Desk : Anshul Kamboj and Sumit Kumar left Mumbai reeling, effecting a top-order collapse but the lower order came to the rescue again as Shams Mulani (91) and Tanush Kotian (85*) helped Mumbai end the day at 278/8 at Eden Gardens. Opting to bat, Mumbai were reduced to 25/4 as Kamboj and Kumar ran through the top order, with Suryakumar Yadav getting out cheaply. Ajinkya Rahane (31) and Shivam Dube (28) tried to revive the innings but Haryana again hit back with quick wickets to reduce Mumbai to 94/6 and then 113/7. While they would have entertained hopes of bowling Mumbai out for a low total, that wasn't to be as Mulani and Kotian added 165 for the eighth wicket to lead their team's comeback. Mulani was eventually dismissed towards the end of the day but Mumbai will be hoping to cross 300, maybe more, with Kotian still at the crease.

Spinners put Australia on the brink of series win

Diary Times Desk : Australia took rapid strides towards a potential whitewash series win on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle. The spin duo of Matthew Kuhnemann (4-52) and Nathan Lyon (3-80) spun a web around Sri Lanka's batters as the hosts found themselves at 211/8 at the close of play on the third day, the lead being just 54 at this point. Like in the first innings, Kusal Mendis (48*) once again looked in good touch but has been running out of partners at the other end. The post-tea session was productive for the home side in terms of runs as they scored 113 more during this phase but also lost four wickets in the bargain. The initial phase after tea was a steady one for Sri Lanka as skipper Dhananjaya de Silva starting promisingly, giving good company to Angelo Mathews (76) who continued to bat with fluency. However, as has been the case throughout the series, Kuhnemann intervened to nip the partnership in the bud. The left-arm spinner produced a cracker that spun sharply to induce an edge from de Silva's forward defence, and Steve Smith at slip reacted to take one of the finest catches with a dive. If de Silva was unfortunate to get out, Mathews certainly wasn't. The veteran looked in good control and seemed set for a century before throwing it away. An attempted aggressive sweep against Lyon only resulted in a top-edge that ballooned towards short fine leg, with Webster doing the rest. Sri Lanka needed Mathews to bat deep, particularly with Kusal Mendis looking solid at the other end. However, that dismissal allowed the Aussies to make a few more inroads. Webster once again got into the act, this time with the ball as his part-time offies got rid.

Lockie Ferguson in doubt for Champions Trophy and Pakistan tri-series

Diary Times Desk : New Zealand fast bowler Lockie Ferguson is under an injury cloud, ahead of the tri-series in Pakistan and the Champions Trophy, after hurting his hamstring while playing in the UAE's ILT20. In the first qualifier on Wednesday, captaining Desert Vipers against Dubai Capitals, Ferguson left the field without completing his allotment of four overs. There was only one ball left, in both his spell and the innings, and Mohammad Amir stepped in to deliver it. With Capitals needing one off the final ball, Sikandar Raza whipped Amir away for four to seal DC's spot in the final. At the post-match presentation, Ferguson said, "just a little hamstring issue, unfortunate. Tough night; wish I could've bowled the last ball." Ferguson underwent a scan the next day, according to New Zealand head coach Gary Stead, to determine the severity of the injury. New Zealand are still awaiting more details.

I understand why Travis Head opened the batting in Sri Lanka: Sam Konstas

Diary Times Desk : Young Australia opener Sam Konstas opened up on playing in the ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka. Konstas was named in the Australian squad for the Sri Lanka series after impressing on his debut series against India. However, the 19-year-old failed to find a spot in the playing XI with in-form batter Travis Head being promoted to open the innings alongside Usman Khawaja. Konstas was further sent back home to participate in the Sheffield Shield tournament where he would be playing for New South Wales against Queensland. He recently shared his thoughts on not getting a chance to play in the ongoing series and said that he was privileged to play alongside big names such as Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Travis Head. He also revealed that he had no hard feelings about not making it to the team and called Head a legend of the game. "I felt like I was very privileged to be in the squad. And obviously learning from the best players like Steve Smith, Travis Head and Usman Khawaja and how their methods are different in those conditions. I learnt quite a bit. I understood the reasons why. For me, it is just a great learning curve and if I do get another opportunity with the Test team I will grab it with both hands. I understand why Travis Head opened the batting because he is a legend of the game and he has been dominating," Konstas told CODE Sports.