CLAIMS BY CIVIL SERVICES CANDIDATES

Parent income not sole factor: SC on creamy layer in OBC

Bench reaffirms March ruling, says shall not affect seniority of any person or entail re-opening of selections already made

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, November 6

THE SUPREME Court on Friday reaffirmed its March 11 judgment which held that the creamy layer status of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) cannot be decided solely on the basis of parental income.

The Centre had sought "clarifications and appropriate directions" from the Supreme Court on the applicability of its March 11 judgment on the consideration of claims by OBC candidates who were selected in the Civil Services Examinations (CSE).

The matter traces its origin to a Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) letter of October 14, 2004, clarifying an Official Memorandum (OM) of September 1993 on the creamy layer criterion for OBCs. The 1993 OM had excluded income from salary and agricultural sources from the income/wealth test used to determine creamy layer status. The 2004 clarification said the salary income of employees in public sector undertakings (PSUs) and the private sector would be a criterion.

The 2004 clarification was not implemented effectively until 2014. It began to be applied rigorously from the CSE-2015 (corresponding to the 2016 batch). Since then, around 100 OBC candidates who cleared the CSE have found their claims being rejected by the DoPT on the creamy layer ground. Most of them are parties in different petitions

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SHAURYA SSB TRG (8861104529)

Creamy layer in OBC

before the Supreme Court and various High Courts.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the High Courts of Madras, Delhi and Kerala have ruled in their favour. The March 11 judgement came on the Centre's petition challenging the decisions of various High Courts granting relief to these OBC candidates.

The Centre had urged the court to "clarify/ direct that the judgment...shall not apply retrospectively so as to reopen completed selections, appointments, service allocations, cadre allocations, seniority positions or admissions" already made and to permit "a reasonable period of two years to undertake the exercise of establishing equivalence of posts".

Disposing of the Centre's plea, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan on Friday said there was "no convincing or reasonable justification" for deferring implementation of the order. The SC had given the Centre six months for implementation of its judgment. It extended the deadline by eight weeks on Friday.

The bench clarified that its order was only applicable to the parties before the court. "The grant of such benefit shall not, by itself, operate to the detriment of the seniority of any other person or entail the reopening of selections or appointments already concluded. In this regard, it is relevant to note that by its letter dated December 20, 2016, the DoPT had clarified that the selections pursuant to the Civil Services Examination, 2016, were subject to the outcome of the appeals pending before this court," the bench said.

Advocate Shashank Ratnoo, counsel for the candidates, said: "It's a big victory for OBCs. A decade-long battle for successful OBC candidates of CSE against the injustice has come to an end."

On the Civil Services Examination, 2025, the court said: "Since the process of allocation (of services) remains pending and there is no convincing or reasonable justification for deferring the implementation of the judgment dated 11.03.2026, the creamy layer principle, as interpreted in the said judgment, shall govern the allocation of services to OBC candidates selected through the CSE 2025."

Affirming the HCs' views, the SC had asked the Centre "to create such supernumerary posts, as required, to accommodate the candidates."

On Friday, it clarified that its judgment "cannot be construed as directing a general revision of service allocations or seniority across successive recruitment years, nor does it confer individual relief upon persons who were not parties to the original proceedings". "We find no observation or direction requiring the Union Government to revisit appointments already made, revise the seniority of any person, or undertake any selection, appointment or service allocation exercise afresh," it said.

It said the Centre's applications "appear to proceed on the erroneous assumption that the benefit of the judgment operates retrospectively, with effect from the dates of selection and appointment of the respondent candidates, and that the...government is required to undertake a corresponding exercise within six months. Such an interpretation is not borne out by the judgment. This Court did not direct the retrospective revision or reconsideration of selections, appointments, seniority or service allocations already concluded. The six-month period stipulated...was...for implementation of the directions in relation to the respondent candidates and intervenors and cannot be construed as requiring a general exercise."

It clarified that "although the interpretation laid down... constitutes a binding precedent under Article 141 of the Constitution and attracts the doctrine of *stare decisis*", the relief was on the facts of the case and determined only the rights of those who were party to it. "A distinction must be drawn between the adjudication of individual claims and the application of the legal principle declared while deciding those claims," it said.

"The ratio laid down in the judgment shall not, by itself, furnish a ground for reopening selections or appointments already concluded... The claims of persons asserting that they are similarly placed, whose cases are pending before any Court, Tribunal or other competent forum or authority, may be considered on their own merits" on the basis of the 1993 OM and the 2004 Letter, it said.

"All selections, appointments and allotments... made subsequent to the judgment dated 11.03.2026, insofar as they concern the implementation of reservation and the exclusion of the creamy layer, shall be governed by the 1993 OM, as interpreted by this Court," it said.

"The government remains at liberty to formulate its policy concerning reservation and the creamy layer criteria, in accordance with the Constitution and the principles laid down by this Court," it said, adding that it "is not inclined to prescribe any timeline for establishing equivalence between posts or consulting stakeholders in the formulation of the creamy layer policy, as these matters fall within the domain of the executive and the legislature."

The SC said it "was also conscious of the interdependent nature of recruitment and promotion arrangements... Reopening a concluded selected process... may prejudice numerous other persons and disrupt successive stages of service administration. The retrospective application of the principle may also unsettle promotions already granted and disturb the seniority of employees."

SHAURYA SSB TRG (BSP) 04520

Delhi sees worst pre-Diwali air in 8 years, GRAP-III imposed in NCR



Water sprinklers being used to curb air pollution in New Delhi, Friday. The Commission for Air Quality Management invoked Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan in NCR as the Capital's average Air Quality Index rose to 382 (Very Poor). AP

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 4

Vehicles major cause of pollution, it's a free-for-all in Delhi, says top court

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, November 6

SAYING THAT vehicular pollution is a major contributor to the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Friday asked why it is taking place despite all the measures put in place by the government so far. It expressed concern over the "bumper-to-bumper traffic" in the Capital, noting that it's a "free-for-all".

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

A SCIENCE-BASED PLAN, NOT JUST GRAP, IS NEEDED TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION P 12

To address the other issue of stubble burning, the court said farmers should be provided economic incentives and practical alternatives. It said crop residue (*parali*) can be procured by procurement agencies, and the rates notified beforehand.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SAURYA SEO TRC (8968104529)

SC on pollution

Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, was hearing a suo motu case examining the regulatory framework governing air pollution. "I hope you all are enjoying the weather in Delhi," the CJI said as soon as the bench took up the matter.

"A major cause of the pollution is vehicular pollution. Look at the roads in Delhi, look at the roads connecting Delhi to the NCR... the kind of bumper-to-bumper traffic... that's the major cause," the CJI said. "People may have their own justification, because if they have to go out, they don't have public transport system which can facilitate them. Unfortunately, we are lacking in that," he said.

Briefed about the immediate, intermediate and long-term measures being taken to check air pollution, the CJI said: "Despite all these measures, why is vehicular pollution taking place? It is only because of the overflowing of the vehicles itself, irrespective of the quality of fuel you use, whether it's petrol or diesel based..."

Senior Advocate Aparajitha Singh, the amicus curiae in the matter, said Delhi has the maximum number of vehicles.

"In Delhi, it's a free-for-all," the CJI said. Pointing out that vehicles registered in other states come to the Capital, he said: "You cannot, on mere entry, monitor what kind of fuel is being used, what is the condition of that vehicle. So, you don't have any mechanism. Maybe they come only for two hours, but whatever damage is done is done."

"We have made multifarious efforts to control these polluting vehicles. Pollution certificates are now geo-tagged. Without pollution certificates, fuel is not being given," Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the CAQM, said.

Senior Advocate Sanjiv Sen, appearing for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), said "it's just this one month that this problem occurs".

But the CJI didn't agree. "Rest of the year also, it is not that you have less vehicles," he said.

The CJI said that solutions like curbing vehicles or infrastructure works were "tried and failed" methods.

Referring to steps taken under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Bhati said: "I wouldn't say that there has been a complete failure of these measures. They have allowed pollution levels to remain in some sustainable (limits)".

"Our point is it (AQI level) is already touching 400," the CJI said.

"Every human activity will cause pollution....so how much to stop? And Delhi invites this talent, people... from across the country. Then festive times add on to it. Then little bit of stubble burning that flows in this direction, there also the winds play a bigger role," Bhati said.

Amicus Singh said that as per the CAQM status report, "on November 5, the contribution of stubble burning is 14 per cent. Stubble burning is one of the problems. Because Delhi is already polluted and with stubble burning, it tips over. So the entire focus on stubble burning is a little problematic."

The CJI said the burning period was almost over. "Stubble burning in any case is reducing," he said. Adding that it may fluctuate for a few days, he said: "Maybe, it is slightly higher on November 8, then with the passage of time... Because these are the days when the farmers will go for sowing wheat crop normally in place of paddy."

"There was a suggestion that with regard to the stubble, and the potential commercial usage...that some policy would be formulated by the ministry concerned to acquire the stubble at a particular rate from the farmers," Justice Bagchi said.

Bhati said significant measures have already been taken as policy interventions.

The CJI said crop residue can be procured by procurement agencies, and the rates notified in advance. "... kind of an education among farmers is required... when they find that it is incentivised or is beneficial for them, they will retain, they will not burn," he said.

SHAURYA SSB TRG R&I 104520

As high as 31% ethanol found in petrol samples

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Petrol sold by major oil companies in Karnataka contained ethanol far above the prescribed 20% level, in some cases as high as 31.2%, the State government has claimed, raising questions about transparency in the ethanol-blended petrol being sold to consumers across the country.

The samples in question were taken recently by the Department of Legal Metrology from Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Tumakuru and Dakshina Kannada districts, said Karnataka Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Rizwan Arshad on Friday. Petrol samples from major oil marketing companies (OMCs), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), recorded ethanol blend percentages of 31.2% and 30.5%, respectively. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Nayara and Shell petrol samples revealed ethanol blends of 26.5%, 26.1% and 25.5%, respectively, he said.

Fuelling **concerns**

Sample from OMC outlets	Fuel	Ethanol % in samples collected*
IOCL	Petrol (Motor Spirit)	31.2, 20.8
HPCL	Petrol (MS-Power)	30.5
HPCL	Petrol (MS)	27.0, 22.4
BPCL	Petrol (MS)	24.2, 22.6
BPCL	Petrol (MS-Speed)	26.5
MRPL	Petrol (MS)	19.2
Nayara	Petrol (MS)	26.1, 20.6
Shell	Petrol (MS)	25.5, 13.5



Source: Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Karnataka

*Multiple values indicate separate samples of fuel collected from different outlets operated by the same OMC.

'No transparency'

Mr. Arshad said the samples were initially submitted to the in-house laboratories of IOCL and BPCL. But he claimed the test reports issued by these laboratories did not disclose the ethanol content in the fuel, despite it being one of the prescribed testing parameters. "This raises serious concerns about transparency on the part of the oil majors and what they are hiding from consumers," he said.

"The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Karnataka, later got the same samples tested at laboratories recognised by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the International Organisation for Standardisation. These reports have revealed higher ethanol blends," Mr. Arshad said.

However, the three State-owned oil-marketing companies stated the tests were not conducted in accordance with prescribed statutory and technical procedures.

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» PAGE 8

HAURYA SUBTRG (8801045297)

As high as 31% ethanol found in petrol samples

Citing discrepancies with findings from their own quality monitoring, they urged the State government to share the complete counterpart sampling documentation, outlet-wise laboratory reports and details about the adopted testing methodology, and samples for retesting.

Mr. Arshad said 99% of India's over 35 crore vehicles are not built for ethanol blends of more than 20%, and the risk is not limited to old vehicles."Vehicles sold after April 2023 have been certified only up to E20. With lower-ethanol-blend petrol withdrawn from nearly one lakh fuel stations, consumers have been left with no alternative," he said.

The Minister provided copies of six lab test reports from Shriram Research Institute, Bengaluru, a non-profit unit of Shriram Tilak Dhar Research Foundation. All six reports showed ethanol blends beyond the permissible 20%. Assuming a 10% mileage loss at ₹100 a litre, he said the hidden loss to consumers would amount to around ₹62,000 crore, based on India's annual fuel consumption of 6,200 crore litres.

The Minister claimed that, after factoring in damage and repair costs due to higher blends, the loss would be around ₹1 lakh crore, but did not elaborate on how he arrived at this figure.

'Penalty for excess ethanol blending'

Mr. Arshad demanded that the Union government penalise OMCs for "over-blending", even as the Karnataka government would continue to conduct these tests and release their findings. "Every fuel station in the country should be mandated to display the ethanol blend percentage, allowing consumers to choose between the range of blends available," he said.

The Minister demanded that the Union government establish an E20 spoilage fund and compensate every consumer whose vehicle has been damaged through a time-bound claims process, with damage certified by authorised service centres.

Resubmit enumeration form: ECI to ousted voters

ASDD electors in seven States, Union Territories can seek inclusion in poll rolls by resubmitting enumeration forms; officials are directed to display fresh lists of excluded voters at polling stations

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Voters marked as Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD) in the seven States and Union Territories where the special intensive revision (SIR) is under way can submit the enumeration form again to get their names included in the electoral rolls, instead of having to use Form 6, which is meant for registration of first-time voters.

These electors were marked as absent because their enumeration forms had been issued but not received back, resulting in their exclusion from the draft electoral rolls during the ongoing SIR exercise.

The Election Commission of India's (ECI) directive comes after the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition filed by activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri on October 28 against the deletion of voters during the SIR in Delhi, asked the Commission why the deleted voters were being asked to use Form 6 for re-inclusion in the electoral rolls and why Form 8 could not be used. In a directive to the Chief Electoral Officers of Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, and Nagaland on Friday, the ECI said booth-wise lists of all electors marked as ASDD, whose enumeration forms were not received back and who could not be included in the draft electoral roll during the ongoing SIR, should be displayed afresh on the notice boards of the respective polling stations. The lists should also mention the probable reasons for the non-inclusion of their names.

Partially filled enumeration forms for all such ASDD electors will also be generated afresh in the Electoral Registration Officer dashboard in ECINET.

Electors who have not shifted their residence can submit their duly filled-in enumeration forms along with an enclosed statement, mentioning the reason as to why they could not submit their forms earlier.

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A second chance

The ECI allows Absent, Shifted, Dead, and Duplicate-marked voters in seven States/U.T. to resubmit enumeration forms

- The directive covers Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, and Nagaland
- Polling stations will redisplay excluded voters' names and probable reasons for exclusion
- Voters must explain why they missed the earlier deadline; those who moved within the State must provide their new address



- Those who have already submitted Form 6 need not file an enumeration form

CHAIRMAN SSB TRG (8368104529)

Ousted voters can use enumeration form: ECI

Those who have shifted residence within the State shall submit the Enumeration Form along with the statement enclosed, indicating their new address and the Assembly Constituency.

Till now, voters whose names were missing from the draft rolls had to submit Form 6 to re-enter the electoral rolls. Form 6 includes a declaration that the said applicant has not been registered as a voter elsewhere. This had led to concerns among many regarding the legality of the process.

The ECI clarified that electors who have already submitted Form 6 need not submit the enumeration form with the statement afresh.

Shortly after the ECI issued the directive, Ms. Bharadwaj and Ms. Johri welcomed the move. "We believe this is an important step in addressing large-scale exclusions caused during SIR.

The provision to re-assign the old EPIC numbers is important as it will ensure preservation of voters' historical record of being an existing voter," they said.

SHAURYA SSB TPC (6368104529)

Agnipath revision must be judged by what it does to institution it was meant to reform



SUDHIR PILLAI

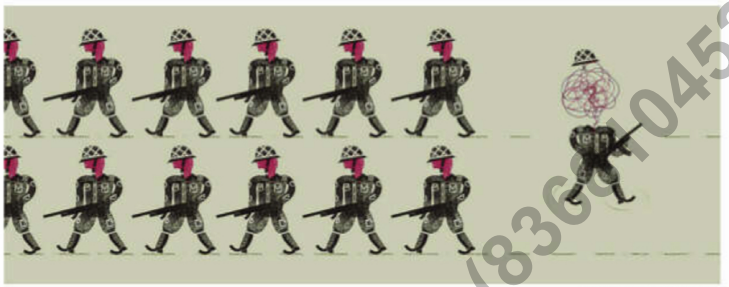


ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

AT TWO in the morning, in a rolling sea, a warship's machinery has a defect. On a ridge in Ladakh, a radar goes dark. On a flight line, an aircraft is grounded by a fault that few technicians can trace. The repair depot and manufacturer's support are far away. Someone on the spot must find the fault and put things right.

In the Indian Navy, that person was often a member of a specialised cadre, the artificers. He began with four years of apprenticeship and spent much of the next two decades acquiring the judgement of a Chief Artificer: Knowing how machinery behaved at sea, in rough weather, and not merely how the manual said it should. Agnipath has brought technical entry under the same four-year tenure as everyone else. The old apprenticeship alone lasted as long as an Agniveer's entire engagement.

On November 4, the Union Cabinet approved a second, two-year engagement for the 75 per cent of Agniveers otherwise due to leave after four years. For some 18,000 Agniveers approaching discharge, this is welcome relief, and the government deserves credit. But the decision changes the scheme more fundamentally than the assurance of its continuity suggests.

Agnipath rested on three propositions: Rapid turnover would lower the forces' average age; limiting regular absorption to 25 per cent would restrain pension liabilities; and the remaining 75 per cent would return to civilian life with savings, skills and preferential employment.

The revision unsettles all three. If most Agniveers now serve six years before entering regular service, the intended age profile and pension savings require recalculation.

Civilian reintegration is no clearer. The Chief of Defence Staff suggests that wider opportunities within the forces remove the need for reserved vacancies in the police and paramilitary forces. Yet regular absorption remains conditional. Those rejected after six years will enter the civilian job market two years older, potentially without the employment support originally promised.

Military effectiveness depends on recruits becoming skilled operators, supervisors and eventually the junior leaders on whom units rely. Each step beyond Seaman, Rifleman or Aircraftsman brings greater competence, responsibility and authority. The badges signify a professional progression, not merely seniority.

An Agniveer cannot advance through this structure during the initial engagement. By year six, a batchmate absorbed at four will have spent two years in regular service, with access to professional courses, promotion opportunities and the accompanying pay progression. The Cabinet promises unspecified "seniority benefits" for those serving a second engagement, though the CDS says they will rank below the 25 per cent first chosen. It leaves unclear whether they will enjoy comparable opportunities for training, advancement and remuneration.

Technical trades expose a deeper change. The former Artificer Apprentice entered after Class XII and underwent four years of naval apprenticeship before progressing through an established technical career. The new Agniveer (Apprentice) arrives with a three-year civilian engineering diploma, receives naval training and must subsequently qualify for regular service. The difference lies not simply in educational qualifications, but in how the Navy develops and retains technical competence. A diploma provides the foundations; mastery of a warship's machinery comes through sustained training, experience and responsibility.

> Military effectiveness depends on recruits becoming skilled operators, supervisors and eventually the junior leaders on whom units rely. Each step brings greater competence, responsibility and authority

There is a legal dimension too. In *Ex Navy Direct Entry Artificers Association v Union of India* (2018), the Supreme Court noted that the four-year apprenticeship of Apprentice Entry Artificers had been counted towards pension eligibility. The judgment does not govern Agnipath, but underscores why the distinction between training, engagement and pensionable service matters. Will an Agniveer's years before regular enrolment count towards qualifying service, or will the pension clock begin only upon absorption?

Chris Demchak's *Military Organizations, Complex Machines* explains why technical competence becomes more consequential as equipment grows sophisticated. Complex machines demand specialised knowledge that cannot be readily replaced. The Indian Navy invests years developing such expertise, which civilian and foreign employers readily value. Former artificers have served in Oman's royal yacht fleet and air force.

Agnipath itself recognises the need for exceptions, exempting certain medical technical cadres whose professional skills take years to develop. Avionics, radar maintenance and marine engineering demand comparable rigour. Having served as Class Authority for naval aviation, I wonder how those responsible for technical standards reconcile shortened career pathways with the demands of safety, reliability and operational readiness.

The Cabinet cites an objective assessment but does not show whether Agnipath has delivered the force structure, competence or savings promised. Christopher Paparone's *The Sociology of Military Science* reminds us that military reforms must be examined through evidence and their consequences, not merely their stated intentions.

The assessment belongs before Parliament's Standing Committee on Defence. Retention should reflect the requirements of individual services and trades, with appropriate protection for technical cadres. Six-year selection criteria must be published early. Second-engagement Agniveers need access to professional training and advancement, alongside clarity on how their service counts towards promotion, qualifying service and pension. Seniority alone cannot settle these questions.

Agnipath was conceived as military reform, not simply a recruitment contract. Its revision must, therefore, be judged by what it does to the institution and its capacity to fight the nation's wars.

The armed forces can purchase sophisticated machines. They cannot purchase the years of experience needed to understand them. That competence must be grown, and four years, or even six, is not enough.

The writer is a former Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Indian Navy

SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY (8360104529)

8 calls between Delhi, Washington in May-June: US lobbying firm

Divya A
New Delhi, November 6

IN ITS latest filings under the US's Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), American lobbying firm SHW Partners LLC, helmed by President Donald Trump's aide Jason Miller, has listed eight phone calls arranged between senior White House officials and the Indian government in May-June this year to discuss "India-US relations" as part of its "political activities".

India signed Miller's firm in April 2025, and the lobbying contract was renewed for another year in April this year. However, on June 23, the contract was terminated after Miller joined the Trump administration as a "special government employee".

The FARA requires "agents of foreign principals" who are engaged in political activities to make periodic public disclosure of their relationship, activities and financial compensation.

According to SHW Partners LLC, in May, ahead of Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India, phone calls were arranged between the Indian side

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CHAURY ASSETS PVT LTD (U30101DL2017PTC329)

Eight calls

and senior White House officials including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Deputy NSA Michael Needham and Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Gene Lange.

In June, after Rubio's visit, there were calls between the Indian side and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, Assistant to the President for Policy Walker Barrett, and Director of White House Office of Communications Steven Cheung.

The company, in its filings, has also listed two "embassy events" with Rubio on May 23 and 24. Rubio was in India from May 23 to May 26, during which he attended the America @250 events hosted by the US Embassy.

Miller, too, was in New Delhi at the time.

The contract, signed by the Indian Embassy in Washington with Miller, involved a monthly payout of $150,000. The scope of work included "strategic counsel, tactical planning and government relations assistance on policy matters before the US government, the US Congress, state governments, academic institutions, think tanks, and other relevant stakeholders," as per the documents.

Following Trump's re-election, the Indian Embassy hired two major lobbying firms helmed by those seen as part of the President's inner circle. The other firm was Mercury Public Affairs, signed at a monthly retainership of $75,000, with Bryan Lanza, communications director for Trump's transition team, in its core team. Susie Wiles, now Trump's Chief of Staff, was also a registered lobbyist with the firm until late 2024.

In its filings, Mercury has listed a post on X by Trump, greeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest serving Prime Minister in June this year, among other things.

SHAURYA SSB TPG (6368105129)

Gauhati HC quashes detention of Assam activist under NSA

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court on Friday quashed the detention of land rights activist Pranab Doley under the National Security Act (NSA) for protesting against a luxury hotel project near Kaziranga National Park. The order paved the way for the 40-year-old's release after 118 days in custody.

The court declared Mr. Doley's preventive detention illegal, observing that the grounds cited by the authorities lacked the required proximity. He was released from the Golaghat Jail in the evening.

Mr. Doley, convener of the Greater Kaziranga Land and Human Rights Protection Committee, was arrested on July 12, days after protesting against the hotel project at Ingle Pathar, a village on the periphery of the one-horned rhino's habitat. A court in Golaghat had granted him bail on July 29 and the State invoked the NSA against him on July 30.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368104529)

Electric vehicle sales jump 45% to 3,54,625 units in October

Mumbai: Electric vehicle sales in the country surged 45% to 3,54,625 units in October from the same month last year, led by e-two-wheeler sales, according to Federation of Indian Automobile Dealers' Association (FADA) data released on Friday. The total e-vehicle sales in October 2025 were 2,44,764 units. E-two-wheeler sales stood at 2,24,064 units in October this year, up 48.49% from 1,50,890 units in the same month last year, according to FADA data. PTI

SHAURYA ASSETRS (8668104529)

Iran sends US nuclear proposal via Qatar, sets 7 conditions for talks

Reuters
Dubai, November 6

IRAN HAS sent the United States a nuclear proposal via Qatar, to be discussed only after Washington meets Tehran's seven demands, a senior Iranian official told *Reuters* on Thursday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US was reviewing the proposal but declined to provide further details. Mediators have intensified efforts to end the war between Iran and the United States amid fears it could reignite after the US midterm elections, with Trump on Tuesday declining to rule out a resumption of combat operations after the vote and Iran planning wider retaliation if war resumes.

Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei had said earlier on Thursday, during a visit to Russia: "On the issue of diplomacy, we have announced seven conditions to the Americans. As long as they do not execute our seven conditions, we will neither open the Strait nor have negotiations".



Iranian government supporters at a rally in Tehran on Friday. REUTERS

Iran has demanded the lifting of US sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets and war reparations, among other conditions, while Washington has said nuclear issues must be part of any initial negotiations.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and Iran responded with strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. Conflict also erupted in Lebanon between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel, and more recently spread to Yemen, from where the Iran-aligned Houthis have struck energy facilities, airports and other targets in Saudi Arabia.

Airstrikes on market in southwestern Yemen kill at least 30, say Houthis

Cairo: Airstrikes hit a market in southwestern Yemen on Friday, killing at least 30 people, according to an official with Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

A Houthi health ministry spokesperson, Anees Alsabahi, told Houthi-run TV *Al Masirah* that 15 people were also wounded in the airstrikes on the market in al-Waziyah in the province of Taiz. He said that the death toll was expected to rise from the airstrikes, which he blamed on Saudi-led coalition.

Local officials in Taiz acknowledged an attack on a busy market killed and wounded people, without providing details on the toll. **REUTERS**

Zelenskyy presses Western allies for clear postwar security guarantees

Associated Press
Kyiv, November 6

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy says his government is seeking specific guarantees from Western allies on how post-war security support would function when the nearly five-year war sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion finally ends.

Zelenskyy's comments in an interview aired late Thursday followed two days of discussions among allies in Brussels that focused on postwar security and reconstruction. They also came before planned three-way talks next week in Abu Dhabi between Ukraine, Russia and the US, the first trilateral peace discussions since February.



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

While talks on the contours of peace continue, the grim reality of war remained front and center Friday in Ukraine, with more Russian drone attacks and a rising death toll from Moscow's guided bomb strike Monday on a former school operating as a humanitarian aid center.

Russian overnight drone strikes caused extensive power outages in several regions, including the Kyiv area. Two days of talks in Brussels discussed postwar reconstruction, funding for 2027 and security guarantees backed by the Ukrainian government's Western allies.

The meetings brought together officials from the US, UK, France, Germany and the European Union, along with representatives from the World Bank and the US investment group BlackRock, Ukrainian lead negotiator Rustem Umerov wrote in an online post.

SHAKRYN SSB KP 8368104299

TRUMP ON AI: Will work with many states that want to become rich by having them

TRUMP MEDIA'S investors lost $2.2 bn, shareholders question their investment

DEMOCRATS PLAN bills when they take

Midterm losses weaken Trump, but leave his grip on foreign policy intact

Trump will retain broad latitude to pursue goals on world stage

Reuters
Washington, November 6

THE REPUBLICAN Party's staggering losses at the ballot box this week have left President Donald Trump diminished in Washington and facing tougher legislative oversight and scrutiny of his agenda. But on foreign policy, he could remain unbowed.

Even as Democratic lawmakers seek to rein in the Republican president when they take control of Congress, Trump will retain broad latitude to pursue his objectives on the world stage, from Iran and Israel to Ukraine and China, during his final two years in office.

The central question, analysts say, is whether Trump will feel chastened by his party's poor showing in Tuesday's midterm elections or emboldened to take more dramatic steps to craft his legacy in US relations with friends and foes alike.

Most urgent is the intractable war against Iran, which Trump acknowledged on Wednesday contributed to his party losing both chambers of Congress.

He insisted, though, he had no regrets about attacking the Islamic Republic and it was essential to stop Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, which it says it has never sought.

The midterms outcome illustrated voter backlash after eight months of conflict that have driven US gasoline prices up and his approval ratings down.



President Donald Trump speaks to mediapersons after signing an executive order in the Oval Office on Thursday. AP

Democrats had accused Republicans of ceding Congress' war-making powers and giving Trump a free hand internationally, not just against Iran but with his approach to Russia's war in Ukraine, his tariffs campaign, his capture of Venezuela's president, and deadly boat strikes off Latin America.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told reporters on Wednesday his party's mandate is to put a check on "Trump's chaos at home and abroad" and end the Iran war.

That is easier said than done, given the extensive leeway with foreign policy and military operations presidents have long possessed. "A Democratic Congress has ability to stop Trump's domestic legislative agenda, but it doesn't have much ability to stop a president from exercising his powers as commander-in-chief," said William Wechsler, senior director of Middle East programs at Atlantic Council.

Democrats' main tools could be investigations, Trump nominees' confirmation hearings and funding authority to curb his foreign operations, but analysts say their leverage will be limited.

Taking control of Congress in January, Democrats will also seek to revive support for Ukraine, under pressure from Trump as it fights a 4-1/2-year-old Russian invasion.

Democrats hope to draw more Republicans into efforts to approve new aid to Ukraine and build a majority that could withstand a veto by Trump

Trump's lifting of sanctions on Russian diesel exports prompted criticism for reinforcing the impression that he was siding with Moscow.

Fed up with politics and struggle, young voters drive Republican losses

Sabrina Tavernise & Ruth Igielnik
November 6

ALIENATED BY an older generation of politicians who felt out of touch and irrelevant to their lives, young voters revolted on Tuesday, powering the rout of President Donald Trump's Republican Party.

In swings of monumental proportion, young men ages 18 to 29 veered toward Democratic candidates by nearly 40 percentage points since 2024, according to preliminary results from Times Voter Trends. Young women, who were already inclined to support Democrats, swung by 27 points. In the Texas Senate race, men ages 18 to 44 swung nearly 50 points toward the Democrat, James Talarico.

"He is my age," said Tristan Waumsley, 35, of Richmond, Texas, who voted straight Democratic at the state level for the first time in his life. "He sounded like I could have talked to him myself. He's somebody normal, like me."

Republicans have run Texas for years and not produced any real change in his life. With Talarico, he said, "maybe we can bring society forward, instead of regressing."

The youth movement swept in or bolstered politicians who looked more like them: Abdul El-Sayed, the senator-elect of Michigan; Rob Sand, governor-elect of Iowa; Sen. Jon Ossoff in Georgia; Nithya Raman, newly elected mayor of Los Angeles; and Sam Forstag, an incoming congressman from Montana.

And while the Democratic winners seem to be speaking their language, many voters under 45 — younger millennials and Generation Zers — were quick to say their support was not an ideological conversion, but granted temporarily to jump-start real change on the issues such as the cost of living, US relations with Israel and Iran war.

Though it felt unfamiliar to vote for Democrats, Waumsley said he was happy about his choice. But he emphasized that he was voting for the people, not the party, and that he would be watching them closely to make sure they followed through.

Discontent is spreading globally, fuelling youth movements from Bangladesh and India to Serbia and France. Governments have prioritised baby boomers through free healthcare and subsidised retirement, while education systems have been strained, health insurance costs have soared and older generations have held on to jobs. NYT

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