

# TRINITY MIRROR

WEDNESDAY 06 AUGUST 2025

## Maternity leave: TN guiding light

A recent landmark judgment by the Himachal Pradesh High Court, which granted maternity leave to a government employee for her third child, has sent a clear message that a woman's right to motherhood cannot be curtailed by rigid administrative rules. While the verdict itself came from Himachal Pradesh, its legal foundation and reasoning draw significantly from a powerful precedent set by the Supreme Court of India in a case originating from Tamil Nadu, highlighting the state's progressive role in shaping national jurisprudence on women's rights.

The Himachal Pradesh High Court's decision came in the case of Archana Sharma, a staff nurse who was denied 180 days of maternity leave for her third child. The authorities cited the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, which restrict maternity leave to women with fewer than two surviving children. However, the court, led by Justice Sandeep Sharma, quashed this rejection.

The court's core finding was that the two-child norm cannot be applied to deny maternity benefits if the previous children were born before the woman entered government service. It emphasized that maternity leave is not a mere privilege but a constitutional and humane right, integral to a woman's reproductive autonomy and dignity. The judgment stressed the need to

**Progressive stance**  
**This judicial precedent is not an isolated incident. Tamil Nadu has also demonstrated a progressive approach through its administrative policies and other court rulings. In a significant move, the Tamil Nadu Government has extended maternity leave for its employees to 12 months, a period that is among the most generous in the country. This policy, while not directly related to the two-child norm, showcases a strong commitment to supporting working mothers and recognizing the importance of pre and post-natal care for both mother and child. The Madras High Court has also issued judgments that extend maternity benefits to contractual and bonded employees, such as doctors, ensuring that their rights are not compromised by temporary employment status. In cases like Dr. E. Krithikaa v. The State of Tamil Nadu, the court held that maternity leave must be counted towards the mandatory bond service period, reinforcing the idea that such rights supersede contractual obligations.**

balance population control policies with the fundamental right to protect motherhood, stating that these objectives are not "mutually exclusive" but must be harmonized rationally.

Crucially, the Himachal Pradesh High Court extensively cited the Supreme Court's verdict in K. Umadevi v. Government of Tamil Nadu & Others. This is where Tamil Nadu's contribution to this legal evolution becomes apparent.

The Umadevi case involved a Tamil Nadu Government school teacher, K. Umadevi, who was denied maternity leave for her first child from a second marriage because she had two children from her first, a marriage which had ended in divorce. The State's Fundamental Rule 101(a) was used to deny her the benefit. The Madras High Court's Division Bench initially sided with the government, but the Supreme

Court reversed this decision.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling, went beyond a simple interpretation of service rules. It affirmed that maternity benefits are a fundamental component of a woman's reproductive rights, which are protected under Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution. The court held that a woman's right to make choices about her family and The Supreme Court's verdict set a national precedent by clarifying that a rigid, one-size-fits-all approach to the two-child norm is unconstitutional. It guided that such rules must be interpreted in a way that is "just, humane, and respects the dignity of its employees," particularly in complex family situations like remarriage or, as in the Himachal Pradesh case, children born prior to entering service.

## Unable to establish contact, NASA ends Lunar Trailblazer Mission

Chennai, Aug 6: US Space Agency NASA's Lunar Trailblazer ended its mission to the Moon on July 31. Despite extensive efforts, mission operators were unable to establish two-way communications after losing contact with the spacecraft the day following its February 26 launch.

The small satellite was to map lunar water, but operators lost contact with the spacecraft the day after launch and were unable to recover the mission.

The mission aimed to produce high-resolution maps of water on the Moon's surface and determine what form the water is in, how much is there, and how it changes over time.

The maps would have supported future robotic and human exploration of the Moon as well as commercial interests while also contributing to the understanding of water cycles on airless bodies throughout the solar system, NASA said in an update today.

Lunar Trailblazer shared a ride on the second Intuitive Machines robotic lunar lander mission, IM-2, which lifted off at 7:16 p.m. EST (4:45 am IST) on February 26 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the agency's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The small satellite separated as planned from the rocket about 48 minutes after launch to begin its flight to the Moon.

Mission operators at Caltech's IPAC in Pasadena established communications with the small spacecraft at 8:13 p.m. EST (5:43 am). However, the contact was lost the next day.

Without two-way communications, the team was unable to fully diagnose the spacecraft or perform the thruster operations needed to keep Lunar Trailblazer on its flight path.

"At NASA, we undertake high-risk, high-reward missions like Lunar Trailblazer to find revolutionary ways of doing new science," said Nicky Fox, associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

"While it was not the outcome we had hoped for, mission experiences like Lunar Trailblazer help us to learn and reduce the risk for future, low-cost small satellites to do innovative science as we prepare for a sustained human presence

on the Moon. Thank you to the Lunar Trailblazer team for their dedication in working on and learning from this mission through to the end", Nicky said.

The limited data the mission team had received from Lunar Trailblazer indicated that the spacecraft's solar arrays were not properly oriented toward the Sun, which caused its batteries to become depleted.

For several months, collaborating organisations around the world - many of which volunteered their assistance - listened for the spacecraft's radio signal and tracked its position. Ground radar and optical observations indicated that Lunar Trailblazer was in a slow spin as it headed farther into deep space.

"As Lunar Trailblazer drifted far beyond the Moon, our models showed that the solar panels might receive more sunlight, perhaps charging the spacecraft's batteries to a point it could turn on its radio," said Andrew Klesh, Lunar Trailblazer's project systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.

"The global community's support helped us better understand the spacecraft's

## Nuke reactor on moon

Acting NASA Administrator Sean Duffy has directed the agency to fast-track plans to put a nuclear reactor on the moon, reports CNN.

Expediting work to place a reactor on the lunar surface to help power moon exploration efforts would keep the United States ahead of China and Russia, both of which have "announced on at least three occasions" a joint effort to develop such a project by the mid-2030s, according to a directive dated July 31 and obtained by CNN.

If another country were to achieve this feat first, it could declare a "keep-out zone" that would effectively hold the US back from its goal of establishing a presence on the lunar surface through NASA's Artemis programme.

The Artemis III mission, currently planned for 2027, is expected to return humans to the surface of the moon for the first time in more than five decades. But the programme still has several milestones in order to reach that target.

"We're in a race to the moon, in a race with China to the moon," Duffy told reporters at a news conference Tuesday on drones.

spin, pointing, and trajectory. In space exploration, collaboration is critical - this gave us the best chance to try to regain contact," he said.

However, as time passed, Lunar Trailblazer became too distant to recover as its telecommunications signals would have been too weak for the mission to receive telemetry and to command.

## Pak won't be swayed by Trump overtures: Chinese experts

Beijing, Aug 6: As former US President Donald Trump steps up engagement with Pakistan - China's long-time strategic partner - Chinese experts believe Islamabad remains aware of the boundaries, particularly in light of Washington's broader effort to counter Beijing's global influence.

Last month, Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, visited China for the first time since taking office. His trip followed a rare five-day visit to Washington, during which he met Trump over a private luncheon. That meeting concluded with Trump announcing renewed US-Pakistan co-operation across sectors, including a notable oil agreement.

According to *The Economist*, General Munir's visit signals a shift in American foreign policy - with implications not only for India but also for China and the broader Middle East.

During his stay in Beijing, General Munir held discussions with Chi-

nese Vice President Han Zheng, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and senior PLA officials. Notably, he did not meet President Xi Jinping - a contrast to his predecessor, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who was granted an audience with Xi during his 2018 visit.

While official statements from Munir's meetings stressed diplomatic goodwill and reaffirmed strong bilateral ties, Chinese observers remain cautious about the growing Trump-Munir rapport, particularly in the context of Trump's stated aim to limit China's rise on the world stage.

China has heavily invested - politically, economically, and militarily - in cultivating its "all-weather" partnership with Pakistan over decades. Two leading Chinese strategic analysts spoke to PTI, offering rare insights into Beijing's reading of the emerging US-Pakistan dynamic.

"Pakistan will not develop ties with the US at the expense of its

relationship with China," said Hu Shisheng, Director of the Institute for South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

"Pakistan won't be easily swayed by Trump," Hu added, noting Islamabad's long history of balancing relations with both superpowers.

Jesse Wang, a research fellow at the Huaxia South Asia Economic and Cultural Exchange Centre, echoed that sentiment: "Trump's overtures may appear disruptive on the surface, but they won't destabilise the deep-rooted Sino-Pakistan partnership." He added, "The US move has created short-term geopolitical noise, but structurally, China and Pakistan remain interlocked. Islamabad may benefit economically from both sides, but its strategic and infrastructure lifelines are closely tied to Beijing."

Wang and Hu both underscored that Pakistan's strategic alignment with China is built on decades

## India, Philippines to work on Preferential Trade pact

New Delhi, Aug 6:

India and the Philippines have agreed to complete review of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on a priority and also work towards a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his opening remarks at the joint press conference along with visiting Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said bilateral India-Philippines trade is growing continuously and has crossed the 3 billion dollar mark.

"To further strengthen it, it is our priority to complete the review of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement as soon as possible. Also, we have decided to work towards a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement," he said.

He said companies of both countries are actively working in every sector - Information and Digital Technology, health, automobiles, infrastructure, minerals. In the field of science and technology, from virology to AI and additive manufacturing, joint research is going on.

Next year, the Philippines will chair ASEAN. "We will provide full support for its success," Prime Minister Modi said **Tourist visas**

Philippines has decided to give visa-free entry to Indian tourists while India will provide free e-visa facility to tourists from that country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his remarks at the joint press conference along with visiting President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, said work

will also be done to start flights between New Delhi and Manila this year.

"We welcome the decision of the Philippines to grant visa-free entry to Indian tourists. India has also decided to provide free e-visa facility to tourists from the Philippines. This year, work will also be done to start direct flights between Delhi and Manila," Prime Minister Modi said

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### STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

(₹ in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Three months ended 30.06.2025	Preceding three months ended 31.03.2025	Corresponding three months ended in previous year 30.06.2024	Year ended 31.03.2025
		Unaudited	Audited Refer Note (iv)	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	0.90	0.90	0.90	5.93
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) from Ordinary Activities Before Tax	(1.06)	(1.08)	(0.85)	(2.58)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) from Ordinary Activities before Tax (after Extraordinary Items)	(1.06)	(1.08)	(0.85)	(2.58)
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) from Ordinary Activities After Tax	(1.06)	(1.08)	(0.85)	(2.58)
5.	Net Profit / (Loss) from Ordinary Activities After Tax (after Extraordinary Items)	(1.06)	(1.08)	(0.85)	(2.58)
6.	Total Comprehensive Income (After Tax)	65.61	(1.08)	(25.58)	(27.31)
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (Rs.10/- per share)	24.40	24.40	24.40	24.40
8.	Earnings per Share (EPS) - not annualised-before and after extraordinary items (in Rs.)				
	a) Basic	(0.43)	(0.44)	(0.35)	(1.06)
	b) Diluted	(0.43)	(0.44)	(0.35)	(1.06)

#### Note:

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2025 is available on the website of Stock Exchange [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and also on the Company's website, [www.kartikinvestments.com](http://www.kartikinvestments.com). The financial results can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below:



Place : Chennai  
Date : August 05, 2025

For Kartik Investments Trust Limited  
Aparna S  
Director

## Political Vein

V.V.S. Manian

### Chicken feed

Genuine, but relatively unimportant or harmless, intelligence intentionally provided to a rival intelligence organisation by a double agent (or agents) in order to establish or maintain their credibility and loyalty. This tactic is used to build trust while protecting more critical secrets.

# DOUBLE AGENT

TODAY'S  
INSPIRATIONAL  
WORD

When Government institutions hold more lunatics than mental institutions, know that, there's something clinically wrong with this world.

- Abhijit Naskar. Y



