

## DNA test restores child to 'real' mother

A two-and-half-month-old baby boy being claimed by two women as their child was restored to his 'real' mother Friday after a DNA test.

The baby was given to Santoshi and her husband. The laboratory established that the baby boy is their son and not that of Padmavati, the other woman.

The intriguing case was reported from Vijaynagaram district in north coastal Andhra, about 600 km from here.

The two women had given birth to male infants at a government-run hospital on the same day in January this year. One child died immediately after birth. Due to a mistake by hospital employees, it was not clear whose child had died.

'Each of the two women claimed that the surviving child was hers. The case was referred to the police, who approached us to help in solving the case,' said an official of Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory.

Blood samples of both couples were taken for the DNA test and the laboratory reached the conclusion that the child is the son of Santoshi.

This is the second time that the laboratory has solved this kind of tangle.

Three years ago, a baby boy was swapped with a girl child at the Government Maternity Hospital, Nayapul, here with the connivance of some hospital employees.

The DNA tests of the couples proved that one of the women claiming the baby boy to be her son had actually given birth to a girl.

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