

17 March 2008

By: Stefan Anitei, Science Editor



The two-faced girl
telegraph.co.uk

[Meet the Two-Faced Girl](#)

From India

We do not know if it's the Bhopal accident or just a large population pool, but India comes with really weird human newborn cases. An Indian woman has just delivered a baby girl with two faces. The girl had four eyes, two noses and two mouths. The six-day old baby girl, whose parents are Vinod and Sushma Singh, is already being regarded as a reincarnation of the Hindu God of wisdom Ganesha (the elephant-headed god). The child was born in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, 50 km (30 mi) north east of New Delhi. When the locals of the remote village (called Sani) where the family of the girl reside found about this, they started singing and dancing, asking for her blessings and bringing offerings. Both the newborn girl and her mother are in good health. This birth has occurred just two years after the birth, in a poor village in Bihar (northern India), of Lakshmi, an eight-limbed girl named so in the honor of the four-armed Hindu goddess of wealth. Lakshmi attracted the attention of people eager to gain money from her deformity: a circus even tried to buy the girl, and the parents had to hide the child. Lakshmi Tatma was born with a headless, undeveloped parasitic twin joined to her pelvis, and the extra four limbs were the arms and legs of the undeveloped sister. Lakshmi integrated the limbs, kidneys and other organs of the undeveloped fetus into her body, resulting two merged spines, four kidneys, entangled nerves, two stomach cavities and two chest cavities. In November 2007, a team of 30 medics at a private Bangalore hospital operated Lakshmi for giving her a normal life. The doctors separated Lakshmi's spinal column, extra-limbs and kidney from that of the parasite. Now, Lakshmi has started to walk making her first assisted steps and she can sit up with no difficulty. The girl will need further operations to correct club feet and rebuild pelvic floor muscles. On March 29, 2006, a "frog baby" with an extreme case of anencephaly was born in Charikot, the headquarters of Dolakha district.