

# THE HINDU

Online edition of India's National Newspaper  
Wednesday, Jul 30, 2008  
ePaper | Mobile/PDA Version

Google™

Site Search

## Tamil Nadu



**BOSE**  
Delivering world through research  
presents  
**THE HINDU**  
**METROPLUS**  
**theatre**  
FEST  
It's playtime folks!  
August 1-10, 2008  
**Buy Tickets Online**

**News:** [ePaper](#) | [Front Page](#) | [National](#) | [Tamil Nadu](#) | [Andhra Pradesh](#) | [Karnataka](#) | [Kerala](#) | [New Delhi](#) | [Other States](#) | [International](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Business](#) | [Sport](#) | [Miscellaneous](#) | [Engagements](#) | [Advts:](#) [Retail Plus](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Obituary](#) |

Tamil Nadu

### Inborn defects can be set right from moment of birth

Ramya Kannan

*Screening of newborns for metabolic disorders is a matter of course in U.S.*

CHENNAI: Did you know that prevention begins right from the moment the child is born? That it is possible, with tests, to begin to effect a lifestyle change for a healthy life almost immediately? With the right kind of technology, indeed it is possible.

Screening of newborns for metabolic disorders, caused by genetic inheritance or when there is a toxic build-up of chemicals in the body, is being practised as a matter of course in the United States. Even apparently healthy babies might contain a rogue gene in them that could cause problems later on, leading to a poor quality of life and even death. In 47 of the 50 states of America, it is a norm for hospitals to perform tests for inborn errors of metabolism (IEM) as soon as the child is born.

That is how 24 hours after Ayden Mookken was born in an American hospital in 2005, doctors told the Mookkens that their healthy cherub had G6PD. Categorized as an IED the condition could be fatal. "Thankfully, all we had to do was to ensure that Ayden avoided certain types of food. Early detection means we start treatment early and therefore have better outcomes," says his father Thomas Mookken who is vice-president, NeoGen Labs.

The Indian Council for Medical Research has funded a project to study metabolic errors among newborns in five centres across the country.

In Chennai, the Foetal Care Research Centre, a non-profit subsidiary launched by Mediscan Systems, will implement the project at the Government Hospital for Women, Egmore.

"We will be testing for two common metabolic disorders — congenital hypothyroidism and congenital adrenalin hyperplasia," says S. Suresh, director, Mediscan, who also established the Foetal Care Research Centre.

While congenital hypothyroidism results from the failure of the thyroid gland to develop fully and can lead to abnormal physical and mental development, in congenital adrenal hyperplasia, the gender of a child might be ambiguous. Sample collection will begin on Wednesday at the IOG.

All babies born in the IOG will automatically be part of the ICMR study, says K.Saraswathy, director, IOG. Since it is being funded by ICMR, the parents will have to pay nothing for the tests, she added. Dr.Suresh clarifies that with a tiny heel prick, five drops of blood are extracted from the baby born after a full term within 24 – 48 hours of delivery.

The funding from ICMR is to test nation-wide 20,000 new borns for the two IEMs and build a database for the first time ever in the country. In the private sector, Dr.Suresh says, typically three parameters are tested for all babies. NeoGen, based in Bangalore, offers tests for 50 disorders since September 2007. It also offers the facility for babies born in government hospitals in Goa in association with the State.

"It is a good idea to test babies irrespective of whether they fall in the high risk category or not. If you can catch them early, you can bring them around," Dr.Suresh adds. "Once we identify the disorder, we need to do a confirmation test and also provide appropriate advice and treatment in order to truly benefit the children," he explains.

[Printer friendly page](#)  
[Send this article to Friends by E-Mail](#)

### News Update

#### Stories in this Section

- Engagements
- Training programme on organic farming
- Routine affair
- Security stepped up in Rameswaram
- A colourful arch
- Minister launches life skills education scheme
- Railway Protection Force constable fires in the air
- "Food, fertilizer shortage looming"
- Inborn defects can be set right from moment of birth
- Three policemen held
- 898 booths for next elections in Theni
- Sales centre set up to supply quality seeds
- Bridge proposal to be sent to Government
- Security tightened in Pudukottai district, control rooms to be set up
- A treat for Carnatic music lovers
- Actor Vishal dedicates new classrooms
- Computer training
- On an unusual scale
- Felicitations
- Pollachi Municipality plans solid waste management
- Last date extended for name addition
- Keeping Mamallapuram magic more alive
- Basket case
- Correction
- Agitation to condemn rash driving by heavy vehicle drivers
- Trust opens maternity block
- Plan to make physical education compulsory
- Works reviewed in Mangadu, Kunrathur town panchayats
- Exam to recruit Civil Judge
- Government colleges to re-employ retired teachers
- Ali Abdullah to be taken into police custody
- Bench declines to discharge Minister in graft case
- Court upholds ceiling imposed under Payment of Bonus Act

#### Archives

[Yesterday's Issue](#)  
[Datewise](#)

#### Features:

[Magazine](#)  
[Literary Review](#)  
[Metro Plus](#)  
[Open Page](#)  
[Education Plus](#)  
[Book Review](#)  
[Business](#)  
[SciTech](#)  
[NXg](#)  
[Friday Review](#)  
[Cinema Plus](#)  
[Young World](#)  
[Property Plus](#)  
[Quest](#)

Ads by Google

[School & ChildCare Chennai](#)

4 mths to 10yrs,  
11 hours, fully AC  
Intl curriculum, 1:5  
teacher ratio  
[www.ParentChoice.in](#)

[Newborn screening](#)

A Complete  
Academic  
Resource 20  
Pages of Related  
Content  
[BookRags.com](#)

[Samsung Live 360](#)

Presenting The All  
New Range Of  
Samsung  
Notebooks. Know  
More  
[www.samsung.com/Lapt](#)

[Modern DLF Homes, Chennai](#)

2/3 BHK home  
with  
Clubhouse, Pool &  
Tennis  
Court—Book at  
DLFGardencity  
[DLFCampaigns.in/Chenn](#)



[Tamil Nadu](#)

[News:](#) [ePaper](#) | [Front Page](#) | [National](#) | [Tamil Nadu](#) | [Andhra Pradesh](#) | [Karnataka](#) | [Kerala](#) | [New Delhi](#) | [Other States](#) | [International](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Business](#) | [Sport](#) | [Miscellaneous](#) | [Engagements](#) | [Advts:](#) [Retail Plus](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Obituary](#) | [Updates:](#) [Breaking News](#) |



[www.dlfcampaigns.in/chennaiOMR/](http://www.dlfcampaigns.in/chennaiOMR/)

[Feedback - Ads by Google](#)

[The Hindu Group:](#) [Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Subscription](#)  
[Group Sites:](#) [The Hindu](#) | [The Hindu ePaper](#) | [Business Line](#) | [Business Line ePaper](#) | [Sportstar](#) | [Frontline](#) | [Publications](#) | [eBooks](#) | [Images](#) | [Home](#) |

**Copyright** © 2008, The Hindu. Republication or redissemination of the contents of this screen are expressly prohibited without the written consent of The Hindu