

**1-yr-old celebrates birthday with 'new' leg****By: Gigil Varghese****August 2, 2004**

**Manish Singh, 1 Yr. who went through a six-hour surgery at Bombay Hospital to get his right leg restored**

**Manish Singh who celebrated his first birthday yesterday, got the perfect birthday gift: the ability to once again use his right leg.**

**One year ago, when Manish was just a few hours old, he was dumped in a sugarcane field, in Varanasi, his umbilical cord still intact. A carnivore had eaten into his right thigh and calf muscles.**

**Lying in the pediatric ward of Bombay Hospital, Singh, cared for by his foster mother Nirmala Singh, went through a six-hour surgery to get his right leg restored.**

**Dr Ashok Gupta, the doctor who treated Singh said that the boy would have to undergo two more surgeries — one six months later and the other when he turned five.**

**The baby will stay in the hospital for another month after which the doctors will decide whether to discharge him or not depending on his condition.**

**“It is a very unusual case. We have restored the lifeline nerves, vessels and skin on the right leg,” said Dr Gupta. The nerve from the left leg was transplanted to the right leg.**

**Singh was brought to the city hospital on July 10 by a NGO, the SOS Children’s Villages of India. A part of the hospital expenses are being borne by the NGO.**

### **The incident**

**On August 1, 2003, at around 8 am a newborn baby was found abandoned in the field in Khuthana village, Varanasi by villagers. He was covered in blood and had serious injuries in his thigh and calf muscles.**

**The boy was taken to the Chaubeypur police station and then to SOS Balgram. He was treated at the Benaras Hindu University’s medical center after which the baby was handed over to Nirmala Singh, a woman who works for the NGO.**

**“The baby was a few hours old. His umbilical cord was not even cut,” said Nirmala. Yesterday, a year after his ordeal, cakes, chocolates and other children (patients) in the pediatric ward brought laughter on Manish’s face that was yet oblivious of his birthday gift.**

**Dr. Ashok Gupta along with the Orthopedic Surgeon carried out another operation to fix his deformed bones and then lengthened his muscles and bone so as to allow him to walk on his own legs. He further has to undergo some more surgeries — one about one year later and the other when he turned five.**