

# Foreigner surrogacy ban: 'Our embryos are trapped in India'

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## Couples plead for them to be returned

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**NEW DELHI //** Hundreds of foreign couples hoping for children are desperately trying to have their embryos returned from India after the country banned commercial surrogacy.

"Our embryos are trapped in India," said Briana Benn-Mirandi, who with her husband Daniel Mirandi was forced to return to the US when the ban came into effect.

"The whole situation shattered my family, including our parents.

"As for our embryos, it could very easily be destroyed and they know there is nothing whatsoever we can do about it."

The couple paid US\$10,000,



**A laboratory technician at work in a fertilisation centre in Anand, Gujarat state, India.** Subhash Sharma for The National

or Dh36,700, to create the embryos in India to be implanted in a surrogate mother. But in October last year, the government banned surrogacy for foreigners.

Couples around the world had turned to women in India who would carry the embryos for desperately needed cash at highly

competitive prices. Now foreigners with embryos stored in fertilisation centres are keenly watching the result of a case in the Bombay High Court, in which an American couple are seeking to have their embryos returned.

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