**Baby love**


In southern France last week, a court awarded £1.3m damages to two families where baby daughters were accidentally switched at birth by a drunken midwife in 1964 in Cannes. They had been in the same incubator.

One of the mothers, Sophie Serrano, and her adoptive daughter, Manon, have spoken out, but the other family have chosen to retain their anonymity. The mistake was discovered when the girls were 10 but there was no happy (re)union.

“You find yourself in front of a woman who is biologically your mother but who is a stranger,” said Manon.

Sophie added: “We each went our separate ways as it’s so distressing.”

Since I could visualise a deep Bengali film, starring Paoli Dam and Rituparna Sengupta, coming on, I immediately consulted my psychiatrist Raj Persaud, who explained the French case: “A bond has been formed over many years and this shows the strength of human attachment which overrides genes in this kind of situation but it is also testament to the fact these families appear to be close and caring so the kids don’t want to leave them.”

**Rubens retold**

Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) is famous for his paintings of voluptuous women, the sort our grandmothers and elderly aunts in India would describe as “healthy”.

But the most dramatic painting in the current exhibition at the Royal Academy, Rubens and his legacy, Van Dyck to Gauguin, is a hunt. Only he got carried away and included three species which never hunt together. The result is Tiger, Lion and Leopard (1616).

“Thought of cutting and scaled up,” one of the curators suggested.

The exhibition is presented through six themes: poetry, elegance, power, lust, compassion and violence. And it examines the way Rubens influenced those who came after him — from Turner to Constable, Manet, Rembrandt and Picasso.

I had three immediate thoughts: art should be taught in all schools in India; Indian artists should focus on landscapes rather than indifferent contemporary stuff; and India needs to get these exhibitions, so I hope KNOEMA is up and running in Calcutta before too long.

**Keynes legacy**

Amartya Sen has won many accolades over the years but the inaugural Charleston EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize announced last week for his “outstanding contribution to society” is charming.

The prize itself, announced by Liz Fargan, chairman of the Charleston Trust advisory panel, recognises “the spirit of John Maynard Keynes’s work, life and legacy”.

Prof. Sen, who gets to spend £3,000 commission a work of art, will deliver a lecture, “The Economic Consequences of Austerity”, on May 23 at the Charleston literary festival this year:

“I do think Keynes has become even more important today because his analysis of the causes of unemployment (in his famous book *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*), which became almost universally accepted in the post-World War II era, is being fairly widely neglected today. For example, in the making of the European economic policies,” he says, “I think Keynes has become even more important today because his analysis of the causes of unemployment (in his famous book *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*), which became almost universally accepted in the post-World War II era, is being fairly widely neglected today. For example, in the making of the European economic policies,” he says.