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## HI-FLYING WOMEN'S EGG-CELLENT MOVE

Career women, including models and corporate execs, get their ova frozen at city's human egg bank so that they can retrieve them if they wish to conceive in the late 30s or early 40s

SANTOSH ANANDJI

**M**umbai's career-oriented women are finding a way to make the best of both worlds.

According to doctors at Liviati Hospital, more than 20 high-flying career women, including leading models, lawyers and professionals from the corporate sector, have come forward to freeze their ova at the hospital's human egg bank so that if they marry late in life and develop the maternal urge, they can retrieve the ova to help them conceive.

This is in keeping with a growing international trend of storing ova for future use. Several hospitals in the UK and other countries have reported increasing cases of women saving ova so that they can conceive later using a routine IVF procedure.

Though the facility at Liviati started when the bank was first opened in 2006, initially, only doctors who wished to give their eggs to those who could not conceive came forward. However, in the last few months, many women have approached the hospital for saving their ova for themselves.

"A number of women have preserved their ova in our bank. These women are models and career women working with top-notch companies. We are strict about maintaining the confidentiality of these women," Dr Namrita Palshetkar, gynaecologist at Liviati's IVF department said.

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Dr Rekhikesh Pal (left) and Dr Namrita Palshetkar with the liquid nitrogen containers used to freeze the ova



### CITY

## Hi-flying women make an egg-cellent move

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 According to Palshetkar, "The biological clock keeps ticking irrespective of external factors and stops by the late 30s or early 40s."  
 The number of women who have saved their ova therefore indicates that successful child-bearing age.  
 Doctors at Liviati say the facility is especially beneficial for women taking treatment for life-threatening medical conditions. The hospital offers the facility free for cancer patients.

"The facility is free for women suffering from cancer and undergoing chemotherapy. We take their eggs before they begin treatment. The bank can be a boon for these women if they decide to conceive at a

late date. Also, women suffering from severe endometriosis, premature ovarian failure or early menopause will benefit greatly from the bank," Dr Rekhikesh Pal, IVF department, Liviati Hospital, said.  
**HOW IT IS DONE**  
 The patient is given hormone injections to produce eggs. The eggs are then retrieved with the help of an ultrasound machine. This procedure takes around 30 minutes and is performed under general anaesthesia. The

patient is discharged after three hours. These eggs are then donated by the embryo, stored in the IVF laboratory. The mature eggs are identified and prepared for freezing.  
**HOW OVARS ARE STORED**  
 The donated eggs are frozen in a straw after a special procedure; the temperatures are

gradually dropped down to -80 degrees centigrade with the help of an automated freezer. Following this, rapid freezing is done to -170 degrees centigrade in liquid nitrogen containers. These eggs can be stored in the containers for 20-25 years.  
 Every tube is marked with the woman's name in waterproof ink.

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A sizeable number of women have already preserved their ova in our bank. These women are models and career women working with top-notch companies  
 — Dr Palshetkar, IVF dept, Liviati Hospital

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