

# Outlook

Read • Think • Understand



Dr Sudhir Srivastava



Dr Aashish Chaudhry



Dr Jothi Neeraja Satyananda



Dr Ajay Swaroop



Dr Neeraj Awasthy



Dr Vikram Aggarwal



Dr Pramod S Chinder



Dr Raghunath S K



Dr Soumya Swaminathan



Dr JS Titiyal



Dr Neerja Bhatla



Dr Kavita Singh

## Champions of Healthcare and Wellness



## Leading with Compassion, Excellence and Purpose

India's healthcare landscape is shaped and strengthened by a cadre of visionary professionals whose leadership, innovation, and dedication have transformed public health outcomes and clinical excellence.

From pioneering medical breakthroughs to spearheading national missions and global collaborations, these healthcare leaders represent the best of Indian medicine, research, and policy. Their

efforts span across diverse domains—clinical care, biomedical research, health systems development, and public health advocacy—playing a pivotal role in improving access, quality, and equity in healthcare. This feature highlights the contributions of some of India's most respected and impactful medical professionals whose work continues to shape India's health narrative.

India's healthcare system has

been shaped by the vision and commitment of exceptional medical professionals. Through path-breaking research, clinical innovation, and public health leadership, they have advanced care, improved access, and strengthened health systems.

This feature profiles some of the country's most respected doctors whose work continues to leave a lasting impact on medicine, research, and health policy.

# Telesurgery- Revolutionizing the future of surgery

India is Leading the Global Telesurgery Revolution, One Robotic Surgery at a Time



**Dr Sudhir Srivastava**, Founder & Chairman  
SS Innovations International Inc

India is now fast emerging as a formidable global leader in telesurgery, thanks to the pioneering efforts of Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder and Chairman of SS Innovations International Inc. Armed with a transformative vision to democratize access to advanced surgical care through indigenous robotic technology, Dr. Srivastava is not only reshaping Indian healthcare but revolutionizing the global surgical landscape and making India Atmanirbhar in the surgical care space.

At the heart of this movement is the SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System, India's first and only indigenously designed and manufactured multi-specialty surgical robotic platform. But beyond its engineering brilliance, what truly sets the Mantra system apart is its telesurgical capability, enabling skilled surgeons to operate on patients across continents in real-time with precision, safety, and stability.

At the Annual Conference of the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS), held in Strasbourg, France (July 16–20, 2025), SS Innovations International once again made history by performing world's first robotic cardiac telesurgery across 10,000 kilometers from IRCAD

Global HQ in France to IRCAD India, Indore, powered entirely by the SSI Mantra system. The world's first inter-continental robotic cardiac surgery an atrial septal defect (ASD) closure was performed remotely by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava from France, while the patient was supported by a multidisciplinary team in Indore, India.

Surgeons in India have, to date, performed more than 40 successful telesurgical procedures using the SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System, each completed without a single technical glitch or interruption.

These landmark procedures, across multiple specialties, were executed with exceptional precision

and flawless real-time performance, enabled by the Mantra system's robust tele-surgical architecture and unwavering stability over any distance.

This record proves the Mantra system's reliability and sets a new benchmark for safe, repeatable telesurgery, enabling expert care to reach even the most remote regions without compromise.

While global recognition is important, Dr. Srivastava's vision has always been rooted in equity in ensuring that advanced surgical care is not a luxury for the few, but a right for all.

SS Innovations has advanced its mission by introducing telesurgery mobile units, designed to extend robotic surgery into rural communities, facilitating both specialized training and the ability to perform surgeries remotely from anywhere in the country.

With these historic milestones, India has transitioned from being a technology adopter to a technology leader in robotic surgery.

With international validation, successful cross-border surgeries, and mobile robotic infrastructure rolling out across India, the future of telesurgery is not just coming, it's already here.

And India is leading the way.

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ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY**



**Dr Aashish Chaudhry**  
Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon & Managing Director- Aakash Healthcare Pvt Ltd.  
Guinness World Record Holder, Harvard Medical School Alumni

# Healing Meets Holistic Wellness

An accomplished orthopaedic surgeon and healthcare leader, he is a champion of ethical care, clinical innovation, and global healthcare collaboration

## India's Global Healthcare Future

As India charts its course toward becoming the Vishwa Chikitsalaya - Hospital for the world

by 2047, the focus continues on three critical areas: global quality benchmarks, digital health transformation, and inclusive care models. It is not just about healing patients but building bridges of trust, compassion, and shared human progress. Across the Indian healthcare ecosystem, the commitment is unwavering: to

redefine healing, not just for our nation, but for the world.

## A Microcosm of India's Healthcare Vision

At the helm of this revolution are institutions like Aakash Healthcare Super Speciality Hospital, established in 2017 in Dwarka, Delhi. Aakash Healthcare has become a trusted name, built on the pillars of clinical excellence, ethics, and empathy. Under Dr Aashish Chaudhry's visionary leadership, the

hospital has garnered praise for its exceptional work during challenging times, notably the Covid waves, where over 10,000 patients were treated. The network has expanded its facilities in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, inaugurated in May 2023. Today, the hospital is recognised as a model for clinician-led healthcare that's accessible and ethical.

Dr Aashish Chaudhry's journey has been rooted in a passion for both medicine and management. With over two decades in healthcare, his qualifications—from an MBBS at MAMC to a postgraduate degree in Orthopaedics from LHMC, an MRCS from Glasgow, a healthcare management degree from ISB, and a surgical leadership certificate from Harvard—have shaped his dual role as a practising orthopaedic surgeon and healthcare entrepreneur.

## The Evolving Vision of Medical Tourism in India

India's medical tourism sector has

evolved from offering low-cost treatments to becoming a global hub for high-quality, value-based healthcare. Initially known for affordable surgeries and procedures, India now boasts internationally accredited hospitals, world-class doctors, and advanced technologies that rival developed nations. The focus has shifted from cost alone to quality, safety, and patient outcomes.

A key feature of India's medical tourism is the integration of traditional healing systems like Ayurveda and yoga with modern medicine, offering holistic care that appeals to global patients seeking

long-term wellness. Government initiatives such as 'Heal in India' and the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' aim to improve infrastructure, promote digital

**"BY BLENDING WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL CARE WITH INDIA'S RICH CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL LEGACY, WE CAN TRANSFORM TREATMENT INTO A HOLISTIC JOURNEY—WHERE HEALING MEETS HERITAGE."**

health records, and enhance international patient experiences.

Additionally, reforms like e-medical visas, dedicated support services at airports, and expanding healthcare services to second-tier cities have made medical travel more accessible. India is also fostering partnerships with countries in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia to streamline patient inflow.

With a focus on affordability, clinical excellence, wellness integration, and digital innovation, India envisions becoming the world's leading destination for medical value travel, offering not just treatment but a comprehensive path to healing and well-being.

"Transforming India into a global healthcare hub requires infrastructural enhancement, policy streamlining, and holistic patient experiences to fortify India's leadership in medical tourism and healthcare delivery, while ensuring equitable access for its citizens," emphasised Dr Aashish Chaudhry.

## A Game Changer

At the forefront of this shift is Medical Value Travel (MVT), a rapidly growing sector that aligns perfectly with India's strengths. In a world burdened by rising treatment costs, overburdened systems, and ageing populations, MVT offers a beacon of hope—and India stands ready to lead.

"By blending world-class medical care with India's rich cultural and spiritual legacy, we can transform treatment into a holistic journey—where healing meets heritage." Dr Aashish Chaudhry elaborated on the opportunity for a parallel revenue stream in tourism while the healthcare industry booms. "Through integrated medical and heritage tourism packages and immersive cultural orientation programmes, international patients don't just recover—they rediscover."

## A Global Solution to Combat Cost

In an era marked by rising medical costs, prolonged waiting periods, and ageing populations in developed nations, MVT offers a compelling solution. It enables patients to seek world-class treatment at a fraction of the cost, and India has emerged as a frontrunner in this domain. The global medical tourism market is projected to grow three-fold from \$115.6 billion in 2024 to \$346.1 billion by 2034 at a CAGR of 11.6%.

**As the world seeks more inclusive, affordable, and accessible healthcare, India is poised to become its healing hub. This is not merely a dream but a carefully mapped strategy backed by data, trust, and transformative healthcare delivery. India's appeal as a medical destination rests on three foundational pillars:**

- **Affordability Without Compromise:** In India, medical procedures can cost 8–10 times less than in Western countries. For example, a surgery that might cost \$50,000 in the U.S. can be performed here for a fraction of that price—often with shorter wait times and comparable or superior outcomes. Unlike many medical tourism hubs, India's affordability does not compromise quality, owing to rigorous training and robust medical standards.
- **Advanced Infrastructure:** India now boasts over 700 NABH-accredited hospitals and multiple JCI-certified institutions, reflecting global standards in patient safety and care. Hospitals are equipped with the latest technologies, including robotic surgery, AI-enabled diagnostics, and highly specialised transplant units.
- **Globally Respected Medical Talent:** India is the second-largest exporter of healthcare professionals to nations like the US, UK, and Canada. Our doctors, many of whom are internationally trained, bring unmatched expertise across a wide range of specialties, supported by deep clinical exposure and patient volumes that few countries can match.

## Making a mark in heart care

India's first female electrophysiologist leading innovations

**D**r Vanita Arora, India's first female electrophysiologist, has not only broken gender barriers but also brought a quiet revolution to the country's cardiac care landscape.

Her list of clinical firsts is impressive. She performed the country's first independent three-dimensional mapping procedure and successfully implanted India's first leadless pacemaker. These medical milestones reflect her deep expertise and pioneering spirit in a complex and specialised field.

But Dr Arora's journey has not been easy. Despite being instrumental in drafting the founding bylaws of the Indian Heart Rhythm Society and leading several breakthrough procedures, she had to navigate systemic gender bias—both subtle and overt. Recognition

came slowly in a field traditionally dominated by men.

Over the years, she has dedicated herself not only to advancing medical science but also to mentoring the next generation of doctors, especially women. She credits the international "Women in EP" community for providing strength and support through challenging times.

Dr Arora is pioneer in the country for 3D Mapping for complex arrhythmias, Leadless Pacemaker, Cardiac Resynchronization therapy, His Bundle Pacing and Left Bundle Pacing.

Currently, Dr Arora serves as Senior Consultant, Cardiac Electrophysiologist & Interventional Cardiologist at Apollo Hospital in Delhi. She remains a strong voice for greater gender equity in medicine,



**Dr Vanita Arora**  
Senior Consultant, Cardiac Electrophysiologist & Interventional Cardiologist at Apollo Hospital, Delhi

calling for a redefinition of traditional roles and a broader cultural shift alongside scientific progress.

Her work has also earned global recognition, including a feature in the prestigious Heart Rhythm Case Reports journal — a noteworthy achievement in itself.

## Championing Healthcare and Societal Transformation

**Dr Jothi Neeraja Satyananda emerges as a catalyst of transformation in India's healthcare sector, while driving social impact and women's empowerment**



**Dr Jothi Neeraja Satyananda**, Founder, CEO, People Tree Hospitals and Maarga Mindcare

**D**r Jothi Neeraja Satyananda has not just contributed to healthcare—she is changing the narrative of what it means to be a healthcare leader, a compassionate doctor, and a woman of impact. Through a blend of compassion, grit, and vision, Dr Jothi has shaped institutions that prioritise ethical practice, inclusivity, and patient-centricity, becoming a beacon for sustainable healthcare development and gender equality.

### Setting Healthcare Standards

As a co-founder and core management leader at People Tree Hospitals, Dr Jothi has played a pivotal role in reshaping healthcare delivery in Bangalore and beyond. Launched in 2013 in Bangalore, it has now 3 other multi-specialty hospitals in the city. Her deep involvement — from designing the infrastructure to setting up clinical departments and streamlining operations — reflects her hands-on leadership approach. The hospital's

emphasis on affordable yet high-quality care has made it a trusted referral centre for responsible private healthcare, even for patients from other states.

Moreover, her contribution to Maarga Mindcare started in 2016, is unique by the presence of an exclusive licensed psychiatric unit. Thereby, addressing a critical gap in the healthcare ecosystem. With emergency psychiatric retrieval services, deaddiction services, and child, adult and geriatric psychiatry under one roof, Mental health care remains out of reach for many. Dr. Jyoti urges people not to suffer in silence or feel burdened by stigma, but to step forward, seek help, and work towards a better quality of life.

### Impact on Society

Dr Jothi's vision has always centred on treating every patient with dignity and care — the way we would treat our own family. From supporting underprivileged patients to focusing on ethical practice and transparency, the institutions

she has helped build stand out for their humane approach. Her leadership has inspired a new generation of healthcare professionals to view medicine not just as a profession, but as a moral responsibility.

### Driving Women Empowerment

Dr Jothi has become a powerful role model for aspiring female healthcare professionals. She embodies the belief that 'every woman has the innate ability to lead.' Her journey from a student in a government medical college to a founder of a hospital chain is proof that women can excel in both caregiving and leadership roles.

She actively promotes a work culture where women staff are encouraged to take initiative, own responsibilities, and build confidence. Her mantra — "Don't wait for someone to give you responsibility; take it up and lead" — resonates deeply with women trying to find their voice in competitive environments.

Her life's work continues to uplift not just patients, but also the people who care for them and the women who dare to dream.

## Visionary Eye Surgeon

Pioneer in corneal transplants and innovative eye care



**Dr JS Titiyal**  
Senior Consultant & Head of Clinical Services, Dr Aggarwal's Eye Hospital, Delhi, Former Chief, RP Eye Centre, AIIMS Delhi

**O**ne of India's leading ophthalmologists and a pioneer in corneal transplantation, Dr Jeewan Singh Titiyal, retired earlier this year after a distinguished career at AIIMS, Delhi, where he served as Chief of the Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences.

Dr Titiyal, as a specialist in Keratoplasty, Refractive surgery, Stem Cell transplantation, Contact lens, Low Vision Aid and Cataract including Phacoemulsification and Pediatric cataract, has several notable achievements during his career.

Renowned for performing the first live cornea transplant by an Indian surgeon, Dr Titiyal has been instrumental in advancing eye care in the country. His contributions earned him the Padma Shri in 2014, alongside numerous accolades including the P. Siva Reddy International Award and the RP Dhanda Award.

Over the decades, he introduced innovative surgical techniques, including India's first Intacs procedure for complex corneal disorders, and performed vision-restoring surgeries for dignitaries

such as the Dalai Lama, Manmohan Singh (former Prime Minister of India), Sheila Dikshit (former Chief Minister of Delhi), Dr Murali Manohar Joshi (former Union Minister) and Prakash Singh Badal (former Chief Minister of Punjab), among others.

Born at Tidang, a small village in Dharchula, Pithoragarh district, along the Indo-Nepalese border in Uttarakhand state in India, he did his early schooling at a local school in Dharchula. From his beginnings as an MBBS student at AIIMS in 1978 to serving as Dean (Research), Dr Titiyal's journey reflects a lifetime of dedication, clinical excellence, and mentorship. Currently he's serving as Senior Consultant and Head of Clinical Services at Dr Aggarwal's Eye Hospital, Delhi, a chain of eye hospital across India.



**Dr Ajay Swaroop**  
Chairman, Board of Management, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

# Shaping the Future of Healthcare

Dr Ajay Swaroop shares with *Outlook* the strategic vision and priorities for Sir Ganga Ram Hospital amid India's economic transformation

This 78th Independence Day, we honor India's spirit of resilience—where every life healed strengthens our nation. For generations, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has earned the trust of families through care, compassion, and commitment. **Together, we move forward—restoring hope, deepening trust, and shaping a healthier tomorrow.**

**As India's economy grows, what are your top strategic priorities for Sir Ganga Ram Hospital over the next 3–5 years in light of this transformation?**

As India's economy grows and the middle class expands, we are witnessing a significant shift in healthcare expectations—patients are more informed, demand quality outcomes, and seek accessibility. Our vision for Sir Ganga Ram Hospital is to evolve from being a premier tertiary care hospital to a more comprehensive, technologically empowered healthcare system that serves India's diverse and growing population.

We invest in advanced technologies such as AI-assisted diagnostics, robotic surgery, and telemedicine platforms to enhance both precision and reach—particularly to underserved regions through digital consultations and remote monitoring.

To meet growing demand, we plan to expand bed capacity and establish new centres of excellence, especially in critical specialities like oncology, cardiology, and organ transplantation. We aim to strengthen our academic programs and research collaborations to ensure our clinicians remain at the forefront of global best practices.

Economic growth must translate into inclusive healthcare. We're actively exploring public-private partnerships and CSR initiatives to offer subsidised care to the underprivileged, without compromising on quality.

**What are the cutting-edge technologies or practices adopted recently that reflect the hospital's commitment to medical excellence?**

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, our commitment to medical excellence is reflected in the continuous adoption of cutting-edge technologies and forward-thinking practices.

We've invested in advanced infrastructure, including PET-CT scanners, cath labs, robotic surgery systems, and minimally invasive platforms, keeping us at the forefront of super-tertiary care.

Our academic arm, the Sir Ganga Ram Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, runs one of India's top DNB programmes and now integrates AI tools and simulation-based training. This ensures hands-on, real-time learning and prepares doctors for

complex clinical scenarios in an evolving digital healthcare landscape.

We're also expanding research into genomics, gene therapy, and personalised medicine, marking a rare achievement in private healthcare.

**What key policy reforms would you recommend to strengthen India's healthcare ecosystem to match its economic growth trajectory?**

As India advances economically, its healthcare system must evolve to meet rising demands and ensure equitable access. First, increasing public health expenditure to at least 2.5% of GDP is crucial. This would improve primary care, infrastructure, and preventive services. At the same time, expanding universal health coverage through schemes like Ayushman Bharat will enhance access and reduce out-of-pocket costs, with support from public-private partnerships.

Addressing shortages of healthcare workers through expanded medical education and rural incentives can ensure wider service availability. Additionally, accelerating digital health integration—via the National Digital Health Mission—can streamline care delivery.

Supporting R&D through funding and industry-academic collaboration will foster long-term progress. Lastly, a strong regulatory framework is essential to ensure quality, accountability, and consistency across healthcare providers.



**Dr Shyam Aggarwal**  
Chairperson  
Medical Oncology

## Sir Ganga Ram Comprehensive Cancer Centre: A New Era in Cancer Care

Inaugurated by Hon'ble President Smt Droupadi Murmu in July 2025, the Sir Ganga Ram Comprehensive Cancer Centre offers world-class, integrated cancer treatment under one roof. Equipped with cutting-edge technologies like LINAC TrueBeam HyperArc, Tomotherapy, and Brachytherapy, it enhances existing medical (chemo, targeted, immunotherapy) and surgical (open, minimally invasive, robotic) oncology services. Paediatric oncology and haematology units provide expert care, including stem cell transplants. Advanced diagnostic tools—PET-CT, MRI, ultrasound, and next-gen sequencing—enable accurate, timely diagnoses, supported by pathology and haematology labs. Multidisciplinary tumour boards guide complex treatments. The centre also pioneers research in multiomics, AI, gene sequencing, and CAR T-cell therapy. Committed to excellence, education, and equity, the centre provides charitable care to EWS patients while serving all sections of society with compassion and innovation.



**Prof (Dr) Chand Wattal, MD**  
Chairman, Institute of Clinical Microbiology & Immunology

## ICMI at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital: Advancing Diagnostic Excellence

The Institute of Clinical Microbiology & Immunology (ICMI) at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital is redefining infectious disease diagnostics in India. Armed with cutting-edge tools like MALDI-TOF MS, VITEK-2, GeneXpert, MGIT, BioFire panels, and next-gen sequencing, ICMI delivers rapid, accurate pathogen detection and antimicrobial resistance profiling—even overnight for UTIs. Available 24/7, these services enable faster clinical decisions, support antimicrobial stewardship, and enhance hospital infection control. Recognised by QCI and awarded the S.K. Joshi Excellence Award, ICMI also leads one of India's largest proficiency testing programmes, guiding over 900 labs nationwide. With a nationally acclaimed DNB training programme, ICMI is shaping the next generation of microbiologists. Combining innovation, expertise, and quality, the institute remains at the forefront of clinical microbiology—elevating standards in patient care, diagnostics, and infectious disease management.



**Dr Arun Gupta**  
Chairman, Department of Interventional Radiology

## Revolutionising Care: Advanced Angiography Suite at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

The Department of Interventional Radiology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital unveils its cutting-edge Angiography Suite, featuring a next-gen biplane and an AI-powered Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) system with integrated intra-procedural CT imaging—offering unparalleled precision in complex image-guided therapies.

The department now performs advanced minimally invasive procedures, including:

- Cryoablation, TACE, and Y-90 for cancer treatment
- Embolisation for benign conditions like goitre, BPH, and fibroids
- Angioplasty and stenting for vascular blockages
- Emergency embolisation for internal bleeding
- Targeted biopsies and FNAC for hard-to-reach lesions

With this state-of-the-art technology, the IR team delivers safer, more accurate, and faster treatments. This innovation marks a transformative step in patient-centred, high-precision, minimally invasive care—setting new benchmarks in interventional radiology.



**Dr Satnam Singh Chhabra**  
Chairperson, Neurosurgery

## MRgFUS at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital: A New Era in Non-Invasive Brain Treatment

Sir Ganga Ram Hospital introduces MRgFUS (Magnetic Resonance-Guided Focused Ultrasound), a groundbreaking non-invasive treatment for essential tremor and tremor-dominant Parkinson's disease. This advanced technology uses over 1,000 focused ultrasound beams, guided by MRI, to precisely target and treat the thalamus—without incisions, anaesthesia, or hospital stays. A small lesion is created to interrupt abnormal brain signals, offering immediate and lasting relief from tremors. Ideal for patients unresponsive to medication or unfit for traditional surgery, MRgFUS ensures rapid recovery with minimal side effects. Most return to daily life within 1–2 days. As North India's only MRgFUS centre, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital combines cutting-edge technology with a skilled team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, and neuroradiologists. The future of tremor care is here, one steady hand at a time.

## Women's Health Leader

Pioneering cervical cancer prevention and global gynecology standards

**A** former Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, Dr Neerja Bhatla, has been conferred the Padma Shri in 2025 for her outstanding contributions to women's health, particularly in the field of cervical cancer prevention and care.

A leading figure in gynaecologic oncology, Dr Bhatla has played a pivotal role in shaping global standards. She became the first Indian to be elected President of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), and led the landmark 2018 revision of FIGO's cervical cancer staging guidelines. These revisions introduced imaging-based classifications and made the guidelines more relevant to low-

resource settings, significantly enhancing their global applicability. She has also served as the Head of Gynaecologic Oncology at the National Cancer Institute in Jhajjar under the AIIMS, Delhi.

With over 35 years of service, Dr Bhatla has spent much of her career at the one of the premier health institute, AIIMS, Delhi, contributing to patient care, research, and medical education. Her expertise lies in the prevention, early detection, and management of cervical cancer, a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Indian women. Dr Bhatla has led key studies on HPV vaccination and screening methods, influencing India's national strategies on cervical cancer prevention.

Her work has often focused on underserved populations, especially in rural India.



**Dr Neerja Bhatla**  
Former Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department, AIIMS, Delhi

In 2023, Dr Bhatla was honoured with the IARC Award for Women in Cancer Research, recognising her leadership in affordable screening, epidemiology, vaccine research, and public health advocacy in low- and middle-income countries. Her work bridges clinical excellence with impactful public health innovation.

## Neglected Diseases Champion

Trailblazing R&D for Neglected Diseases in South Asia

**D**r Kavita Singh is a seasoned healthcare leader and currently serves as the South Asia Director at the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), a global non-profit organisation focused on developing accessible treatments for neglected diseases. With a strong commitment to public health, she has been instrumental in advancing collaborative research and development across Asia.

At DNDi, Dr Singh leads efforts targeting diseases such as Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, mycetoma, river blindness, dengue, and paediatric



**Dr Kavita Singh**  
Continental Lead Asia and South Asia Director, DNDi

HIV—conditions that disproportionately affect marginalised populations. Her work focuses on building equitable R&D partnerships and driving science that serves the underserved.

Before joining DNDi, she was Mission Director of the National Biopharma Mission at BIRAC (Department of Biotechnology), where she played a pivotal role in transforming India's biopharma

innovation ecosystem. Working in partnership with the World Bank, she guided projects from technology transfer to regulatory approvals and early clinical trials.

She also spearheaded the Multi Vaccines Development Program, overseeing the translational development of malaria vaccine candidates, including regulatory filings and first-in-human trials.

Dr Singh brings valuable experience from the private sector, having held senior roles in clinical research and medical affairs at Fortis Clinical Research, Ranbaxy Laboratories, and Shantha Biotechnics (now Sanofi Healthcare India).

She holds an MBBS, an MD in Microbiology, and additional qualifications in management and epidemiology.

Blending public health vision with scientific expertise, Dr Singh continues to lead efforts to deliver patient-centric, affordable solutions for some of the world's most neglected health challenges.

## A Uro-Oncology Trailblazer

From vision to impact, Dr Raghunath's expertise in open, laparoscopic, and robotic surgery is redefining uro-oncology in South India and across the globe

**Q How has been your journey in pioneering a dedicated uro-oncology department in South India?**

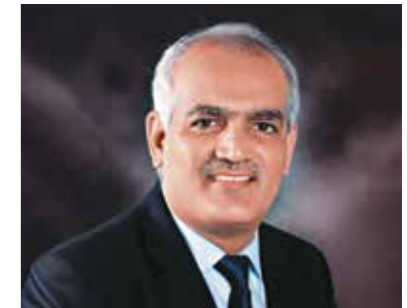
Establishing a dedicated uro-oncology department in 2008 was a major challenge. There was no existing ecosystem, and robotic surgery was not yet available. Fortunately, with strong support from HCG, regardless of case volume, I took the leap. Over time, as referrals and confidence grew, the department evolved from a one-man initiative to a team of 11, including 8 doctors. We've built a strong academic and research base, conducted over 25 clinical trials, and published widely.

Today, we are among one of the South India's highest-volume uro-oncology centers and run Asia's first and only fellowship in uro-oncology,

supported by Intuitive Surgical (USA) and the Royal College of Surgeons. With two Da Vinci robotic systems, we've transitioned from open to laparoscopy to advanced robotics and are training surgeons nationwide. I have conducted over 6500 urooncological surgeries. Including more than 1600 robotic urooncological surgeries.

**Q What role does personalized medicine play in uro-oncology influencing treatment planning for complex cancer cases?**

Personalized medicine is revolutionizing uro-oncology by enabling precise, patient-specific treatment planning. At our center, we are among the first in India to adopt 3D imaging technology for accurate mapping of kidney tumors. For



**Dr Raghunath S K**  
Director & Head, Department of Urologic, Oncology and Robotic Surgery, HCG Cancer Centre, K R Road, Bengaluru.

prostate cancer, we're pioneering a global-first initiative in collaboration with German and US institutions to create detailed 3D models of the prostate using advanced MRI protocols, enabling tailored surgical approaches that preserve function and improve outcomes. Every patient's treatment is personalized, considering tumor characteristics, age, and anatomy, enhancing precision, safety, and outcomes.



**Dr Pramod S Chinder**  
Director & Head, Department of Orthopaedic Oncology, HCG Cancer centre, KR Road, Bengaluru

**A**s one of India's few dedicated sarcoma specialists, Dr Pramod Chinder has spent over 15 years not only treating these rare cancers but reshaping how they are diagnosed, discussed, and managed.

Dr Chinder and his team have treated 6,000+ bone tumors, with the majority being osteosarcomas and Ewing's sarcomas.

At HCG Cancer Centre and The Yellow Ribbon, Dr Chinder leads one

## Restoring Function Preserving Life

Dr. Pramod Chinder leading advances in sarcoma awareness, early diagnosis, and functional cancer surgery

of the world's largest multidisciplinary sarcoma teams, with expertise spanning advanced imaging, navigation-assisted surgery, 3D-printed implants, and microsurgical reconstruction. "In sarcoma, early detection is everything," he emphasises. "A child waking up at night with persistent bone pain is a red flag. An early MRI—available affordably across India—can save both limb and life."

He has pioneered several India-first reconstructions, including limb-sparing surgeries using allografts sourced internationally. One such early-diagnosed patient with a humerus graft from Italy, now leads a ₹600-crore business. These stories underscore his conviction: when

detected early and treated by experienced teams, sarcoma outcomes can surpass 70% 5-year survival with excellent quality of life.

Dr Chinder is also a strong advocate for a national sarcoma care policy. "We need subsidized MRI screening for children with unexplained limb pain and referral protocols that send cases only to accredited sarcoma centers," he asserts.

With Bengaluru's unique convergence of medicine and engineering, he believes India can lead global outcomes in sarcoma care. "We're integrating genomics, robotics, immunotherapy, and AI into our workflows—and we're already seeing results better than Western benchmarks," he says.

# Champion of Mycology

At the forefront of India's fungal disease research

**D**r Arunaloake Chakrabarti is a globally renowned expert in medical mycology, whose pioneering work has placed India at the forefront of fungal disease research, diagnostics, and clinical management. With a career spanning over four decades, his contributions have significantly advanced the understanding and treatment of fungal infections in India and beyond.

As the former Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, Dr Chakrabarti played a pivotal role in establishing the National Culture Collection of Pathogenic Fungi. Under his leadership, PGIMER's laboratory was recognised as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Fungi of Medical Importance and a

national Centre of Advanced Research in Medical Mycology.

He has been instrumental in shaping global clinical guidelines for fungal diseases such as invasive fungal infections, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and fungal sinusitis. His research has guided both policy and practice in mycology, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

A prolific author and editor, he has published extensively in leading journals and co-edited major reference texts, including Fungal Infections in Asia: The Eastern Frontier of Mycology. He holds editorial roles in Medical Mycology, Journal of Medical Microbiology, and Mycoses.

His exceptional contributions have earned him fellowships from the National Academy of Medical Sciences (FAMS), National Academy



**Dr Arunaloake Chakrabarti**  
Former Head of Medical Microbiology at PGIMER, Chandigarh

of Sciences, India (FNASc), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (FIDSA).

In a rare tribute, three fungal species—Cunninghamella arunaloakei, Malassezia arunaloakei, and Exophiala arunaloakei—have been named in his honour, symbolising his enduring legacy in advancing medical mycology.



**Dr Soumya Swaminathan**  
Chief former Scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO)

**D**r Soumya Swaminathan, a distinguished Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist, is globally recognised for her pioneering work in tuberculosis and HIV. Currently Chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and Principal Advisor to India's National

## Global Health Leader

Pioneering tuberculosis and HIV research with global impact

Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), she continues to shape public health policy through science-driven leadership.

From 2019 to 2022, she served as the first Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO), where she established the Science Division and steered global scientific coordination during the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, as Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 2015 to 2017, she focused on translating research into public policy and strengthening India's research infrastructure. From 2009 to 2011, she also served as Coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical

Diseases in Geneva.

She received her academic training in India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, and has published more than 350 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

At MSSRF, Dr Swaminathan promotes interdisciplinary research addressing climate change and its health impacts, especially on vulnerable communities. Her guidance under NTEP remains vital to India's TB elimination strategy.

A leading voice in global health, she serves on the boards of organisations like CEPI and FIND, and continues to advocate for evidence-based decision-making in health governance.



**Dr. Neeraj Awasthy**, Director,  
Department of Pediatric Cardiology Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, New Delhi



**Dr. Vikram Aggarwal**,  
Facility Director, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla & Fortis CDOC, New Delhi

## Touching Tiny Lives with Big Impact

Expertise and empathy in paediatric cardiology, a winning blend

**D**r. Neeraj Awasthy is a renowned Pediatric Cardiologist with over two decades of clinical experience in the management of congenital heart diseases in children. He is recognized for his expertise in performing complex and rare cardiac interventions, including neonatal procedures, percutaneous pulmonary valve insertions, balloon septostomies, and device closures in premature infants, procedures that require advanced technical skill and clinical precision.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Awasthy is deeply committed to improving access to pediatric cardiac care in underserved regions. He actively collaborates with NGOs such as the MASA Foundation, conducting regular outreach camps to facilitate early diagnosis and timely treatment for children with congenital heart defects.

Dr. Awasthy has also played a significant role in the development and implementation of congenital heart disease programs, both in India and internationally. His contributions include establishing structured pediatric cardiac care units, mentoring medical teams, and supporting capacity-building initiatives in resource-limited settings.

With a career defined by innovation, service, and leadership, Dr. Awasthy continues to advance in the field of pediatric cardiology.

## Driving Excellence with Purpose

A clinician, leader, and strategist transforming healthcare with compassion and precision

**D**r. Vikram Aggarwal is a unique blend of a clinician, a healthcare leader and a strategist. He anchors vision along with action at one of India's most reliable tertiary care institutions.

With a specialization in Cardiac Anaesthesia from AIIMS, New Delhi and an MBA from the Indian School of Business, Dr. Aggarwal brings both medical depth and management expertise to the table. His nearly two decades of experience reflect a career built on both patient care and institution building.

Since taking charge as the Facility Director of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla, Dr. Aggarwal has led with quiet determination. His leadership has helped the hospital evolve by strengthening clinical programs, streamlining operations, and focusing deeply on the patient experience. But what makes his role stand out is not just the systems he puts in place, it's the people he uplifts.

He mentors young doctors, supports his staff, and always keeps the focus on delivering care that's compassionate, evidence-based, and efficient. His ability to blend the mind of a clinician with the clarity of a leader has made a visible difference.

Dr. Vikram Aggarwal's journey is a testament to what's possible when purpose meets precision, and vision is guided by values.