

Sri Sathya Sai Medical Institutions in India: Crest Jewel of Ideal Healthcare

"It is a great good fortune to be able to love and serve the suffering humanity. The Sathya Sai Hospital doctors render service to the patients with noble feelings and purity of heart. With such dedicated doctors serving here, this has become an ideal hospital."

–Sri Sathya Sai Baba, June, 10, 2001

Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals in India are the heart and soul of the Sri Sathya Sai Global Health Mission. Sri Sathya Sai Baba inaugurated the first general hospital in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, India, in 1956. In the subsequent decades, the mission in India has grown and now offers secondary and tertiary care through two super specialty hospitals (in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh and Whitefield, Karnataka established in 1991 and 2001, respectively). These modern facilities have taken healthcare to the doorstep of the poor through the mobile hospital initiative (started in 2005) and are providing medical care to millions of people free of cost, irrespective of their financial status, faith, nationality, or religion.

Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals have become role models in communities across the globe. Today there are many hospitals and clinics across the world under the tutelage of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation with a common goal of providing free healthcare to the needy with love and compassion. "Expansion of Love" by serving the needy with unconditional love, is the key to the Sri Sathya Sai Global Health Mission.

The aim of the Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals is not to merely treat the diseases but to heal the patient. These hospitals are supported by an inspired staff of 1,500 people that includes doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, nutritionists, and several other support services. At any given time, there are about 500 volunteers, from India and all over the world, serving in various capacities in these hospitals.

Below is a brief overview of Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals in Puttaparthi and Bangalore, India.

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospitals

The Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital (SSSGH) in Puttaparthi was inaugurated by Sri Sathya Sai Baba on October 4, 1956. Initially there were only 2 beds, and over a period of time it was expanded to a hospital with 100 beds. More than 4 million patients have been treated since its inception. Under the divine guidance of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, another general hospital was opened at Whitefield, Bangalore, on August 28, 1976. The hospital has grown immensely since its inception and now treats more than 1,000 patients daily. Today both hospitals have general as well as specialty units, namely, general medicine, paediatrics, general surgery, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, dentistry, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynaecology.

These hospitals have made steady progress as institutions offering high-quality free service to the local and surrounding population. The dedicated and selfless service of the full-time and visiting doctors has resulted in the phenomenal growth of these hospitals. The majority of patients who come for treatment to the general hospitals and super specialty hospitals are from socially and economically weaker sections of society.



Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Puttaparthi

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS)

The super specialty hospitals were built to include world-class infrastructure for diagnostic, interventional, and surgical procedures providing comprehensive treatment. The hospital makes every effort to maintain low administrative costs to maximise resources for patient care.

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, India

Constructed in a record time of 6 months with a structural area of 153,000 square feet, it is the first super specialty hospital in India to offer world-class tertiary care through state-of-the-art medical technology, totally free of cost. The hospital is equipped with 300 beds, 8 surgical theatres, 6 intensive care units, 2 cardiac catheterisation laboratories, medical and surgical wards, and a 24-hour emergency unit. It has a staff of specialists in cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, gastroenterology, urology, ophthalmology, plastic surgery, and orthopaedics. The specialty services provided at the hospital are as follows:

- **Cardiology** – Transthoracic and Transoesophageal echocardiography, Exercise testing, Holter monitoring, stress echo, adult and paediatric diagnostic and interventional catheterisation, permanent pacemaker implantation
- **Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS)** – A wide range of cardiac surgeries, including congenital and acquired heart diseases (valvular and coronary artery disease), along with numerous non-bypass procedures
- **Urology** – Urodynamics, urosurgery, endoscopy, extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL)
- **Ophthalmology** – Corneal surgery, glaucoma, cataract, and Intraocular lens implantation, vitreo-retinal surgery, paediatric ophthalmology, UVEA service, ocular oncology, orbit and oculoplasty procedures

- **Plastic Surgery** – reconstructive surgery, facial blemishes, lesions, congenital malformations, tumour removal, burn surgery, and ulcer removal
- **Orthopaedics** – trauma, paediatric, total joint replacements, spinal deformity corrections, hand surgery
- **Gastroenterology** – diagnostic and therapeutic upper endoscopy (EGD) and lower endoscopy (sigmoid/colonoscopy)
- **Laboratory sciences** – haematology, pathology, microbiology, biochemistry, in-house blood bank
- **Radiology** – computed tomography (CT), ultrasound (US), x-ray (static and mobile units), nuclear medicine



Sri Sathya Sai Super Specialty Hospital, Puttaparthi

Cumulative Statistics (Nov 1991 – Mar 2009)

Specialty	Outpatients	Procedures
Cardiology	818,831	25,469
CTVS		18,870
Ophthalmology	401,271	38,447
Plastic Surgery	9,923	3,678
Urology	397,575	37,339
Orthopaedics	29,105	3,522
GI Endoscopy		1,726
Total	1,656,705	129,051

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Karnataka, India

The second super specialty hospital was constructed in Whitefield, Karnataka, in 2001, and it is the first hospital in India to have the image-guided neuro-navigation system for brain surgery. The hospital is equipped with 333 beds, 8 surgical theatres, 6 intensive care units, 2 cardiac catheterisation laboratories, pre-operative and postoperative wards, and a 24-hour emergency unit. It is the first tertiary care institution to have a comprehensive post-discharge patient rehabilitation programme with a staff of specialists in cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, neurology, and neurosurgery providing the following services:

- **Cardiology** – Transthoracic and Transoesophageal echocardiography, Exercise testing, Holter monitoring, stress echo, adult and paediatric diagnostic and interventional catheterisation, peripheral vascular stenting, electrophysiology study, ICD implantation, permanent pacemaker implantation
- **Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS)** – A wide range of cardiac surgeries, including congenital and acquired heart diseases (valvular and coronary artery disease), along with numerous non-bypass procedures
- **Neurology** – myasthenia gravis, cervical myopathy, muscular dystrophy, carpal tunnel syndrome, epilepsy, dementia, paralysis, delayed development, learning disability, neuropathy, headache, neuromuscular wasting, myopathy
- **Neurosurgery** – Arterio-Venous malformations/fistulae Skull-base tumor surgery, posterior fossa lesion, craniopharyngioma resection, atlanto-axial dislocation, meningioma, sellar/suprasellar lesion, intraventricular lesions, tumour removal, colloid cyst
- **Laboratory sciences** – haematology, pathology, microbiology, biochemistry, in-house blood bank
- **Radiology** – computed tomography (CT), ultrasound (US), x-ray (static and mobile units), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), digital subtraction angiography (DSA)

Sri Sathya Sai Super Specialty Hospital, Whitefield, Bangalore

Cumulative Statistics: January 2001 to March 2009

Specialty	Outpatients	Procedures
Cardiology	531,971	24,910
CTVS		22,198
Neurology	104,306	
Neurosurgery	153,798	159,612
Total	790,075	206,720



"I have never seen anything like this on Earth... it is a wonderful feeling far removed from the national healthcare in the west which does not seem to work very well...the impressive thing about the Hospital created by Bhagavan Sai Baba is the combination of the three aspects: state-of-the-art technology; free medical treatment and the healing powers of His presence instilling in the patient the firm belief that he/she will get well; this is something I believe Western healthcare would do very well to consider."

Dr. Michael Nobel,
Chairman of the family society's board of
directors, and
Chairman of the Appeal of the Peace Prize
Laureates Foundation.