

## The unique achievements of a visionary

Amongst the foremost surgeons in the Asia Pacific region, **Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti** has revolutionised breast cancer care in India through a series of innovative measures. This disease ranks as the number one cancer among Indian women with around one in 22 women affected, half of whom will die from the disease.

He established **South Asia's First comprehensive Breast Health Centre** and founded a charitable Foundation to raise awareness of the disease nationwide. He implemented **South Asia's largest population-based screening programme** in the southern Indian states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – this programme is currently being rolled out nationwide.

Inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's digital India dream, he developed the **World's First breast health mobile phone app** in **English & 11 commonly spoken Indian languages**, making women across the nation more aware about importance of early detection in a country where the subject is considered to be a 'taboo' – so far, it has been downloaded by thousands of people all across India. He launched the **world's first Life size augmented integrated reality for breast cancer awareness** to further achieve the mission to transform breast cancer from a "closet" issue to a much commonly discussed one, particularly in rural India, where more than 70% of our population reside.

He **adopted a remote village** in the southern Indian State of Telangana (Ibrahimpur), where he has provided life-changing equipment and facilities through his **personal philanthropy**, which has been recognized with local, regional & national awards.

He is one of the **youngest surgeons elected to have served as President of The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI)** for the year 2020, polling the highest number of votes and securing the biggest ever landslide margin in the 83 years history of the Organisation. ASI is **Asia Pacific's largest and the World's second largest Surgical Organisation** representing practicing surgeons and surgical trainees in India.

He was recognized in **Queen Elizabeth II's 2021 New Year's Honours** list. He achieved the rare distinction of becoming **one of the youngest Surgeons of Indian origin in over 100 years** to be honoured by Her Majesty, The Queen with an **OBE – Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire**. This is the **second highest ranking Order of the British Empire award** (excluding a Knighthood/Damehood) conferred in recognition of his outstanding services towards *"improving breast cancer care and surgical education in India and to UK/India relations"*. Instituted in 1917 by King George V, The Queens Honours are amongst the most prestigious awards worldwide.

**He was formally conferred the OBE by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, prince of Wales on 30 March 2022.**

In recognition of his outstanding academic track record, innovative initiatives that have transformed Breast healthcare in India & life transforming philanthropy in his adopted Village, he was conferred the prestigious **Padma Shri** by Hon'ble President of India (**2015**) making him one of the youngest surgeons to have been bestowed one of the highest civilian awards of the land. He is also one of the youngest Surgeons to be conferred '**Dr. B.C Roy National Award**' by Hon'ble President of India (**2016**), which is the highest recognition that can be achieved by a doctor practicing Medicine in India.

He is the youngest ever recipient of the **International Gold Medal** in the 516 years history of the **Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh** (2013). He is one of the youngest to have delivered **Col. Pandalai Oration** (2018) instituted by The Association of Surgeons of India, which is the **highest academic honour that can be achieved by a surgeon practicing in India**.

Alongside many prestigious professional awards worldwide, he is a **Fellow** of the **American College of Surgeons** and **all four surgical Royal Colleges** in the British Isles - **Edinburgh, England, Glasgow & Ireland**. He was conferred **Honorary FRCS** by the Royal College of Surgeons of **Thailand** (2019), **Honorary Fellowship** of the College of Surgeons of **Sri Lanka** (2020).

In July 2021, he achieved the unique distinction to become the **first surgeon of Indian origin in over 100 years** to be conferred with the **Honorary Fellowship of The Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland**, which is the single largest Organisation in Europe that represents the surgical fraternity in the British Isles.