Akbar Moideen Thumbay: Building the Next Generation of UAE Healthcare

At the intersection of hospitals, medical education, research and patient experience, Akbar Moideen Thumbay is helping shape the next chapter of one of the UAE's most distinctive healthcare ecosystems.

Akbar Moideen Thumbay · Vice President · Thumbay Healthcare
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Healthcare leadership in the UAE is entering a new era.

The sector is no longer defined only by hospitals and clinical capacity. It is increasingly about integration — bringing together patient care, medical education, research, technology and specialist services within a broader ecosystem.

Akbar Moideen Thumbay is building his leadership career directly inside that transformation.

As Vice President of Thumbay Healthcare, a board member of Thumbay Group and co-chair of the Gulf Medical University Academic Health System, he is helping lead the healthcare arm of a business that has spent nearly three decades building an integrated academic healthcare platform in the UAE.

For The Cover Story, what makes Akbar particularly interesting is not simply that he represents the next generation of a family enterprise.

It is that his mandate sits at the heart of one of the UAE's most important growth sectors.

Growing an Academic Healthcare Ecosystem

Thumbay Group was founded in the UAE in 1997 by Dr Thumbay Moideen. Over time, its healthcare and education activities evolved into a network connecting hospitals, clinics, diagnostics, pharmacies, medical education and research. The Group says its healthcare division currently operates seven academic hospitals, five family clinics or medical centres, three diagnostic laboratories and 46 retail pharmacy outlets.

Akbar's role has increasingly centred on expanding and modernising that ecosystem.

One of the clearest examples is Thumbay Medicity Dubai, launched in February 2026 as a new integrated academic healthcare destination in Al Qusais. The development brings together a Gulf Medical University branch campus, Thumbay University Hospital Dubai, research facilities, simulation centres, laboratories, pharmacies and other healthcare support services.

In announcing the project, Akbar described Dubai as a major hub for Thumbay's healthcare system, with hospitals, labs, pharmacies and medical-tourism programmes brought together in one destination.

That direction reveals a broader leadership philosophy.

The ambition is not simply to add more hospitals.

It is to create healthcare environments where education, treatment and research reinforce one another.

Moving Into New Areas of Care

The next phase is also becoming more specialised.

In May 2026, Thumbay Group broke ground on a 120-bed psychiatric and rehabilitation hospital at Sharjah Healthcare City, designed around psychiatry, neuro-rehabilitation, addiction recovery and child and adolescent mental health services. The project is expected to become operational by mid-2027.

At Thumbay Medicity in Ajman, the Group also inaugurated a new hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit and a premium presidential suite in April 2026, reflecting simultaneous investment in advanced clinical capability and higher-end patient experience. Akbar personally led the visiting delegation through the facilities.

These developments matter because they point to where UAE healthcare is heading: greater specialisation, stronger patient experience, and deeper integration between clinical care and academic medicine.

Leadership Beyond Expansion

Akbar's profile has also moved beyond internal group responsibilities.

In July 2026, Gulf Business included him among its Top 50 Leaders and CEOs of 2026, describing him as a prominent young healthcare executive helping advance patient-centred healthcare and strategic growth across the Thumbay network.

That recognition is timely.

The UAE is positioning healthcare as part of its wider economic and social development agenda. Medical tourism, specialised medicine, research and private-sector healthcare investment are all becoming more significant.

For leaders like Akbar, the opportunity is therefore larger than organisational growth.

It is about helping create institutions capable of serving a more global, more demanding and more sophisticated healthcare market.

The Cover Story View

Akbar Moideen Thumbay represents the kind of next-generation business leader increasingly important to the UAE.

He inherits the advantage of an established platform, but the real measure of his leadership will be how effectively he evolves it.

The next chapter of Thumbay Healthcare is already moving toward larger integrated medical cities, specialised hospitals, advanced therapies, technology-enabled care and a stronger connection between education, research and clinical delivery.

That gives Akbar a distinctive opportunity.

Not simply to continue a healthcare legacy — but to modernise it for the next generation of patients, professionals and communities in the UAE.

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