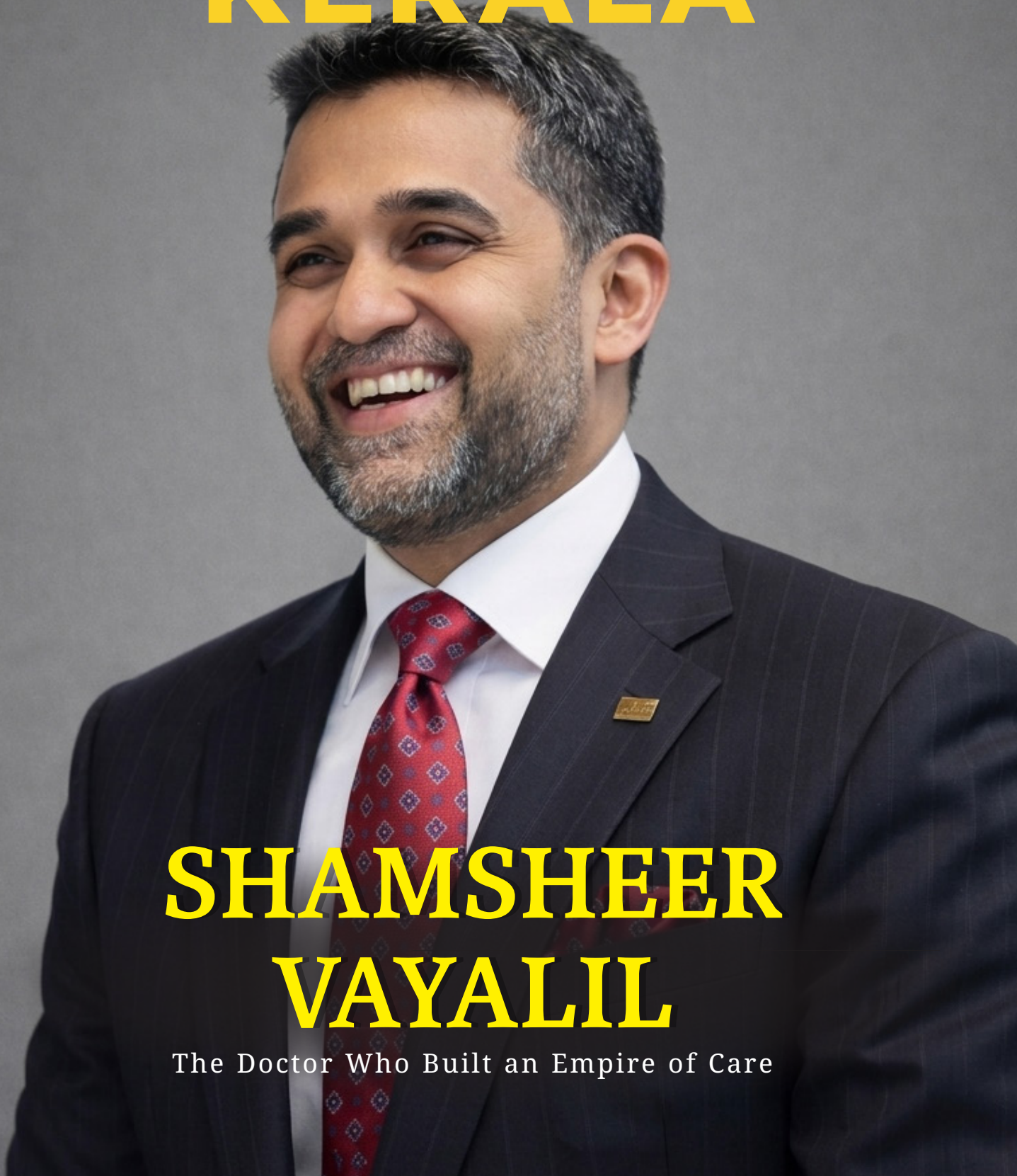


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SHAMSHEER VAYALIL

The Doctor Who Built an Empire of Care

CREATIVE TEAM



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SHAMSHEER VAYALIL

Transforming Healthcare with Vision and Innovation

There is a moment in every hospital when time thickens. The air holds its breath. Machines hum with quiet urgency. Somewhere between fear and hope, decisions are made that tilt lives in one direction or another. Years ago, in a modest clinical setting in the Gulf, a young doctor from Kerala stood inside that moment, not as an observer but as someone who understood its weight. Medicine, he realised, was not just about treatment. It was about systems, access, and dignity.

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil did not begin with the ambition of building a healthcare empire. He

began with patients. But somewhere along the way, the idea expanded. What if care itself could scale, without losing its humanity?

Today, as Chairman of Burjeel Holdings and the force behind Ziva, he operates at the intersection of compassion and capital, where healthcare becomes both service and strategy.

From Kerala to the Clinics of the Gulf

Born in Kerala, Shamsheer Vayalil grew up in a culture where education was aspiration and medicine, a calling that carried both prestige and

purpose. He pursued his medical degree at Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, before moving to the United States for further training.

His early years were shaped not by boardrooms but by patient wards. Practicing as a radiologist, he learned to read not just scans but systems, inefficiencies, gaps in access, and the silent inequalities embedded within healthcare delivery.

When he moved to the UAE, it was not to build a business. It was to practice medicine. But the environment revealed something else, a rapidly growing population with rising expectations, and a healthcare infrastructure struggling to keep pace



The Founding of Burjeel

In 2007, Vayalil made a decisive shift.

He co-founded what would become Burjeel Holdings, starting with a single hospital in Abu Dhabi. The vision was clear but ambitious, to create a healthcare network that matched international standards while remaining accessible to a diverse population.

Burjeel was not designed as a luxury brand, nor as a mass-market compromise. It positioned itself in the difficult middle, premium care with operational efficiency.

The model worked.

Over the years, Burjeel expanded into a network of hospitals, medical centres, and specialty clinics across the Middle East and beyond. Today, it stands as one of the region's leading healthcare providers, serving millions of patients annually.

Scaling Care, Not Just Business

What distinguishes Vayalil is not merely expansion, but the philosophy behind it.

Healthcare, for him, is infrastructure. It requires investment, systems thinking, and long-term vision. He brought a corporate lens to medicine, introducing scale, standardisation, and strategic growth, without abandoning the patient at the centre.

Burjeel Holdings eventually went public, marking a significant milestone. It signaled not just financial success, but the maturation of a healthcare model that could attract global capital while maintaining clinical credibility.

This dual identity, doctor and entrepreneur, continues to define his leadership.

Ziva: The Next Chapter

With Ziva, Vayalil is pushing into a new frontier. Ziva is positioned as a platform that reimagines healthcare delivery, blending technology, accessibility, and patient-centric design. It reflects a broader shift in global healthcare, where digital integration, preventive care, and personalised treatment are becoming central.

If Burjeel was about building institutions, Ziva is about redesigning the experience itself. It signals a move from physical infrastructure to intelligent ecosystems, where healthcare is not confined to hospitals but embedded in everyday life.

Philanthropy and Quiet Influence

Beyond business, Vayalil's influence extends into philanthropy and policy.

He has been involved in initiatives that provide free or subsidised treatment for underserved populations. During global crises, including the pandemic, his institutions played a role in expanding access to care.

Yet, unlike many high-profile entrepreneurs, his public persona remains relatively understated. He operates with a certain quiet authority, allowing institutions to speak louder than personal branding.

This restraint, in an era of visibility-driven leadership, sets him apart.

A New Kind of Leadership

Vayalil represents a new archetype of Indian-origin global entrepreneurs.

He is neither purely a businessman nor solely a clinician. He exists in the overlap, where empathy meets execution.





His decisions are shaped by both balance sheets and bedside realities. It is a rare combination, and perhaps the reason his ventures have managed to scale without losing credibility.

Reflection

In a world where healthcare often swings between extremes, too expensive to access or too strained to trust, Shamsheer Vayalil has chosen a more difficult path. He builds in the middle, where scale meets sensitivity, where business does not erase care.

His journey is not just about hospitals or valuations. It is about rethinking what it means to heal at scale.

Perhaps that is his quiet thesis. That healthcare, at

its best, is not just a service delivered in moments of crisis, but a system designed with foresight, compassion, and precision.

And in that system, somewhere between a diagnosis and a decision, lives the future he is still building.

Awards and accolades

- 2014 – Pravasi Bharatiya Samman
- 2014 – Received an honorary Doctorate (D.Litt. & DSE Honors Degree) from Aligarh Muslim University

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