A Legacy Beyond a Lifetime

'In Quest of Knowledge' launched in London celebrates the extraordinary life, values and enduring legacy of Dr Vibha Dineshkumar Shah...



Book Launch Ceremony. Left to right: Shail Shah, Ashok Kumar Chauhan (British Army), Dineshkumar Shah, H.H. Rajrajeshwar Guruji, Deputy Mayor of Harrow Cllr Mina Parmar, Anju Shah, Trusha Shah and Preksha Shah. Second row: Nishay and Prakash Shah.

SOME books tell a story. Others preserve history. *In* ***Quest of Knowledge*** does both.

The inspiring biography of **Late Dr Vibha Dineshkumar Shah** was formally launched in London on 21 June 2026, in a heartfelt ceremony attended by distinguished academicians, community leaders, spiritual personalities, civic representatives, family members and friends. More than a book launch, the event became a celebration of a life dedicated to learning, family, service and the timeless pursuit of knowledge.

The book was officially inaugurated by **His Holiness Shri Rajrajeshwar Guruji**, Founder and Global Spiritual Leader of the International Siddhashram Shakti Centre; **Deputy Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Mina Parmar; Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar Chauhan** of the British Army; and members of Dr Vibha Shah's family.

Compèred with warmth and grace by **Preksha Dineshkumar Shah**, the programme reflected the very values that shaped Dr Vibha's remarkable journey-from Nairobi to Cardiff, from pharmacy to accountancy, from motherhood to lifelong scholarship.

A Daughter's Tribute: Learning Never Stops
Opening the event, Preksha delivered an emotional tribute to her mother while acknowledging that the launch coincided with Father's Day.



Professor Atul Shah, Professor Tine Vekemans, Prakash Shah and Neera Shah.

She described her parents as lifelong role models whose love for education shaped both her and her brother Shail.

'My mother believed knowledge is a lifelong companion,' she said. 'She pursued accountancy in her forties, completed her MBA in her fifties and began her doctorate in her sixties. She always taught us that learning never stops. If you truly want something and give it your best, the universe will help make it happen.'

Her words perfectly set the tone for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating curiosity, resilience and continuous self-improvement.

A Sister Remembered
Dr Vibha's brother Prakash Shah **shared heartfelt memories from** childhood, describing his sister as someone whose determination, humility and relentless desire to learn inspired everyone around her.

'Every achievement in Vibha's life reflected her commitment to growth,' he said. 'Her story reminds us that success is never defined by a single achievement but by the courage to keep learning, embrace change and believe in our own potential.'

He added that although Vibha was no longer physically present, her experiences, wisdom and values would continue to inspire generations through the pages of the book.

Fifty Years of Friendship
One of the most touching moments came when **Neera Shah**, who first met Vibha during their university days in Cardiff, reflected on over five decades of friendship.

She remembered Vibha as disciplined, focused and quietly exceptional.

'Learning wasn't simply something Vibha did - it was her way of life,' she recalled. 'She travelled with a notebook, always writing down ideas, observations and lessons. Her achievements extended far beyond qualifications. She excelled as a pharmacist, accountant, teacher, wife, mother and above all, a lifelong learner.'

A Landmark for Jain History
Delivering a thought-provoking address, **Professor Atul Shah** of City St George's, University of London described the publication as a milestone for both the Jain community and migration history.

'This is not merely a biography,' he observed. 'It is one of the finest documented life stories of a Jain woman.'

Reflecting on Jain philosophy, he explained how the three jewels of Jainism - Samyak Darshan (Right Faith), **Samyak Gyan (Right Knowledge) and Samyak Charitra (Right Conduct)** - were beautifully reflected throughout Vibha's life.

He also connected the family's accountancy

tradition with the historic role of Jain entrepreneurs, financiers and business leaders over two millennia, emphasising that knowledge and disciplined record-keeping have always been central to lasting success.

A Window into the Oshwal Journey

The keynote address was delivered by Professor **Tine Vekemans** of Ghent University, Belgium, an internationally respected researcher specialising in Jain migration.

She praised the biography as an important contribution to migration history.

'Books like this allow us to see the world through someone else's eyes,' she remarked. 'It documents not only Vibha's personal journey but also the wider story of Oshwal migration from India to East Africa and later to the United Kingdom.'

Professor Vekemans noted that the book combines historical context with deeply personal experiences, making it invaluable not only for future generations of the Oshwal community but also for anyone interested in migration, identity and family history.

A Story Close to Home

Deputy Mayor **Cllr Mina Parmar** described the event as personally meaningful, recalling her own Kenyan roots before moving to Britain as a child.

'This biography is an extraordinary initiative,' she said. 'Because of Dineshkumar Shah's dedication, future generations will know the remarkable life lived by Dr Vibha Shah.'

She added that the book celebrates universal values that transcend cultures - knowledge, determination, community spirit and lifelong learning - while also reflecting the unique bonds between India, Kenya and the United Kingdom.



Shail Shah, Preksha, Dineshkumar Shah and Nishay.



Guests at the luncheon following the book launch ceremony.

A Spiritual Legacy

Offering blessings at the launch, **His Holiness Shri Rajrajeshwar Guruji** praised the publication as a noble act of service.

Completing Vibha's Dream

Perhaps the most emotional address came from the author himself, **Dineshkumar Shah**.

He revealed that the idea for the book had originally come from Vibha herself.

'In 2018 she asked me whether she should write a book about her life,' he recalled. 'She said she would first complete her PhD and then begin writing. Sadly, she passed away in October 2021 before she could fulfil that dream.'

After her passing, Dineshkumar decided to complete the work she had envisioned.

'I wanted people to know how extraordinary an ordinary woman can be,' he said. 'This book shows that with positivity, determination and continuous learning, there is no limit to what we can achieve.'

His words received a standing ovation from many in attendance.

An Emotional Vote of Thanks

Delivering the vote of thanks, **Shail Dineshkumar Shah** expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who had contributed to making the launch memorable. Fighting back emotion, he described Dr Vibha Shah as his first teacher, mentor and greatest source of strength, whose unwavering belief in education, discipline and integrity continues to guide him every day. 'My mother taught us that learning is a lifelong journey,' he said. 'This book ensures that her wisdom, values and life lessons will continue to inspire not only our family but countless others.'

A Living Legacy

Among those paying tribute was **Mahesh Liloriya**, Global Head - Strategic Partnerships at Asian Media Group, who reflected on writing the five-part review series of the biography published in ***Garavi Gujarat.***

'This book speaks directly to the reader,' he said. 'It is far more than a tribute to Dr Vibha Shah. It is a document of values, culture, family life and lifelong learning. It will remain relevant for generations.'

Warrant Officer **Ashok Kumar Chauhan** of the British Army also congratulated the family, describing the publication as an inspiring record of a remarkable life.

As guests gathered for lunch, conversations continued around a common theme - that In Quest of Knowledge is not simply a biography but an enduring reminder that knowledge, compassion and integrity remain life's greatest achievements.

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THE VIBHA CHRONICLES

Lessons from a Life Lived in Knowledge and Grace

Dr Vibha Shah - A Life in Brief

Born: 1953, Nairobi, Kenya
Profession: Pharmacist, Accountant, Educator and Lifelong Learner
Qualifications: MPharm, FCCA, MBA; pursued a Doctorate
Life Journey: Kenya → United Kingdom
Passed Away: October 2021
Legacy: A life devoted to education, family, compassion and continuous learning.

Lessons from Five Episodes

- Knowledge is a lifelong journey.
- Family is life's greatest strength.
- Values define true success.
- Resilience transforms adversity into purpose.
- Learning never has an age limit.
- Service and humility leave an everlasting legacy.

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A Biography of Dr Vibha Dineshkumar Shah
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