

What's Wrong With Cutlery?... Questions Unanswered!

All the best things having been said, it was time now to really ask of these icons of the future of all people Indian, after all what did we forget to learn from the refined British? They don't like crockery! Even cutlery? Is there some future in exporting *kulhad* to Britain? Where did Akshata go wrong, when she took out the best for someone 'almost God' (We Indians treat such seniors like this). Obviously, some home lessons were not in sync with Bigland.



Day of Anticipation, Excitement, and Unforgettable Moments at JLF 2025
Excitement crackled in the air as the third day of the Jaipur Literature Festival 2025 unfolded in spectacular fashion. Crowds swelled, security tightened, and roads nearby came to a standstill as festival-goers eagerly awaited one of the most anticipated sessions, a riveting conversation between the beloved Sudha Murthy and her daughter, even more beloved Akshata, former First Lady of Britain.

Whether Sunak becomes Prime Minister again may be a guess, but he did sit on the throne

that ruled us. WHAT A SATISFACTION. But just when the enthusiasm seemed at its peak, it soared even higher. The sight of former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak walking into the venue alongside his father-in-law, Narayana Murthy, sent waves of excitement through the audience. Amidst tight security, attendees relished a rare moment, witnessing this extraordinary family together. An already dazzling festival, JLF 2025, had just promised to become unforgettable. On the third day of Jaipur Literature Festival 2025, an animated discussion was supposed to take place between iconic mother, Sudha Murthy and her daughter Sunak's wife, Akshata Murthy, as they were supposed to share personal stories during a session titled 'My Mother, Myself.' As the event commenced, the audience applauded as Rishi Sunak's presence was announced. In a video that is now going viral, Sunak's mother asks him to not just wave at the audience but to greet them with the Indian gesture, 'Namaste.' This moment seems to be winning hearts over the internet.



Family Reflections on Stage

At the Jaipur Literature Festival 2025, an animated discussion took place between an iconic mother

and her daughter, where the two women shared insights into their lives, the choices they make, and the paths they take. A dialogue showcased their intelligence, charm, and iron resolve. Sudha

Murthy's daughter, Akshata, opened up on work-life balance, childcare at Jaipur Literature Festival. Akshata asked Sudha Murthy how she managed to balance her work and raising chil-



dren. On this, Sudha Murthy said that she drew inspiration from her father, who, as a doctor by profession, considered the hospital as a temple. She further said that her husband, Narayana Murthy, sup-



Optimist Day

Are you a glass-half-full or glass-half-empty kind of person? If you're a natural optimist in life, you might consider yourself a glass-half-full, isn't it a wonderful life kind of human, which is a fantastic quality to have. But for the rest of us, it might be challenging to be positive all day, every day, which is why Optimist Day is the perfect solution for us, well, average earthlings. Whether you're a natural optimist, or slightly pessimistic, this day is here to inject some fun-fuelled positivity into your life.



ported her at every step and helped her in pursuing her professional life. Akshata thanked Sudha Murthy for her teachings and guidance as a mother, and said

that her both parents are her 'role models.' "Both, you and Papa, have been my role models. You both always supported each other," Sudha Murthy replied. "I always wanted my children to become good citizens. One day, you too will get to see a day when your husband and children will be proud of you." Sudha Murthy said, "Behind a successful woman is a wise man. My husband always supported me and helped me move forward." Sudha Murthy also revealed that her daughter made her realise the power of giving back and prompted her to embark on her philanthropic journey. "My daughter Akshata's perspective made me realise the importance of sharing our blessings with others. She came and told me one day that *amma*, I found out a very bright boy by the name of Anand Sharma, who is very good at studies but very poor. He may get admission to St. Stephen's College in Delhi. Who can sponsor him?" Sudha Murthy went on to share what her daughter said next, which sparked her philanthropic journey. "Amma, you're well-travelled, well-read, fairly intelligent, and if you can't do philanthropy, then you don't have a right to say to anyone that they should do philanthropy. I thought over it over a period of one week and decided to do

full-time philanthropy. I was sleeping, I felt, and my daughter woke me up," she added. I feel incredibly lucky and honoured to have been raised in a culture that cherishes human values, emotions, and selfless service. In a world that often prioritizes success and ambition, it is heartening to be part of a tradition where compassion, kindness, and helping others without expectations are not just encouraged but deeply ingrained. It is a privilege to grow up in an environment where these values are not only celebrated but continue to be passed down through generations. All the best things having been said, it was time now to really ask of these icons of the future of all people Indian, after all what did we forget to learn from the refined British? They don't like crockery! Even cutlery? Is there some future in exporting *kulhad* to Britain? Where did Akshata go wrong, when she took out the best for someone 'almost God' (We Indians treat such seniors like this). Obviously, some home lessons were not in sync with Bigland. There was no interactive time with the audience, and it was sorely missed. People may have wanted to know how were the cushions on the 'Gaddi.' Really with hearts full of big sighs, the dissatisfied audience left.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#SPARKLERS

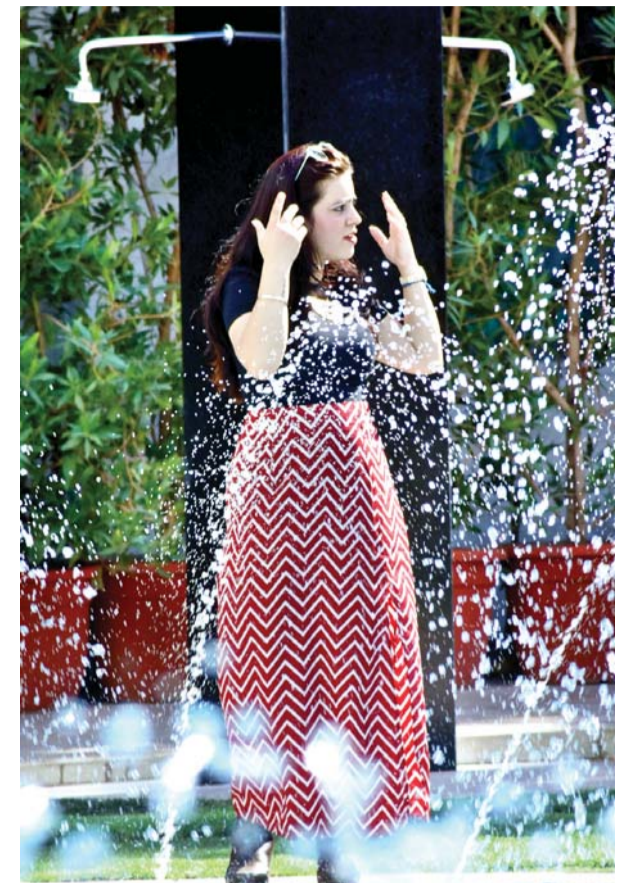
Rishi Sunak at JLF

When Sudha Murthy and Akshata Murthy took the stage, the crowd was there for their words, but let's be real, the biggest head-turner was Rishi Sunak, sitting right alongside Narayana Murthy. An ex-British Prime Minister quietly attending a session? Now, that's a plot twist. As Sudha Murthy put it, "behind every successful woman is an understanding man," and in this case, two were taking notes in the audience.



Painting the town (even more) Pink

Jaipur, the Pink City hosts JLF, and this year, they've really leaned into the theme. Delegate bags in vibrant pink? Check. And with Utsav, a celebration of Rajasthan's festive spirit, well, it doesn't get more obvious than that. Nothing says 'festival' like a pink bag, right?



Sunny skies, summer styles

Summer styles Winter may still be on the calendar, but at JLF, it's all sunshine and summer wardrobes. Flowing dresses, breezy skirts, stylish shorts, and oversized shades have taken over the fest grounds. The sun is out, and so are the best winter-meets-summer fashion choices.



Beyond books

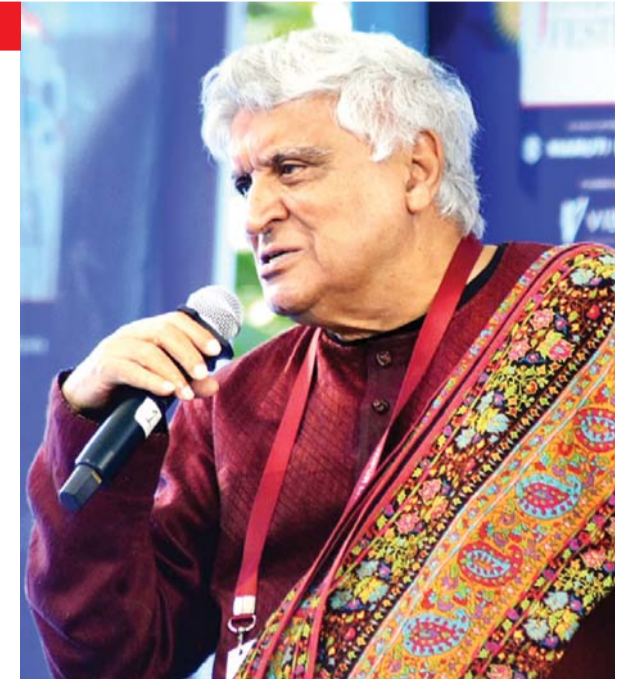
Books? What books? Some people are busy unwinding with face painting, doodling away, striking poses for 360-degree photos, and, of course, perfecting their selfie game. Because at JLF, there's plenty to do, even if your idea of literature is reading the menu at the coffee stall.

Tiger on the Kamal



Never-ending line for loos

The true test of patience at JLF isn't waiting to meet your favourite author, it's surviving the endless queue for the loos. Panels may start and end, books may be launched and sold, but this line? Eternal. Some even finish an entire novel while waiting. Literature festival or endurance marathon?



Hamara Kya Hoga !!!!

At a session on AI and creativity, renowned lyricist and writer Javed Akhtar posed a thought-provoking question. In the next few decades, will AI develop the ability to form its own opinions or even create machines with IQs a thousand times superior to humans? His words sparked intrigue, leaving the audience pondering the future, one where AI might not just assist but out-think and outcreate its very makers.

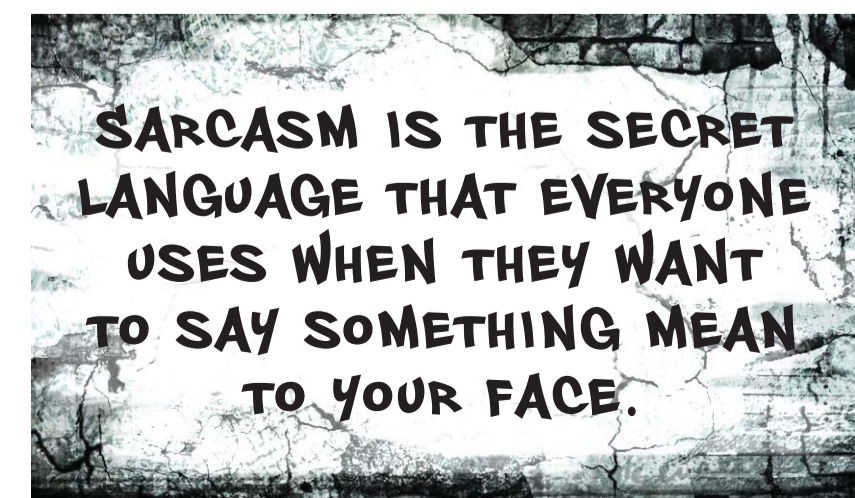
A 'Will Chair' And A 'Foot'

similar western prosthetic would cost over \$15,000. Yet, the BMVSS offer these prosthetics free and an amputee, who comes crawling to the 34 various centres of Jaipur Foot in the country, comes in the morning and returns home walking in the evening with his mobility and dignity back. We made him walk again and for free," said D R Mehta to the thunderous applause of the audience. Deepa Malik, the para-athlete, who was raised and educated in Jaipur, is the first Indian woman to win a medal in paralympic games, when she won the silver medal in 2016 summer paralympics for shot put. She had developed spinal tumour at the age of five, underwent three years of treatment. She was further troubled by spinal tumour at the age of 29. Yet, she became a swimmer and a biker, and then developed a love for athletics and became a champion para-athlete. She said that where there is

will, there is a way and she has been riding a wheelchair for 25 years, which she calls 'will chair.' She is an example of great will power and the will to live life queen size. Yet, she was sore about the rehabilitation plans for the disabled and said that despite the rapidly changing world, conversations surrounding disability have remained stagnant in many ways. Photographer speaker, Vicky Roy, talked about his life as a photographer, when he took pictures of the disabled persons visiting various towns and cities. He shot how the disabled with all the determination faced their disability with a smile and succeeded in their work. "I noticed that people always saw photographs of disabled people with sympathy. I wanted to break the pattern by photographing people in their homes and everyday lives, instead of focusing on their disability," said Roy.



THE WALL



Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyon Aata Hai

The second day of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) sparked an electrifying session at the Charbagh that left attendees buzzing with excitement, not because Sunita Williams has got back to earth, no! Somebody talked, another walked out. Now that may be God's gift to the violent, they can stop breaking their and others' bones. The reporting has taken time, because strips of truth, tears, and *tamasha* had to be stitched together. The story goes thus. The panel featured esteemed personalities including MK Raina, Ila Arun, and Anjula Bedi, engaging in a riveting conversation moderated by Asad Lalljee. Personalities on the dais did not feature each other, and the audience chattered. Moderation came in a bit late, but it did, the grapevine says. (He had to go to the bathroom.)

The session was a perfect blend of wit, humor, and a tinge of controversy that kept the audience on the edge of their seats. From sharing personal anecdotes to discussing pressing social issues, the speakers left no stone unturned. MK Raina's

insightful observations, Ila Arun's captivating storytelling, and Anjula Bedi's thought-provoking views created a dynamic atmosphere that captivated everyone present. The lively exchange of ideas and contrasting perspectives made the session truly unforgettable, leaving a lasting impression on all who were fortunate enough to be part of this intellectually stimulating experience at JLF. Things happen at JLF, sometimes beating *golgappas*. Ila Arun, the iconic singer, has left an indelible mark on the music industry with her hit number 'Choli ke peechhe kya hai.' Ila Arun has taken a 'bold' step by rephrasing these popular lines to highlight the voices of women hidden behind the veils of *cholis* and *dupattas* through her latest book *Parde ke Peechhe*, co-authored with Anjula Bedi. During the event, she delighted the crowd by performing her hit songs like 'resham ka rumal,' prompting everyone to dance and celebrate. Ila Arun's ability to connect with her audience and convey powerful messages through her artistry truly sets her apart as a remarkable woman in the entertainment industry.

Raina, a native of Kashmir, voiced his frustration over the misrepresentation of his homeland in Indian cinema and theatre. "I'm sorry, I see bad films from Kashmir, accusing Kashmir of

all kinds of things, lousy films... Kashmir is not being represented at all because they don't know that state, is my assertion," he remarked. His candid critique caused a stir among the audience, prompting Arun to respond with a sharp, "Albert Pinto....." Despite the unexpected walk-out, Raina's memoir 'Before I Forget' continues to draw attention, as it captures the highs and lows of his life and career, along with his experiences growing up in Kashmir.

MK Raina is a distinguished Indian theatre director, actor, and cultural activist, known for his significant contributions to Indian theatre and cinema. His work has earned him several accolades, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. Raina is also recognized for his activism in preserving Kashmiri culture and heritage. His memoir, *Before I Forget*, offers deep insights into his personal and professional journey, chronicling his experiences in theatre, film, and his deep-rooted connection to his homeland.

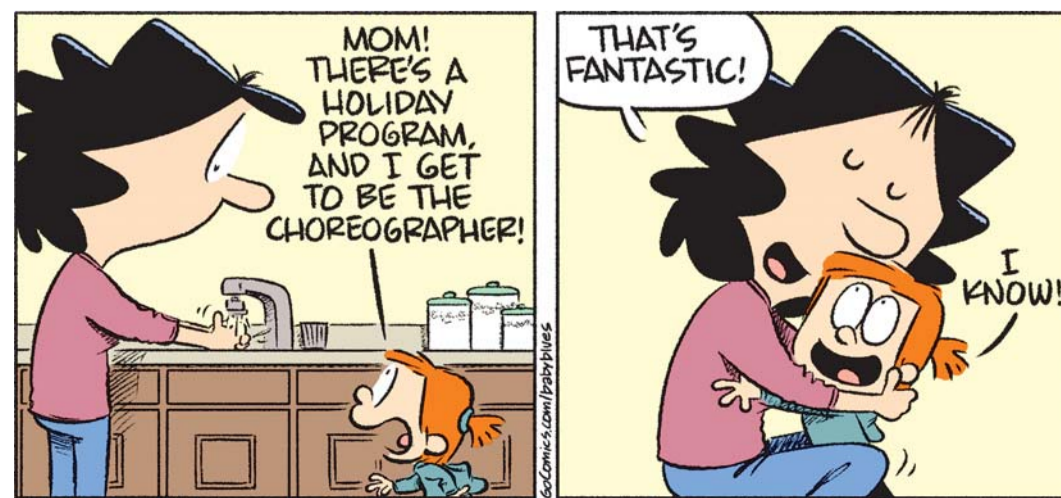
Anjula Bedi highlighted the unique advantage of being a writer in India. She emphasized that India's rich cultural diversity makes it the ideal breeding



ground for writers to explore and experiment with language. According to Bedi, the ease of seamlessly blending different languages together allows writers to craft truly unique and captivating narratives that resonate with readers from all walks of life. As the literary event unfolded on the grand stage, the audi-

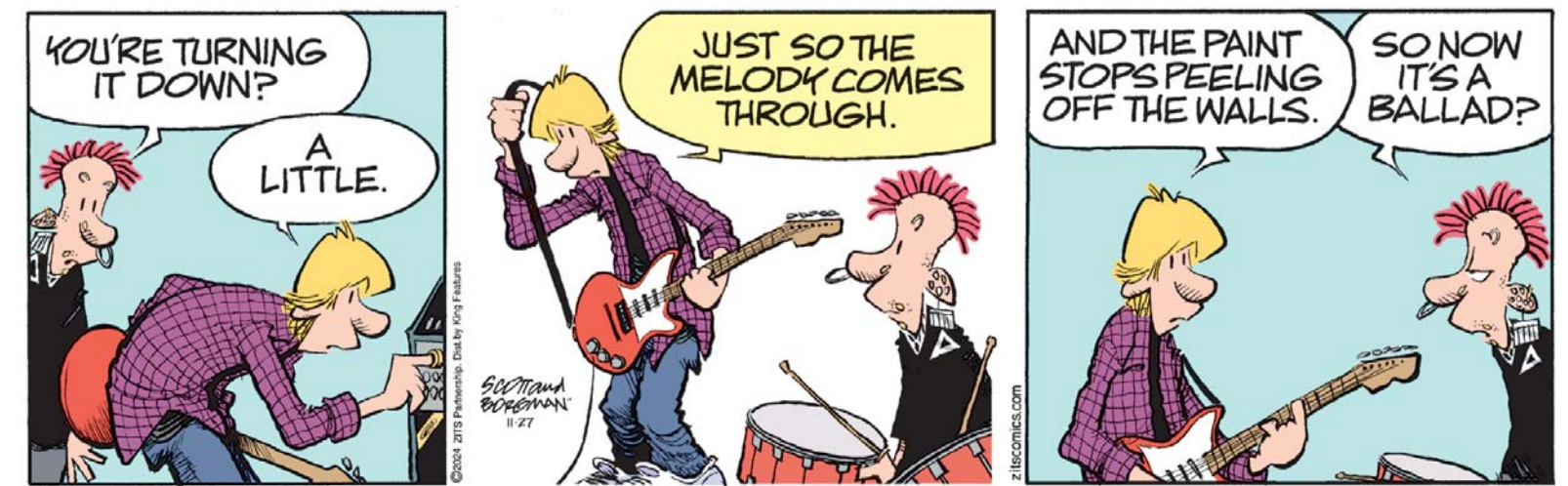
ence found themselves caught in a tense atmosphere. The moderator, Asad Lalljee, seemed to be moderating to death. While his intentions may have been to ensure fairness and equal speaking opportunity. But really, there is nothing like a savoury controversy to light a fire where there was only some irritating smoke.

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman