option, stating:

ing. He asserted:

against us"

"The Gandhian philosophy of

'if someone slaps you, put out

another cheek as well' no longer

holds true. No one should be able

to approach us with the first slap

spend money on India's defences.

budget to wage a war, we do it to

discourage other countries from

feeling that we are weak and they

can engage in an adventure

interesting distinction between

nationalism and patriotism, argu-

ing that the two are often misun-

the country, but a patriot can

thought-provoking discussion,

urging people to reflect on the

true essence of love for one's

nation-one that is built on sacri-

fice, service, and inclusivity

rather than exclusion and aggres-

The session "PhirBhiDil Hai

Hindustani" at Jaipur Literature

die for the country in defense.

derstood. He explained:

"**Phir Bhi Dil** Hai

Hindustani"

Finally, Tharoor made an

"A nationalist can kill for

This distinction sparked a

We don't spend on the defence

is very much interested in

that politics impacts every

aspect of our lives, and thus, cit-

izens must be well-informed and

engaged in the democratic

Lessons from Experience

has learned over the years:

you, do not bleed."

Dealing with Criticism:

Reflecting on the challenges

"When the shark bites

As he took center stage at

JLF 2025. Tharoor once again

reminded us why he remains one

of the most captivating and intel-

lectually stimulating speakers of

our time. His sessions weren't

just talks; they were masterclass-

es in knowledge, wisdom, and

this remarkable day, one thing is

clear-Shashi Tharoor is not

just a speaker; he is an expe-

He was the perfect guest, not

forgetting to praise the host; he

praised JLF for its role in glam-

ourizing books and literature.

acknowledging how it has made

reading and intellectual dis-

course a celebrated and fash

ionable pursuit. His words

were a tribute to the power of

storytelling and the written

word, reinforcing the impor-

tance of festivals like JLF in

keeping literature alive in an

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

increasingly digital world.

And so, as we look back at

eloquence, and the language.

of being a public figure, Tharoor

shared an important lesson he

Through this, he emphasized

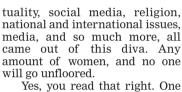
राष्ट्रदुत

English In English About Vivekanand!



Now, being Shashi Tharoor, it was almost inevitable that he would take a sharp and articulate jibe at the oppositionand oh, he did not disappoint! With his signature wit, eloquence, and razor-sharp critique, Tharoor made sure his audience got more than just a esson in ohilosophy and iterature-he gave them a masterclass in political discourse as well.





person, three sessions, and a

presence today. The Yes you are absolutely right! packed, and the women were ready with vitamins etc. all

Zeba: An Accidental Superhero

or was the crowd more interest

ed in the glamour than the lit-

Superhero" is Huma Qureshi's

debut novel, published on

December 2, 2023. The story fol-

lows Zeba, a 20-something

hijabi woman living in New

York City. Her comfortable life

takes an unexpected turn when

she travels to the distant land of

Khudir for a family wedding.

There, she discovers the source

of her superpowers-the holy

spring Zsa Zsa-and finds herself

the world from The Great Khan.

a cruel tyrant with malevolent

sharp humor and colorful char-

acters to tell a story that is both

entertaining and meaningful. It

addresses serious issues like

PTSD, immigration, and

woven into a fantastical narra-

tive. Readers have found Zeba to

be a relatable and sassy super-

hero, symbolizing freedom,

empowerment, and grit. The

book is praised for its thrilling

tale of heroism and transfor-

mation, ultimately highlighting the triumph of the human spir-

it in the face of adversity.

women's empowerment, all

intentions. The novel combines

reluctantly tasked with saving

"Zeba: An Accidental

taken to fight their way to the man for an autograph, even if it meant buying the book they will only open to see the face and the Philosophy, Hinduism, education, culture,

Books Not Looks...

Intellectual

Powerhouse

history, motivation, books, spiri-

No... No...

t the Jaipur Literature

A Festival 2025, held on

February 2, actress, model, and

producer Huma Qureshi intro-

duced her debut novel. "Zeba:

An Accidental Superhero." In a

session with celebrated writer

Prayaag Akbar, she discussed

the inspiration and creative

process behind her book.

Festival attendees had the

opportunity to meet Huma

Qureshi in person and obtain

signed copies of her novel at

the Banvan Tree School stall

(S6). "Zeba: An Accidental

Superhero" marks Huma

Qureshi's entry into the liter-

arv world, showcasing her ver-

satility beyond her established

career in the entertainment

industry. The large crowd

attending belied the noble

want more than what we see.

thought, that what we know we

celebrities venture into writ-

ing-people are drawn as much

by their star power as by their

literary work. Huma Qureshi's

presence at JLF 2025 was quite

the spectacle, with fans eager to

see her in person. But did she

manage to captivate the audience with her discussion on

That's often the case when

Shruti Kothari

Jaipur Literature

Festival 2025, with

all his killing

although now aging

looks. was the star

venue was jam

national and international issues, media, and so much more, all came out of this diva. Any amount of women, and no one will go unfloored.

seamless journey across a multitude of subjects, all delivered with the same passion, depth, and intellectual rigor. But who is this extraordinary speaker capable of holding an audience spellbound, making them think, question, and learn with every word? Shashi Tharoor, is a bomb!

His words are not just spoken: they resonate. His arguments are not just made; they provoke thought. And his insights are not just shared; they transform perspectives. Whether he is deconstructing religious philosophies, dissecting political ideologies, or debating the evolving role of social media in contemporary society, one thing remains con-

Now, being Shashi Tharoor, it was almost inevitable that he would take a sharp and articulate jibe at the opposition-and oh, he did not disappoint! With his signature wit, eloquence, and razorsharp critique, Tharoor made sure his audience got more than just a lesson in philosophy and literature-he gave them a masterclass in political discourse as well.

Tharoor's Political Jabs His discussions at Charbagh, during the session titled "Purushartha: The Four-Way Path," and at Front Lawn, in the session "Shashi Tharoor: Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani," were laced with thought-provoking insights, incisive commentary, and, of course, his characteristic politi-

#JLF2025

stant-the more you listen to cal jabs. He didn't hold back, especially in the wake of the recently Shashi Tharoor, the more you announced budget, using the opportunity to dissect policies, highlight contradictions, and challenge the narrative set by the

ruling party. And as expected, the audience lapped it up-some nodding in agreement, some chuckling at his sharp humor, and others furiously taking notes, knowing that every word was worth remember-

"Purushartha: The

Now, coming to the sessions at hand, the discussions were as diverse as they were insightful. In his first session at the Jaipur Literature Festival 2025, titled "Purushartha: The Four-Way Path." Shashi Tharoor delved

into the core principles of Hindu philosophy, focusing on the four aims of human life: Dharma (righteousness), Artha (prosperiliberation). He emphasized the diverse paths within Hinduism

"I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the

"He [Swami Vivekananda] says the Hindu will never light the fires of inquisition. There is no place for saying, mine is the only way.'

Shruti Kothari

ter" of the scientific community,

consider too fanciful and unreal-

istic. That is until the last few

vears. Modern advances in biolo-

gv have taught us a lot about how

we age and why we die-could that

knowledge help us turn back the

er? Nobel Prize-winning molecu-

biologist

Would you want to live forev-

clock?

profound

refreshing simplicity.

for uncovering the structure of

Die: The New Science of Aging

Discussing his book, "Why We

hey're perhaps the old-

est questions in the sci-

ence: Why do we die?

And could we find a way

to live forever? But for

decades, anti-aging

research was a "backwa-

Then he went on to say "Don't say, 'Jai Shri Ram,' I'm going to flog vou. That's not Hinduism. That has nothing to do with In a more general reflection on ethical conduct, he shared a

'Do the right thing and do the thing right."

powerful thought:

Tharoor said Hindu society is divided on caste and class, contrary to the precepts of Hinduism, which has always been pluralistic and inclusive.

On Maha Kumbh Tharoor said it reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Hinduism. "Seeing sadhus and saints on social media and seeing them using mobile phones shows the changing picture of India. This is India," he said. Furthermore, he addressed Gandhian philosophy, particularly the idea of turning the other cheek. Tharoor pointed out that such passivity is no longer an Festival 2025 was a refreshing departure from abstract discussions, as Shashi Tharoor delved into practical, real-world issues. sharing personal experiences and reflections on politics, media, and public awareness. One of the highlights of this

On matters of national securisession was his candid discussion ty, Tharoor made it clear that a about the infamous 'cattle class' strong defense is essential for tweet, a remark that spiraled into India's international stature. He a major controversy within just 23 expressed his deep respect for the hours of being posted. Tharoor acknowledged the backlash it Indian Army and stressed the need for adequate defense fundreceived and admitted that his relationship with the Indian "I think it's very important to media has always been a bitter-

sweet one.

With his characteristic wit and humor, he revealed an interesting insight: "It was told to me that news channels tend to get more pub-

licity when I get attacked on social media. Rather than sounding resent ful, Tharoor's tone remained

amusing rather than complaining, making it clear that he has come to terms with the way modern media operates. **Educating Voters: A**

National Priority Shifting gears, Tharoor

addressed one of the most critical issues facing Indian democracy-the lack of political awareness among voters. He stressed the urgent need for educating the electorate, reinforcing his belief that political consciousness is not just a choice but a necessity. "You might not be interested in politics, but politics

lots of systems that must work

together. Once an organ system

critical to our survival fails, we

die. For example, if our muscles

become so frail that our heart

stops beating, it can't pump the

blood containing the oxygen and

nutrients our organs need and

we die. When we say someone

dies, we mean the death of them

as an individual. In fact, when

we die, most of ourselves, such

as our organs, are alive. This is

Passing on your genes

Further talking about evolution

Ramakrishnan explained that

the lifespans of all organisms

range from a few hours or days

for insects to hundreds of years

for certain whales, sharks and

giant tortoises. A layperson

might assume that all life forms

are preset to die once they've

reached a certain age. But biolo-

gists don't believe that aging and

death are programmed in the

sense that a fertilized egg is pro-

grammed to develop into a

mized a lifespan equation of

Instead, evolution has opti-

plant recipients."

human being.

why the organs of accident victims can be donated to trans-

conversation with Roger the body as like a city containing you're a small animal - and therefore more likely to get eaten by a predator, starve or die in a flood - it makes no sense for

evolution to waste resources

repairing the damage necessary

to keep you alive longer. Instead,

evolution selects for growing

fast and maturing quickly so you

can reproduce and pass along

your genes. If you're a larger animal, staying alive longer will grant you a better chance of finding a mate with whom you can have more offspring over your longer lifetime. Lifespan is all about evolution maximizing the chances of your passing along your genes. In humans, this finely tuned resource balance grants us a maximum lifespan of about 120 years. But that doesn't mean we can't alter biology and intervene in these processes of aging, and maybe

extend our lives "Like many aging scientists, I believe that it's possible. I don't. however, share their optimism for how feasible such interventions would be," says Ramakrishnan.

Ramakrishnan's session was more than just a scientific discussion-it was a deeply thought-provoking experience, reminding us that while death is certain, how we understand and embrace it

#SPARKLERS



mol Palekar graced JLF with his presence, first A charming the Front Lawn and then schooling the media at the press conference. His top advice? "Do your homework before asking questions." (Ouch.) As for most of the queries thrown at him, his go-to response was, "Read my book and you'll know." Efficiency at its peak! And the pièce de résistance? The book's real star power-

Very angry Young Man 2.0

23 QR codes that teleport you straight to his films



mitabh Kant shares his name with Amitabh A Bachchan-the OG angry young man-and it seems he's taken it a little too seriously. With that signature straight face and no-nonsense demeanour, vou'd think he was here to deliver a policy paper, not a panel discussion. Maybe some Bollywood-style dramatic pauses would lighten things up?



lacksquare ave you ever had an experience where you just tast-• ed something that takes you back to a point in your life? Former Master Chef Judge and food critic Matt Preston, in conversation with Vir Sanghvi, spoke fondly of his time at his grandmother's house and the events that led him to learn cooking as an "act of self-defence" against her "terrible" cooking.



Bollywood over Books

ooks may be mighty, but Bollywood is mightier **b** just ask the sea of people flooding the front lawn for Huma Qureshi's session. Ironically, at the press conference, her only script was, "Just my book, no Bollywood." Turns out, some writers trust their pens

Press get's re-treat



 $oldsymbol{\Pi}$ where you hide if you are reporting the report- un worthy to your editor. Only the boss may be hiding here for all you know.



Tharoor's Budget Goes



nashi Tharoor once again questioned why JLF insists on coinciding with Budget Day, reminding everyone (yet again) that he has repeatedly requested a date change-still no luck. Ironically, most people at his Press Conference only wanted to ask him about the Budget anyway (since they missed it on T.V. and he had seen it). But he did tip his hat to JLF for making books glamorous-after all, when was the last time 300-400 people lined up not for selfies but for a book signing? But was the crowd at JLF hanging on to Shashi Tharoor's every word for his love of books-or just his looks! With that vocabulary and that charm, it's hard to tell.

Four-Way Path

Why We Die?

ty), Kama (desires), and Moksha that guide individuals toward spiritual fulfillment, highlighting the inclusivity and adaptability of the faith. He quoted Vivekananda's assertion:

world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true."

in today's geopolitical climate, and the Quest for Immortality",

Ramakrishnan broke down com-

plex scientific ideas using every-

day examples, making the topic

accessible to a wide audience.

Rather than presenting death as something to be feared, he used everyday examples and relatable analogies to help the audience understand it as a natural and inevitable part of existence. His ability to demystify such a heavy subject resonated deeply, drawing in listeners from various back grounds-whether scientists, philosophers, students, or simply curious minds grappling with the concept of mortality. What was even more surpris-

Ramakrishnan transforms our understanding of why we age and die - and whether there's anything we can do about it. On the third day of Jaipur Literature Festival 2025, we were given a rare opportunity to gain insight into this subject. Venki Ramakrishnan, a Nobel laureate with a remarkably light-hearted demeanour, took on one of life's most difficult questions with Venki Ramakrishnan received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Biologist Venki Ramakrishnan

ing was the sheer size of the audience. Given the overwhelming excitement for the highly anticipated session featuring Sudha Murty and Akshata Murty, I expected a significant drop in attendance afterward. I even thought that the Front Lawn might be half-filled at best. But to my astonishment, not only did people stay, but they remained fully engaged till the very end. Do we really want eternal life?

sifts through past and cutting-

edge research to uncover the aspi

rational theories and practical

limitations of longevity. In his

Highfield, Ramakrishnan explained critical questions about the societal, political and ethical costs of attempts to live forever. Already, humans live twice as long as we did 150 years ago due to

increased knowledge about diseases and their spread. Does that suggest interventions to triple or quadruple our lifespan lie just the around corner? Ramakrishnan shares his perspectives on the realities of aging, death and immortality. Venki Ramakrishnan

explains that aging is an accumulation of chemical damage to the molecules inside our cells, which damages the cells themselves, and therefore the tissue, and then eventually us as an organism. Surprisingly, we start aging when we're in the womb, although at that point, we're growing faster than we're accumulating damage. Aging happens throughout our lives, right from the very begin-

The body has evolved lots of mechanisms to correct age-related damage to our DNA and to any poor-quality proteins we produce. Without ways to correct these sorts of problems, we would never live as long as we do. Still, over time, damage begins to outpace our ability to repair.

resource allocation that's optimized for every species. Larger He further says, "Think of animals tend to live longer. If

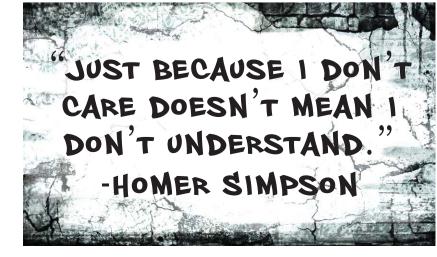
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



AND THEN YOU HAVE TO SHOW OTHERS HOW TO NO PROBLEM.

BOSSING PEOPLE SHE'S NOT APOUND LYING. 15 MY LOVE LANGUAGE

ZITS

