



Publication: Hindustan Times-City
Date: 24-May-22

Usha Uthup

Shashi Tharoor

Music, laughter and dialogue galore at this varsity-run lit fest

Aayushi Parekh

The two-day debut literary festival, Alliance Literary Festival, was organised and hosted over the weekend by Alliance University. The event, themed on writer Aldous Huxley's ideology of a brave new world, saw prominent guests, such as Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, singer Usha Uthup, writer Manu S Pillai, journalist Barkha Dutt, comedian Kenny Sebastian, etc. The festival saw around 10,000 attendees on both the days.

Tharoor spoke about liberal arts and its importance, and also about the state of Indian education, as he addressed a crowd of 2,000 people at the festival. A session, titled Queen of Indian Pop with Usha Uthup, enthralled the audiences. She reflected on the music scene in contemporary India and shared the emotional attachment she had to the art of singing. Later in the evening, the young and old grooved to her evergreen songs.

Both the days ended with Kenny Sebastian ringing in laughter and the band, Indian Ocean performing their iconic songs for the crowd. "We decided to bring together leaders from all walks of life to come together and ponder the real possibility that we are entering the brave new world that Huxley foresaw," says Anirudh Sridhar, associate dean of Alliance School of Liberal Arts, adding, "It will be back next year with a new theme, new faces, speakers and performers."

Indian Ocean performing on stage

A happy crowd at the fest