**Shashi Tharoor – Biography, Career & Works**

**Early Life & International Career**

* **Born:** 9 March 1956 in London; raised in India. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Shashi-Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Education:** Graduated from St. Stephen’s College, Delhi (1975), and earned a PhD in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (1978)—becoming the youngest to do so at the time. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[shashitharoor.in](https://shashitharoor.in/biography?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **UN Career (1978–2007):**
  + Joined UNHCR and worked in refugee assistance and peacekeeping. [adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Mid-day](https://www.mid-day.com/news/india-news/photo/Shashi-Tharoor-The-Congress-leader-who-is-also-loved-by-celebs-42483?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
  + Rose to Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information in 2001. [adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
  + Ran for UN Secretary-General in 2006, finishing second to Ban Ki-moon. [Mid-day](https://www.mid-day.com/news/india-news/photo/Shashi-Tharoor-The-Congress-leader-who-is-also-loved-by-celebs-42483?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[shashitharoor.in](https://shashitharoor.in/biography?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Political Career**

* **Entered Indian politics** in 2009 as a Member of Parliament for Thiruvananthapuram, representing the Indian National Congress. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Held ministerial roles:
  + Minister of State for External Affairs (2009–2010)
  + Minister of State for Human Resource Development (2012–2014) [adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Shashi-Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Currently serves as **Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Tharoor?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Known for his independent political stance—recently he chaired an all-party delegation abroad and challenged party leadership, exemplifying his "rebel" image. [The Times of India](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/once-a-rebel-always-a-rebel-congresss-tharoor-dilemma-from-kharge-challenger-to-pm-modis-global-envoy/articleshow/121690744.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Economic Times](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/centre-releases-list-of-mps-to-lead-indias-voice-globally-post-operation-sindoor-shashi-tharoor-supriya-sule-lead-from-opposition/articleshow/121241001.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Writing & Intellectual Contributions**

* A prolific author of both fiction and non-fiction with over 25 books:
  + **Notable fiction**: *The Great Indian Novel*
  + **Prolific non-fiction** titles: *India: From Midnight to the Millennium*, *Inglorious Empire / An Era of Darkness*, *Why I Am a Hindu*, *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*, *Tharoorosaurus*, *Ambedkar: A Life* [adda247](https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/shashi-tharoor-biography/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia+4Wikipedia+4Wikipedia+4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inglorious_Empire?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* His works explore historical, political, and cultural narratives of India with wit and deep analysis. [The Times of India+1](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/web-stories/8-books-by-dr-shashi-tharoor-that-should-be-on-everybodys-to-be-read-list/photostory/109317657.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Social Influence & Recognition**

* **Awards & Honors** include:
  + Sahitya Akademi Award (2019) for *An Era of Darkness*
  + Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (India’s highest honor for overseas nationals)
  + Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, Crossword Lifetime Achievement Award
  + Légion d’Honneur from France, Order of Charles III (Spain)
  + Lok Mat Best Parliamentarian Award (2024) [shashitharoor.in](https://shashitharoor.in/biography?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inglorious_Empire?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* A social media pioneer:
  + India’s most-followed politician on Twitter until 2013
  + First Indian to reach 10,000 and 100,000 followers
  + Continues to be a highly influential voice online. [shashitharoor.in](https://shashitharoor.in/biography?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Mid-day](https://www.mid-day.com/news/india-news/photo/Shashi-Tharoor-The-Congress-leader-who-is-also-loved-by-celebs-42483?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Shashi Tharoor](https://www.shashitharoor.co/shashitharoortimeline?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Style & Influence**

* Known for his **eloquence, erudition, and engagement** in public discourse.
* His political and literary style blends historical insight, cultural commentary, and sharp wit, resonating in both academic and popular spaces.
* Captivate audiences not only through speeches and writing but also via thought-provoking social media presence.
* Recently, he embraced humor in social media exchanges—like responding cleverly in Hindi to linguistic taunts. [The Economic Times](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-updates/shashi-tharoors-english-finally-meets-its-match-and-his-hindi-comeback-is-pure-gold/articleshow/123323653.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Indiatimes](https://indiatimes.com/trending/bro-made-shashi-tharoor-type-in-hindi-internet-in-splits-after-congress-leader-writes-bhai-kehna-kya-chahte-ho-666846.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Summary Table**

| **Category** | **Highlights** |
| --- | --- |
| **Born / Education** | 1956, London; St. Stephen’s (Delhi); PhD from Tufts University |
| **UN Career** | UNHCR roles; Under-Secretary-General (2001); Ran for Secretary-General (2006) |
| **Political Role** | MP since 2009; Minister posts (2009–14); Current Committee Chairman |
| **Books** | *The Great Indian Novel*, *Why I Am a Hindu*, *Inglorious Empire*, *Ambedkar: A Life*, etc. |
| **Awards** | Sahitya Akademi Award, Légion d’Honneur, Lok Mat Best Parliamentarian |
| **Digital Presence** | Early Twitter leader; socially engaged, witty communicator |