

# Delhiites join hands with Dia Mirza to #beatplasticpollution



Dia Mirza



Dr Udit Raj, MP, gives a memento to actress Sukhmani Lamba



Naysan Sahba, Director, Communication Division, United Nations Environment, Canada



Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS, PMO



Chitrangane Waginwara, Ambassador, Sri Lanka



Major General V Namgyel, Ambassador, Bhutan



Jual Oram, MoS, Tribal Affairs



Rina Dhaka

tage in influencing and impacting civil society through advocacy work. The really important part is the access that I now have to statistics and knowledge that I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Gaurav Grover, co-organiser of the event, said

that people to people connect is important to generate awareness on environmental issues. "Be the change yourself, encourage people" he said, adding, "We have tried to bring about a change with this very event. The backdrops for the event are made on cloth instead of plastic. We aren't using packaged drinking water either, and have substituted it with glass bottles. If we reduce our carbon footprint, our future generations will be safer."

— Aditi Dhillon

**I STARTED WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AROUND 10 YEARS AGO AND IT WAS AN AMAZING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MY WORK WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS OFFERED ME THIS JOB**

— Dia Mirza, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India

**T**his year, India is the global host of the World Environment Day, which is a UN Environment led global initiative, the largest celebration of its kind. The theme of the celebration is "Beat Plastic Pollution", with nations pledging to combat the pollution caused by single-use plastics. On Saturday, there was an early celebration of World Environment Day in Delhi at the Constitution Club of India, and saw the presence of Dia Mirza, the UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India, among others.

The evening comprised of two panel discussions and had many eminent personalities from diverse backgrounds, including doctors, educationists, environmentalists, fashion designers and actors, as panelists. Also spotted at the event were diplomats from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Taiwan, Syria, China, Myanmar, Iran and Zambia.

Dia, who has been campaigning against use of plastic for many years now, said "Plastic has become such an integral part of our lives that we don't see it anymore. When we start seeing plastic, we will find ways to say no to it". She also spoke about

the changes she has incorporated in her everyday life. "My day starts with a bamboo tooth brush, I use bamboo ear buds, and I have replaced my regular sanitary napkin, which is made largely of plastic, with a natural, biodegradable one. I refuse to use plastic bags and always carry a cloth bag with me," she shared.

Talking about her journey as the UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India, Dia said, "I started working on environmental conservation around 10 years ago, and it was an amazing acknowledgement of my work when the United Nations offered me this job. I was optimistic that this new role would give me a greater advan-



Charu Parashar

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**



SK Singh, HOD, civil and environmental engineering, Delhi College of Engineering



Atul Goyal, President, United Resident Joint Action



Palka and Gaurav Grover at the event

# 'Banning plastic in restaurants