

VARSHA RAJKHOWA

MISS SCUBA INTERNATIONAL 2016-17

OCEAN AMBASSADOR AND CLIMATE REALITY LEADER

TEDx SPEAKER



www.varsharajkhowa.com



The **MISS SCUBA INDIA** rights is held exclusively by **Ms. Varsha Rajkhowa** Miss Scuba International 2016-17 and the only Indian to win the international pageant. She was also given the title of ocean ambassador and only global ambassador from India till now.

She is also the Co director of Miss Scuba Australia

A self-made women on a mission to save ocean through voicing out and spreading awareness about conservation via various platforms.

She is looking at grooming and educating the next generation of ocean ambassadors from India , who will represent our country on the world forum and that by sharing the beauty and wonders of the underwater world via Miss Scuba India , will enable more people to understand how fragile our oceans are and how we can all play our individual roles to make a big difference.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MISS SCUBA INTERNATIONAL 2016-17

BRAND AMBASSADOR AT MARINE ARTIC PEACE SANCTUARY
CANADA (MAPS)

BRAND FACE AND DIRECTOR FOR MISS SCUBA INDIA

OCEAN AMBASSADOR INDIA

CLIMATE REALITY LEADER

TEDX SPEAKER

YOUTH ICON AND INFLUENCER

INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY QUEEN AND MODEL

OWNER AND FOUNDER - OCEANIC DIVAS

PAGEANT COACH AND RAMP WALK TRAINER

ARTIST AND CHOREOGRAPHER WORKED WITH LEGENDARY
CHOREOGRAPHER SAROJ KHAN





Varsha is the first Indian girl to win the popular INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY PAGEANT held in MALAYSIA

A Beauty Pageant with a Purpose to Save Our Oceans through Beauty and spread awareness about Marine life.

Indian model Varsha Rajkhowa has been crowned the new Miss Scuba International 2016 – a one-of-a-kind global beauty pageant where all the contestants are professional scuba divers held with the purpose of spreading awareness about ocean protection and marine life. Twenty-five-year-old Varsha was adjudged the winner from among 16 other countries including USA, UK, Netherlands, Philippines etc.. after a glitzy grand finale at the gorgeous Sutera Harbour Resort in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia on November 19, 2016.

What makes it an even more proud moment for the country is that this is the first time ever an Indian has represented at the pageant and won it too, creating history for her country. Varsha impressed with her maturity and intellect during the entire event but her reply in the final question-answer round wowed all judges. On being asked, “What is the most important lesson you’ve learned during the competition?” She said, ***“The most important thing we learn is that united we stand and divided we fall. We must come together to save our oceans and to [preserve] beautiful marine life. This is because what we love is what we save, and what we fear to lose is what we have to work for.”***

The answer earned Varsha the coveted title while Meryl Angeline King, 27, from Philippines became the first runner-up and Sun Zitong, 24 from China grabbed the second runner-up titles.

Born in Assam and brought up in different parts of the country, Varsha hails from a defence background. She is an environmentalist by profession and wears multiple hats of a model, international-grade dancer, choreographer, national level swimmer and a certified scuba diver.

Varsha's mother has been instrumental in her becoming a model. "While in college, my mother encouraged me to take part in the RSI May Queen pageant in Pune where I was one of the finalists. I won the title of best smile and talent, and the whole experience made me realise my hidden love for walking the ramp," says Varsha.

But achieving success at such a young age didn't come easy. She faced many challenges and had to face a lot of criticism for her looks and language during her school and college days as she belongs to the Northeast. But she overcame every hurdle with her grit and hard work. She has always dreamt of becoming Miss India one day and represent her country on an international platform. "Winning the title of Miss Scuba International 2016 is a dream come true for me. This is my first international pageant and I am extremely glad that I made my country and parents proud," says an elated Varsha.





The Miss Scuba International pageant has been on since 2011 and is aimed at protecting oceans, something that has always been very close to Varsha's heart. With this glorious win, Varsha has great plans as the ambassador to promote the diving industry and marine conservation globally. "Once back, I want to work closely with the Indian government and NGOs to stop shark finning in the country," Varsha adds.

She has been doing campaign like save water, walk for water, cyclothon for save environment by climate change reality India and also working with Climate Change Reality India, Plastic ban project with team Miracle, spreading awareness about environment and Ocean conservation by doing talk shows and also associated with various NGO's for social work.

She is a professional model, environmentalist and choreographer by profession. Also has been given many awards for her achievements including women excellence award 2018.

Touring around the world for Diving Expo and talks shows. Visited Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore and Malaysia after winning the title of Miss Scuba International and also announced as the Ocean Ambassador along with winning Miss Scuba International.

She was also invited for a High Tea party for her achievement at then Vice Presidents residence Mr Hamid Ansari and had the opportunity to meet Ms Salma Ansari.

Also she got a chance to have a personal meeting with Ms Maneka Gandhi Union Cabinet Minister for her winning and the cause of ocean conservation .

Recently achieved the title of a TEDx Speaker
She has delivered two TEDx Talk till date.



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Travel
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18-20 Oct 2019

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TRADE CENTRE

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one stop Dive show
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in Asia.

DRT SHOW INDIA
AMBASSADOR
Varsha Rajkhowa

VR Varsha Rajkhowa

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OPENING CEREMONY & PRESS LAUNCH



Varsha has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador and Host for DRT (Diving Resort Travel) Expo since 2019

About DRT

DRT stands for Diving, Resort, and Travel. DRT SHOW was founded by Mr. Jason Chong in 2009 to provide business partners greater support and encourage more people to become passionate divers who care about marine ecology. In 2010, the first DRT SHOW was held successfully in Hong Kong. 90% of exhibitors were from overseas, which proved that DRT SHOW had become the most international dive exhibition in Asia Pacific. Since then, DRT SHOW has been taking place in several Asian cities including Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Okinawa, Taipei, Singapore, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, and Mumbai. Nowadays, DRT SHOW is truly the largest dive expo in Asia Pacific

www.varsharajkhowa.com

Varsha has also been featured along with 25 other EMINENT Mds, Ceos, Presidents, Defence Officials, Artists in a book

“STRATEGY, Valour and Grit” Career Secrets, Strategies and Success Stories for the Modern Youth

released by the The Sikh Career Growth (SCG)

The SCG felicitated her at the launch of the book in the month of May 2022



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JOIN OUR WEBINAR AT 3PM, 15.05.20

FEATURING:

MS. VARSHA RAJKHOWA

- OCEAN AMBASSADOR INDIA
- CLIMATE REALITY LEADER
- TED X SPEAKER
- BRAND FACE AND DIRECTOR
FOR MISS SCUBA INDIA



TURN THE TIDE ON PLASTICS

TIDE TURNERS

Varsha was invited as a speaker at the International Platform of the UN Environment program Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-India), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), and Million Sparks Foundation (MSF) cordially invites you to the Virtual Youth Summit of the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge-India. Tide Turners Plastic Challenge engaged youth from over 23 countries during the current phase. In India alone, 126,236 Young plastic warriors inspired us with their commitment to address the most pressing environmental concern- Single-use plastics and its impact on the planet.

Varsha Rajkhowa has been the Brand Ambassador and face to endorse initiatives like Cyclothon by Climate Reality India.

The Climate Reality Project is a non-profit organization involved in education and advocacy related to climate change. The Climate Reality Project came into being in July 2011 as the consolidation of two environmental groups, the Alliance for Climate Protection and The Climate Project, both of which were founded by Al Gore. Among its activities, The Climate Reality Project hosts an annual event called 24 Hours of Reality.





Varsha has recently received an Award Of Excellence BNHAF Award in New Delhi along with Chelsea Murphy, Hollywood actor and Director

BNHAF (Bol-News Hybrid Art-Awards Festival) Awards established during #COVID19 in 2021 assertively made a mark with 30 expert-speakers from India, US, UK, Australia, Switzerland, France, Brazil, Argentina, Russia sharing their journey and knowledge. The best part is #BNHAF has partnered with Sydney Hybrid Art Awards Festival, Australia and a film festival in France.

Forest fires in Bhutan are usually caused by human activities such as burning debris, from smoking and by unattended campfires. Some have also been caused by electric short circuits.

During her recent visit to Bhutan Varsha had the opportunity to interact with the forest officials in Bhutan and voice out for the forest fire campaign to spread awareness about forest fire causes and how important our forest are for our future and this planet.





With various International Climate Reality Leaders at the Climate Reality Conference and Training at Brisbane Australia

With Mike Pandey
discussing new potential
ideas for documentaries on
environment



An Interaction with
Prof Attri for the
“ Blue Economy Project”

Endorsement of dive sites
and ocean conservation
work at the **DRT Expo India**
in Mumbai





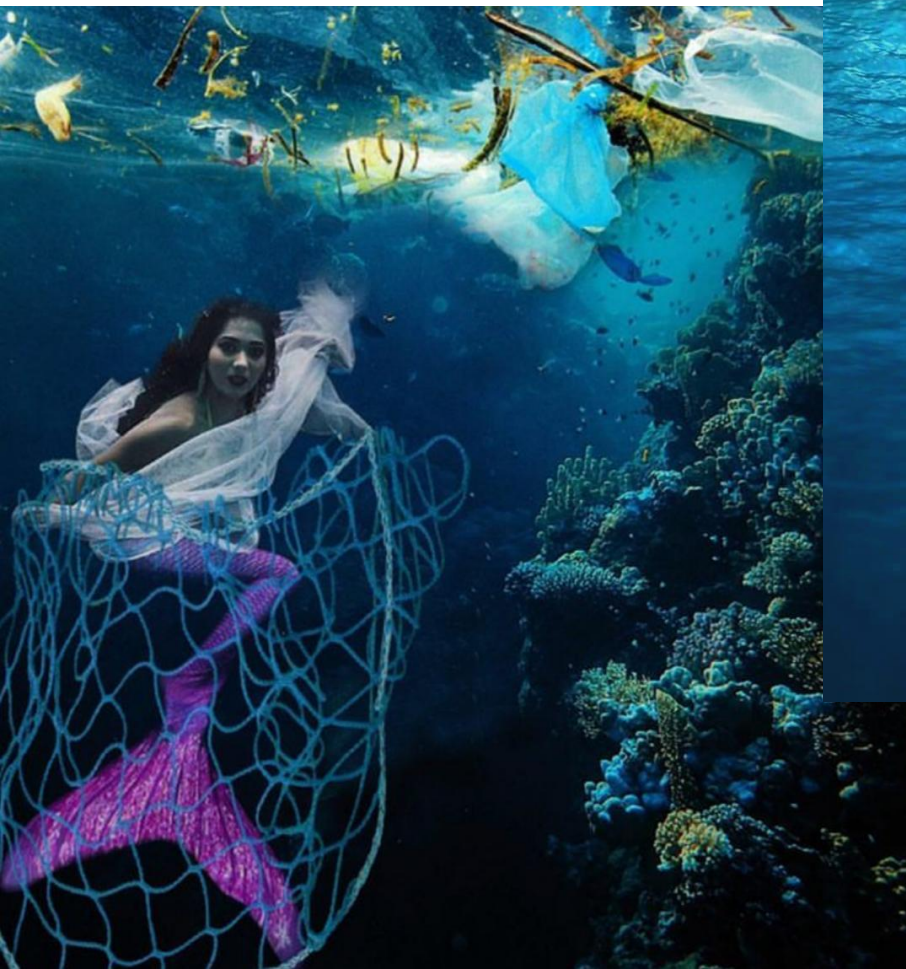
Varsha has been regularly invited to various institutes and organisations as a speaker to voice out and endorsements for environment and ocean protection for our future



Varsha being Honoured and felicitated by Maritime Foundation India as a young achiever

The NMF was is India's first maritime think-tank for the conduct of independent and policy-relevant research on all 'matters maritime'. It was, from its very inception, designed to create and heighten maritime awareness amongst India's policy-makers, intellectual echelons, and civil society at large. Towards this end, it was to be a policy-relevant research organisation of acknowledged excellence that would not only undertake serious, cutting-edge maritime research of its own but would also provide a common platform for advocacy, discourse, and debate, between maritime-related national and international institutions, organisations, and academic establishments, as also reputed and renowned individuals, professionals, and practitioners the world over.





Varsha has won total 16 pageants, 15 local and national and one international. Varsha is a successful model, speaker, groomer and proud owner of fashion and pageant training company Oceanic Divas.

Was also featured in Hindustan Times under 30 achievers of Pune India

Won outstanding environmentalist awards 2018 WOW Awards

Working with Climate Reality India as Ocean Ambassador India and MAPS (Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary) organisation in Canada

Have been invited as One of the Chief Guest for the inauguration of Mumbai's first Cruise floating restaurant by Mrs Shripriya Dalmia along with Mr Nitin Gadkari - Minister of Road Transport and Highway, Shipping and water resources, River development and Ganga rejuvenation





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Varsha Rajkhowa started her journey as a 76kg model and struggled to become 48-50kg to win international pageant.

She got rejected 35 times and was told she can never be a beauty queen. But as she believes to never gave up she along with her parents and elder sister left no stone unturned.

Gave up everything that could distract her and self trained rigorously for 6months. She is a self made woman on a mission to change the vision and concept of how a real beauty queen would be if you truly believe and accept who you are.

She has never been trained professionally and managed to train and learn mostly through her participation in local and national pageants.





In the News

NEWS 18

FICCI (FLO) Women Achiever's Award 2023

Varsha Rajkhowa was awarded today with **FICCI FLO achievers award of excellence** at the hands of Minister Nandita Garlosa and MP Bhubaneswar Kalita for recognition of valuable services for the community in her field of work ocean conservation and environment protection

<https://assam.news18.com/news/assam/ficci-flo-presented-awards-to-seven-women-entrepreneurs-from-the-northeast-bipul-gb-278103.html>

North East Live Tv

Showtime with Aaron Lyngdo

From being India's First girl to win Miss Scuba International , and now currently to bring national projects to the North-east of India

<https://youtu.be/HNsOO8xsP2g>

Batesi TV

Miss Scuba International Varsha Rajkhowa visits Meghalaya

Varsha Rajkhowa visits Meghalaya to explore the possibility of bringing a national project to the state

<https://youtu.be/UPCwbl9X3gl>

The Pune Times

India's Ocean Ambassador – Varsha Rajkhowa Adjudged With 'BNHAF Award of Excellence'

"Miss Scuba International and Ocean Ambassador India, Varsha Rajkhowa has recently received the BNHAF Award of Excellence in New Delhi along with Chelsea Murphy, Hollywood actor and Director.

Established during the unprecedented times of COVID-19 in 2021"

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/2022/01/03/indias-ocean-ambassador-varsha-rajikhowa-adjudged-with-bnhaf-award-of-excellence/>

The Shillong Times

Miss Scuba India 2022 likely in city

Beauty queen Varsha Rajkhowa on two-day visit to Shillong

<https://theshillongtimes.com/2021/12/31/miss-scuba-india-2022-likely-in-city/>

TEDxIIMSambalpur

Journey of India's 1st Miss Scuba Int'l 2016 & Ocean Ambassador Varsha Rajkhowa. Ms. Varsha Rajkhowa shared her inspirational journey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYoAsz5Y1d4>

TEDxSCAC 2020

Kindle your destiny with the spark within

Varsha Rajkhowa, in this talk, sheds light upon her inspiring journey of being 'self-made' as she started her journey with what she had. To her, it meant striving relentlessly to achieve one's dream to ride the reign of destiny.

https://youtu.be/J_yRxmT8yao

The Assam Tribune

Miss Scuba International calls on Union Minister Maneka Gandhi

The reigning Miss Scuba International held discussions with Gandhi on a wide range of issues concerning environment protection including ocean conservation and preservation, shark finning, which was banned globally in 2007, among others

<https://assamtribune.com/amp/miss-scuba-intnl-calls-on-union-minister-maneka-gandhi>

WION News

The Indian beauty queen that no one has heard of

Varsha could now, arguably and with a little hyperbole, be called "chief spokesperson of the world's oceans".

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/the-indian-beauty-queen-that-no-one-has-heard-of-127568>



VARSHA RAJKHOWA

Representation and Inquires
+91 95031 42357
varsharajkhowa@gmail.com

www.varsharajkhowa.com