

Terminator on green mission

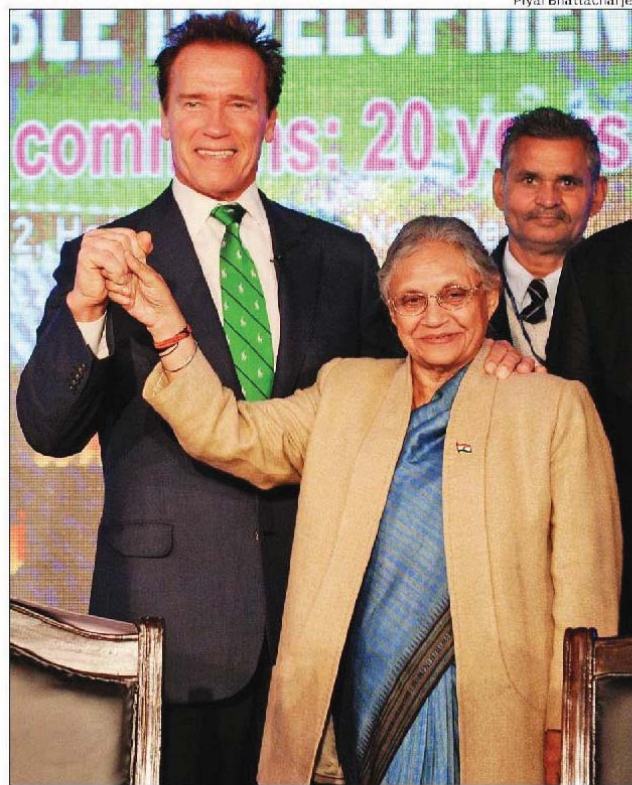
Fans Go Berserk As Arnie Takes Dias, Talks On Energy Efficiency

Neha Lalchandani | TNN

New Delhi: He is one of those rare stars who was, and maybe still is, the fantasy of both sexes. Arnold Schwarzenegger, in the city for a single day to speak at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, gave stiff competition even to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when he arrived for the inaugural session on Thursday morning. Dignitaries on the dais, including the PM, had to wait for almost two minutes while the audience went berserk taking Schwarzenegger's pictures.

Schwarzenegger delivered a lively keynote address at a session on regional work for sustainability where, as expected, he had the audience eating out of his hands. "I thought I was popular but when Dr Pachauri (TERI chief, RK Pachauri) visited California, he was surrounded by people who wanted his autograph, wanting to be photographed with him. I felt invisible. It doesn't happen very often," he said. The audience, predictably, was in splits.

The Terminator had been quite keen to attend the DSDS in the past but his plans never seemed to work out. In 2007, when he won the sustainable



Piyal Bhattacharjee

FOR A CAUSE: Schwarzenegger and Dikshit stressed on the need to adopt sustainable practices at Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

development leadership award, he fractured his leg and had to cancel his trip yet again. "Nothing could have stopped me from coming to Delhi this time. I had started filming for

'The Last Stand' in mid-October last year and I had told the producers that we have to stop filming by end-January so that I could be in Delhi," he said. 'The Last Stand' is Schwarze-

negger's comeback film.

In 2011, Schwarzenegger started the Regional R20, a non-profit organization that includes regional governments for working on sustainable projects. The body also aims at development of strong local economies, better public health and creation of green jobs. "While I was the governor of California, we initiated several sustainability projects without the help of Washington. In fact, Washington took our lead and many of our projects were included in the national agenda. Californians are 40% more energy efficient than the rest of the US," he said.

While speaking on the necessity of taking initiatives, Schwarzenegger referred to his days of body building, much to the amusement of the audience. "When I started, there were no weight rooms anywhere. But I was happy to find a weight room at this hotel when I woke up this morning. When body building can become a fad, why can't adopting sustainable means also become popular," he grinned.

Schwarzenegger arrived in Delhi on Wednesday night and is scheduled to leave the capital early on Friday.

neha.lalchandani@timesgroup.com