

City students' short films make it to green festival

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ANIMAL sacrifice continues unabated in several parts of India despite globalisation and modern lifestyles.

Speaking up against the evil, some Hyderabad youngsters have made three short animation films which have been nominated for CMS Vatavaran, an environment and wildlife film festival. The festival will be held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, from October 27-31.

The animated short film, *The Farmer and His Goat*, is a sincere attempt to discourage the evil practice in the best way possible — by creating a hypothetical situation where man himself becomes the victim of sacrifice at the hands of the very animal which he has been slaughtering in the name of religion for centuries.

Nomination jury chairperson, M Veda Kumar says, "In a short span of time, CMS Vatavaran has established itself as a popular and serious film



The farmer and his goat

festival on environment." *A Garden Dream*, a film short film highlighting the importance of cleanliness among children, has been nominated for the prestigious International Environment Film Festival of Asia, CMS Vatavaran-09. This year, the focus of the festival is on natural

heritage conservation. *Fuel Duel* highlights the importance of saving fuel in modern times. For now, the students are revelling in the nominations and hope their works will find the right audience at the festival.

"It's a great pleasure and we are hopeful of winning the award. We

Animated short films *A Garden Dream*, *Fuel Duel* and *The Farmer and his Goat* made by Hyderabad students have been nominated for CMS Vatavaran, an environment film festival to be held at New Delhi from October 27-31

took the best ideas and went ahead with the project," says Mahesh M Gore, creative director of Arena Institute.

Aarthi, Nilesh Mhaisnem Tushar Surley, Arush, Bhuvan, Arun, Jagdish, Govind Rajewar, Sachin Punde and Parag Warade of Arena Anima-

tion, are excited about their debut films being nominated for the festival. The festival recognises films in all genres, which inform, educate, foster knowledge, understanding and action on environment, wildlife issues or other socially relevant environment themes.

The theme of this year CMS Vatavaran is 'Sustainable Technologies'. It is critical that society today move beyond mere awareness to appropriate action, so that pressing environmental issues such as climate change could be mitigated, and ways to adapt learnt fast. An important way of disseminating this awareness is via the medium of film which has an unequivocal edge over other mass media.

There are cash prizes to be won at the festival. The award will comprise cash entitlements between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1.50 lakh besides trophies and citations. The international winners will get trophies and a citation. The award winners will be announced on October 30.