

1-minute docu in race for wildlife film award

Laxmi Birajdar | TNN

Pune: It's the child-like enthusiasm with which two children save money in their piggy bank only to break it open later. Wise beyond their years, they use the money to buy a sapling that they sincerely plant in their garden and look after with dedicated love.

Their message 'Save trees and Mother Earth' rings loud and clear in 'Do You'. A minute-long film made by Pune-based **MBA executive Sanyog Mohite** and his friend Ketan Hendre, 'Do You' has been nominated in the amateur film category at the CMS Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife Film Festival that will be held in October in Delhi.

'Do You' also features as one of the top five one-minute films world-wide in the '1 Minute To Save The World' — an international one-minute film competition on climate change.

"The idea behind making this film was to show that children really know how to protect and nurture the environment, but the elders don't take them seriously. The film shows how these kids save money to buy a sapling and plant it in their garden. It's important to inculcate this habit in every child to save our planet," says 26-year-old Sanyog, a fresh MBA graduate who works in Pimpri.

He scripted and directed 'Do You' last year in his native Satara, while he was studying in Pune. The film, made with a budget of Rs 500, will end with a message from none other than critically-acclaimed filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker. "By mid-October we will shoot Gowariker's message on saving planet Earth," informs Sanyog, adding that the decision was taken after Gowariker showed keen interest in lending his support to the film.

Given the socially-relevant

message of the film, Sanyog wants to screen it at schools. Once he shoots Gowariker's message, copies of the film will be distributed to 100 Marathi and English-medium schools in Pune, Satara and Kolhapur. "I also want to reach out to NGOs with my film. In fact, we are also planning a special screenings for students of the Sanik School in Satara," says Sanyog.

The children featured in 'Do You' — four-year-old Yuval Gulati and his six-year-old sister Miteesha — also imbibed the film's message. "Before the shooting began, we would make Yuval and Miteesha plant saplings in their garden



so that the children understand how saplings are planted. Their mother, Swati, taught them how to water the plants everyday and avoiding using plastic. To this day, these children have kept up with the habit of planting saplings and looking after them," informs Ketan, the film's cameraman and editor, who now works out of Satara.

Sanyog and Ketan are also planning to send their film to Short Film Centre, Goa and the Mumbai International Film Festival.

Next on their mind is another short film on another socially-relevant issue, and not to forget, a full-length Marathi feature film based on the importance of education in agrarian communities.

"But for the time being, we want to screen 'Do You' for as many as possible. We are going to talk to multiplexes to show the film before the movie shows begin," says Sanyog.