

Aurangabad youth's film nominated for festival

Syed Rizwanullah | TNN

Aurangabad: An animation film made by Aurangabad-based Raghunath K Shriramwar has been nominated for CMS Vatavaran – an environment and wildlife film festival, to be held in Delhi in December. This is the only entry from Maharashtra in the animation film category.

Raghunath, 26, who lost his father when he was 19, said cartoons and animation were always his passion. He was supported by his mother, a housewife, his elder brother and two sisters, now married, in his endeavours.

The 7.41 minute animation movie, titled 'The Last Tiger', depicts the stark reality of how incessant hunting by humans is responsible for endangering tigers in their natural habitat. It begins with an old man and his grandson's visit to the zoo. "The boy is keen to see a real tiger but the tiger's enclosure is empty. They go to a zoological museum where models of extinct animals are on display. Here the little boy gets to see a tiger's skeleton. This shocks the old man and he remembers his young days, when he was a hunter and had



A scene of the film and (inset) the filmmaker

inadvertently shot down 'the last tiger'. After looking at the photographs of the tiger, he realizes that the skeleton was of the tiger he had hunted years ago. The film shows how man is responsible for the extinction or endangering of many species," Raghunath said.

Winners in different categories will be announced at a ceremony to be held in Delhi. The festival will be organized at the Convention Centre in New Delhi between December 6 and 10.

Raghunath left his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree course midway to move to Hyderabad to learn animation and stayed there for about six years before coming back to Aurangabad and setting up his own studio in a room in his house. "I was always keen to make and direct quality animation films carrying a message. While

producing animation films for others, I roped in three other friends Sandeep Adne, Satish Karwa and Akshay Chavan to make an animation movie on a novel subject," he said.

"I was crazy about cartoons. After obtaining training in animation in Hyderabad, I worked for six years and came back in 2009 to start my own small studio. My idea was to do something different, like making a film on tigers. Financial constraints were there, but I went ahead," he said.

For a second's animation 12 drawings (24 frames per second) were made. To complete the movie, Raghunath had to draw about 5,500 drawings. "It took me about a year to complete the film. It has no dialogues or specific location and the message is conveyed through music."