

“A river is a city’s identity, we must protect it before it is too late”

SHIVANI GANESH
NASHIK, AUG 22

He has been credited with reviving Marathi cinema and his critically acclaimed work *Shwaas* was India's entry at the Oscars in 2004. Sawant has also made documentaries for television, some of which have been related to children. More than twelve years later, Sandeep Sawant's new Marathi movie *Nadi Vahate* has been completed. The concept, screenplay, dialogues and direction is by Sawant. His wife Neeraja Patwardhan has co-produced the film under their banner Sahaj Films and has done the design and costumes for the film. *Nadi Vahate* is one hour and 55 minutes in length and will be screened at Kusumagraj Smarak at 5 pm on August 23. We spoke to the director about the movie.

Says director Sandeep Sawant whose movie 'Nadi Vahate' is being screened as part of the Vasundhara International Film Festival today

LT: What inspired you to make this movie?

Sandeep Sawant: I was very upset about the degradation of Indian rivers that I saw around me. Rivers are the identity of cities, talukas and villages. They are our lifeline. I had to tell this story. It has become a challenge in today's industrialised world to keep the river alive and flowing. It does not need big speeches but an actual plan of action



to keep the river flowing.

LT: What kind of research went into the story?

Sawant: We had been researching this story for the past six to seven years. A river is interconnected with the environment, the forests. Ultimately it is connected to sustainable development. I had many financial challenges before 'Nadi Vahate' started. It is not easy to get funding for such a subject but we managed

it.

I am a Ratnagiri Sawant though I live in Vile Parle, Mumbai. I wanted to depict the beauty of Konkan area. It has been shot over 11 months, so we portray the dramatically changing landscapes in different seasons from the summer to the rainy landscapes.

LT: Tell us something about the movie.

Sawant: The movie has been shot in North Goa near Mahaderyee and in Sawantwadi. It captures the beauty of the landscapes. The background sound is the speciality of the film. We have incorporated the sound of flowing water, chirping of birds and other natural sounds.

LT: The Godavari is the lifeline of Nashik. What would you like to tell the people of this city?

Sawant: A river is a city's identity, we must protect it before it is too late.