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Nisarga Mitra Mandal is an NGO set up by environmentalists. They manufacture eco-friendly goods and promote eco-friendly lifestyle. They have recently introduced the concept of eco-friendly market. The NGO's work in sparrow conservation, plantation on bare hills and Sunday morning nature tour are also appreciated.

Sangamner-based Lok Panchayat and Jalgaon-based Chatak Nature Conservation Society were also conferred the awards. While Lok Panchayat works for the conservation of biodiversity in the Western Ghats, the Chatak group focuses on the scientific study of the changes in natural habitat.

Vasundhara award for an individual was given to Ramdas Kokare, chief executive officer of Vengurla Municipal Council. During his tenure as CEO of Dapoli in 2010, he made the entire city free of plastic garbage. Even in his present tenure, he has done exemplary work in making the Vengurla town free of open defecation.

The award function was followed by screening of Marathi movie 'Nadi Vahate' directed by Sandeep Sawant. The festival will conclude on Thursday with screening of 24 documentaries and short films based on environmental issues.

In the meanwhile, the events being held along with film screenings are also getting good response. Hundreds of amateur and professional photographers participated in the River Photo Walk on the banks of the Godavari on Tuesday. The eco-friendly Ganesh bazaar at Samaj Mandir in Krishi Nagar.

## City-based NGO bags Vasundhara Mitra award

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**Nashik:** NGO Nisarga Mitra Mandal here was honoured with the annual Vasundhara Mitra award on Wednesday evening. This state-level award, instituted by the Kirloskar Vasundhara Film Festival organizing committee, was given as part of the ongoing film festival at Kusumagraj memorial. Sandeep Sawant, director of award-winning Marathi movie 'Shwas', presented the awards to four recipients.

"The film festival, dedicated to the cause of environment conservation, is under way in Nashik from August 21. Every year during the festival we felicitate three organisations and an individual with Vasudhara Mitra awards," said Hemant Bele, organizer of the festival's Nashik edition.

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