

# PLEA FROM THE ANIMAL PLANET

**CHIMI'S DREAM, AN ANIMATED SHORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT THAT'S TARGETTED AT KIDS WILL BE RELEASED BY CHIEF MINISTER SHEILA DIKSHIT IN NEW DELHI ON THE OCCASION OF EARTH DAY, TOMORROW. THE GUIDE GETS A SNEAK PEEK, COURTESY ITS MUMBAI-BASED DIRECTOR**



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The 13-minute animated feature *Chimi's Dream* doesn't necessarily offer solutions to a planet on the verge of a global meltdown, especially not to a generation that's grown up listening to terms like 'global warming', 'deforestation' and 'pollution' being bandied about by an older generation desperate to make amends for its past indifference. But it might still serve as a helpful reminder for ways in which commerce, with man at the helm, continues to hack away at its limited reserves.

"I actually wrote the script for *Chimi's Dream* 25 years ago for one of my children's school assemblies. The script was later converted into an illustrated children's book by

the same name," says Mumbai-based writer-director Laxmi Dhaul, who is in Delhi to promote the release of the animated short.

## THE STORY

The film opens with the protagonist Chimi playing on the outskirts of a forest with a deer. Exhausted, he falls asleep and soon starts dreaming about being inside the forest where he is approached

by a bunch of animals. Each of the animals, including an elephant, a frog, a monkey and a lion, come to Chimi with their unique concerns, which are rooted in man's disregard for the environment. Complaints range from a frog that has had to flee his home because of the toxic dumping by factories into water bodies and a snake that feels he has nowhere left to hide.

"There is a dichotomy in the way we live; we say one

thing, but often do another. Just as Sufism talks about the love for the divine, I would say that nature is enveloped in that love," says Dhaul, who has previously published a book titled *Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya* and is loosely based on the subject of Sufism.

## WIDER APPEAL

Making the animated film was Dhaul's way of reaching out to a wider audience. As an extension of that she has also dubbed the film in Hindi.

"We're planning on releasing the revamped, illustrated book with a DVD soon, which should hopefully happen by the end of the month."



**My dream is for a Chimi's Movement to happen.**

- LAXMI DHAUL, WRITER-DIRECTOR, CHIMI'S DREAM

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