

## City youths script a win at Delhi

Sahana Hegde | TNN

**Mysore:** Right after the Delhi gang rape of December 2012 that shook the country, Himanshu Singh Gurjar knew that not a day would go by when his conscience wouldn't be pricked if he didn't do his bit towards making the world a better place for women, even if by a smidgen.

Hoping to put his skills of filmmaking to use, he got a bunch of classmates at the SDM Institute for Management Development here on board and decided to make a short educational film.

And with that was born, 'Who Am I?', a 5-minute-long film on the safety of women in the country that recently won the all-India short film contest on the theme 'Crimes against Women' in Delhi.

"The Delhi gang rape shook my conscience like never before. That same day, I was travelling to Mysore from Jodhpur in Rajasthan. I wanted to do something. I knew I couldn't go to Delhi and join the protesters spilling on the streets. Having learnt the nuances of filmmaking, I thought making a film would be the best way to educate society. After arriving in Mysore, I discussed this with my classmates and immediately start-



**ECSTATIC:** (From left) Himanshu Singh Gurjar, Aastha Vyas, Piyush Kumar, Ravi Shankar, Aman, Omkar Rajyaguru

ed working on the film," says Gurjar, who recently completed his MBA from the institute.

The film was completed in January last year.

The 22-year-old says the film leaves the title's interpretation open-ended. "It is a question for everybody."

Nirbhaya's mother sets off the mood of the film, which is largely narrative. A voice, that of a woman, throws a number of posers like why she was deprived of her rights, why she was scrutinized in every part of her life, why her spirit was killed in a patriarchal world.

Although the film has been made in Hindi, it carries English subtitles. Several well-known areas like JCNagar, the slum near Krishnarajasagar reservoir, the Mysore Palace and the city bus stand provide the local connect.

Ashwin Prasad, 22, another

member of the filmmaking unit, says the team has been actively promoting the film on social media. "We didn't get a platform to screen it for the public. On YouTube, we have got more than 16,000 likes."

He says the team was never after any laurels. "We did it for the cause [of creating awareness of women's safety issues]. We had not intention of participating in a contest when we started off."

The group now plans to take up the cause of the visually-challenged.

A total of 14 teams were shortlisted for the final round of the short film contest, whose jury was headed by ad guru Alyque Padamsee.

Gurjar's team had debuted with 'The Missed Class', a film based on Gandhian philosophy, which was well acclaimed as well.