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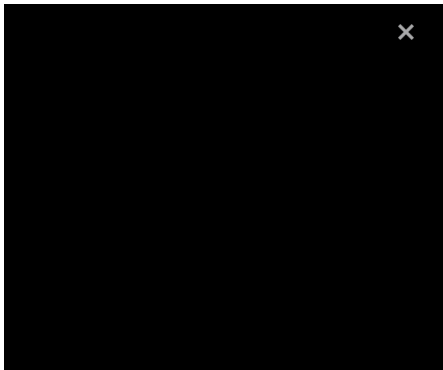
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## 'The Helmet'... hopes to drill some sense into riders

Nida Sayed, TNN | Jul 29, 2015, 02:00AM IST

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PANAJI: A Goan production company, 99% Motion Pictures, in association with the directorate of transport, Goa, is in the process of releasing a short film titled 'The Helmet'. The film is based on the consequences of not wearing a helmet while riding - a burning issue that is putting many lives at stake due to steep rise in road accidents.

Supported by the Indian Head Injury Foundation and Vega Helmets, the 12-minute short film is now in its post-production phase. The plot revolves around two friends who have opposing view about wearing a protective head-gear.

"The Helmet has been made for a social cause and is a story of friendship. This is something many will relate to," said director of the film, Tinky George. He added that as part of the road safety campaign, this film will be screened at film festivals, on local TV channels and at educational institutions across Goa in mid-August.

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Filmed in two days with a budget of 30,000, 'The Helmet' stars Saurabh Pratap and Sunil Kumar in lead roles. Set in the picturesque locales of Panaji and Old Goa, it's been shot in Hindi, with subtitles in English. The team is currently awaiting certification from the Central Board of Film Certification, Mumbai.

In April 2015, the state government had made it mandatory for two-wheeler riders to wear helmets. But, even though the number of people wearing helmets have increased to 80%, 25% of riders take them off once cops are out of sight, said Arun Desai, director, Goa transport.

"What riders fail to understand is that holding the helmet or balancing it on the tank while riding makes them all the more vulnerable to an accident. 'The Helmet' will hopefully make them realize that it's a safety equipment for self-protection," Desai said.

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