

Functional Review

Water Conservation

The Administrative Reforms Committee set up by Government of Maharashtra in 2002 recommended to carry out Functional Review of State Departments and Yashada as an apt agency to carry out such a responsibility.

In response to this, in 2004, with support of the Ford Foundation, Yashada initiated Functional Review of 11 state departments. Yashada invited Dr. M. A. Ghare, chairman, DROP to carry out functional review of Department of water conservation. Mrs Ashwini Lele assisted in drafting of the report.

Glossary and list of abbreviations can be found in the end.

ABSTRACT

Functional Review is a step in the process of realising the goal of 'good governance' and the exercise provides a chance to rationally look at the functioning of a department to analyse its actions in the light of the goal to be achieved. The 'functional review' exercise mainly aims at deciphering future actions for the better delivery of responsibilities of the government, in general, and reforms of civil services, in particular.

Initially the report sets the context by taking a quick review of evolution of policies for water conservation sector. This is followed by a short description of the proposed 'vision' and 'mission' statements for the department. Compilation of important findings of the study and suggestions are listed in the end.

Executive Summary

Introduction

India and the world community have agreed to strive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs are-

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Procure Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/ AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop Global Partnership for Development

The water supply sector has direct and indirect links with these goals. Ensuring access to adequate potable drinking water is certainly critical for achieving these goals. More specifically, India along with the world has pledged to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without a sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Ensuring 'Good Governance' in activities related to sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation is one of the key strategies to achieve the above objective.

The Government of Maharashtra has taken certain concrete steps towards achieving this goal; this includes the setting up of two committees, viz. the Godbole Committee on Good Governance and the Sukthankar Committee on Administrative Reforms. These committees have laid a path for future action by articulating objectives for achieving the goal of good governance. Both these committees have emphasised the need for downsizing, restructuring and reforming civil services based on the principle of Subsidiary, along with adhering to fiscal discipline and the practice of sound economic principles.

The 'functional review' exercise mainly aims to decipher future actions for the better delivery of responsibilities of the government, in general, and reforms of civil services, in particular. It is a step in the process of realising the goal of 'good governance' and provides a chance to rationally look at the functioning of a department and analyse its actions in the light of the goal. It would now be appropriate to briefly review the evolution of policies related to this sector.

Evolution of Policies of the Department

In India and in Maharashtra as well, agriculture remains an important economic activity, employing a large section of the rural population. Since independence, efforts have been taken to improve the productivity of agriculture by ensuring access to irrigation. However, it was soon realised that in spite of developing all possible sites for irrigation dams, a majority of the land (and as a result, a majority of farmers) would continue to be rain-fed. This implies the need to make efforts to increase the productivity of agriculture with no assured source of irrigation, with the aim to ensure food security for these areas.

At the time of independence, some efforts were already underway towards this end. For example, the Bombay Land Improvement Scheme of 1942 focussed on soil and water conservation, improved rain-fed farming methods and controlled grazing practices. The drought of the 1970s in Maharashtra

forced authorities to take serious steps towards combating drought-like situations. The Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) was used to build assets that would provide relief from recurring drought.

In the early 1980s, the Government of Maharashtra took an important step and initiated the Comprehensive Watershed Development Programme (COWDEP). This programme combined the budgetary allocations of the EGS and technical provisions of the Bombay Land Improvement Scheme. However, the implementation of COWDEP suffered a setback, as several government departments administered the work undertaken by the programme and coordination among them proved to be difficult. During this decade, Maharashtra also experienced a surge in NGO activities in the field of watershed development. These NGOs demonstrated the possibility of using the watershed development technique as a basis for overall rural development.

The early 1980s also witnessed several other institutions beginning to experiment in watershed development. For instance, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Central Research Institute for Dry-land Agriculture (CRIDA) demonstrated some success in the watershed development technique. The World Bank pilot project also helped in refining the technique and gave important insights into the institutional arrangements necessary for sustainable watershed development activities. All these initiatives proved the importance of the watershed development approach and made a case for the active participation of people in its implementation for sustainable results.

The Government of India also changed its approach in Area Development Schemes and by the late 1980s, the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) promoted by the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), adopted the watershed development approach in its implementation. The Ministry of Agriculture also promoted programmes like the National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR).

Considering the multiplicity of schemes and need for the co-ordination of activities among various departments, the Government of Maharashtra decided to establish a separate Department for Water Conservation. In 1992, the Government of Maharashtra issued a Government Resolution (GoM, 1992) to this effect. This also resulted in the reorganisation of certain departments. The Department of Soil Conservation under the Department of Agriculture, the Directorate of Social Forestry under the Department of Forest, the Minor Irrigation division under the Irrigation Department and the Ground Water Survey and Development Agency (GSDA) were brought under the administrative control of this Department. The Department was also entrusted with the implementation of the Central Government sponsored schemes like DPAP and the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY).

This GR in a way articulates the then vision of the Department. The same GR identifies the following features as important for a watershed development programme-

- The village should be the unit of planning. Land use and water conservation interventions should be planned in an integrated manner for all micro-watersheds of a village, with the technical feasibility determining the intervention;
- Water conservation activities should commence in high-priority watersheds and should complete within the next 5 years (1992-93 to 1996-97);
- Source strengthening of drinking water sources is important to ensure the availability of drinking water throughout the year;
- To develop infrastructure necessary to ensure protective irrigation to at least a single crop during worst drought conditions and to promote efficient use of water are important features of the programme;

- The programme envisages to bring together all institutions under one authority to ensure co-ordination in planning and implementation;
- The programmes also aims to involve NGOs in the implementation process;
- The programme aims to encompass earlier initiatives into the new programme for quick benefits;
- The programme will also promote concepts like, 'water planning' and 'water budgeting' among the rural population to help them achieve self-sufficiency in the water sector.

The establishment of the Department of Water Conservation was an important step as it brought together funds and functionaries for watershed development. This initiative also acknowledged the need to involve NGOs and PRIs in its implementation.

In 1993, the Central Government established a Committee under chairmanship of Hanumantha Rao to identify gaps in the DPAP and to suggest suitable measures for its implementation (GoI). In 1995, the Government of India issued guidelines for the implementation of DPAP, DDP and the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), based on the recommendations of this Committee. These were further revised in 2001. These guidelines paved the way for the direct participation of people in the planning and development of watershed projects and for voluntary agencies to play an effective role in project implementation. The Government of Maharashtra complied with these guidelines and in a way, these guidelines provided a new vision for the Department.

With respect to Central Government sponsored schemes, the main responsibility of implementation and co-ordination of various activities lies with the Rural Development Agency (DRDA)¹ and the District Watershed Development Committee (DWDC). Since 1995, NGOs have played an important role in the implementation of these programmes. Over the years, it was observed that the performance of NGOs in delivering the expected was mixed for various reasons.

In 2003, the MORD (GOI) initiated the '*Hariyali*' guidelines for the implementation of centrally sponsored watershed development schemes (DPAP, DDP and IWDP). These guidelines have empowered PRIs, and these institutions are now expected to play a pivotal role in the implementation of watershed development programmes.

In conclusion, the Department of Water Conservation was established to co-ordinate activities related to the implementation of watershed development programmes. The area development schemes and employment generation schemes sponsored by the central government remains the main source of funding for the watershed development projects. In line with this, the guidelines periodically issued by the Central Government provide the guiding principles for the implementation of these projects. The actual responsibility of implementation lies with the authority at the district level, as identified by these guidelines.

The main responsibility of the Department is to make budgetary provisions for the State's contribution in centrally sponsored schemes and to supervise the implementation of the project

¹ The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the district level to oversee the implementation of different anti poverty programmes. Its main objective is to secure inter-sectoral and inter departmental coordination and cooperation for reducing poverty. It is expected to work with Zilla Parishads by providing necessary executive and technical support. It is registered as a society under the societies registration act. The chairman, Zilla Parishad, is also the chairman of its governing body. CEO of the ZP works as its executive Director whereas Project Director DRDA (PDDRDA) works as its member Secretary. Secretary, Rural Development is in overall charge of all PDDRDA. Administrative costs of DRDA are shared by GOI and GOM in 75: 25 proportions. DRDA has a watershed wing in districts where IWDP/ DPAP is in operation. This wing consists of a project officer assisted by a small complement of staff.

within the state. The Department is also responsible for the implementation of schemes funded by the State Government. These include schemes like the *Adarsh Gaon Yojana*, MI (local) projects etc.

Two major changes were introduced in the structure of the Department-

- In 1994-95, the GSDA was transferred to the Department of Water Supply.
- More recently, the Department of Soil Conservation was transferred back to the Department of Agriculture.

Thus, the department is presently limited to Social Forestry and Minor Irrigation-local (101 to 250 ha).

The Vision and Mission of the Department

As a part of this exercise, a vision and mission of the department was formulated so as to provide a ready perspective about functions of the Department and for further analysis. In the light of the above discussion, the consultant would like to propose the following Vision and Missions statement for the Water Conservation Department-

Vision

To empower the community to manage its natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Mission

In order to achieve this vision, the Department is committed to evolving a coordinated approach amongst various related departments and community organizations. The consultant hence proposes the following Mission Statement for the Department-

To evolve an integrated approach and co-ordinate activities of various departments and community organisations for the sustainable management of natural resources

This Department is undeniably different from other line departments that extend various services to people. This Department does not "provide" any facility or service to people. Its mandate is to facilitate communities to manage natural resources in a sustainable way.

Findings and Recommendations

This section briefly lists the findings of the study. A list of suggestions based on a critical review of the functioning of the Department in the light of the reforms suggested by the Godbole Committee and Sukhtankar Committee, are listed thereafter.

Findings in Brief

The Water Conservation Department was formed with the aim of mobilising the integrated efforts of various line departments to undertake watershed development. The Department was therefore formed by pulling relevant sections of various departments.

However, these departments were not structurally or functionally integrated. Eventually, the GSDA and Soil Conservation Department were shifted to the Water Supply Department and the Agriculture Department, respectively. Minor Irrigation (100-250) and Social Forestry now form the Water Conservation Department. The Department does not have its presence at the Zilla Parishad level.

Projects undertaken by MI (100-250) do not adhere to any of the watershed principles or programmes. Its main focus is command area development and activities are not undertaken for the development of the catchment area. Further, structures constructed by this Department are relatively large and cannot be supported under any of the programmes currently implemented for watershed conservation. Moreover, the implementation process of these projects does not involve

the Gram Panchayat or Gram Sabha. In other words, these projects do not contribute to the empowerment of people in the management of natural resources. The functioning of this section of the department is hence not in line with the vision and mission of the Department.

The Department was carved out of the Rural Development Department and some of its programmes were handed over to the Department of Water Conservation. The Department is currently implementing *Indira Awas Yojana*, which has no direct links with watershed development activities. This is a rural housing development scheme with no connection to water conservation activities.

The main funding sources for the implementation of watershed programmes are the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra. A majority of these programmes have their own guidelines, based on the basic principles of watershed development such as the ridge to valley approach, participation of people etc. In addition to this, programmes directed towards employment generation also extend funding for watershed development activities.

The *Adarsh Gaon Yojana* is an important and innovative programme initiated by the Government of Maharashtra, to proliferate value-based community action towards natural resource management. The programme was initiated to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1942 freedom movement. In principle, the programme takes an integrated approach in its implementation and villages were carefully selected for its implementation. However, in the recent years, the funds allocated towards this programme have been very low, with almost no Plan expenditure, in spite of being a government programme. Moreover, the implementation of this programme is handed over to a line department. In other words, a line department is expected to bring about value-based community action in select villages. Discussions revealed that there is great scepticism amongst government functionaries about this programme. The *Adarsh Gaon Yojana*, cannot become a peoples' movement being controlled by the Soil Conservation Department or by any other department. The failure of this programme to achieve any tangible results indicates how bureaucracy stalls programmes aimed at empowering communities. Moreover, the Government (elected representatives) seem to be in compliance with this norm, as there appears to be no political demand for this programme.

The Government of Maharashtra allocates a small proportion of the budget towards the implementation of watershed programmes. In the recent years, the Government of India has emerged as the main funding source for watershed development activities, whereas. As a result, programmes like *Adarsh Gaon Yojana*, and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme have practically stalled. In other words, DPAP/ IWDP, NWDPRA and other programmes supported by the Government of India are the main programmes being implemented for watershed development. Each of these programmes is guided by its own guidelines. It was observed that these are implemented by line departments often with little participation from people, as envisaged in the guidelines. Amongst these programmes, the Department of Water Conservation is involved in the implementation of DPAP/ IWDP programmes, while the Department of Soil Conservation is the nodal agency for the implementation of NWDPRA, River Valley Development Programme and the Western Ghat Development Programme. DPAP/ IWDP projects are guided by a single guideline, modified in 2001 and 2003 (*Hariyali*). Both these guidelines uphold devolution and the involvement of people in decision-making. The ZP/ DRDA thus play a pivotal role in its implementation, while the DPDC plays an important role in fund allocation (ensuring states share). Although the DPDC is expected to ensure 25 per cent of the State's share in the programme, it has been observed that districts often fail to allocate this share in their budget.

The new *Hariyali* guidelines were introduced in 2003, under which Gram Panchayats are expected to implement the project under the supervision of a PIA. Further, the Panchayat Samiti is expected to work as a PIA. In the event that it cannot do so, the ZP has been assigned the authority to work

as the PIA or to appoint a line department or other government agencies/ universities/ institutes as the PIA. NGOs can be appointed as a PIA in the case that these options fail.

Currently, PRIs are unable to implement this programme, as they are unable to form WDTs. Line departments are reluctant to work as a PIA as they do not have the skills, nor do they have the will to work with PRIs. Further, none of the line departments employ experts from the social sciences for the formation of WDT. NGOs are not considered as an option for the present.

In a nutshell, the programme has virtually stopped and projects are not being implemented under this programme.

Recommendations

The Transfer of Programmes

The first set of recommendations are mainly directed towards the transferring of functions that are not related to watershed development to other relevant departments-

1. *Indira Awas Yojana* should be handed over to the Rural Development Department;
2. Minor Irrigation (100 to 250) functions and functionaries should be transferred to the Irrigation Department; and
3. The Integrated Watershed Development Programme of the State should be merged with the *Adarsh Gaon Yojana*. The combined programme should be implemented according to the principles of the *Adarsh Gaon Yojana*. Moreover, the Government has established the Maharashtra *Rajya Jalasandharan Mahamandal* (Aurangabad), giving it the authority to raise funds from the open market. Funds currently raised by the *Mahamandal* are used for Minor Irrigation projects; instead, this fund should be used to for the combined *Adarsh Gaon Yojana* stated above. This would be in line with the purpose of raising funds by the *Mahamandal*.

The Implementation of the Haryali Guidelines

As elaborated earlier, DPAP/ IWDP is the only programme currently being implemented by the Department. However, as illustrated earlier, its functioning has also stalled under the new *Hariyali* guidelines. The following suggestions are mainly directed towards the implementation of *Hariyali* guidelines, based on the observations made in implementation of the 2001 guidelines-

1. Capacity building of all envisaged functionaries is the key and starting point for implementation of this programme. The Department should promote such a capacity-building programme.
2. *Hariyali* guidelines focus on the empowerment of PRIs, especially of the Gram Panchayats to manage its own natural resources. There is a great amount of scepticism and reluctance to work with PRIs among various line departments. There is a need to consciously develop an enabling environment to help PRIs manage its own resources. The Department should take a lead in this regard.
3. DPDCs are expected to ensure 25 per cent of the State's share in programmes in District Budgets. However, it has been observed that districts often fail to allocate this share in the budget. There is an urgent need to resolve this issue. The President of the DPDC (*Palak Mantri*) should ensure this allocation in the District Budget. The Department of Water Conservation should pursue this, and any discrepancies should be brought in front of the State Watershed Committee and the concerned Minister.
4. Learning from the implementation process of the 2001 guidelines, the Department should come up with the working guidelines instructing all relevant Department functionaries about the implementation of *Hariyali* guidelines. Amongst others it should include the following-
 - As mentioned earlier, PRIs are expected to work as PIAs through WDTs. The Panchayat Samiti should be empowered and encouraged to act as a PIA. The guidelines seem to have assumed that functionaries of concerned line departments are available at the block level and that the

Panchayat Samiti can form a WDT, either by involving these functionaries or independently. The Department of Water Conservation has to facilitate this decision and should ensure enabling instructions from concerned line departments. Similarly, Panchayat Samitis need to be encouraged to identify a Committee to work as a PIA, ensuring the monitoring of WDTs.

- The Gram Sevak is expected to work as a Secretary, co-ordinating the activities of a project. There is a need to direct all Gram Sevaks to take on this responsibility.
- The option of engaging NGOs to work as PIAs should also be explored, wherever necessary.
- The selection of watersheds for development requires a rational process, based on an understanding of ground realities. The selection of watersheds for development under the 2001 guidelines comprised human discretion and different districts interpreted the guidelines differently, often overlooking the basic principles of watershed development. There is therefore a need to evolve tools to facilitate the rational selection of watersheds, thereby erasing human discretion. The Department should analyse data as regards demography and natural resources, rank and categorise different Gram Panchayats. The use of GIS tools and computer cartography would greatly facilitate this task. This activity can be outsourced to private service providers.
- The training of all involved in implementation of the *Hariyali* guidelines is of prime importance. This activity can be outsourced to MNGOs already functioning in this capacity for the implementation of the 2001 guidelines, after proper scrutiny. In mid-2005, Yashada took the lead to formulate strategies for capacity building with various MNGOs.
- Delays in disbursements during implementation often cause delays in deliverables. There is an urgent need to look into this issue, to remove all bottlenecks, including the allocation in the District Budget for the timely evaluation and scrutiny of reports.
- The working guidelines should be supplemented with a tentative timetable for various activities, involved in pre-planning, planning and implementation phase, ensuring adequate time for each of these activities. For example, the pre-planning phase wherein a PIA is expected to undertake various surveys of the Panchayat and ultimately come up with an implementation plan should be given an adequate time frame.
- Further, plans prepared by various PIAs should undergo a thorough technical, as well as budgetary scrutiny, prior to its approval. This activity can also be outsourced. Similarly, monitoring the progress during the implementation and interim bill certification can also be outsourced.

Other Programmes Related to Watershed Development

The last set of suggestions is for other programmes that are related to watershed development, but which are not directly under the Department; these include the NWDPRRA, River Valley Development Programme and Western Ghat Development Programme. Various programmes directed at employment generation are also considered here-

1. The Department of Water Conservation can work towards making the above-mentioned programmes accountable. It can, on its own, assess all these programmes, suggesting necessary changes for each programme, to ensure transparency, the delivery of outputs and the achievement of goals, adhering to the basic principles of watershed development.
2. The NWDPRRA was launched to improve the productivity of rain-fed areas. The programme should therefore be judged accordingly. The programme should focus on increasing the moisture of agricultural land. The programme therefore need not follow all the principles of watershed development, although the strategy for implementation should focus on its core.
3. The Western Ghat Development Programme focuses on the ecological conservation of the Western Ghats. This requires an understanding of geology, as well as the flora and fauna of the region. The programme should implement projects that aim for this, and should not focus only on activities related to watershed development. The Department of Forests or Social Forestry should be the appropriate agency to work as the nodal agency for this programme.

4. The River Valley Development Programme should similarly be handed over to River Valley authorities capable of identifying priorities and the needs of the valley. Their work should however comply with the water regulatory authority of the region.
5. Programmes with a focus on employment generation, invest large resources in activities related to watershed development. However, its implementation does not follow watershed principles, and its approach does not promoting sustainable natural resource management. These employment generation programmes are the means to combat poverty by ensuring a safety net to the very poor of the society. The Government of Maharashtra has implemented EGS for the last 30 years, investing about Rs. 900 crores each year. In other words, the Government has invested about Rs. 27000 crores towards this programme. In spite of this, the number of families below the poverty line is increasing every year. The misappropriation of funds and the lack of transparency are widely known issues. This is the failure of planning. Interventions and measures taken up by the government have clearly failed to create affluence and adequate employment opportunities for its people. There is certainly a case to review the employment policies of the state. Further, the presence of too large a safety net provides ample room for government functionaries to pass over planned achievements. A tendency to evolve solutions to diffuse volatile situations can be observed in place of planned targets and achievements. In light of the above discussion, the current employment programmes of the State Government should be phased out in next 15 years. This should be coupled with a structured approach, which aims towards the creation of a buoyant economy satisfying the employment needs of the people.
6. Over the years, the Department has appointed the *Jalсандहारण साल्लगर पारिशद* (Mumbai), Integrated Watershed Development and Rural Livelihood Mission, the MIWADA and the Maharashtra *राजा जलसंधारण महामंडल* (Aurangabad) for the effective implementation of watershed development programmes. These Committees extend advice to the Government in issues pertaining to the increase of wasteland productivity, the increase in the productivity of land already under cultivation, resource conservation and the preservation of the ecology and the environment. In the place of having several such Committees, the Department should appoint a single Advisory Committee of select people, interested in these issues. The Committee should periodically review all programmes related to watershed development and provide policy inputs to co-ordinate all these programme. The Committee should evolve a functional guideline for all these programmes, and review its implementation.

List of Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COWDEP	Comprehensive Watershed Development Programme
CRIDA	Central Research Institute for Dry-land Agriculture
DA	Dearness Allowance
DDP	Desert Development Programme
DDSF	Deputy Director Social Forestry
DPAP	Drought Prone Areas Programme
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
DPDC	District Planning and Development Council
DWDC	District Watershed Development Committee
DWMA	District Water Management Agency
EE	Executive Engineer
EGS	Employment Guarantee Scheme
GoI	Government of India
GoM	Government of Maharashtra
GR	Government Resolution
GSDA	Groundwater Survey and Development Agency
ICAR	Indian Council for Agricultural Research
IWDP	Integrated Wasteland Development Programme
IWDRLM	Integrated Watershed Development and Rural Livelihood Mission
JRY	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MI	Minor Irrigation
MNGO	Mother- Non Government Organisation
MORD	Ministry of Rural Development
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NWDPRA	National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas
PIA	Project Implementing Agency
PDDRDA	Project Director, District Rural Development Agency
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institutions
SAO	Superintendent Agricultural Officer
SGRY	Sampuran Gramin Rojgar Yojana
SHG	Self Help Group
SWDC	State Watershed Development Committee
TA	Travel Allowance
UA	User Association
WA	Watershed Association
WC	Watershed Committee
WDT	Watershed Development Team
WS	Watershed Secretary
WV	Watershed Volunteers
ZP	Zilla Parishad

Glossary

Adarsha Gaon Yojana	Ideal village scheme- This is a widely acclaimed scheme of government of Maharashtra where villages are selected for integrated development with main focus on watershed development project. The villages are carefully selected based on the proven record of the community for regulating and implementing ban over felling of trees, free grazing, alcohol consumption along with support to family planning and contribution to voluntary labour.
Gram Sevak	Village Secretary
Hariyali	These are guidelines issued in 2003 for implementation of DPAP, DDP and IWDP programmes.
Indira Awas Yojana	This is a rural housing development scheme supported by Government of India.
Jalasangharan Sallagar Parishad	This is an advisory committee at the state level.
Kisan Rope vatika	A nursery development programme for farmers
Maharashtra Rajya Jalasangharan Mahamandal?	This is a corporation supported by the Government of Maharashtra that has power to raise money from open market.
Palak Mantri	District Guardian Minister
Panchayat Raj Institutions	Institutions of local governance are called as Panchayati Raj Institutions. In the context of rural areas, there is a three tier structure of these institutions namely Zilla Parishad at the District Level, Panchayat Samitee at the Block Level and Gram Panchayat at the Village level. Gram Sabha is a general assembly of all voters in a Gram Panchayat.
Vanashree Puraskar	This is an award given by the Government of Maharashtra to individuals or organisations for their remarkable contribution in the field of forestry.

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