

Hydrogeologist to get lifetime achievement award on Jan 30

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Pune: Hydrogeologist Suresh Khanapurkar, who set up a unique model of water conservation with Shirpur pattern in Dhule district, will be honoured with lifetime achievement award at Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival in the city on January 30.

Virendra Chitrav, festival director of this film festival announced this at a press conference on Thursday.

City-based journalist Abhijeet Ghorpade and Bharat Bhushan, Profes-



(R to L) Devesh Gadhavi, Deputy Director, Kutch Ecological Research Centre, Virendra Chitrav, Festival Director of Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival and Bharat Bhushan, Professor Environmental Planning, Yashada, at a press conference.

KVIFF

sor of Environmental Science at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA) will receive the Eco-Journalist Award and Green Teacher Award respectively.

Suresh Khanapurkar, a former government employee, started working on water conservation in the Shirpur taluka in Dhule district after retirement.

The successful model is hailed by government and

water experts.

Khanapurkar said, "There should be understanding of land and nature of soil to run any water conservation project so that it is successful and sustainable."

Ghorpade lamented that there was not enough environmental reporting happening.

"Though these days most journalists are aware and writing about the environment issues, it is not enough considering rate of degra-

dation of environment." He stressed on using blogs as a medium to spread the message of environment conservation.

Bhushan said that during officers' training at Yashada, environment conservation is being stressed upon. He cited the example of the workshop for forest officials in Gadchiroli where the officers were encouraged to motivate the people in Gadchiroli to make plates from dry leaves (patravalya) which

can generate good income for them, specially during the Pandharpur Wari.

Devesh Gadhavi, Deputy Director, Kutch Ecological Research Centre was present for press conference.

He shared his experience about working for protection of endangered species in Kutch district of Gujarat.

He highlighted the need of more help from government to protect endangered species.