Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department initiated its establishment of first *Ayush Van* at Amarkantak, the origin of river Narmada on 09th October 2021. The first sapling under the programme was planted by Hon’ble Minister of State (MOS) Shri. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MOEF&CC. *Ayush Van* would be a scheme similar to the *Nagar Van* which would be developed near medicinally-rich ecosystems across the country.

A team of Scientists from TFRI, Jabalpur attended and participated in the medicinal-plant plantation programme at Amarkantak. Various important medicinal plant species such as *Elaeocarpus sphaericus* (Rudraksh), *Chlorophytum arundinaceum* (Safed musli), *Cordia macleodii* (Dahiman), *Curcuma aromatic* (Jangali haldi), *Dioscorea bulbifera* (Gethi kand), *Ficus racemose* (Gular) and *Radermachera xylocarpa* (Garud) etc. were planted under the programme.

Hon’ble MOS Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, planting a sapling at *Ayush Van*, Amarkantak
The plantation programme was attended by Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to Government of India, Sh. Subhash Chandra IFS, MOEF&CC, and Sh. Ramesh Kumar Gupta IFS, PCCF & HOFF, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Sh. Chitranjan Tyagi IFS, APCCF, MP Forest Department and Abdul Aleem Ansari IFS, DFO (T) Anuppur Forest Division.

Sh. Subhash Chandra IFS, DGF and SS, MOEF&CC and Abdul Aleem Ansari IFS, DFO (T) Anuppur Forest Division planting a sapling at Ayush Van, Amarkantak

Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist F and Sh. M. Rajkumar, Scientist D from Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur planting a sapling at Ayush Van, Amarkantak
Launch of the Restoration Programme of Narmada Catchment

Hon’ble MOS Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey also highlighted that the origin of Narmada river and its catchment areas needs to be restored. He also called upon the local communities to preserve the rich biodiversity and medicinally rich forests of Amarkantak area and led the local community in taking oath for Narmada river Conservation.

Discussion on Narmada DPR

Sh. Ramesh Kumar Gupta, PCCF & HOFF, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, had a brief discussion on the preparation of DPR on rejuvenation of river Narmada through forestry intervention. Dr. S. Saravanan, Nodal Officer – DPR and Scientist F along with Sh. M. Rajkumar, Scientist D explained the proposed intervention sites identified in Amarkantak.