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## Amarkantak to be declared a reserve forest, says Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

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BHOPAL: Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Sunday that Amarkantak would be declared as a reserve forest. He said that the people residing there will not face any kind of problem.

From the point of view of environmental protection, suitable species of plants will be planted in place of the eucalyptus trees which are unfavorable to the local environment around the origin of Narmada. Chouhan was addressing a state-level programme on World Environment Day at Kushabhau Thackeray auditorium on the theme "Only One Earth". All the districts were virtually connected to the programme.

Chouhan further said that instructions have been given to all government

offices to reduce electricity consumption by 10 percent. If we save one unit of electricity, we reduce the emission of 900 grams of carbon dioxide. Solar panels will be installed in government offices where solar energy can be used. The energy obtained from the Sun is green and clean, so why should we use more electricity generated from coal? Environmental protection is our collective responsibility. The society along with the government, will have to work for it with commitment and mobility, said the chief minister.

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Chouhan on this occasion honoured the institutions and people working for environmental protection. He also released the book brought out by the forest department, "Protection of Narmada River Watershed – Tree Plantation Campaign – 2022", a plan for tree plantation on the banks of river Narmada. A presentation was given by the forest department to i Chouhan on the Narmada plantation year 2022.

The World Environment Day this year is being celebrated as Tree Plantation Resolution Day. Chouhan administered a pledge to the guests present on the occasion and all the people connected to the programme virtually with the districts for environment

protection and service.