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Transform rural India's fifth annual colloquy unveils new vision for rural

► "Fifth Edition of the India Rural Colloquy 2025" Organized

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Bhopal: Rural India's future isn't just about economic growth—it's about creating safe, inclusive, and sustainable communities, with women at the center. That was the powerful message from the Fifth Edition of the India Rural Colloquy, organized by Transform Rural India (TRI) at the Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal. The colloquy brought together a diverse group of voices, including the Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Padma Shri Janak Palta, and numerous grassroots leaders. The minister emphasized the need to move beyond purely technological solutions, urging a return to human values and ecological accountability. He



highlighted how the Narmada River, a vital source in Madhya Pradesh, is a symbol of traditional wisdom that is being neglected by the educated populace. Meanwhile, Palta, founder of the

Barli Development Institute for Rural Women, shared her inspirational journey of building a self-sufficient, green campus that empowers girls through education and sustainable technolo-

gies. Women leaders from rural communities shared their candid experiences, painting a vivid picture of the challenges they face.

Anjali and Rama Kevat from Khategaon highlighted how poor street lighting and safety concerns lead to girls dropping out of school after Class 8 and hinder women from participating in community life. Another woman Sarpanch recounted how fear and ridicule create barriers to women's leadership. These powerful dialogues culminated in a call to action: to design rural spaces that are not only safe and inclusive but also climate-resilient. The colloquy reinforced that true change must be led by rural voices and must prioritize the dignity of women, blending traditional wisdom with modern innovation.

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'Vande Mataram' resonates at Mantralaya

