

TRI Foundation holds 'India Rural Colloquy – C'garh Chapter 2025'

■ Staff Reporter
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TRANSFORM Rural India (TRI) Foundation successfully organised the fifth edition of 'India Rural Colloquy – Chhattisgarh Chapter 2025' at the IIM Raipur on Monday. The central theme of this year's event was 'Green Economy: Village-led Green Economic Transition' which emphasised positioning rural India at the heart of sustainable and green development.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma addressed the programme virtually. In his speech, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma appreciated TRI's initiative on the theme of 'Green Economic Transition'. He said,

"More than 40 per cent of Chhattisgarh's land is covered by forests, forming part of the dense Satpura range. This is the state's greatest natural capital. Industries should be developed in villages, while cities become centers for trading their products which is the path to sustainable development. For a true green transition, we must think beyond conventional frameworks and adopt innovation-driven approaches."

Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Department Niharika Barik Singh stated, "The green economy is no longer a need but a testament to people-led change. Villages will now be ranked based on water adequacy, sanitation and



Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Department Niharika Barik Singh addressing programme.

greenery. Initiatives like 'Mor Gaon Mor Pani' (My Village, My Water) can bring about revolutionary transformations in this direction."

Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Department Bhim Singh praised the people-centric work of panchayats and affirmed that panchayats will be the true carriers of the green economy. Delivering the keynote address, Secretary to Chief Minister Rahul Bhagat said, "Green economic transformation is the need of the hour. It is no longer solely the government's responsibility. It is a shared responsibility for all of us. Change is inevitable and we must be mentally prepared to embrace it."

Earlier, the event was inaugurated by Dean IIM Raipur Dr Saroj Kumar Pani. Associate Director of TRI Shreshth Kalyani said that Chhattisgarh owing to its rich green cover traditional

knowledge and strong community collaboration, is an ideal state to lead a green revolution.

The technical sessions saw participation from: Joint Secretary Department of Good Governance and Convergence Mayank Agrawal, Saurabh Chandra from NDMC, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Department of Forest and Climate Change Arun Kumar Pandey and Additional Chief Secretary Department of Forest and Climate Change Richa Sharma also addressed the technical session. During the India Rural Colloquy 2025, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State Centre for Climate Change, Forest Department and TRI.