

## Chhattisgarh embraces 'Green Development' with village-centric approach

**Raipur, (VW)**The fifth India Rural Dialogue - 2025 concluded on Monday in Raipur, with a focus on steering Chhattisgarh towards a greener future through a public participation-driven "Green Development" initiative. The dialogue, co-hosted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur and Transform Rural India, centred on the theme "Journey of Green Economic Change of Chhattisgarh under the leadership of villages."

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, addressing the event virtually, said that Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's commitment to green development is a step towards rural economic self-reliance. Sharma highlighted that leveraging traditional knowledge and resources through initiatives in organic farming, solar energy, and local employment generation can transform Chhattisgarh into a green state. A key outcome of the



event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Forest Department and Transform Rural India to collaborate on this green transformation. IIM Raipur presented five main pillars for the state's Green Development: conservation of traditional farming and forest resources, promotion of green employment and environmental tourism, encouraging local production, ensuring public participation in solar power management, and developing policy and institutional structures. Several

officials affirmed the state's commitment to the initiative. Richa Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Forest and Climate Change, said that Chhattisgarh's rich forest resources and public participation could create an ideal model for green development. Niharika Barik Singh, Principal Secretary of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, stated that Gram Panchayats and women would be the cornerstones of this change. Bhim Singh, Secretary of the Panchayat Department, announced that Panchayats will now be evaluated based on water conservation, cleanliness, and green standards.

The dialogue, which included Panchayat representatives, social organisations, women, and experts, also highlighted the need to revitalise traditional industries and promote handicrafts to accelerate green development.