

## **Vedanta's Nand Ghar to Transform 100 Anganwadis in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra through Public-Private Partnership**

*Vedanta's Anil Agarwal Foundation brings its flagship Nand Ghar project to Gadchiroli, Maharashtra aiming to empower 3,900 children and over 1,700 women and adolescent girls with education, nutrition, health, and skill-development opportunities*

**Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025:** In a significant step toward inclusive rural development, Anil Agarwal Foundation's flagship initiative, **Nand Ghar** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli, to transform 100 Anganwadi Centres into modern Nand Ghars in Maharashtra. The partnership was formalized in the presence of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis**, reinforcing the state's commitment to bringing inclusive development to its most underserved regions. .

This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, will directly impact the lives of 3,900 children under 6 years of age and over 1,700 women and adolescent girls. The modernised centres will provide early childhood education, access to nutrition meals, primary healthcare, and skill-development, creating an opportunity for holistic growth and development. The project is a testament to Maharashtra's commitment to bridging development gaps in tribal areas through innovation and inclusive partnerships.

With 25 Anganwadis in Thane, Maharashtra already transformed into Nand Ghars, this collaboration builds on the past success and aligns with India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Poshan 2.0. It also advances **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 5 (Gender Equality)** placing children and women at the center of inclusive progress.

The 1 modernize Anganwadi centres will feature vibrant BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) designs, LED TVs for e-learning, child-friendly furniture, and essential amenities like safe drinking water, electricity, and sanitation.

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis** highlighted, *"Aligned with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of Maharashtra is committed to ensuring that every child grows up healthy, educated, and well-nourished, while also empowering women through skilling, livelihood opportunities, and holistic development. The transformation of 100 Anganwadis in Gadchiroli into Nand Ghars is a testament to what strong public-private partnerships can achieve. We look forward to expanding this impact-driven model across Maharashtra."*

The Nand Ghars will operate in two phases throughout the day. **Mornings will focus on early childhood education and nutrition** for children, while **afternoons will have community-focused programs** including **health awareness sessions, micro-enterprise workshops, and skill training** for over **600 pregnant and lactating mothers** and **1,100 adolescent girls**, enabling them to become self-reliant and financially empowered.

**Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd., and Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd.,** who has been at the forefront of Nand Ghar's expansion, emphasized the project's long-term vision, said. *"Every child deserves a safe space to learn, and every woman deserves a chance to grow and lead. With the launch of Nand Ghars in Gadchiroli, we are taking a meaningful step toward bridging gaps that have existed for generations. We are*

*committed to our vision of Transforming for Good and hope to continue with the state government in improving health, nutrition and education outcomes for women and children in rural Maharashtra.”*

To ensure long- term impact and sustainability, Anganwadi workers will be trained to deliver e-learning content through LED TVs and tablets, while Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) will receive specialized training to enhance access to primary healthcare and improve community health indicators.

The Zilla Parishad, Ghadchiroli, will lead coordination efforts by identifying eligible Anganwadis, appointing nodal officers, and ensuring visibility and maintenance of the upgraded centres. A joint working group will oversee the implementation and monitoring on ground to ensure seamless execution.

With a strong focus on community empowerment and equitable access to services, this project aims to create holistic rural development in tribal and underserved districts in Maharashtra.

Nand Ghar has already established over 8,300 centres across 15 states, touching the lives of millions of children and women. Most recently, , the initiative renewed its partnership with the Government of Rajasthan to establish 25,000 state-of-the-art centres across the state. The launch in Gadchiroli, marks yet another milestone in Nand Ghar's journey towards healthier, better educated and self-reliant India.

#### **About Nand Ghar:**

Nand Ghar, a flagship social impact project under the Anil Agarwal Foundation, is a model project working towards strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem of the country. The 8300+ Nand Ghars are the enabler of change and sustainable development with a presence in 15 states across India and currently impacting more than 3.2 lakh children and 2.4 lakh women. Set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Nand Ghars are modernized 'Anganwadis' working to eradicate malnutrition among children, provide pre-primary education, primary healthcare, and empower rural women through skill training. Nand Ghars, the state-of-the-art Anganwadis, aim to transform the lives of 7 crore children and 2 crore women across the 13.7 lakh Anganwadis across the country.

For more information, [visit: https://www.nandghar.org/](https://www.nandghar.org/)

#### **About Anil Agarwal Foundation:**

The Anil Agarwal Foundation is the umbrella entity for Vedanta's community and social initiatives. The focus areas of the Foundation are healthcare, women and child development, animal welfare projects, and sports promotion. Anil Agarwal Foundation aims to empower communities, transform lives, and facilitate nation building through sustainable and inclusive growth.

For more information, visit: [https://www.vedantalimited.com/eng/social\\_impact\\_csr.php](https://www.vedantalimited.com/eng/social_impact_csr.php)

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