

## Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, GoR, Smt. Diya Kumari Launches 'Balvardhan' – Nand Ghar's Transformative Step Towards Transforming Early Child Nutrition and Education

- *Project in Dholpur to benefit 80,000+ children and over 15,000 pregnant and lactating women through community interventions for integrated nutrition, health, and education*

**Jaipur:** Taking a significant step towards addressing childhood growth and development, *Nand Ghar by Vedanta* has launched *Project Balvardhan*, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing early childhood nutrition, health, and education through evidence-based, tech-enabled, and community-driven solutions using a systems lens. *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 by providing state-of-the-art facilities. In addition to enhanced infrastructural facilities, *Nand Ghar* incorporates smart education tools, interactive e-learning modules, BaLA designs, and smart TVs to make learning engaging for children aged 3-6 years.

The logo was unveiled, and *Project Balvardhan* was launched by Smt. Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, in the presence of Mr. Shashi Arora, *Nand Ghar* CEO.

The project is set to benefit over 80,000 children aged 0–6 years, and over 15,000 pregnant and lactating women through interventions in the Dholpur District identified as both an Aspirational and UTKARSH district. The district is said to be saturated by developing 800 + anganwadis into *Nand Ghar*. With 4,800+ *Nand Ghars* already developed and a plan to scale up to 25,000, this initiative sets the stage for a state-wide transformation in child and maternal welfare.

Speaking about *Project Balvardhan*, **Smt Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Minister Women and Child Development**, said *"Aligned with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of Rajasthan is committed to ensuring that every child grows up healthy, educated, and well-nourished. Project Balvardhan by Nand Ghar is a significant step in this direction strengthening our Anganwadi ecosystem with modern tools, targeted interventions, data driven decision making and community ownership. It embodies our resolve to bring lasting change where it matters most, at the very beginning of a child's life. It reflects our government's commitment to converting intent into impact, ensuring that every child in Rajasthan not only survives but thrives."*

Following this, **Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd.**, added, *"Project Balvardhan marks a significant step in our journey to nurture the early years of a child's life. With over 800 Nand Ghars being developed across Dholpur, this initiative will reach more than 80,000 children and mothers, strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem with focused care, nutrition, and early learning. By creating a scalable model rooted in innovation and partnership, we are focused on combating malnutrition and enhancing early childhood education. Together with the Government of Rajasthan, we are building not just centres of service, but beacons of hope for our communities."*

At its core, Balvardhan focuses on maternal and child, health and nutrition along with community awareness through a targeted SBCC awareness campaign, nutritional enhancement and health monitoring and strengthened focus on Early Childhood Care and Education for holistic development of children. This will be further reinforced by concurrent digital monitoring and evaluation.

### **About Balvardhan:**

A collaboration between the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the Government of Rajasthan, and district authorities, Balvardhan builds on the existing partnership between Vedanta's Nand Ghar and the Department of Women & Child Development. With 4,800+ Nand Ghars developed and a plan to scale up to a total of 25,000 Nand Ghars, this initiative sets the stage for a state-wide transformation in child and maternal welfare.

### **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. Over **8000 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/>

### **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.

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