

World Breastfeeding Week: Vedanta Advances Maternal and Child Health Through Nand Ghar

- *Through over 15,000 Nand Ghars across 18 states, Vedanta supports more than 4 lakh women and over 5 lakh children with healthcare, nutrition and early childhood development services*

New Delhi, July 31, 2026: A child's healthy start in life begins with the mother's well-being. From proper nutrition during pregnancy to informed breastfeeding practices and timely healthcare, the early years lay the foundation for lifelong health and development. Marking **World Breastfeeding Week**, Vedanta Group, the world's leading metals, oil & gas, critical minerals, power and technology conglomerate, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening maternal and child health through its flagship social impact initiative, **Nand Ghar**, modernized anganwadis offering holistic development for children and women through early childhood education, access to healthcare, nutrition and skill development for women. Nand Ghar is empowering mothers with the knowledge, nutrition and healthcare support needed to give every child a healthy start in life.

Through a network of more than **15,000 centres across 18 states**, Nand Ghar today **supports over 4 lakh women and more than 5 lakh children**. By working closely with government health systems, the initiative is helping strengthen grassroots healthcare while improving nutrition and health outcomes for mothers and children across rural India.

Breastfeeding is widely recognised as one of the most effective interventions for improving child survival, nutrition and cognitive development. However, enabling mothers with the right guidance, healthcare and community support is equally critical to ensuring positive health outcomes. As India observes World Breastfeeding Week under the theme, ***"Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works,"*** recent findings from **National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)** underscore the need to reinforce efforts to protect, promote and support optimal breastfeeding practices. Strengthening the continuum of care through early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, complementary feeding, adherence to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) guidelines, and wider adoption of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) for low birth weight and preterm infants can significantly improve child survival, nutrition and development.

Aligned with this vision, Nand Ghar works in convergence with the Government's **Saksham Anganwadi 2.0** and the **National Health Mission** to build stronger community-based support systems for mothers and young children. Under its Maternal and Child Care pillar, Nand Ghar facilitates **regular antenatal and postnatal care, growth monitoring, nutrition counselling, immunisation and health screening camps** in partnership with local health departments. The programme promotes **early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding practices and maternal nutrition through counselling sessions, Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) campaigns, community outreach and home-based engagement**. Fortified nutritional supplements are provided where required, while women with high-risk pregnancies and children requiring specialised care are linked to appropriate referral services, ensuring continuity of care during the most critical stages of life.

Speaking on the occasion, **Shashi Arora, CEO, Nand Ghar**, said, *"The first 1,000 days of a child's life are among the most critical in shaping long-term health, nutrition and development.. Through Nand Ghar, we are strengthening community-led systems that empower women with informed choices, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and enable every child to receive the healthiest possible start in life. As we mark World Breastfeeding Week, we reaffirm our commitment to building healthier families and stronger communities through sustainable, grassroots interventions."*

At the heart of Nand Ghar's impact are dedicated community champions like **Anju Dubey, a Nand Ghar didi** whose work demonstrates how informed local leadership can transform lives. For over a decade, Anju has been a trusted guide for mothers in Khojwa, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), counselling pregnant and lactating women on maternal nutrition, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, immunisation and child growth. She has transformed her Nand Ghar into a safe and trusted space where mothers seek advice with confidence, children receive better care and healthier beginnings become reality. Her journey reflects the larger vision of Nand Ghar - to empower every mother with the knowledge and support needed to nurture healthier generations.

Beyond improving maternal and child health outcomes, Nand Ghar is strengthening the ecosystem of care that surrounds mothers and young children by integrating healthcare, nutrition, early childhood education and community development under one roof. Through sustained collaboration with frontline health workers, local communities and government programmes, the initiative is creating an enabling environment where informed caregiving becomes the norm rather than the exception.

As India continues to prioritise maternal and child health as a national development agenda, Vedanta remains committed to expanding community-led interventions that improve nutrition, strengthen healthcare access and empower mothers with the resources they need to raise healthier children.

About Vedanta Group

Vedanta Group is the world's leading producer of metals, oil & gas, critical minerals, power and technology. The company supplies essential materials that power the global energy transition, emerging technologies and the green economy of the future. Its diversified portfolio supports industrial growth, energy security and technological advancement across global value chains. With operations spanning India, Africa, the Middle East and East Asia, Vedanta is embedded in high-growth geographies shaping the next era of global development. Sustainability anchors the Company's strategy, guided by strong ESG governance, people-first workplaces, and a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. By operating at the intersection of resources, technology and human potential, Vedanta is strengthening economies, empowering communities, and creating enduring value for all stakeholders.

About Nand Ghar

Nand Ghar, a flagship project under the Anil Agarwal Foundation, is modernising India's Anganwadi ecosystem to empower women and children. With 15,000 centres across 18 states, Nand Ghar provides integrated services in nutrition, early childhood education, healthcare and women's empowerment through skill development. The programme currently reaches over 5 lakh children and 4 lakh women, with a long-term vision of transforming all 14 lakh Anganwadis to impact 8 crore children and 2 crore women across India.

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