

UP Government and Vedanta join forces to wipe out Malnourishment

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- The Group's Flagship CSR Project Nand Ghar shall lead at the forefront in elevating the health & nutritional status of malnourished children in UP

National, June 20: India's leading diversified natural resources conglomerate, **Vedanta Limited has joined hands with the Government of Uttar Pradesh reaffirming its commitment to combat and eradicate malnourishment from the state by the year 2024.**

Vedanta's philanthropic arm, The Anil Agarwal Foundation plans to end all forms of malnutrition, including stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women through its flagship CSR Project Nand Ghar.

Nand Ghar has partnered with **Mealmile Nutrients**, as a part of its thematic interventions on right nutrition. Initiating a pilot project, the partnership is targeting to improve the nutritional levels of 3000 malnourished children in the Araj line block of Varanasi.

Under the pilot, a Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in the form of a paste, manufactured by Mealmile Nutrients is being distributed by the district administration to each of the household having malnourished children in Varanasi. The project aims to potentially improve the nutritional and health status of the targeted children by ensuring access to nutritious food. The ongoing pilot project is five months long and shall be eventually assessed by the district administration.

On the occasion, Ms. Priya Agarwal, Director, Vedanta Resources said: *"Project Nand Ghar is committed towards PM's vision of a malnourishment-free India. It is our chairman's dream to see no child goes to bed hungry. This partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh will strengthen our commitment to combat malnourishment among children and ensuring a healthy future for them."*

The District Magistrate of Varanasi, Shri. Kaushal Raj Sharma said: *"Malnourishment suppresses the development and growth of children. Our primary focus is to provide the necessary nourishment to the children so that they get the opportunity to grow to their full potential. With this partnership we shall ensure proper nourishment for the holistic development of the children, hence the nation."*

Currently, there are 950 Nand Ghars in the state of Uttar Pradesh, directly impacting the lives of 40,000 children and 30,000 women. As a methodology in combating malnutrition Nand Ghar has deployed numerous means to sensitize and nudge the communities towards incorporating right nutrition habits. The Nand Ghars across 12 states in India have more than 5000 indigenous nutrition gardens under its flap for supplemental healthy greens in the diet of 1 lakh children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

Anchoring the nutritional interventions with Behavioral Change Communication, regular sensitization and awareness sessions on health, nutrition and lifestyle, encouraging breastfeeding and sharing of focused IEC materials, Nand Ghar has set its vision straight to inculcating healthier habits amongst the rural strata of the society.

Within the tenure of two years, Vedanta shall jointly work with the government for focused interventions on identification of SAM/MAM children, holistic health and potential development of targeted children, regular follow ups, awareness session and tracking growth of targeted children along with provision of health supplements and therapeutic foods and reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition amongst children.

It is worth noting that Vedanta Group's Anil Agarwal Foundation has also signed an MoU with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation concretizing their partnership for achieving a unified goal of eradicating malnourishment. The AAF foundation has also pledged 5000 Crores under a one of its kind social development initiatives with various Projects like Nand Ghar, Swasthya Goan Abhiyan with the sole aim to strengthen the core of the nation, its communities.

About Vedanta Limited

Vedanta Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is one of the world's leading Oil & Gas and Metals company with significant operations in Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, and Aluminium & Power across India, South Africa and Namibia. For two decades, Vedanta has been contributing significantly to nation building. Governance and sustainable development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety, and environment. Vedanta has put in place a comprehensive framework to be the ESG leader in the natural resources sector. Vedanta is committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050 or sooner and has pledged \$5 billion over the next 10 years to accelerate the transition to net zero operations. Giving back is in the DNA of Vedanta, which is focused on enhancing the lives of local communities. The company's flagship social impact program, Nand Ghars, have been set up as model anganwadis focused on eradicating child malnutrition, providing education, healthcare, and empowering women with skill development. Under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the umbrella entity for Vedanta's social initiatives, the Vedanta group has pledged Rs 5000 crore over the next five years on social impact programmes with a thrust on nutrition, women & child development, healthcare, animal welfare, and grass-root level sports. Vedanta and the group companies company have been featured in Dow Jones Sustainability Index 2020, and was conferred Frost & Sullivan Sustainability Awards 2020, CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2020, CSR Health Impact Award 2020, CII National Award 2020 for Excellence in Water Management, CII Digital Transformation Award 2020, ICSI National Award 2020 for excellence in Corporate Governance, People First HR Excellence Award 2020, 'Company with Great Managers 2020' by People Business and certified as a Great Place to Work 2021. Vedanta's flagship Nand Ghar Project was identified as best CSR project by Government of Rajasthan. Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.

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