

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Reliance Foundation and Government of Maharashtra collaborate to enhance Early Childhood Care and Education in the state**

#### ***Launch of Learning Labs marks a key moment in the partnership***

- **Reliance Foundation is collaborating with the Government of Maharashtra for capacity building on play-based learning techniques**
- **These efforts will enable 700 Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors to reach 10,000 children across the state**
- **Inauguration of Anganwadi Learning Labs network held at Rayte village in Kalyan, Maharashtra on Friday as a step forward in this direction**
- **Reliance Foundation aims to create conducive teaching and learning environments through a network of 24 Anganwadi Learning Labs as demonstration, training and innovation spaces**

**Mumbai, December 13, 2024:** In a significant step towards strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Maharashtra, a network of 24 Anganwadi Learning Labs was launched at an event in Rayte village in Kalyan today. This is a part of Reliance Foundation's strategic partnership with the Government of Maharashtra in early childhood care and education in the state. The launch of the network of Anganwadi Learning Labs is an important milestone in this direction to foster age-appropriate development outcomes among three to six-year-old children.

Over 250 parents, children and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme officials were part of the formal launch on Friday, sharing their aspirations and perspectives for the centre.

Reliance Foundation is dedicated to enhancing ECCE. Through this partnership in Maharashtra, to improve the learning and development of young children, in addition to capacity building efforts, Reliance Foundation is also creating Anganwadi Learning Labs as demonstration, training and innovation spaces.

Speaking at the launch event, **Shri Kailash Pagare, I.A.S., Commissioner, ICDS, Government of Maharashtra**, said, "Reliance Foundation has partnered with ICDS Maharashtra on the Early Childhood Care and Education Initiative. Through this partnership, we are leveraging their expertise and resources for all-round development of children. We strongly believe, this initiative will improve the quality of Early Childhood Care and Education services in the Anganwadi centres, ensuring a strong foundation for our children's future."

"We are privileged to partner with the Government of Maharashtra to empower frontline Anganwadi workers, who play a crucial role in early childhood development, and recognising the role of parents, especially a mother in a child's early years. The launch of the Anganwadi Learning Labs is an important moment in this direction. Reliance Foundation will continue to work with the government to build on these initiatives," said **a spokesperson from Reliance Foundation**.

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Reliance Foundation will provide capacity building on play-based learning techniques for 700 Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors as well as focusing on parental and community engagement activities for development of the child. Age-appropriate books, digital and learning infrastructure, besides child-friendly WASH facilities, aligned to Saksham Anganwadi guidelines are being provided in revamped Anganwadi spaces. These efforts aim to enhance children's school readiness, as well as their numeracy and literacy skills and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Rigorous training programmes and continuous support will reach over 10,000 children across Maharashtra. This aligns with Reliance Foundation's vision to provide world-class early childhood care and education to over 10 million children from disadvantaged communities across India.

Reliance Foundation is working intensively on ECCE across India, with various state governments through models for capacity building, community engagement and enabling environments to lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning and development for India's children and youth.

### **About Reliance Foundation**

Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Limited, aims to play a catalytic role in addressing India's development challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. Led by Smt. Nita M Ambani, Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation is relentlessly working for the overall well-being and enhanced quality of life for all, focusing on rural transformation, education, health, sports for development, disaster management, women empowerment, urban renewal and arts, culture and heritage, and has touched the lives of over 79 million people across India, in over 60,500 villages and urban locations. More on [www.reliancefoundation.org](http://www.reliancefoundation.org).

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