

Nayara Energy, in collaboration with the Wardha District Administration and Pratham Books, launches the 'Wardha is Reading' initiative to promote foundational literacy

A year-long effort will reach ~1000 schools and Anganwadi centres across Wardha, as part of a larger multistate joyful reading Initiative.

Wardha, 28th April, 2026: Nayara Energy, an integrated downstream energy and petrochemicals company, in association with the Wardha District Administration and Pratham Books, a not-for-profit children's book publisher, has launched '**Wardha is Reading**', a district-wide Reading Promotion initiative aimed at strengthening foundational literacy among nearly two lakh children. The initiative was formally launched at **Sindhu Tai Sapkal Sabhagruha, Zila Parishad Office, Wardha, in collaboration with ICDS and SSA**, and was graced by **Shri. Parag Soman (IAS), CEO Zilla Parishad, Wardha, Smt. Manisha Kursunge, Dy CEO ICDS, Smt. Seema Patil, Education Officer Wardha** and other key officials from Wardha District Administration, Nayara Energy and Pratham Books were also present.

The initiative has also received backing and encouragement from **Dr. Pankaj Rajesh Bhojar, Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra & Guardian Minister, Wardha District and Shri Sumit Wankhede, MLA, Ashti Block, Wardha** towards promoting a culture of reading among Wardha's children.

The year-long programme aims to strengthen reading skills among children by encouraging reading as a regular and enjoyable part of school and anganwadi learning. It supports this through access to interesting and fully illustrated books in Marathi and English, in classrooms and anganwadi libraries. It employs simple story-based teaching methods led by trained teachers and anganwadi workers, covering 402 government schools and 612 anganwadi centres across Wardha district, helping children build vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence from an early age.

Commenting on the initiative, **Prasad Panicker, Executive Chairman, Nayara Energy**, said, "Foundational literacy is not built through access alone, it is built when children encounter books regularly, in ways that spark curiosity and enjoyment. Through 'Wardha is Reading', we are supporting a structured approach that places books in classrooms and anganwadis, equips educators with practical tools, and encourages reading as a daily habit. This initiative reflects Nayara Energy's focus on improving the quality of education, particularly in rural communities, through sustained and meaningful interventions."

Himanshu Giri, CEO, Pratham Books, said, "We are happy to partner with the Wardha district administration and Nayara Energy to bring joyful reading experiences to children. It's encouraging to see such strong participation from educators and district officials at the launch. With access to books and practical training, we hope teachers and anganwadi workers will be able to make reading a regular and enjoyable part of children's daily experiences."

The Wardha initiative forms part of Nayara Energy's year-long, multi-state Reading Promotion programme across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan, aligned with its CSR focus on Education and Skill Development. The project will be complemented with periodic replenishment of books and community-led reading activities to sustain engagement over time. By strengthening early learning ecosystems through structured reading interventions, the initiative aims to foster long-term language development and a sustained culture of reading across communities.



About Nayara Energy

Nayara Energy is an integrated downstream energy and petrochemicals company with a formidable presence spanning across the entire hydrocarbon value chain, from Refining to Retail. Nayara Energy operates in India driven by a relentless commitment to fuel the nation's energy aspirations. At the heart of our operations lies the Vadinar refinery, India's second-largest single-site refinery with a capacity of 20MMTPA. With over 6,500 Retail Outlets, we cater to the need for reliable and safe mobility across the length and breadth of the country. We have adopted a phase wise asset development strategy and have recently forayed into petrochemicals sector with a 450 KTPA Polypropylene plant which is a significant step in our crude to chemicals journey. Through sustainable development projects in Health and Nutrition, Education and Skill Development, and Sustainable Livelihoods, Nayara Energy enhances the quality of life in the communities it operates in. Delivering value for all our stakeholders is at the very core of our beliefs and we are committed to providing the energy that fuels the dreams of our employees, customers, partners and communities.

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