

PM-POSHAN Scheme

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Why in News?

Earlier this year, seven states and UTs urged the Centre to include breakfast in the PM-POSHAN midday meal scheme, and government sources now indicate that the proposal is once again under active consideration.

- **PM POSHAN** - Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme For Holistic Nourishment, **a centrally sponsored scheme** to improve the nutritional status of children studying in classes I-VIII in eligible schools.
- It is also known as **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman**.
- **Earlier known as** - The National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools is one of the foremost rights-based schemes, under the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- **Objective** - To address two of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz.
 - Hunger & education by improving the nutritional status of children,
 - Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- **Umbrella Scheme under** - It is part of POSHAN Abhiyaan under the umbrella scheme "**Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)**".
- **Eligibility**
 - Citizen of India.
 - Studying in Class I-VIII in Govt./Govt.-aided schools.
 - In some states include pre-primary children are included in attached schools.
- **Nutritional norms**
 - **Primary** (I-V): 450 calories, 12g protein.
 - **Upper Primary** (VI-VIII): 700 calories, 20g protein.
- **Implementation** - The Scheme is implemented ***across the country***, covering all the eligible children without any discrimination of gender and social class.
- **Benefits** - Under this scheme, one hot cooked meal will be provided to the children studying in Government and Government-aided schools (One hot cooked meal per school day).

Quick Fact

Centre deliberates on PM-POSHAN

- **Suggestions received by the Centre** - Inclusion of locally available food items to diversify menus, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and enhancing community participation in implementation.
- **Nutritional concerns** - States emphasised the need to address regional dietary requirements and ensure meals meet nutritional standards.
- **Operational challenges** - Issues like timely fund release, kitchen infrastructure, and supply chain management were raised.

References

1. [Indian Express | Centre deliberates on suggestions by states, UTs on PM-POSHAN](#)
2. [My Scheme | PM POSHAN](#)

