

## Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme

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- The Union Cabinet, gave its nod to the 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' scheme in order to address malnutrition among school-going children in the country. The earlier name of the scheme was 'National Scheme for Mid Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme. The scheme is proposed to be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Bal Vatikas of Government and Government-aided primary schools in addition to all the 11.80 crore children from elementary classes. The scheme will encourage the participation of Farmers Producers Organizations and Women Self-Help Groups in the implementation of the scheme.
- A total budget of over Rs 1.3 lakh crore has been allocated for the continuation of the scheme for five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Centre will also bear an additional cost of about Rs 45,000 crore on food grains.
- The scheme will provide supplementary nutrition in aspirational and tribal districts and districts with high prevalence of anemia. Cooking competitions will be encouraged at all levels to promote ethnic cuisines and culture in line with #Vocal4Local'.

