



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

Centre to pay more for PM Poshan scheme in schools

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Context

The material cost for cooking hot meals in schools under the PM-POSHAN scheme has been enhanced by 9.5%, considering the inflation index, causing an additional cost of ₹954 crore to the exchequer in the financial year 2025-26, the Education Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

PM Poshan

- In September 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM-POSHAN** for providing **one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools** with the financial outlay of Rs 1.31 trillion.
- The scheme **replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.**
- **Primary (1-5) and upper primary (6-8)** schoolchildren are currently entitled to 100 grams and 150 grams of food grains per working day each, to ensure a minimum of 700 calories.
- It also covers students of **pre - primary classes** (children in the 3-5 year age group).
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Education Content.**
- The **objectives** of the Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz. **hunger and education** by:
 - 1 Improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools.
 - 2 Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
 - 3 Providing nutritional support to children of the elementary stage in drought affected and disaster affected areas even during summer vacation.

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