

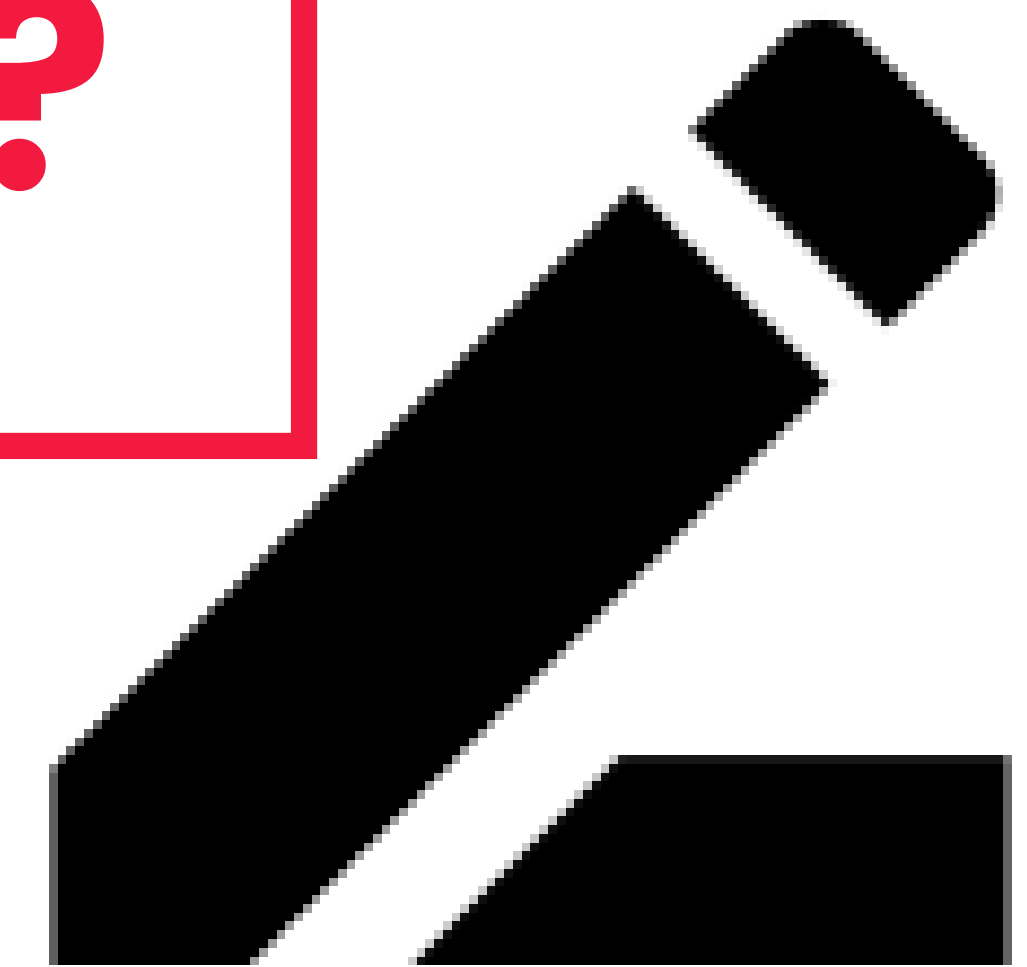
PM POSHAN

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What's in the news?



PM POSHAN (Poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to rename the 26-year old national mid-day meal scheme as the **PM POSHAN (Poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme**. From the next financial year, the scheme will also **cover the 24 lakh children studying in balvatikas**, the pre-primary section of government schools.



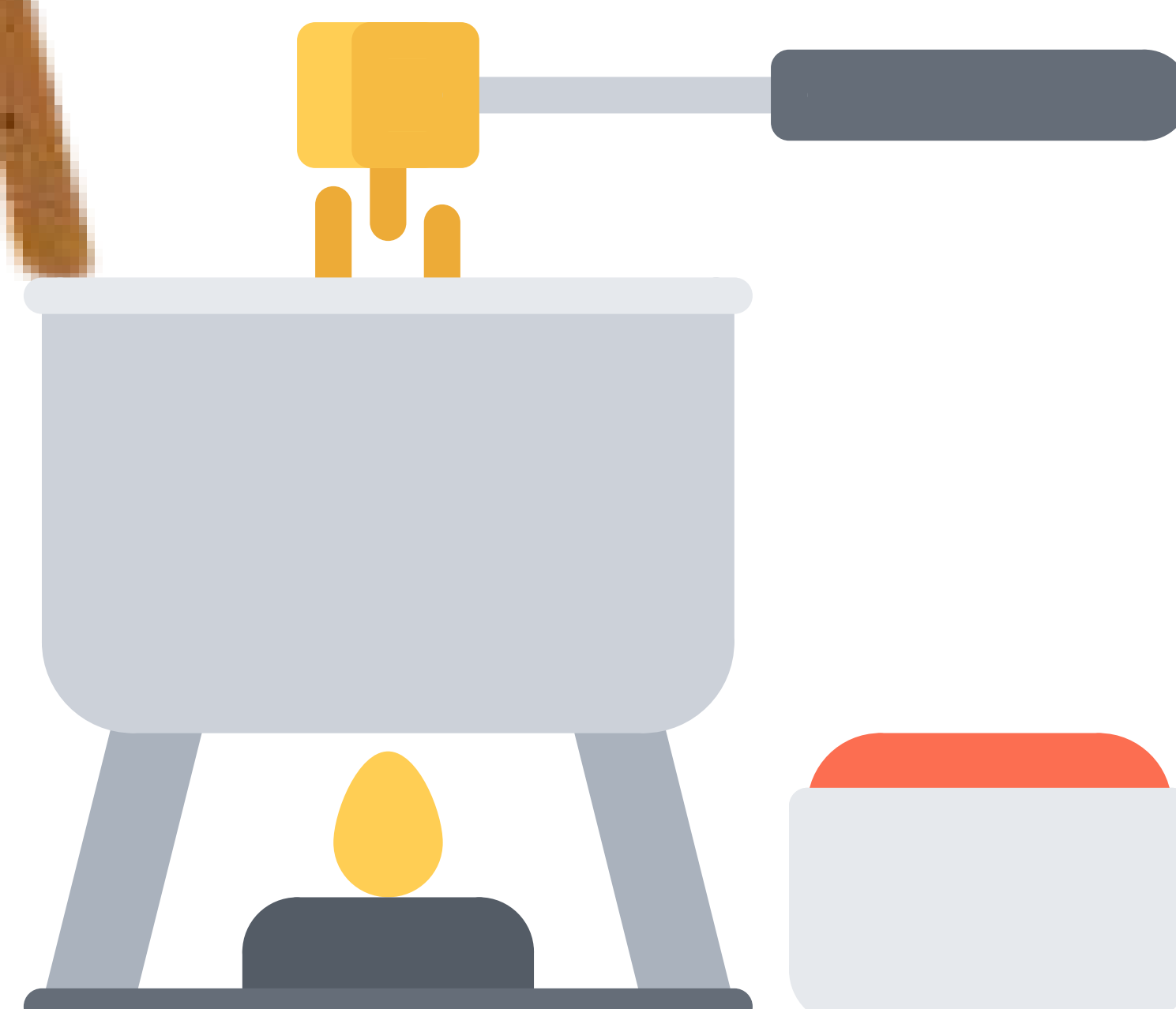
The government had opened 'Balvatikas' pre-schools attached to 'anganwadis'. They offer one year of pre-school classes.



Class 1 to 8

government
and government-
aided school

The mid-day meal plan at present provides hot cooked food to students from Class 1 to 8 in all 11.20 lakh government and government-aided schools, to all nearly 11.80 crore children.

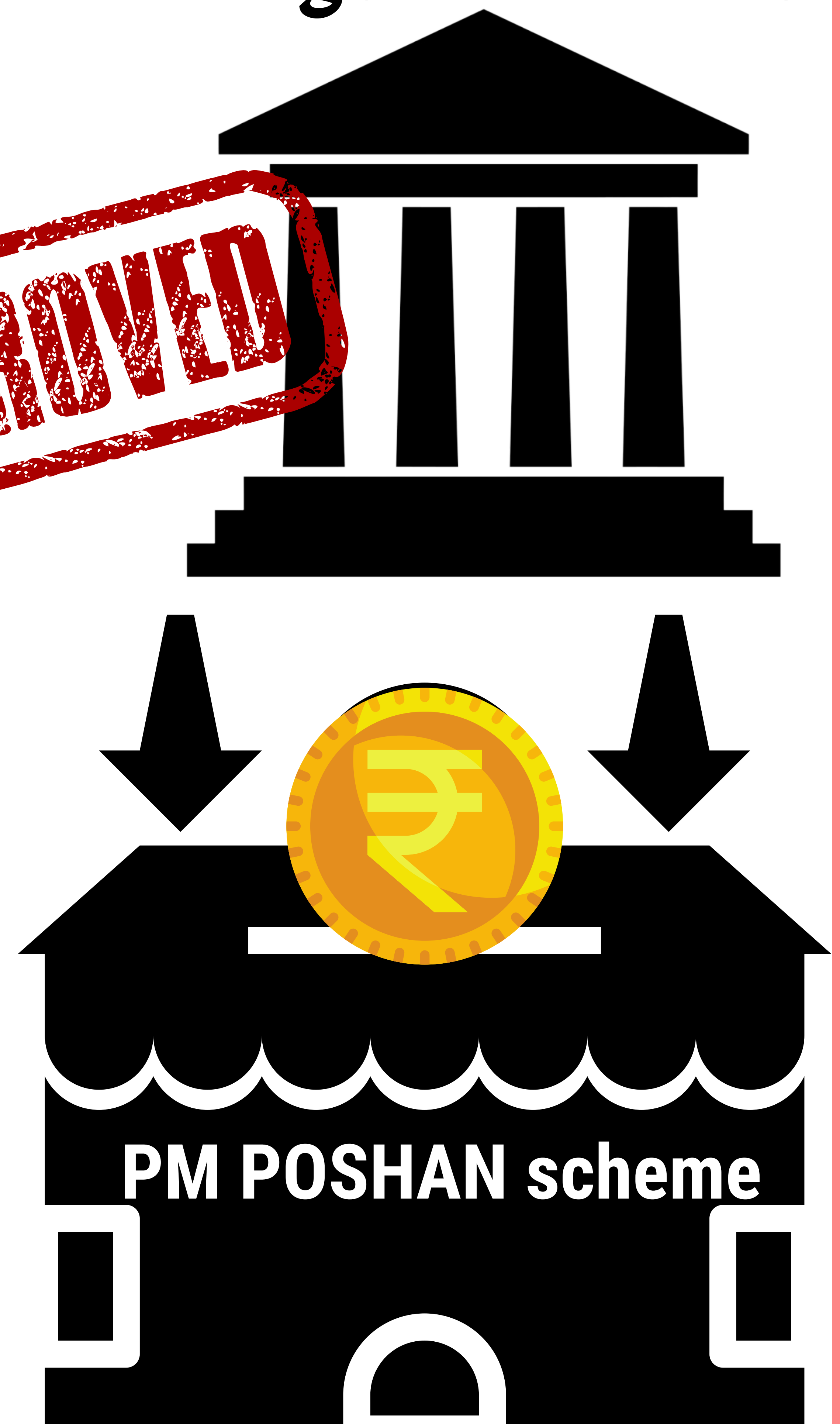


Holistic nutrition goals

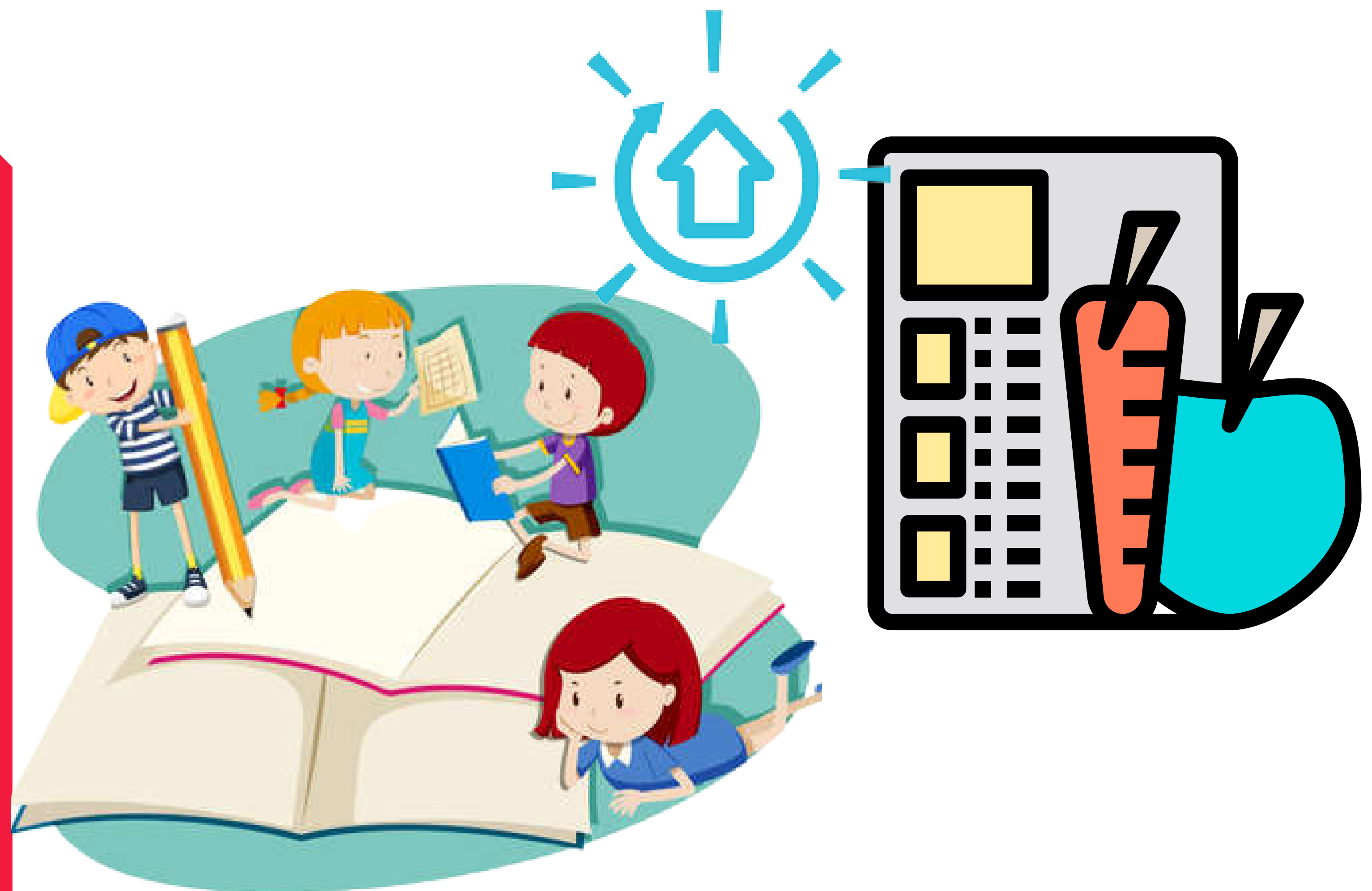
State governments

The PM POSHAN scheme has been approved for the next **five-year period until 2025-26**, with a **collective outlay of ₹1.31 lakh crore**, including **₹31,733 crore** as the share to be borne by the State governments.

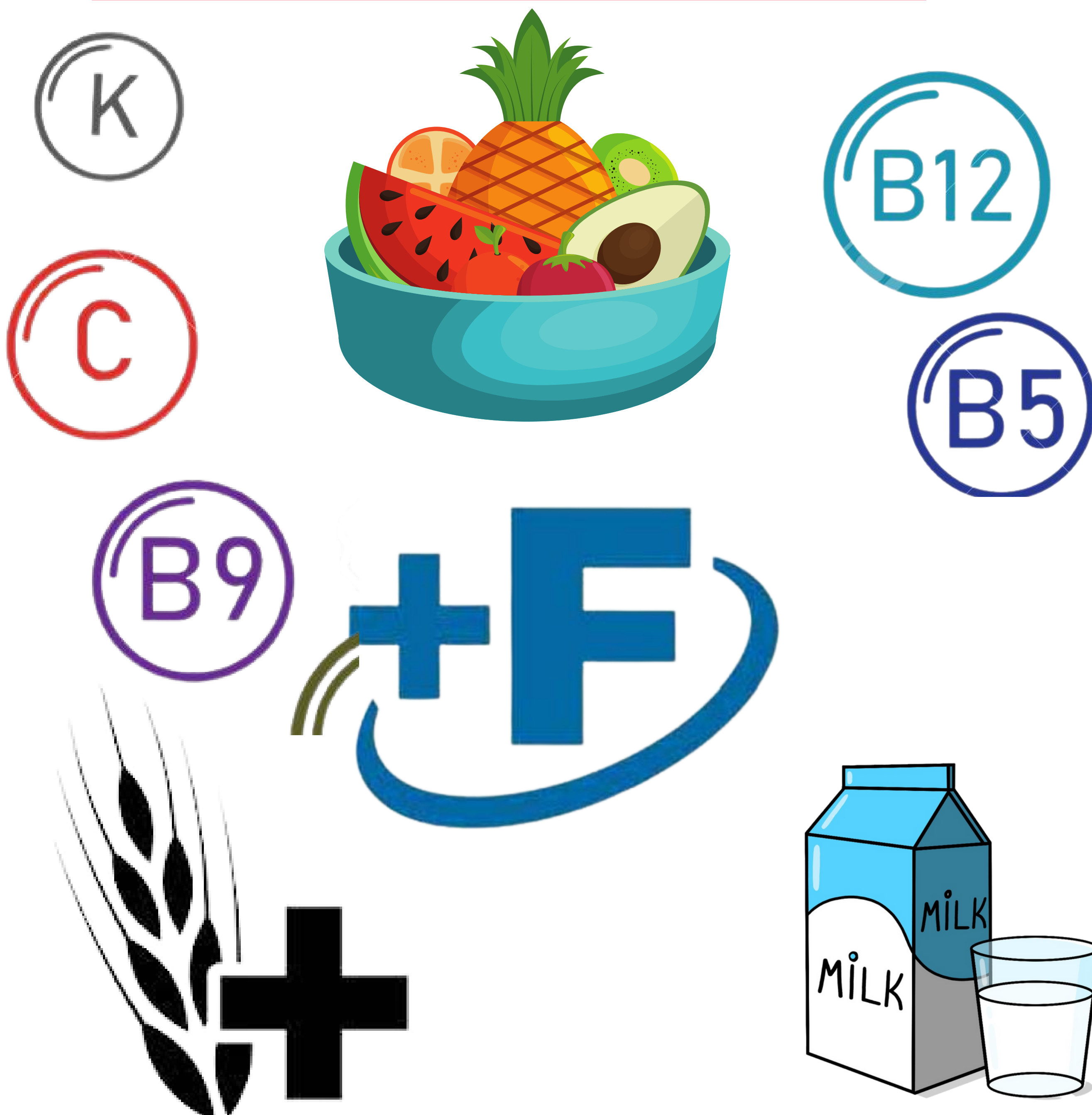
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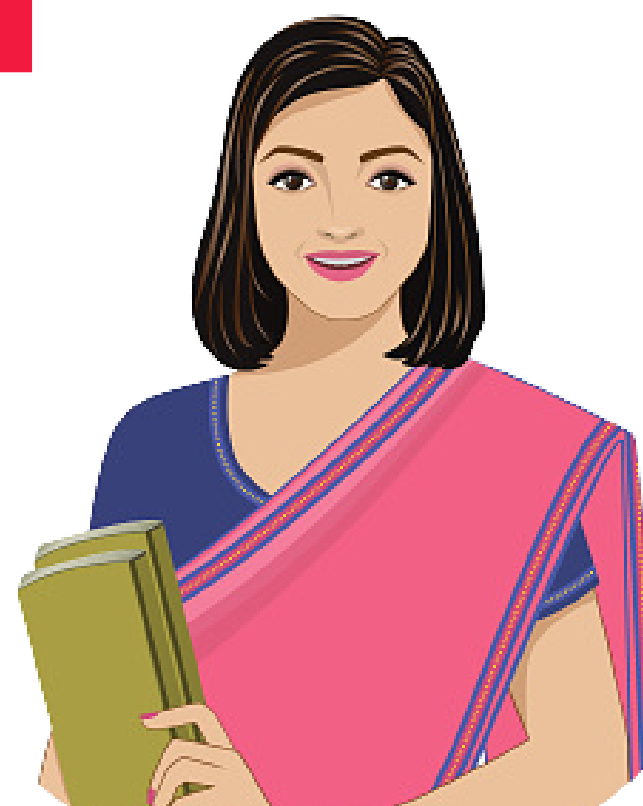
It will improve
nutritional status,
encourage education and
learning and increase
enrolments in
government schools.



The rebranded scheme
aims to **focus on “holistic
nutrition” goals.** A **5% flexi
component** would be built
into the existing budget to
**allow States to incorporate
additional nutrition-rich
elements** — such as
fortified foods, fruits and
milk — into the menu.

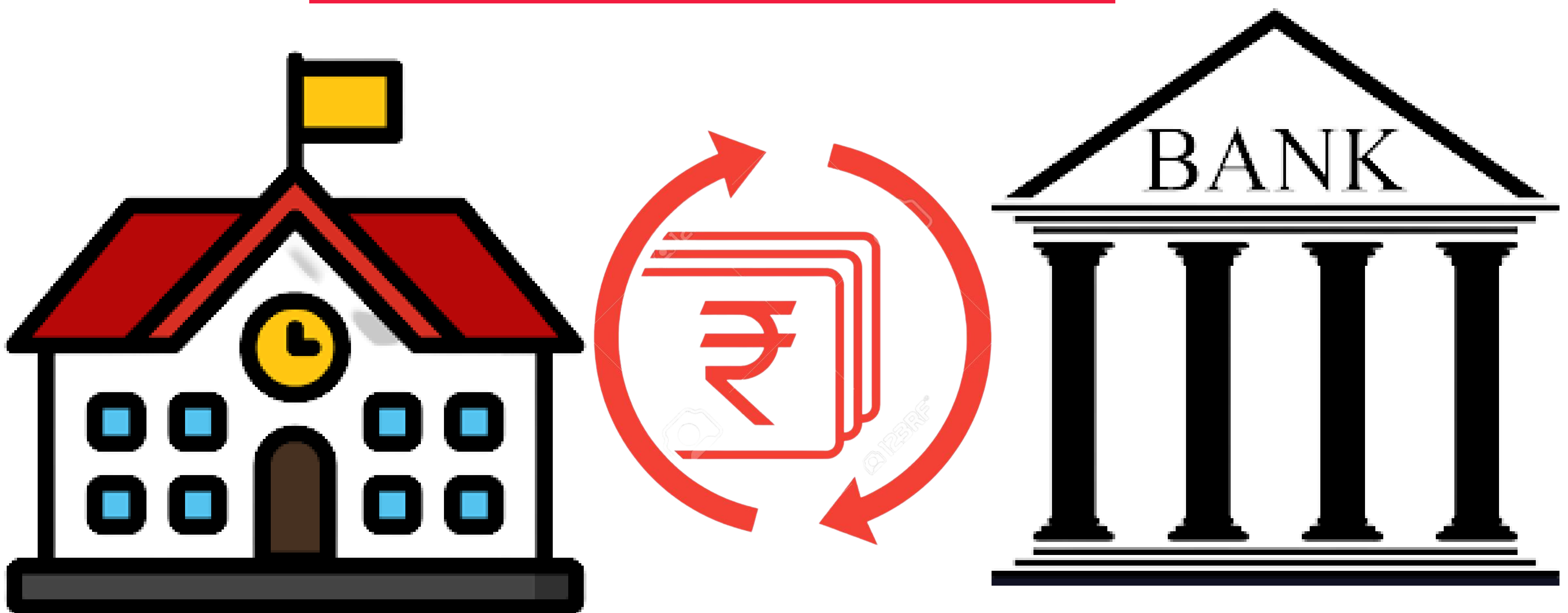


Use of locally grown traditional foods will be encouraged, along with school nutrition gardens.



Social audits have been made mandatory in all districts and college students and trainee teachers will be roped in to do field inspections to ensure the quality of meals.

In other procedural changes meant to promote transparency and reduce leakages, States will be asked to do **direct benefit cash transfers** of cooking costs to individual school accounts, and honorarium amounts to the bank accounts of cooks and helpers.



A Key Recommendation

The extension of mid-day meals to pre-primary students, who are to be incorporated into the formal education system, was a key recommendation of the **National Education Policy 2020** and the population of balvatikas is expected to rise from the existing 24 lakh as the policy is implemented.



24 lakh

However, there has been
no progress on the NEP's
other recommendation
to start offering
**breakfasts to school
students** as well.



Reference:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-extends-mid-day-meal-scheme-to-24-lakh-pre-primary-students/article36739905.ece>