NAMO DIDI Drone Scheme

Empowering Women SHGs with Drone Technology

The Government of India has launched the ***'Namo Didi Drone Scheme'***, a transformative Central Sector Scheme aimed at empowering Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through cutting-edge drone technology. With a financial outlay of ₹1,261 crores for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26, the scheme is set to revolutionize agricultural practices and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to women across rural India.

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Key Highlights of the Namo Didi Drone Scheme

1. **Objective and Target:**
    - The scheme aims to provide **15,000 drones** to Women SHGs by 2025-26.
    - In 2023-24, the first **500 drones** were procured by Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) using their internal resources and distributed to selected SHGs.
    - For 2024-25, the target is to distribute drones to **3,090 SHGs** in the first phase.

2. **Convergence of Resources:**
   The scheme is a collaborative effort involving:
    - **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)**
    - **Department of Rural Development (DoRD)**
    - **Department of Fertilizers (DoF)**
    - Women SHGs promoted under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**
    - **Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)**

3. **State-Level Implementation Committees:**
    - Committees at the state level ensure efficient implementation.
    - Responsibilities include:
        - Selection of appropriate clusters for drone usage.
        - Identification of progressive Women SHGs for the scheme.
        - Training SHG members as **drone pilots** and **drone assistants**.
        - Assessing district-wise drone usage and business potential.

Comprehensive Drone Package

The drones are supplied as a complete package, which includes:

- **Drone Pilot Training:** A mandatory program for one SHG member.
- **Agricultural Training:** Specialized training in the use of drones for nutrient and pesticide application.
- **Drone Assistant Training:** Provision to train other SHG members or family members to support operations.

Detailed operational guidelines for the scheme were issued by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in October 2024.

Empowering Women Through Business Opportunities

The scheme is designed to provide **business and livelihood support** to Women SHGs:

- SHGs will offer **drone rental services** to farmers for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides.
- LFCs will promote the use of **Nano fertilizers** via drones, creating sustainable business opportunities.
- State-level Committees will ensure consistent business for Women SHGs by coordinating with LFCs and pesticide companies.

Impact of the Namo Didi Drone Scheme

1. **Economic Empowerment:**
   Women SHGs will gain access to modern technology, enabling them to generate sustainable income.

2. **Agricultural Modernization:**
   - Promotes precision farming by enabling efficient spraying of nutrients and pesticides.
   - Encourages the adoption of Nano fertilizers for better crop yield and reduced environmental impact.

3. **Skill Development:**
   - Equips women with technical skills in drone operation and maintenance, fostering self-reliance.

4. **Strengthening Rural Economies:**
   By integrating drone technology into agriculture, the scheme contributes to the broader vision of a **self-reliant rural India**.

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The **Namo Didi Drone Scheme** exemplifies the government's commitment to combining technology, empowerment, and agriculture for a brighter, sustainable future. By equipping Women SHGs with drones, the initiative not only revolutionizes farming practices but also lays the foundation for economic independence among rural women.

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MCQ 1:

What is the primary objective of the Namo Didi Drone Scheme?
A) To provide employment to rural youth through drone manufacturing.
B) To empower Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural use.
C) To promote the export of drones manufactured in India.
D) To train farmers in drone technology for personal use.

Answer: B) To empower Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural use.

MCQ 2:

Under the Namo Didi Drone Scheme, who is responsible for selecting the clusters and SHGs for drone usage?
A) Ministry of Agriculture only.
B) Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs).
C) State-Level Committees comprising members from various departments.
D) Pesticide companies in coordination with SHGs.

Answer: C) State-Level Committees comprising members from various departments.

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