

# 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.

## 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**.

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 Namu 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 Namu 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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