



## Haryana's First 'Drone Didis' | Haryana | 13 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Sharmila and Himanshi, have become Haryana's first 'Drone Didis'. They inspire other women and girls while empowering rural communities through their contribution to agriculture.

### Key Points

- Drone Didis initiative was launched by the PM on November 30, 2023 after his interaction with women beneficiaries of the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**.
- It aims to **provide drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in the **next two years to be rented out to farmers for agricultural purposes**.
  - The women beneficiaries are **trained to become drone pilots** under the initiative.
  - The trained women drone pilots will help farmers in various agricultural operations like **fertiliser spraying, sowing seeds and crop monitoring**. This will help rural women **generate income** by utilising their skills.
  - The initiative intends to **modernise Indian agricultural practices** and enhance productivity by placing cutting-edge technology at the disposal of rural women.
- The scheme will cover 15,000 women SHGs, to be identified from among 89 lakh SHGs formed under the **Centre's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana**, and will provide them a sustainable business model and livelihood support.
- The Centre will provide each SHG identified a subsidy up to 80% towards the cost of a drone or a maximum of Rs 8 lakh. It is expected to generate an additional income of about Rs 1 lakh per head for them.

### Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- These are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions.
- The **genesis of SHG in India** can be traced to the formation of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1970**.
- The SHG Bank Linkage Project launched by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1992** has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project.
- NABARD alongwith RBI permitted SHGs to have a savings account in banks from the year of 1993. This action gave a considerable boost to the SHG movement and paved the way for the SHG-Bank linkage program.
- In 1999, Government of India, introduced **Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** to promote self-employment in rural areas through formation and skilling of SHGs.
- The programme evolved as a national movement in 2011 and became **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** - world's largest poverty alleviation programme.
- Today, **State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs)** are operational in 29 states and 5 UTs (except Delhi and Chandigarh).
- NRLM facilitated universal access to the affordable cost-effective reliable financial services to the poor like financial literacy, bank account, savings, credit, insurance, remittance, pension and counselling on financial services.

### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, Government of India in **2011**.
  - The Mission aims at creating efficient and **effective institutional platforms for the rural poor enabling them to increase household income** through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.
  - It lays **special emphasis on targeting the poorest of the poor** and the most vulnerable communities and their financial inclusion.
  - It **provides for mutually beneficial working relationships** and formal platforms for consultations between Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).
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## PM Inaugurates Dwarka Expressway in Haryana | Haryana | 13 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Haryana segment of the **first-ever 8-lane section of the Dwarka Expressway**.

### Key Points

- This newly constructed 19 km stretch, completed at a cost of Rs 4,100 crore, is designed to **enhance traffic flow and alleviate congestion on National Highway (NH)-48**, providing **smoother connectivity between Delhi and Gurugram**.
  - The inaugurated segment covers a distance of 10.2 km from the Delhi-Haryana Border to Basai Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) and an additional 8.7 km section from Basai ROB to Kherki Daula.
- This roadway establishes a **direct link between the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi and the Gurugram Bypass**.
- Key things about Dwarka Expressway:
  - The Dwarka Expressway, designed with a budget of Rs 9,000 crore, is segmented into **four parts**.
  - Gurugram houses the third and fourth sections, covering approximately 19 km, while the first two segments, totaling 10 km, are situated in Delhi.
  - It stands out as a fully access-controlled, grade-separated **14-lane Expressway**, marking a pioneering initiative in the country.
  - According to the [National Highways Authority of India \(NHAI\)](#) the entire project is set to **conclude by August 2024**.

### National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- It was set up under **NHAI Act, 1988**. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- It has been entrusted with the **National Highways Development Project**, along with other minor projects for development, maintenance and management.
  - National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in India to a higher standard. The project was **started in 1998**.
- NHAI maintains the National Highways network to global standards and cost effective manner and promotes economic well being and quality of life of the people.

