



Namo Drone Didi

[Source: PIB](#)

Recently, the [Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare \(DoA&FW\)](#) launched the **Namo Drone Didi Scheme**, aiming to empower 14,500 Women [Self-Help Groups \(SHGs\)](#) under the [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission \(DAY-NRLM\)](#) initiative through drone technology for agriculture services.

- **Objectives:**

- **Empowerment of Women SHGs: Facilitate SHGs with drones** to provide rental services for applying fertilizers and pesticides, promoting technology adoption to enhance crop yields and reduce operational costs.

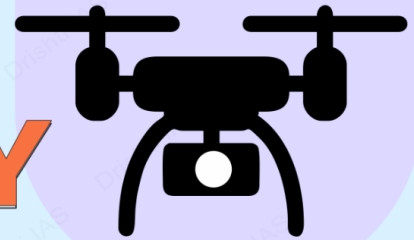
- **Key Features of the Scheme:**

- Central financial assistance covers 80% of drone cost, up to Rs. 8 lakhs.
 - Additional funding options available through [Agriculture Infra Financing Facility \(AIF\)](#).
- Comprehensive package includes a drone with essential accessories (batteries, spray equipment, tools) and a one-year warranty.
- Mandatory 15-day training to be provided to one of the members of women SHGs as a drone pilot and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application.

- **Governing Agencies**

- **At Central Level:** Empowered Committee of the Secretaries from:
 - DoA&FW
 - Department of Rural Development
 - Department of Fertilizers
 - Ministry of Civil Aviation
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **State-Level Implementation: Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)** coordinate with state departments and SHGs for effective drone distribution and usage.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY



Drone is a pilotless flying machine, using aerodynamics for lift, can operate autonomously or remotely, and may carry lethal or nonlethal cargo.



COMPONENTS

- ↳ Unmanned aircraft (UA)
- ↳ Control system (ground control station - GCS)
- ↳ Control link (specialized datalink)
- ↳ Other related support equipment



CLASSIFICATION

(as per Drone Rules, 2021)

- ↳ Nano: <250 gm
- ↳ Micro: 250 gm to 2 kg
- ↳ Mini: 2 kg to 25 kg
- ↳ Small: 25 kg to 150 kg
- ↳ Large: >150 kg

APPLICATIONS

- ↳ **Mapping & Surveying** (asset inspection, roof inspections)
- ↳ **Agriculture** (bird control, crop spraying & monitoring etc)
- ↳ Multispectral/thermal/NIR cameras, **Aerial Photo/videography** and Live streaming events
- ↳ **Emergency Response** (search and rescue, marine rescue, fire fighting)
- ↳ **Disaster** (zone mapping, disaster relief etc)
- ↳ **Mining**
- ↳ **Monitoring Poachers**
- ↳ **Meteorology**, Aviation, Payload carrying

DRONES IN DEFENCE

Purpose

- Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- Search and Rescue
- Maritime Surveillance
- Combat Drones
- Offensive (heterogeneous SWARM drones)
- Counter-Terrorism Operations

India's Counter-Drone System

- **Indrajaal** (India's inaugural autonomous drone-defense dome)
- Procurement of combat-capable **Heron** drones from Israel
- Acquisition of **MQ-9B Armed Drones** from the US

RELATED REGULATIONS

- ↳ Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023
- ↳ Drones Rules, 2021 and Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022



INDIA'S INITIATIVES

- ↳ Digital Sky Platform
- ↳ No-Permission-No-Takeoff (NPNT) framework
- ↳ PLI Scheme for Drones
- ↳ Drone Shakti Scheme



ISSUES

- ↳ Increased risk of armed attacks
- ↳ Data security
- ↳ **Cheaper cost** enables a larger population to procure drones
- ↳ Use of drones in warfare (**remote warfare**)
- ↳ **Procurement by non-state actors** can pose serious threats
- ↳ Ease in **delivering mass destruction weapons**



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Read More: [Sangathan se Samridhi: DAY-NRLM](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/namo-drone-didi>