



# Haryana's First 'Drone Didis'

## 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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