



## 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.

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# 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**



**Drishti IAS**

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

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