

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 1 History, Art and Culture – Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

NAMO Drone Didi Scheme: Transforming Agriculture through Women Empowerment

Scheme Overview:

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Aim:** Provide 15,000 drones to selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for offering rental services to farmers for agricultural purposes.
- **Duration:** 2023-24 to 2025-2026
- **Departments Involved:** Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Department of Rural Development (DoRD), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), Women SHGs, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)
- **Identification of SHGs:** Women SHGs identified from the 89 lakh SHGs formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana.
- **Financial Assistance:**
 1. Central Financial Assistance covering 80% of drone costs, up to a maximum of Rs. 8 Lakh.
 2. Remaining amount raised through National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF) with a 3% interest subvention on the AIF loan.
- **Training:**
 1. Drone piloting skills training for one SHG member.
 2. Drone technician training for another SHG member.
- **Nano Fertilizers:** Promotion of Nano Fertilizers like Nano Urea and Nano DAP through drone services.

Benefits of the Scheme:

1. **Empowerment of Rural Women:**
 - SHGs can rent drones to farmers, contributing to women's empowerment and economic upliftment.
2. **Modernizing Agriculture:**
 - Introduction of advanced technology through drone services for innovative fertilizers.
3. **Employment Opportunities:**
 - Creation of jobs in drone operation and maintenance for rural women.
4. **Safety and Efficiency in Farming:**
 - Replacing traditional, hazardous methods with drones enhances safety and operational efficiency, benefiting farmers.
5. **Reduced Physical Hardship:**
 - Drone usage alleviates physical strain associated with traditional farming methods.

Significance of the Scheme:

1. **Additional Income for SHGs:**
 - Enables SHGs to generate at least Rs. 1 lakh per annum, fostering economic independence.
2. **Technological Advancements:**
 - Infusion of advanced technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield, and reduced operational costs.

Way Forward:

- **Continuous Training:**
 - Ongoing training for women in drone technology is crucial for the scheme's success.
- **Strengthening Rural Infrastructure:**
 - Enhancing rural infrastructure is essential for seamless implementation.
- **Financial Support to SHGs:**
 - Providing financial support to SHGs ensures their active participation.
- **Tech Partnerships:**
 - Collaborating with tech companies can enhance the technological aspects of the scheme.

The NAMO Drone Didi Scheme stands as a transformative initiative, aligning women empowerment with technological advancements in agriculture for a sustainable and efficient farming future.

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