Indian Economy · GS - III

Discuss the potential of medicinal plant cultivation in promoting agricultural diversification, rural livelihoods and India's position in the global herbal products market.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Medicinal and aromatic plants, agricultural diversification, climate-resilient farming, traditional knowledge, Ayurveda, export potential, GI protection, farmer income, value addition, quality standards, sustainable cultivation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Medicinal and aromatic plants offer an opportunity to diversify Indian agriculture beyond conventional food crops. Their growing demand in traditional medicine, pharmaceuticals and wellness industries creates livelihood and export opportunities.

Economic and Agricultural Potential

Cultivation of plants such as ashwagandha can support farming in suitable semi-arid regions and diversify farmers' income sources. Processing, packaging and value addition can generate rural employment and strengthen agricultural supply chains.

Role of GI Protection

Geographical Indication recognition can protect region-specific products, preserve traditional knowledge and improve market differentiation. However, GI registration alone does not guarantee higher prices or international market access.

Challenges and Way Forward

Farmers require quality planting material, scientific cultivation practices, assured markets and better processing facilities. Traceability, standardisation, sustainable harvesting and compliance with international quality requirements are essential for expanding exports.

Conclusion

Medicinal plant cultivation can contribute to rural prosperity and India's herbal economy when supported by scientific research, sustainable practices and effective market linkages.

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