Indian Economy · GS - III

Adequate fertilizer availability is essential for agricultural productivity and food security in India. Discuss the challenges associated with fertilizer distribution and the need for balanced nutrient management.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Rabi season, fertilizer supply chain, urea and DAP, subsidy burden, regional imbalances, soil health, nutrient-use efficiency, overuse of nitrogen, organic alternatives, precision agriculture, food security.

Model Answer

Introduction

Fertilizers are essential agricultural inputs that improve soil nutrient availability and crop productivity. Their timely availability is particularly important during the Rabi sowing season.

Challenges in Fertilizer Distribution

- **Regional disparities:** Unequal demand and distribution infrastructure can create local shortages despite adequate national stocks.
- **Import dependence:** India relies on imports for several fertilizer inputs, exposing supplies to global price fluctuations.
- **Subsidy burden:** Rising fertilizer subsidies place pressure on public finances.
- **Supply-chain constraints:** Transportation, storage and last-mile delivery affect timely access for farmers.

Need for Balanced Nutrient Management

Excessive dependence on urea can disturb soil nutrient balance. Soil testing, customised fertilizer application, biofertilizers, organic manure and precision farming can improve nutrient-use efficiency. The Soil Health Card scheme supports informed fertilizer use.

Conclusion

India must combine reliable fertilizer availability with efficient distribution and balanced nutrient management to strengthen food security, protect soil health and ensure sustainable agriculture.