Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine the challenges of irrigation management in India and suggest measures to reduce crop losses caused by inadequate water supply.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Canal water distribution; incomplete irrigation projects; water-use efficiency; interdepartmental coordination; micro-irrigation; crop insurance; farmer compensation

Model Answer

Introduction

Irrigation is essential for agricultural productivity, particularly in regions dependent on monsoon rainfall. Inadequate water supply and inefficient irrigation management can cause crop losses, reduce farm incomes and increase rural distress.

Major Challenges

1. Infrastructure Deficiencies

Incomplete irrigation projects, damaged canals, inadequate maintenance and leakage can prevent water from reaching agricultural fields on time.

2. Unequal Water Distribution

Poor scheduling, weak monitoring and competing demands from agriculture, households and industry can create water shortages for farmers.

3. Climate Variability

Irregular rainfall, droughts and rising temperatures increase irrigation requirements and make water planning more difficult.

Measures to Improve Irrigation Management

1. Infrastructure and Governance: Complete priority projects, maintain canals regularly and use transparent, need-based water-allocation schedules.

2. Efficient Water Use: Expand drip and sprinkler irrigation, promote suitable cropping patterns and encourage water conservation.

3. Farmer Protection: Improve crop-loss assessment, ensure timely insurance claim settlement under applicable schemes and provide eligible compensation during severe losses.

4. Accountability: Establish grievance mechanisms and monitor water delivery to ensure that farmers receive their allocated supplies.

Conclusion

Reliable irrigation requires sound infrastructure, efficient water use and accountable administration. Coordinated planning can protect farm incomes and strengthen agricultural resilience.

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