Indian Economy · GS - III

How can climate variability, particularly El Niño, threaten India's food security? Discuss the role of buffer stocks and suggest measures to strengthen climate-resilient food distribution.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

El Niño, monsoon variability, drought risk, agricultural production, buffer stocks, National Food Security Act, Food Corporation of India, public distribution system, climate-resilient agriculture.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's food security depends on agricultural productivity, stable supply chains and effective public distribution. Climate phenomena such as El Niño can influence monsoon rainfall and increase production uncertainty.

Threats to Food Security

1. **Rainfall variability:** Weak or irregular monsoon rainfall can affect rain-fed agriculture.
2. **Production losses:** Drought and heat stress may reduce crop yields and increase cultivation costs.
3. **Price volatility:** Supply shortages can increase food prices and affect vulnerable households.
4. **Distribution pressures:** Crop losses may increase demand for government foodgrain stocks.

Role of Buffer Stocks

Buffer stocks help stabilise supplies, support the Public Distribution System (PDS) and provide a reserve during emergencies. The Food Corporation of India plays a key role in procurement, storage and movement of foodgrains.

Way Forward

- Improve weather forecasting and early-warning systems.
- Strengthen scientific storage and reduce post-harvest losses.
- Promote drought-tolerant crops, micro-irrigation and crop diversification.
- Improve PDS transparency and last-mile delivery.
- Regularly assess buffer-stock requirements against production and distribution risks.

Conclusion

Buffer stocks provide an important safety net, but long-term food security requires climate-resilient agriculture, efficient distribution and evidence-based planning.

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