Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the role of faculty quality, institutional autonomy and research funding in transforming India's higher education institutions into globally competitive centres of learning and research.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

NEP 2020, faculty shortages, teacher-student ratio, academic autonomy, research ecosystem, National Research Foundation, international faculty mobility, merit-based recruitment, competitive remuneration, research infrastructure, brain drain, global rankings, multidisciplinary education.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's ambition to become a global higher education hub depends significantly on the quality of its faculty and research ecosystem. NEP 2020 recognises the importance of empowered educators, institutional autonomy and multidisciplinary learning.

Major Structural Challenges

1. **Faculty Shortages:** Vacancies and uneven faculty distribution affect teaching quality, student supervision and institutional capacity.

2. **Limited Research Funding:** Inadequate funding and infrastructure constrain innovation, doctoral research and international collaboration.

3. **Bureaucratic Constraints:** Excessive administrative procedures can restrict academic flexibility and delay recruitment and research projects.

4. **Talent Retention:** Limited research opportunities and uncompetitive compensation encourage talented academics to seek opportunities abroad.

Reforms Required

- **Merit-based Recruitment:** Ensure transparent appointments and reduce prolonged recruitment delays.
- **Academic Autonomy:** Empower institutions and faculty in curriculum development, research priorities and academic decision-making, with accountability.
- **Research Investment:** Strengthen research grants, laboratories, interdisciplinary projects and industry-academia partnerships.
- **Global Collaboration:** Facilitate international faculty mobility, visiting professorships and joint research programmes.
- **Faculty Development:** Promote continuous training, mentoring and research-oriented career progression.

Conclusion

World-class universities cannot be created through infrastructure and rankings alone. Sustained investment in faculty, academic freedom and research excellence is essential to make India's higher education system globally competitive and socially responsive.

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