Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Critically examine the need to integrate experiential learning, entrepreneurship and emerging technologies into India's higher education system to improve graduate employability and innovation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

National Education Policy 2020, skill development, industry-academia collaboration, experiential learning, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, employability, innovation ecosystem

Model Answer

India's higher education system must prepare graduates not only with theoretical knowledge but also with the ability to solve practical problems. Rapid technological change and evolving labour markets have increased the importance of application-oriented education.

Why experiential learning matters

1. **Bridging the knowledge gap:** Projects, internships, simulations and field assignments enable students to apply classroom concepts to real-world situations.

2. **Entrepreneurial capabilities:** Venture development and exposure to market feedback develop risk assessment, financial planning and problem-solving skills.

3. **Industry relevance:** Collaboration with businesses helps institutions align curricula with changing occupational requirements.

4. **Technology integration:** Artificial intelligence, data analytics and digital platforms can improve learning outcomes when applied to clearly identified problems.

Structural challenges

1. Many institutions remain focused on examination-oriented learning rather than practical competencies.
2. Unequal access to laboratories, digital infrastructure and industry partnerships disadvantages students from smaller institutions.
3. Limited faculty-industry interaction can widen the gap between academic content and market requirements.
4. Excessive dependence on technology may weaken critical thinking if students lack foundational knowledge.

Reform priorities

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasises multidisciplinary education, vocational exposure and flexible learning. Its objectives can be strengthened through industry-linked projects, internships, innovation laboratories, startup incubation and faculty development.

Assessment systems should recognise practical problem-solving, collaboration and ethical use of technology alongside theoretical understanding.

Conclusion: Higher education must combine conceptual foundations with practical execution. Such integration can strengthen employability, entrepreneurship and India's capacity for innovation.

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