Science & Technology · GS - III

Scientific progress is often the outcome of collective effort, whereas prestigious awards recognise only a limited number of individuals. Examine the implications of this gap for scientific recognition, research collaboration and innovation. (150 words, 10 marks)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 11/10/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Discuss Nobel selection limits, collaborative discoveries, recognition disparities, interdisciplinary research and institutional contributions; suggest transparent recognition systems, team awards and stronger support for early-career researchers.

Model Answer

Scientific progress often results from decades of collaborative research involving multiple scientists, institutions and research teams. However, prestigious awards such as the Nobel Prize recognise only a limited number of individuals, creating a gap between collective contribution and formal recognition.

Implications: First, important contributors may receive limited public recognition despite their role in foundational discoveries. Second, excessive emphasis on individual achievements may obscure the contributions of research teams, technicians and early-career scientists. Third, award-centric research cultures may encourage competition at the expense of collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange.

Nevertheless, awards provide visibility, inspire young researchers and acknowledge transformative scientific achievements. Selection limits also make it necessary to identify the most significant contributions within a complex history of discovery.

Way Forward: Research institutions should strengthen team-based recognition, acknowledge contributions transparently and develop awards for collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Funding and career advancement should also reflect research quality, reproducibility and collective impact.

Conclusion: Scientific awards are valuable forms of recognition, but scientific progress must be understood as both an individual achievement and a collective endeavour.

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