# International Relations · GS - II

**Examine the role of educational diplomacy in strengthening India's relations with its neighbouring countries.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026 | GS - II | International Relations |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Educational exchanges, soft power, people-to-people ties, regional cooperation, diaspora engagement, institutional partnerships**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Educational diplomacy uses academic cooperation, scholarships and institutional exchanges to strengthen relations between countries. India's proposed scholarships for Sri Lankan students in Tamil Nadu illustrate the role of education in regional engagement.

### Role of Educational Diplomacy

1. **Strengthening Soft Power:** Access to Indian educational institutions enhances India's attractiveness through knowledge, academic excellence and cultural interaction.

2. **Building People-to-People Relations:** Students returning to their home countries can act as bridges between societies, fostering mutual understanding and long-term connections.

3. **Supporting Neighbourhood First Policy:** Educational cooperation complements India's broader engagement with neighbouring countries through development assistance and capacity-building.

4. **Engaging Diaspora Communities:** Scholarships for students of Tamil origin in Sri Lanka can strengthen cultural and social connections while supporting educational opportunities.

5. **Promoting Regional Capacity:** Training in medicine, technology and other professional fields can contribute to human resource development in neighbouring countries.

## Challenges and Considerations

1. **Equitable Access:** Transparent eligibility criteria are necessary to ensure that deserving students benefit.

2. **Recognition of Qualifications:** Coordination between educational and professional regulatory bodies is important.

3. **Long-term Engagement:** Alumni networks and institutional partnerships can sustain the benefits beyond the scholarship period.

4. **Diplomatic Sensitivity:** Such initiatives should remain inclusive and respect the sovereignty and social diversity of partner countries.

## Conclusion

Educational diplomacy can transform academic cooperation into durable regional partnerships. Well-designed scholarship programmes can strengthen India's soft power, promote human development and deepen neighbourhood relations.

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