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**PRESS RELEASE**

 The Government of India has a Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) Scheme which was previously applicable to NRIs & PIOs of 40 countries for undergraduate studies. Recently, this scheme has been revamped as highlighted below:-

1. SPDC is now applicable to 66 countries including Kuwait.
2. The scheme is now applicable to four categories of applicants, ie:,- Persons of Indian Origin; Non-Resident Indian; Children of Indian workers working in ECR countries; and Children of Indian workers in ECR countries & studying in India.
3. The number of scholarships has been increased from 100 to 150, out of which 50 seats are reserved for the Children of Indian workers in the two categories enumerated above in (ii).
4. The institutions that are covered under this scheme are NITs, IITs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, “A” Grade institutions accredited by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) & recognized by UGC and other institutions covered under the DASA (Direct Admission of Students Abroad) scheme.
5. Income-criteria is applicable to all the four categories in (ii) above.
6. Applicants will get scholarships after they obtain permission in the approved list of educational institutions.

2. All interested candidates for any queries, can communicate directly with Mr. P. Bharadwaj, Deputy Secretary (OIA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, Telephone no. =91-11-24197952, E-mail: dsoia2@mea.gov.in

**11 August 2016**