



NRI Quota Expansion Undermines Education

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Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) condemned the **Punjab government's** decision to **expand the [Non-Resident Indian \(NRI\) quota \(15%\)](#) in medical colleges** to include distant relatives of NRIs, such as **uncles, aunts, and cousins**.

- The Supreme Court described the expansion of **NRI quota as a “fraud”** that **undermines merit-based admissions** and called it a **“money-spinning tactic”** that could allow less deserving candidates to gain entry based on **wealth and connections** rather than merit.
- The SC referenced the ***PA Inamdar vs. State of Maharashtra Case, 2005***, which highlighted the necessity to **prevent misuse of the NRI quota**.
 - However, similar **broad definitions of NRI candidates** had been adopted in other states, such as **Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**.
- NRI Quota allows **NRIs, PIOs, and OCIs** to secure admission, often **without** the need to appear for **entrance exams** that residents must undertake.
 - The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) allows NRI Students up to **5% in technical institutes** while it is **15% in medical institutes** as per the Medical Council of India.
- NRI refers to an **Indian citizen** who resides **outside India 182 days** in a financial year.

Read More: [Rights of Overseas Citizens of India](#)

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