

Indian students worry about physical safety in US, says study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, 15 July

Indian students have a "high level of concern" about the potential study opportunities in the US and a large number of them worry about physical safety and the feeling of being welcomed, according to a new survey. The Institute of International Education (IIE) suggested, the final outcome of the US Supreme Court order in June that temporarily upheld President Donald Trump's executive order to restrict entry of nationals from six Muslim majority countries to America, weighs on their mind.

With over a million international students pursuing higher education in the US and contributing more than \$36 billion to the American economy, the stakes are high, it said.

Founded in 1919, the IIE is a US-based not-for-profit working to build peaceful and equitable societies by advancing scholarship, building economies and promoting access to opportunity. It focuses on International Student Exchange and Aid, Foreign Affairs, and International Peace and Security. The IIE said that the



KEY TAKEAWAYS

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20% are very concerned that Indian students may not arrive on campuses

46% of institutions reported

survey results indicate the highest level of institutional concern regarding enrollment of students from the Middle East, followed by India.

Thirty-one per cent of insti-

securing and maintaining a visa as the main concern among students

80% of institutions responded physical safety was the most pronounced concern for Indian students

31% of institutions indicated that feeling welcome was also a concern

Source: PTI

tutions are very concerned that West Asian students who have accepted offers of admissions may not arrive on campuses in the fall, and 20 per cent are very concerned that Indian students

may not arrive on campus, it said. "This uncertainty raises valid concerns as to whether students from the West Asia may be deterred from US study," it said. "Securing and maintaining a visa is reported as the top concern among these students and was reported by 46 per cent of institutions, while feeling welcome in the United States was an almost equal concern, with 41 per cent of institutions noting so from their conversations with students," it added.

According to the IIE, survey findings suggest that Indian students "have a high level of concern about potential study in the United States, 80 per cent of institutions responded that physical safety was the most pronounced concern for Indian students, while 31 per cent of institutions indicated that feeling welcome was also a concern." "Although application totals appearing to largely remain stable, yield rates and a concern about personal safety suggest the possibility that Indian students may not continue to grow as the second largest international group in US higher education," IIE said.