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# Resume regular classes, pro-VC writes to deans and dept heads

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KOLKATA: After a week of disruption on the campus, authorities at Jadavpur University are desperate to bring back normal academic atmosphere to the campus.

The eagerness of the authorities was borne out in the late Thursday night communique from pro-VC Amitava Datta to the deans of Arts, Science, Engineering faculty, teachers and heads of various departments, appealing to all of them to carry on with classes and other academic activities.

TimesView

Preserving the university's academic atmosphere is all-important. An overwhelming majority of students, who may also be the least vocal majority, go to an academic institution to study. Their concerns take precedence and must be addressed.

In the e-mail to the deans, teachers and department heads, Datta called for resumption of regular classes. "We have to bring the academic environment back to normal and maintain the academic standard of JU," he said in the e-mail.

Various departments in Arts, Science and Engineering faculty held normal classes on Friday even though some students boycotted them and continued to demand for a safe, ragging-free environment. While some departments have had satisfactory attendance, others have had low attendance with many first-year students returning home after the incident last week.

Students at some departments attended classes but didn't register their attendance as a mark of protest. At Bengali department that lost the first-year student in the ragging incident, attendance has been rather good. "We are conducting regular classes with them. First-year as well as senior students are attending classes," said department head Joydeep Ghosh.

The English department held a seminar on Thursday where a senior lecturer from Kingston University was the main speaker. "It was heartening to see a fair number of students turn up for the lecture. The UG and PG classes have resumed and attendance is satisfactory," said English department head Manojit Mandal.

In Comparative Literature, there has been no remarkable drop in attendance.

The Science faculty teachers also said attendance of students, both UG and PG, have been good. Chemistry department head Subratanath Koner said that the students are attending theory and practical classes.

Mathematics and geology departments have also witnessed good attendance.

But a few departments continue to be dogged by disruptions. International Relations department will resume normal classes on Monday. Department head Imankalyan Lahiri said many students had gone home and requested that classes be pushed back to Monday.

Attendance in electrical engineering department that has been low all week was slightly better on Friday.

Nandini Mukhopadhyay, head of computer science and engineering, feels the attendance has been varying and is on the lower side as guardians are not letting students come to campus out of fear.