

Student power for Anna cause

Hundreds Of Students From DU, JNU, Jamia, IIT And DTU Detained

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New Delhi: On Tuesday, college students were more than eager to bunk classes, but for a cause. Heavy rain, tight academic schedule or heavy police presence could not dampen their spirit. Hundreds of students of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, IIT, Delhi Technological University "courted arrest" in support of Anna's campaign against corruption.

Students from Hans Raj, faculty of management studies, law faculty and arts faculty of DU kicked off the protest on the campus, which culminated at Chhatrasal Stadium and Rajouri Garden. Here they were detained. At IIT, students held a candle-light march and wore black bands. The JNU campus was flooded with handmade posters. The vigour was unprecedented and rain was no dampener.

Deepak Singh Rawat, a second-year student of Hans Raj College, had only one thought in mind — to court arrest. "About four of us left the college to go to Chhatrasal Stadium. We met a group of students near Patel Chest, who were raising slogans and marching towards the stadium. Here, police were not letting us in. Then some women and schoolchildren joined us and we were detained," he said.

Deepak, however, is not satisfied with the number of students turning up for the protests. He wants to give a fillip to the movement. "I am planning to print anti-corruption banners and carry



CAMPUS SUPPORT: Students skipped classes to join the protest, plan to mobilise support at hostels too

them to all colleges. Some students went home after classes. They need to know that they too can contribute," he said.

Meanwhile, the student activists who joined the protest are in no mood to relent. And they are planning to mobilise support at the hostels. "We are going to stay put at Chhatrasal Stadium and fast. The fight against corruption has just begun," said Rishikesh

Kumar of the law faculty.

Several students skipped classes to join the protest without informing their parents. Groups of students at different Metro stations were seen planning their future course of action. At IIT, Delhi, students organised a candlelight march where nearly 800 people participated. But some students missed the march as they were detained at Chhatrasal.

One of them, Annad Poonia, a third-year student of electrical engineering, said, "I was released, but five of my friends are still detained. They are hungry and thirsty. There are thousands still protesting outside. Inside the stadium. Those detained have formed groups and are determined to continue the protest. What is happening is against the spirit of democracy," Anand said.