

Chennai



Pics: Praveen Tyagarajan

Students return to campus

As colleges reopen, students hope to make the most of life on campus

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Students' campus life had taken a hit in the last two years with classes switching between online and offline modes, courtesy the pandemic. With most colleges reopening last week, students tell us what they are expecting from campus life.

Sharon Regi, a PG student at Madras Christian College, tells us, "To be back on the campus itself, is a huge relief. Online classes were like watching YouTube videos. In my one-and-half-years here, I have hardly spent a month or two with my classmates. There is no bonding, we don't even know who they are as persons. Classes, too, were mundane. My course



comprises many practical sessions, so it's better that we have in-person classes on the campus."

For the first time since COVID, most colleges have called in students of all batches. "In the last one week, almost all students have started to come in. We have moved to offline classes completely and it is much better teaching this way. Their overall learning is better on the campus as you can interact with them and observe them. We have also planned sports day and other activities in the next two months," says P Santhosh Kumar, co-ordinator at Loyola College.

Felix Thomas, a first year student at MCC, says, "I spent two months here before the third wave began. After colleges shut down, I was quite bored at home. So, to be back with friends is the



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best feeling. We have upcoming tournaments in April and we will get to know more people as we practise for the same. I am eagerly looking forward to it," he shares.

Though online classes were fun initially, the comfort started to fade away. "I feel I am more attentive here; there are no distractions and the classes are more lively. Be it inside the campus during classes or in the canteen while talking with friends, it is still a better experience than offline," Loyola College student Nithyashree Krishnan adds.

Aakash, an MBA student at SRM University, who's part of his department's event organising committee, says, "This

is the first big event we are part of. Many colleges have registered and it will be a proper fun experience," he says with excitement.

Sharon, who is in his last few months of college life, says he intends to make the most of it. "I've shuttled between college here and my home in Jharkhand. Though it is a hassle, it is worth it to be back on the campus."

