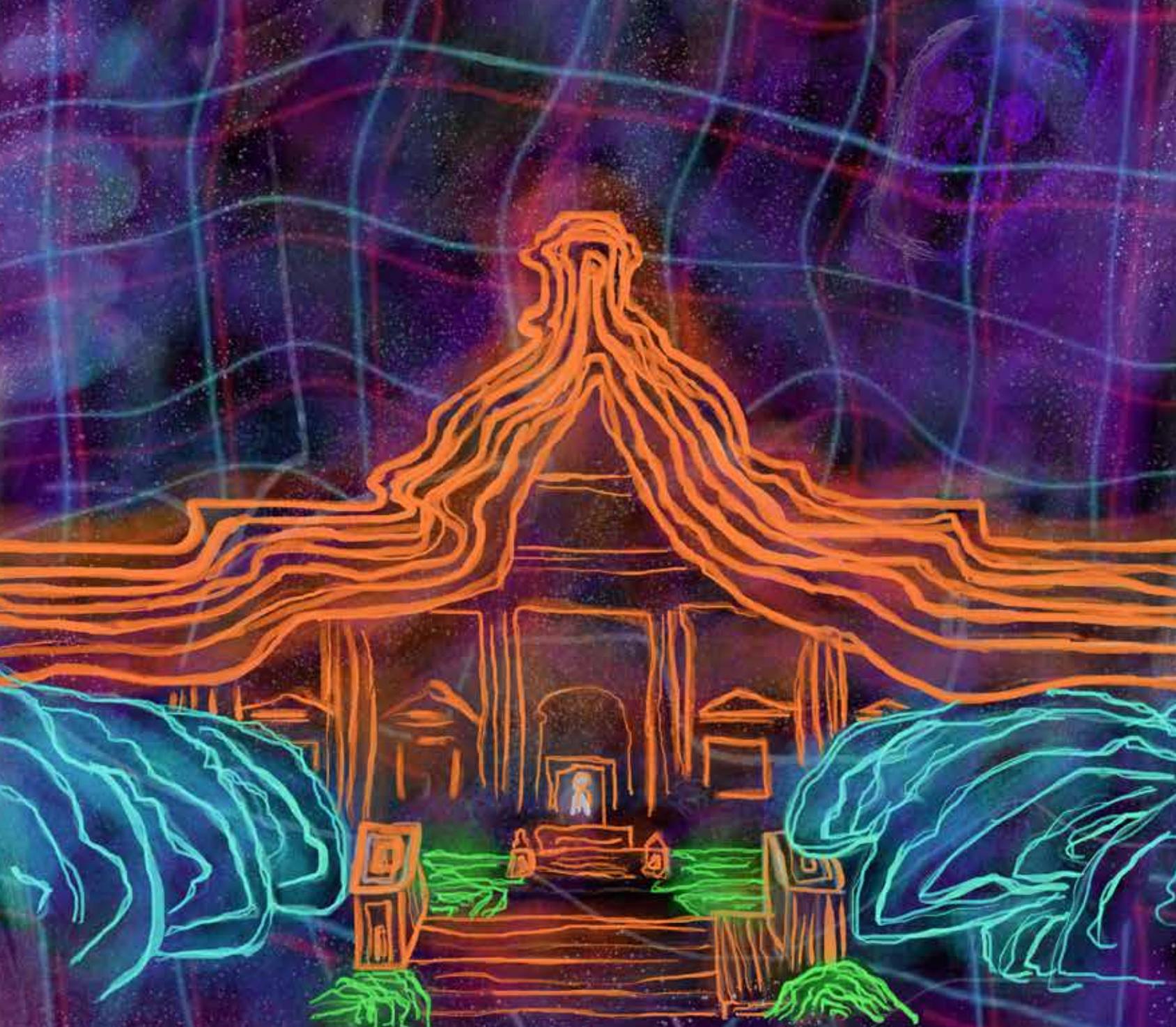


# WATCH OUT! FRESHMAN GUIDE



ROORKEE EDITION

OCTOBER 22

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# DON'T PANIC

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The next four (or five) years of your life are going to be pretty rough.

Everyday, you're going to want to cry in the shower, and/or cry yourself to bed, and maybe just break down and cry during a lecture while the professor struggles to read things off a slide that they have been recycling for the last few decades.

And that's okay.

We have all been there.

Truth is, some of us are still there.

It's easy to get lost in Roorkee's grandeur. However, before you come to R-Land - and maybe a little even while you are here - The Freshman's Guide to IITR is going to be a wholly remarkable reference book. In this updated and expanded edition, the information present has been compiled and recompiled many times over many years and under many different editorships. This guide shall be the ultimate authority over any matter legal, financial, or otherwise pertaining to the equitable distribution of masala patties inside the campus, from now, till infinity.

Even though Watch Out! is proud to be associated with this guide and for bringing it to its final shape, the exact authorship of this guide remains a mystery. While some believe that this guide is as old as the institute itself, others argue that it originated sometime in 2173 in the future when all of us are dead and this guide is the first document to witness time-travel.

However, Watch Out! knows that none of these speculations are true at all. In fact, no piece of information about the origin of this guide will ever be completely correct, because this guide doesn't exist at all. It is merely a twisted fabric of space and time which has temporarily suspended your grasp on reality. At this very moment, you are experiencing vivid hallucinations of this non-existent guide. Slowly but steadily, words are taking shape exactly the way you want them to. This guide shall tell you only what you need to hear about your new institute- nothing more, nothing less. The entrails of this book shall be debated, argued upon and updated from time to time, but none of this shall ever physically exist anywhere. Even if you ever happen to chance upon a rare copy, it is probably your mind that has gone bonkers.

# Introduction

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IITR is big. Not as big as you might have thought. But it's big enough to deter you from attending boring lectures at 8 AM. Along with other benefits, we can assure you that the campus will always be more happening than the city outside. Well, probably because there is no city outside. But don't let that worry you; big cities are merely filled with dance and fun - things that no college student would or should want anyway.

The mind bogglingly stupendous institute of IITR was established somewhere around the middle of the 19th century. Although the exact year is mentioned somewhere in the depths of the official website, many archaeologists, historians and marketing analysts claim that the institute is as old as the Indus Valley Civilization. This claim has been rubbished many times by the Archaeological Survey of India but uncertainty remains in the minds of ECE undergraduates who visit the Digital Hardware Laboratory every semester.

The institute finds its roots way back in maybe 1845. It was the time when speaking in a British accent did not make you a try-hard and top hats were very much in fashion, so much so that people dressed up in 3-piece suits just to go have dinner in the Bhawan messes (where they were served in silverware by turbaned waiters). In 1847 the institute was officially established. It was renamed as the Thomason College of Civil Engineering in 1854 in honour of its founder, Sir James Thomason, Lieutenant Governor of the then Northwestern Provinces. Roorkee graduates played an important role in the maintenance of the Ganga Canal, the construction of dams and irrigation projects like Bhakra Nangal, the Rajasthan Canal, the Aswan Dam on the Nile in Egypt, and the construction of Chandigarh. Apart from all of these creations, it is rumored that the engineers of IITR also built the Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Great Wall of China, Pyramids of Giza and an unmarked monument on the moon. The number of pictures people upload on their facebook profiles during their foreign internships every year substantiate this rumor.

This guidebook aims at presenting an almost unbiased, unadulterated and unprejudiced picture of IITR to the incoming freshmen. You can use this guidebook as follows:

1. Read through all the chapters one by one.
2. As a reference.
3. As an icebreaker in parties when trying to chat with someone you find even mildly attractive.

You must not use it as:

1. A textbook.
2. Definitely not a textbook.
3. Something that you'd want your parents to read.

So buckle up! And get ready to experience firsthand what it is like to be a freshman at IITR.

## Polite Seniors who tolerate me

last seen 45 minutes ago

Sometime (read anytime) after admission

Hi everyone 🐦

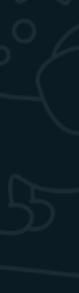
11:31 AM ✓

Thanks for agreeing to help me 😊

11:31 AM ✓

I had a lot of questions so I thought it would be better to make a group

11:31 AM ✓



**Hail the CR**

Reminded me of my first year lol

11:46 AM



**Aspiring poet**

Get started...

11:46 AM

Let's start, oddly enough, from the beginning.

How do I get to Roorkee?

11:50 AM ✓



**Mr. I Know Everything**

Well, the nearest airhead to Roorkee is Dehradun, around 70km away, but we usually find Delhi a more convenient airport. Delhi is about 180km away. The best way, especially if you're coming from a long distance away is to get here via Delhi.

You can come either by road or by rail. There are regular buses from Delhi- most buses that go to Dehradun pass through Roorkee. Buses can be obtained either from I.S.B.T. Kashmere Gate, Delhi or from I.S.B.T. Anand Vihar.

A taxi is also an option of course, but you should be warned that the road isn't exactly an expressway. Trains also run regularly from Delhi - both the regular Shatabdi and the JanShatabdi trains go all the way to Dehradun, passing through Roorkee. The journey should take around 4 hours by Shatabdi and a little more by other trains

11:52 AM

What about once I reach?

12:01 PM ✓

Will there be accommodation for my parents and me?

12:02 PM ✓



**'I stay in my room all day' senior**

The hostel room is made available to the students on their arrival.

12:20 PM



**Hail the CR**

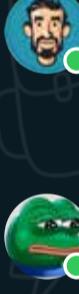
Parents have to make their own stay arrangements and they are not allowed to stay with their wards in the hostel. Very limited accommodation is available in IIT Roorkee guest houses for the parents. For the same the guest houses are to be contacted directly in advance

12:20 PM

What will be there in my hostel room?

What should I bring

12:21 PM ✓



**'I stay in my room all day' senior**

You'll have a cupboard, a table, a bed and electrical fittings like a fan, already provided to you. You need to bring bedding yourself (you can buy it in Roorkee of course).

12:29 PM



**Hail the BR too**

As for the rest, what you bring is up to you.

12:42 PM

Alright, let me ask you this :

what do I not bring?

12:45 PM ✓



**Some random senior**

Lol

12:46 PM



**"I'll give u chapo" senior**

That is the first good question you've asked us.

12:46 PM



**"I'll give u campus tour" senior**

Well, we've already told you what you'll find once you step into your humble abode. To start with the obvious, you most certainly don't need to bring buckets, mugs, or anything of the sort - Roorkee has a shopping boulevard that caters to all of your needs. This magical land is called Civil Lines. A flea market sale also occurs on the day of your registration, right inside your bhawan - you'll get everything you need there.

12:47 PM



**Some random senior**

🔥🔥🔥

12:49 PM



**"I'll give u campus tour" senior**

You're probably inclined to think of Roorkee as an icy cold land - the place lies at the foothills of the Himalayas afterall. We hate to ruin it for you, but that is a bunch of baloney. It does get cold enough to freeze your innards, however that is only true for the period : mid November to mid February. You will get a chance to go home once or twice before Roorkee turns into Siberia - so don't bring your winter clothes now. It is understandable to want to make your room feel like home.

12:52 PM



**"I'll give u chapo" senior**

If you're thinking of bringing along decorative items like wallpapers, we must let you know of the existence of a poster printing shop (in Civil Lines) and of course, the previously mentioned magical land (again Civil Lines). You definitely can (and probably should) bring a few things reminiscent of home - we cannot exaggerate the significance of happy reminiscing in college.

12:53 PM



**"I'll give u campus tour" senior**

Pack light though.

12:53 PM



**"I'll give u chapo" senior**

That is the first good question you've asked us.

12:46 PM



**Some random senior**

Lol...nice description 😊

12:47 PM



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12:48 PM



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12:51 PM



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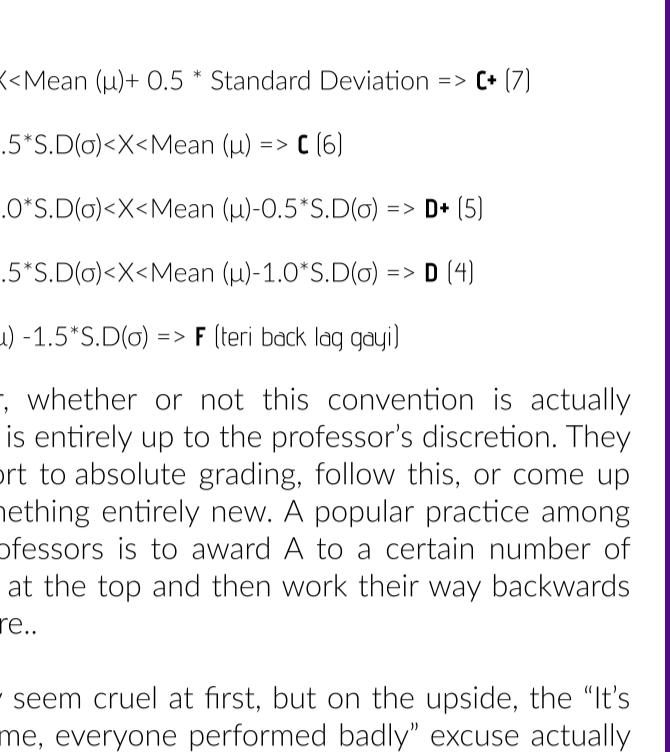
&lt;p

# ACADS-101

In the 4 or 5 long years of your stay in Roorkee, academics will undoubtedly act as the centre of gravity of your life. Though the power of the gravitational field varies from person to person, it acts as an innocuous motivation to attend the lectures (along with the 75% attendance rule). The academic structure in IITR, like its sister IITs, involves a credit based approach towards the ultimate CG calculation. There are many intricacies in this system, so we present a readable and not-so-boring intro to the Academic System. For lack of a better title, we christen it Acads-101.

## BRANCHES

Perhaps the first thing you'd like to know more about would be your branch. Knowing what courses your department offers, the scope of the field, what you can do in various other departments etc. will be pivotal information throughout your stay at IITR. We present to you, dear reader, a link to a painstakingly curated pdf file that serves as an introduction to all the branches:



## COURSES

You'd do well to accept a bitter truth as soon as you get here - school is over. We realise, of course, that everyone learns it the hard way. Your old, maybe even beloved subjects will now be replaced by more exciting and challenging (or in some cases, dull and horrifying) courses. Every department has numerous courses. They are classified on the basis of:

**Year:** The core courses of your department (exclusive to your branch) are in the order of increasing technicality and degree of intensiveness. Generally speaking, in the initial two years the courses aim to cover the breadth of all topics in your field. Later on, courses are designed to deepen your knowledge, and teach you the various intricacies of these topics.

At times you may feel like the courses being taught in class are irrelevant to the plans you have in mind for the future, or any possible plans whatsoever for that matter. The exact odds of you being right remain a controversy but believe us when we say, the courses may or may not be useless but the grades are surely not. Your CGPA is, figuratively speaking, the biggest number on your resume and is not to be taken (too) lightly. Familiarizing yourself with the grading system might be of help when planning out your assault plan as exams close in.

## CREDITS

In layman's terms, the credit of a course is its weight in comparison to other courses. To put it in a slightly more complicated manner, credits have something to do with your GPA. For example, a 4 credit course will have twice the bearing on your CGPA than a 2 credit one.

Suppose you got four A(10)s (each of which is for, say 4 credits) and one B+ (9) in the 5 courses of the semester and everybody wants your guts for breakfast, your S.G.P.A would be either 9.8 (if the 5th is for 4 credits) or 9.89 (if the 5th is for 2 credits).

The credit of each course depends upon its relevance to the student's branch, and on how much time would be spent procrastinating while studying the course during the end sems.

## BACKS



**Short attendance:**

Most courses require you to have an attendance of more than 75%, and regardless of what your professors say to you, it's always a good idea to maintain 75% attendance. If a student has less than 75% attendance by the end of the semester, he/she will have to repeat the course the next time it is offered. The departments usually release a list of defaulters one week before the end sems.

## Re-examination:

If a student is awarded an F grade in a course, they are deemed 'fail', and are required to give a re-examination for the same. This happens before the next semester begins and a student is awarded a maximum grade of 6.

## Academic Slow Pace Programme:

A student shall be put on academic probation by Dean Academics, after each semester to monitor their academic progress under one of the following conditions:

• Their SGPA becomes lesser than or equal to 4.00.

• Their SGPA is below that of the previous semester by two points or more (e.g. if you get a 7.5 in semester three, then in the next semester, you will be put on academic probation).

• The credits earned in the semester are less than 12.

• The grades of NSS/NSO/NCC are not considered for probation.

• If a student, but secures an SGPA <4.00 after the 75%.

the student will then be allowed to register for all courses but have sufficient next semester, if the student

to register for all courses but two in the next semester.

## MINORS

Your Major is your dedicated area of study and makes up most of your admitted to it when you joined the institute, unless of course, you manage to get a switcher after your first year. A switcher is basically you opting to take around 20 credits worth of courses from another year. A Minor may be handy if you plan to pursue a career that's far from your department to note that there are quite a few courses available.

It is considered fashionable to adorn your resume with tons of cleverly worded academic B.Tech projects, other than those rolled in a four-year course. For example, a 4 credit project in the first year of your second year. A Minor may be handy if you plan to pursue a career that's far from your department to note that there are quite a few courses available.

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# The INANE CAMPUS RULES

BY  
ADMINISTRATION OF IIT ROORKEE

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So you think only the highly intellectual can be eccentric?  
Check out the weird rules the administration has put up  
at IIT R.

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**01** Stepping on the main-building lawns is strictly prohibited (you might get shot at sight). There are exceptions of course; like if it's your convo, or during Cogni and Thomso, or when the guard is simply not looking your way.

**02** Climbing the famous 'chhats' of Badminton Court, MAC, BioTech Department are not allowed. You may fancy the water tanks too, but we have to warn you of the consequences that include, but are not limited to experiencing the force of gravity and the guard's stick.

**03** For some weird reason, attendance at NSO is taken more seriously than in the lectures. It is common to see students running for their NSO practice initially, are, in the later parts of the year, found running from practice.

**04** Whether or not you are a ghissu, it is an unsaid rule to share the legendary 'pattagobhi' before your exams, in order to pass with the bare minimum grade, if not flying colors. This holy cabbage shall be made available to those who ask for it, in the form of a WhatsApp sticker, GIF etc.

**05** There is no way you should attempt or even think about attempting your tutorials on your own. It might result in epileptic seizures, social ridicule or in the worst case, horrific grades.

**06** Sleeping in the library is prohibited. You'd think it obvious, but wait till you open a textbook or two in the library. The induced sleep can knock you out in seconds. The comfy-sofa section is under CCTV surveillance and is carefully patrolled by guards.

**07** DO NOT VISIT the IITR Confessions page.  
If you erroneously do so, do not write a confession on  
a. Yourself  
b. Watch Out!

**08** It is forbidden to distract mess workers by using old sweet coupons and smuggling extra ice-cream. Regardless, the extra sweets will only attract unwanted attention from your fellow peers.

**09** If you are out for a nice walk around the campus or running an errand and happen to pass by a 'spot' (commonly termed 'khopcha') and sense the presence of two individuals, you shall be expected to pretend that you have temporarily lost your senses of sight and hearing.

**10** Consumption of a certain particularly bitter liquid, in small, large or Patiala proportions, is strictly prohibited. If, however, you find yourself \*accidentally\* (since you're a harmless angel) under the \*mild\* influence of this bitter liquid, be sure to not text your ex, your parents and your profs. Letting your homies know how much you love them, though, is considered ritualistic and is expected without fail.

# RESEARCH

What you are doing when you don't know what you are doing

In R-land, research is given tremendous importance. Unlike our sister IITs, we do not believe in burning down laboratories as a part of an intensive, fascinating and passionate experiment - here, we trust in our labs to burn down themselves. Every once in a while, one hears reports of some guy in the CS department coming up with a conclusive proof that P does indeed equal NP. But there isn't much follow up to that and people invariably assume that the thermostat in the department might have stopped working again. One can also observe students of the Earth Sciences department late at night digging their own graves, or those with the chemistry lab, plucking flowers and playing with leaves for their 'experiments'.

The most path-breaking research, of course, happens in the Civil department. This is because most of their research tends to involve breaking down existing roads and laying them again, in the hope of finding that elusive X to Y ratio, where X and Y are two materials no one else in the institute has any idea about.

Regardless, students of this department can be frequently spotted in the campus carrying yellow tripod stands mounted on which is a camera, or as they prefer to call it, 'Ultra-high resolution wide-field LASER autofocus long-range theodolite with night-vision', and a measuring tape. They probably use these to measure something, though no one has ever bothered to stop and ask them what.

Regardless, we continue having tie-ups with leading corporate firms like IBM, Adobe, NVIDIA, TVS and several governmental and non-governmental organizations like the Ministry of Human Resource Development, CSIR, ISRO, National Science Foundation USA and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. There are various programmes by the government for promoting undergraduate research on campus.

You can read about them in the Research Intern Booklet

## SPARK FELLOWSHIP

IIT Roorkee invites applications for institute-funded SPARK fellowships for summer internships. The objective of this program is to provide research exposure to interested undergraduate students of IITR. It also aims to attract and nurture talented undergraduate students from other institutions. This program provides a weekly stipend and project-funded summer internship.

### Eligibility

Students currently enrolled and have completed at least two semesters of the undergraduate degree (B.Arch./B.E./ B.Tech./M.Sc) in a relevant discipline from any institute in India

Almost all major IIT's, IISER's and research institutes have their equivalent of SPARK

### Minimum Grade Requirements

CGPA > 7.5 for IITs/IISc.

CGPA > 8.0 for NITs/ IISERs/ NISER/IEST.

CGPA > 8.5 for students from other institutes.

### Stipend

Students selected for the program will get stipend of INR 2500/week.

- (i) Applications need to be submitted through an online portal where the applicants will upload their transcripts (marksheets), a photograph, a 500-word research statement, and resume.
- (ii) Applicants need to mention names of five faculty members of their choice from the list of faculty members interested in having a summer intern.
- (iii) The term of the summer training should not be less than 6 weeks.
- (iv) Students of IITR will be allowed to begin their summer internship immediately after the completion of the end-term examination.
- (v) Accommodation and mess facilities in the Bhawans, subject to payment of necessary charges at par with that paid by students living in hostels. The average cost of housing would be around INR 5500/month (including mess facility)
- (vi) At the successful completion of the internship, a certificate from the institute with the name of the intern and mentor, signed by Dean, SRIC, will be issued to all interns.

# Internships

Apart from being the lurking bogeyman of the campus, an internship is basically a stint you have with a company or an institute. It fetches you experience, helps you find what you want to do with your life, makes you realise what you absolutely DO NOT want to do with your life, but most importantly, fetches you points on your resume which leads to better internships and jobs and eventually you being independent and buying the Kinder Joy you always wanted but didn't have the guts as mom was nearby.

Research internships, broadly speaking, involve you working with a professor (and/or their students) on a project that gives you hands on experience in the field.

The only thing you can bank on about internships is that the campus comes to your aid in the first semester of your pre-final year, where, like placements (albeit at a smaller scale), companies come hiring - the process which is referred to as an 'on-campus intern'. The PIC comes to your rescue wearing a cape (which sadly people outside PIC are not capable of seeing) by flooding the Channel-i Noticeboard with profile announcements and debarment notices



Off-campus internships involve students applying for their preferred roles on their own. The application process for any internship inevitably involves some form of mailing, so do brush up on your mailing basics. Our favorite course for becoming a hardcore email expert- <https://www.universalclass.com/i/course/using-gmail-101.htm> ) while many also involve you seeking referrals from seniors, family members and even professors.

You can apply for these internships at any point of your existence regardless of your current semester, branch, year, or anything else for that matter. We have been privy to students cracking the prestigious GSoC, going for universities abroad (Like NUS, NTU) etc. right in their first year, while some bag those juicy high-paying internships without any prior experience. It all depends on the experience you want to gain and the time you want to spend away from your friends having fun at trips.

For those of you who dislike coding, here's a hard pill for you to swallow :

Almost no industry, or science, functions without coding in one form or another. Virtually all companies that grace our campus during this season, include a coding test amongst various other tests. Many final yearites realise this just as their seventh semester begins, and in a frenzied, maniacal hurry, learn as much as they can in the few months they get. We advise readers to learn from the countless people who've made this mistake, and urge everyone, without fail, to learn to code, in one form or another. The form will depend on the field you choose to make a career in.

# PLACEMENTS

Things change drastically when you enter the final year. Here, for the final year students, the months of October, November and December are a season- not winter though, they're called the placement season.



## The Placement Season

This season, among all the seasons of IITR, can be identified as the time of year when you start noticing the final year students heading towards the PIC building, dressed in borrowed suits, some looking dapper and some looking awkward enough to make you uncomfortable. Like winters in Roorkee, placements go on for a very long time. To state the obvious, placement and job availability are probably the only two things many JEE qualified students (that means you) consider before filling the form.

So the writers of this guide- instead of criticising the underlying drawbacks of our existing education system, herd mentality of people and ultimately the over population of our country - will enlighten you regarding the same. Right now you need to know about 4 things:

- 1) It begins and ends in your final year.
- 2) It is highly unpredictable.
- 3) Your CG, irrespective of the department, matters.
- 4) Your starting job (which you'll probably get after 4 (or 5) years from now) is not the thing you should be worried about right now.

The nature of companies who come to IITR for placements is quite diverse. We get software giants like Microsoft, Oracle and Google, investment banks like Goldman Sachs and J P Morgan, and numerous other firms who give decent jobs in the domain of software, product development, finance and the core sector of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

## Placement and Internship Cell

This is probably one of the most mysterious places of IITR where unsuspecting students find themselves at the end of their stay, dressed in, as already mentioned, uncomfortable borrowed suits. Serving as a looming reminder of the placement season, it is located in front of the Convocation Hall. On the outset, it looks like a usual innocent and not-diabolical building: with walls, windows and doors. However, horror awaits the seniors inside as they are grilled on questions about science, technology and business, and then offered two pens: a red one and a blue one. Regardless of which one they pick, they're ultimately rejected on grounds of having a below par GPA, or sometimes simply their branch

# SPORTS

Fortunately (or unfortunately?), the sports culture at IIT Roorkee does not bear even the slightest resemblance to any of the Matrix movies. There is, however, a lot to look forward to if you're an avid sportsperson or a slightly overenthusiastic no-gooder at sports.

The campus offers a plethora of sports that one can choose from. Between national staples like cricket and football, to less appreciated but beautiful sports like hockey, badminton, lawn tennis, table tennis, weightlifting, basketball, volleyball, swimming and track and field events - there is a lot to choose from once you're on campus.

Usually, the only way one can get regular practice is by joining NSO, and make no mistake, it's pretty tough to get in. But it's okay if you didn't make it through, you'll still have plenty of opportunities to pursue your favourite sport. The ultimate goal of every sports-person here at R land is to represent the Institute at the Inter IIT Sports Meet, which happens sometime in December (more on this under Fests), so if you try hard enough, you might just get through.

Even if you're someone who's been planning to go to the gym, but have been putting it off because you were 'too busy preparing for the JEE', we've got you covered too. The campus has a central gym, apart from a gym in every bhawan (It is our responsibility to warn you about possible shoulder dislocations, fractures and sprains that may be caused due to using the vintage equipments in the Bhawan gyms) . Usually, these gyms are full of pretentious people who spend more time flexing than actually working out, but there's always room for more.

## Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium



LBS is accredited as our institute's only helipad-cum-athletic track-cum-cricket field-cum-jogging track. An old folk-tale at IITR speaks of distraught, sleepy, and sweaty aliens gracing this ground early in the morning, running around in perfect circles. It is believed that IITR continues to host a spot for extraterrestrial communication - one of the only ones in the world (there are 2 more that we won't tell you about). The folk tale calls these aliens 'NSO Proficiency Holders'. Nobody has confirmed this yet, since the humans of R-Land have usually just slipped into blissful oblivion, just as the sun begins to rise.

## Olympic-sized Swimming Pool



In case you don't know how to swim, you can skip this part. The strict pool timings for beginners and the need to make an admittance card from the council makes it quite unworthy of the effort. The rest of you just need to know two things about the pool: It's big and it's out of use for the better part of the year (thanks to the everlasting winter/rainy season in R land).

## Football and Hockey Fields



Two separate fields are dedicated to these two sports. We don't have much to say about either, as these are not very different from regular fields. But since we need to fill this space with something interesting, here's a fun fact: India does not have any national sport. Hockey being it, is just a widely circulated myth.

## Institute Gym

The gym is the second most underutilized place in IITR, right after the Ravindra Mess Lounge. It is well equipped with the latest body conditioning contraptions, and is open to anyone who is fond of loud music and motivational videos from Sultan and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. The gym is most occupied at the beginning of every fresh semester. Gradually as days pass and motivation levels drop like the charts of a Sallu Bhai movie, the people continuing to go to the gym usually end up being one of two kinds: those who form part of the weightlifting team of IITR or those who wish to be a part of it.



The sports facilities also include courts for basketball, lawn tennis, squash, badminton, table tennis, volleyball etc. There is also a rowing club somewhere in the woods near the Solani Aqueduct. It's something that is unique about IITR but given that we are mentioning it in the end, you can assume that its current state is not exactly great, not many know of its existence, and if at all people use this facility is a mystery we haven't cracked, like the one about the aliens of LBS.

# Campus POLITICS

For thousands of years, the warlords of the galaxies far-far away have fought innumerable, ruthless battles. Sparks have flown, tears have been shed and natives have perished in the dark space. All of this for the Iron Throne of the Students' Affairs Council (SAC) of the R-land cosmic space. It is said that the Iron Throne was studded with a thousand light-sabers before being reluctantly replaced by a revolving chair due to multiple posterior problems reported by the delegates involved. The ultimate doctrine (which is something as imaginary as this guide) declares IITR to be a democratic institute. Here students have as much say as the administration when it comes to campus affairs, which of course translates to very little. While discussions and debates pertaining to what to do with the freshly allocated funds (hint: do anything except build a new girls' hostel).

The Student Affairs Council (SAC) is the body that represents student community in the senate. It consists of student representatives at the bhawan level as well as the insti level. Every R-land citizen who has an enrollment number (except international students and Saharanpur campus students) in R-Land gets to vote in the SAC elections. The exact structure and functioning of the Senate, the SAC and numerous other student councils and committees is quite complicated. If you want to read further, check out our article on the same ([link](#)).

After a long and violent history of intense political campaigns and several electoral reforms, the mega election extravaganza is scheduled to be held each year in the Spring Semester. As the atmosphere starts to get politically charged, introductions are made, affiliations are expressed, 'pacts' are signed and chapos are given. One may even get a glimpse of the people that are contesting, through 'Electoral' debates where you get to enjoy free cartoned drinks if you obey the decorum of the house .

Like it or hate it, it's almost impossible to be indifferent towards poly season. Seniors try their best to act like godfathers to their corresponding juniors and encourage them to vote for their own mates. As swarms of perfect strangers start moving from door to door, screaming out their manifestos, boasting about their internships, their promises ranging from slightly laughable to excessively outrageous. R is perhaps unique in this respect among all its sister IITs. While many of them have student representatives in their senate; very few have participation and enthusiasm on this grand a scale.



# Hostel Life

All fresh-boys reside in Rajendra Bhawan(RJB) and fresh-girls in Sarojini Bhawan(SB). Some RJB residents enjoy the exquisite pleasure of single rooms thanks to a 100% purely randomised room allotment algorithm. No such luck for SB residents.

Bhawans come with most of the basic amenities one may need in day to day life. In the first few days, you may find yourself a tad bit annoyed by the seemingly endless queues outside the mess and showers but rest assured that these are known to dissipate in a week or two as more and more people lose interest in baths, food and other everyday activities that were considered essential back at home.

Every bhawan and even different parts of a bhawan come with their own set of nuances and eccentricities.

A bathroom that you share with the 50 people that live in the same row as you, along with a dog or two if you're lucky. And to say nothing about the spiders and lizards...

A mess that serves... food...

A laundry guy that knocks on your door twice a week and can be counted on as a reliable alarm. There's also a laundry room that requires you to provide your own detergent but is quite a popular alternative among people who find the laundry guy's early morning timings to be inconvenient.

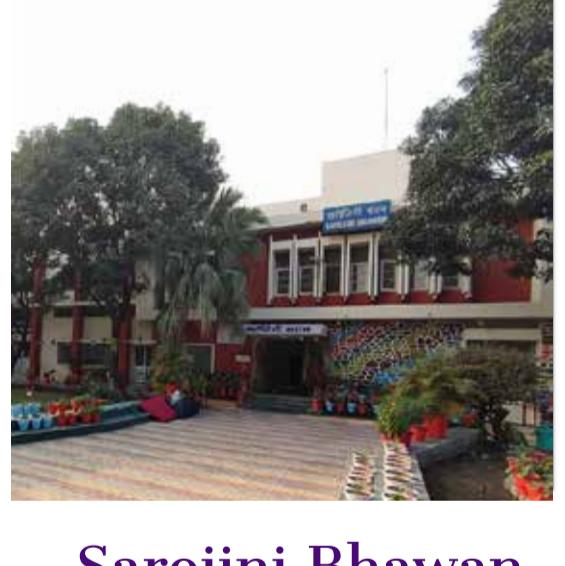
A number of open spaces in case you ever feel like catching fresh air or are unfortunate enough to be the victim of a GPL too grand to be contained within the hostel corridors.

A Gym for evening work-out sessions, whatever your reasons for that may be.

There's also an allegedly ungodly fast LAN connection in every room, perfect for multiplayer showdowns and movie nights arranged on a whim.



## Rajendra Bhawan



## Sarojini Bhawan

Sarojini Bhawan has 4 blocks, though not as commonly referred to as in RJB. The only exception is Alaknanda, more popularly called the triangle. It harbours the lost souls that have been separated from the rest of their Bhawanmates.

The mess in Sarojini Bhawan is more than what your male counterparts can boast of- many may find it likeable (at least in the beginning) and most would at least visit it once during the day for dessert.

The fruit stall will be your tummy-saviour for all those/ most of the days when you'll wake up right after the mess closes for breakfast.

The beauty parlour will be your go-to place to fulfill all your 'feminine desires'.

The second floor residents are blessed with a balcony, and the ground floor ones have the lawns as venues for chilling out and sunbathing in the winters. The first floor ones, sadly, have to choose and migrate.

The TV/Cyber/Reading room will be the libraries for those who are too lazy to go to MGCL for the exams and for those who need an AC to survive the harsh Roorkee summers.

Bathrooms on every corner of every floor, cleaned twice a day. A stationery shop - your life saviour for all the last-minute graphs, practical files and other necessities like soap. The laundry room, as in RJB and a press-wali auntie.

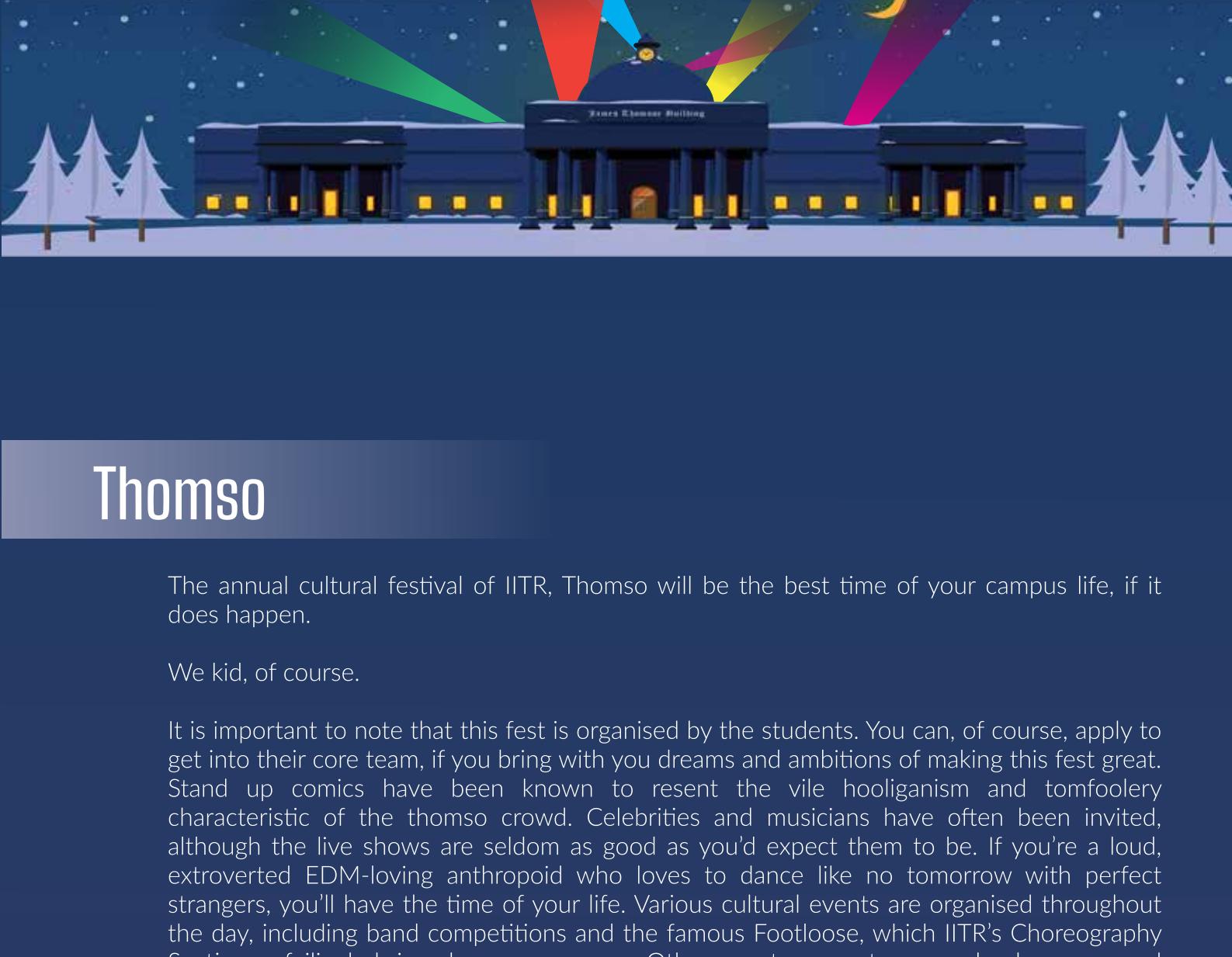
A Gym.

The PhD Quarters in SB must be entered cautiously. Whispering loudly in front of the rooms of PhD students may fetch you an earful, or even a bucketful of water thrown at you.

A Hostel, or Bhawan as they are fondly referred to here in R-land, is much more than the tangible amenities it has to offer. It's a lifestyle. So enjoy it while you can. The movie nights, bakar sessions and late night stoner talks. Who knows, your wingmates might turn out to be the siblings you never knew you needed.

# Fests

During your stay at R, the months of October and March will be a haze, a blur. For some of us, this is true quite literally. These months are remarkable in that they have a lot of things to look forward to. October heralds Convocation and Thomso, while March brings with it Sangram, Srishti, and Cognizance. Here, we give you a brief glimpse of what to expect from these and other such fests.



## Thomso

The annual cultural festival of IITR, Thomso will be the best time of your campus life, if it does happen.

We kid, of course.

It is important to note that this fest is organised by the students. You can, of course, apply to get into their core team, if you bring with you dreams and ambitions of making this fest great. Stand up comics have been known to resent the vile hooliganism and tomfoolery characteristic of the thomso crowd. Celebrities and musicians have often been invited, although the live shows are seldom as good as you'd expect them to be. If you're a loud, extroverted EDM-loving anthropoid who loves to dance like no tomorrow with perfect strangers, you'll have the time of your life. Various cultural events are organised throughout the day, including band competitions and the famous Footloose, which IITR's Choreography Section unfailingly brings home every year. Other events are not so popular, however, and are known to have very less participation, especially from IITR. A lot of people who come from other institutes are usually not interested in the competitions they've arrived for - but for the charm and magic of visiting an IIT.

## NSS Social Summit

Social Summit kicks off the trinity of fests in the spring semester. It is the socio-technical fest organized by NSS. It is replete with multiple events like panel discussions, case studies and guest lectures, underlining the message of social conscience.

If you are a faccha in NSS, you will be hounded by your seniors to attend the aforementioned guest lectures and panel discussions, with the ever-looming issues of attendance over your head.

## Cognizance

Cognizance, being the 2nd largest technical festival of Asia (like every other IIT's techfest), is the favorite imagined reality Roorkee likes to believe in. Cognizance takes place in the Spring semester: just after the curse of the midterms vanishes from the lives of people. It shares its core fundamentals with Thomso - it is fuelled by hard-working students, invites eminent personalities from all over the world for guest lectures, workshops and stage-shows pertaining to the world of technology.

For both Thomso and Cogni, a modest structure of hierarchy exists while working. A typical freshman involved/pretending-to-be involved in the work can be identified by the following:

1. Begging his facebook friends to like the Cogni page.
2. Putting up posters in Bhawans.
3. Undying devotion for any kind of Chapo from a senior.

A burning question that might plague a ponderous mind is "How do I choose which fest is my true calling and where do I invest my money in buying its giant banner to cuddle up and fall asleep with?".

## Sangram

The official sports fest of IITR, Sangram offers the sports fraternity of IITR a reason to keep their spirits up after the Inter-IIT season ends. High spirited matches are marked by intense jeering and inventive name calling from the abundant IITR crowd, granting you the illusory sense of accomplishment for having done your part for the campus. It sees a healthy turnout from many north Indian colleges, IITs included, and is utilized to give freshmen some much needed game time. Needless to say, regularity a month or two before the fest can land you a spot in one of the B teams and maybe give you your sattar minute of fame.

## Shrishti

Shrishti is the annual exhibition held in the SAC, wherein all sections of the Hobbies Club (now Technical Council) showcase their works. It takes place in March and is part of the holy trinity of fests of the Spring Semester - along with Cogni and Sangram. Workshops, art exhibitions, talks and some live actions from robots and models are some of the main features of Shrishti. One can also enjoy some quirky pictures being taken by the Photography Section with the hilarious props made by the Fine Arts Section.

## Inter IIT Events

The month of December sees all 23 IITs gather to compete in an array of events split under 3 verticals - tech, cult and sports - each hosted by a separate IIT. Selection, training and participation are handled by the appropriate section. In the wake of IITs popping up in every nook and corner of the country, these tournaments are getting bigger and better in terms of number of events, quality of judges and overall competitiveness.

Pro-Tip : While recruitments by all campus groups are officially conducted in the spring, another round of pre-recruitments is held in the fall, specifically for inter-IITs. Appearing for these rounds, irrespective of whether or not you intend to actually participate in the Inter-IITs, goes a long way in securing permanent recruitment into the respective groups.

You also get a special set of clothes and jackets to show off.

The grandfather of the Inter IITs, the Sports Meet is over 50 years old. The events are split into an Aquatics meet and everything else. NSO kids duked it out to make it first to the summer camps and then the winter camps (with boiled chicken and curated meals) to stand a shot at being selected to the final contingent. Burly, sweaty kids from all over the country then shove around for the championship.

The youngest of the three, the Cultural Meet is a much needed addition. It comes as a refreshing and necessary slap on the face for those who stereotype IITians as awkward nerds, incapable of performing well in any other field. The performing sections spend months preparing for the same, and the Cultural Meet reaches a grand crescendo towards the end of December, ultimately culminating in 3 days of amazing performances, some of which could put professionals to shame. With the events increasing and diversifying each year, all IITs are prompted to form groups that deal with those categories. The power gap between the more established and newer IITs is gradually decreasing.

All events that don't fit in either of the above categories get thrown here. Events here include Biz Quizzes, Financial Case Studies, Hardware Modelling and Robotics etc. As is opposed to the Cult Meet, the Tech Meet rarely fail to amaze and stupefy, not only by the students, but by the administration of all the participating IITs as well.

## Cult Meet

# LINGO

**CHAPO** (n.) Traditionally meaning chai-pakoda, this term has been now reduced to mean party or treat, or code for 'I want to be your friend but don't have a reason to hang out with you. Can we meet?"

"Hey Meenakshi! What about your birthday chapo?"

"No."

**GHISSU** (n.) The kind of person you would like to be (deep, deep down), but can't. Those who can are therefore subjected to social ridicule. Characterised by high GPA and (generally) absent social life.

"What! Abhijeet got a grace mark from sir because of his regularity and attention in class and managed to clear his backlog? That ghissu!"

**BAKAR** (n.) Gossip in general. Accounts for 96.69420% of all activity inside hostels.

"Kuch productive karte hai yaar. Kabse bakar kaat rahe hai."

**CHAPAI/CHAPNA** (v.) Copying (especially assignments). A term heavily used the night before submissions of any kind.

"Tut de be, chapna hai"

**Bakchodi** (v.) Gossip which lead to no logical conclusion. Or in general, gossip which has no logic whatsoever.

"Bhai kya bakchodi pel raha hai?"

**MACHA DIYA** (v.) The term people use when somebody opens a tightly closed bottle in IIT-R, or does anything of equal value.

"Hey, you finally downloaded new bhajans from DC++. Macha diya!"

**MAAL** (n.) Fresh plant leaves with medicinal value. Some immediate effects include stress relief, heightened perception and a generally positive outlook towards life. Long term effects include attendance backs, year backs, expulsion etc.

"Bahaut tension ho rahi hai bhai. Thoda maal milega?"

**CHAGGI** (n.) A person whose CG is 6.something. They can be characterised by a light-minded approach towards life and (thereafter) tensed expressions during placements.

Similarly we have satti, atthi, nehli and dassi.

"Bhai tera paper hi toh chepa tha. Teri atthi lagi aur meri chaggi?"

**GAAON** (n.) Area where Rajendra, Cautley and Ganga bhawans are located. This area is far from main campus area and is generally recognised by a simple lifestyle and zero interference with major campus affairs.

"Yeh gaaon mera hai aur main is gaaon kaa Bajirao Singham." - Bittu bhaiya

# Campus Facilities

Roorkee's campus is serene and graceful. One notices the lush greenery of the campus the instant one sets foot inside. One notices remarkable products of human activity too. Our campus is perhaps unique, in that its architecture is archaic - reminiscent of a time when the nation was in turmoil. You'll need to be well acquainted with a lot of old and new products of civil engineering inside the campus, and here we mention a few essentials.

## Institute Hospital



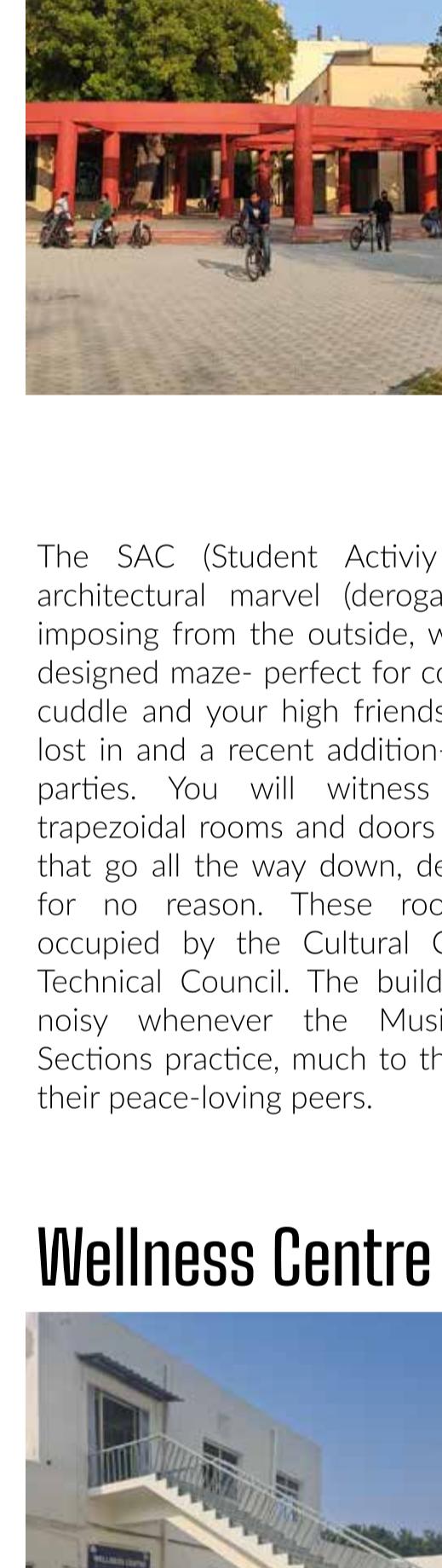
Institute hospital of IIT Roorkee is a 50 bedded hospital that offers OPD, IPD, Laboratory, X-ray and ECG services to faculty, staff and students. The hospital functions from 8AM to 12:30PM and from 4PM to 6PM. It also provides emergency services 24\*7. At least one medical officer is always available to treat emergency cases. e- Medical Booklets have been introduced that can be used to access prescriptions, medical history, records of medicines etc.

## MGCL



The Mahatma Gandhi Central Library is a three-storeyed air conditioned building that houses more than 3.5 lakh books and more than 20k e-books. It's one of the most peaceful places you could find inside the campus except during exams as the place piles up with a large number of last minute learners. Its timings are from 8am to 12 midnight on normal days and all around the clock during exams. However, to cater to the needs of the highly determined, the reading room of the library remains open 24/7.

## Main Building



This quadrangle building is the administrative block of the campus that holds the offices of the Director and Deans. It functions on all working days from 9am to 5pm. The well maintained lush-green lawn and its surrounding area in front of this building is the place that gets non-weed smokers of the campus high. The security guards are pretty insecure about the lawn, in that they restrict students from stepping on the grass, for they believe the lawn might spill out all those highly confidential 3AM intimate talks of the regular visitors. 9 out of 10 students are likely to mark 'The Main Building' as their most favorite place in the campus - the tenth student being that unlucky chap who gets wet while trying to cross the road, as the sprinklers rain all over the place. The existence of this architectural marvel has also been proved to come in handy when designers of various groups run out of ideas.

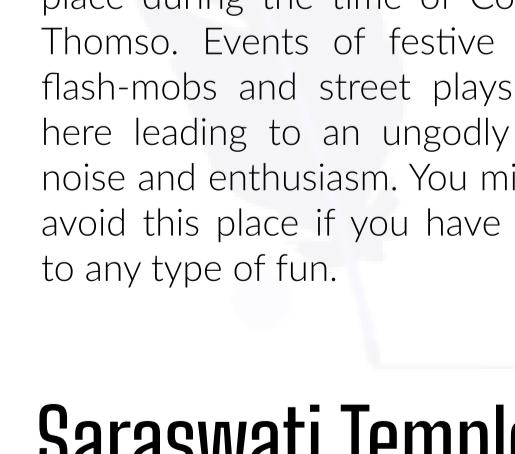
The Lecture Hall Complex, a three-storeyed building, is conveniently located near the Central Library so as to reduce the time taken by highly ambitious junta of R-land to commute, right after their classes. Lectures of non-departmental courses and most of the tutorials take place at these satisfactorily designed, air conditioned halls that turn out to be too comfortable for us muggle-borns to concentrate. Exceptions similar to Lily Evans and Hermione Granger are unavoidable amongst the R-crowd - as is the case with any other.

**FUN FACT:** We are lucky enough to have two LHCs: The old LHC, which houses a large board bearing the words 'New Lecture Hall Complex' and the New LHC. For the sake of simplicity and sanity of the readers, we shall refer to them as the Gargi Block and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Block of the LHC respectively.



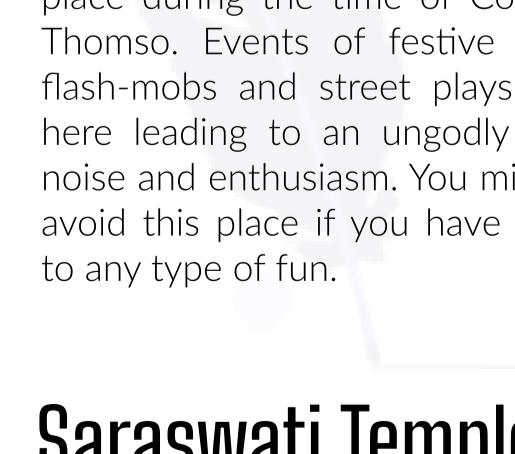
## LHC

## Wellness Centre



Upon inauguration, the MAC (Multi Activity Centre) was intended to be the melting pot of cultural activities in IITR. This latest addition to gaon's imposing skyline, houses a lush, air-conditioned auditorium, rooms for indoor games, eateries, and a clumsily built open air theatre. Here, you will also find a CCD, an Amul parlour, the Utopia Cafe, and shops catering to various requirements like groceries and computer repairs. All of these places are subsidised, and the food is pretty good for what it costs.

## The Church



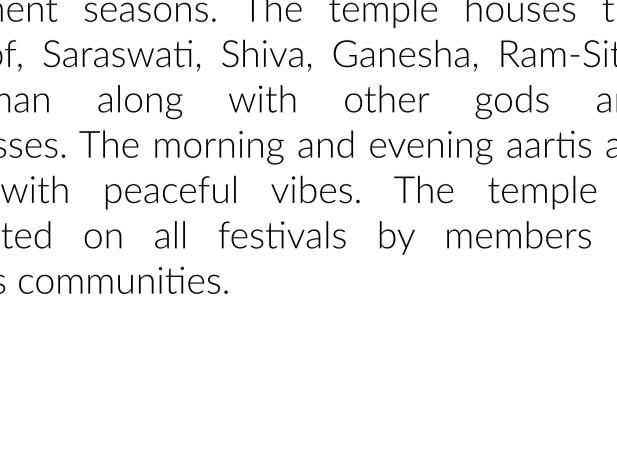
Mental health is at least as important, arguably even more important, than physical health, and the Institute realises this and lays a lot of emphasis on working towards the psychological well-being of students. One can also chat or have a telephonic conversation with a counselor if one prefers that. The wellness centre also organises talks on various issues and conducts activities for UG and PG students to increase bonding.

## Saraswati Temple



A building probably as old as the college itself, this place will greet you with the colonial era architecture of Roorkee. Although the church itself is open on Sundays only, you can sit in the gardens of the church, and enjoy the sun on a cold winter afternoon. Be sure to visit this place on Christmas, as it is beautifully decorated. If you are lucky, you may get to hear some Christmas carols and also be offered some decadent brownies and cookies.

## Students' Club



to serve as an answer to questions like the  
city, we shall also make an attempt to cover the  
already established that IITR is big. No, not spa-  
ce. But we are big enough. What this means  
is of land to serve as vast green spaces (stepp-  
es) for construction projects.

A collage of various food items including a sandwich, a milkshake, a cupcake, a lollipop, a cookie, and a bowl of cereal, all with a large red slash through them, indicating they are not recommended.

the closest thing people  
and sambhar are decent  
the place and talk to Ram

Chai Su

Frustrated by the sweet gossip to share over a

Group of friends looking for a place to hang out after school? Chai-Sutta Bar is your go-to place. Even though it is named Chai-sutta, variety of chais is all they need to get you high. A very affordable snacking option for junta, this place offers some nice garlic bread and fried momos.

A collage of various ice cream and dessert illustrations, including cones, sundaes, and cakes, in shades of purple and pink.

A collage of various food and drink icons, including cupcakes, ice cream cones, donuts, cakes, and coffee cups, set against a light gray background. The icons are rendered in a purple line-art style.

one of the few places in roork  
are a bit dicey, but is, regardless

Food Point, near Shatabdi Dvar, is where you'll find the gym folks flock to for their protein every evening. Even though the food is very hit or miss most of the times, it's a general pocket-friendly option for any spontaneous chicken cravings.

# Burger Com

Burger Company is an alternative for when you are repulsed by the usual cheeseburgers in your canteens. While it may not be as pocket friendly as a fast food joint, it sure makes up for it with a large variety of burgers, shakes, fries and other sides. It is one of the few places in Roorkee for waffles, which are to die for.

South Indian Dosas. It is the place to worry about the final price. It is at home.

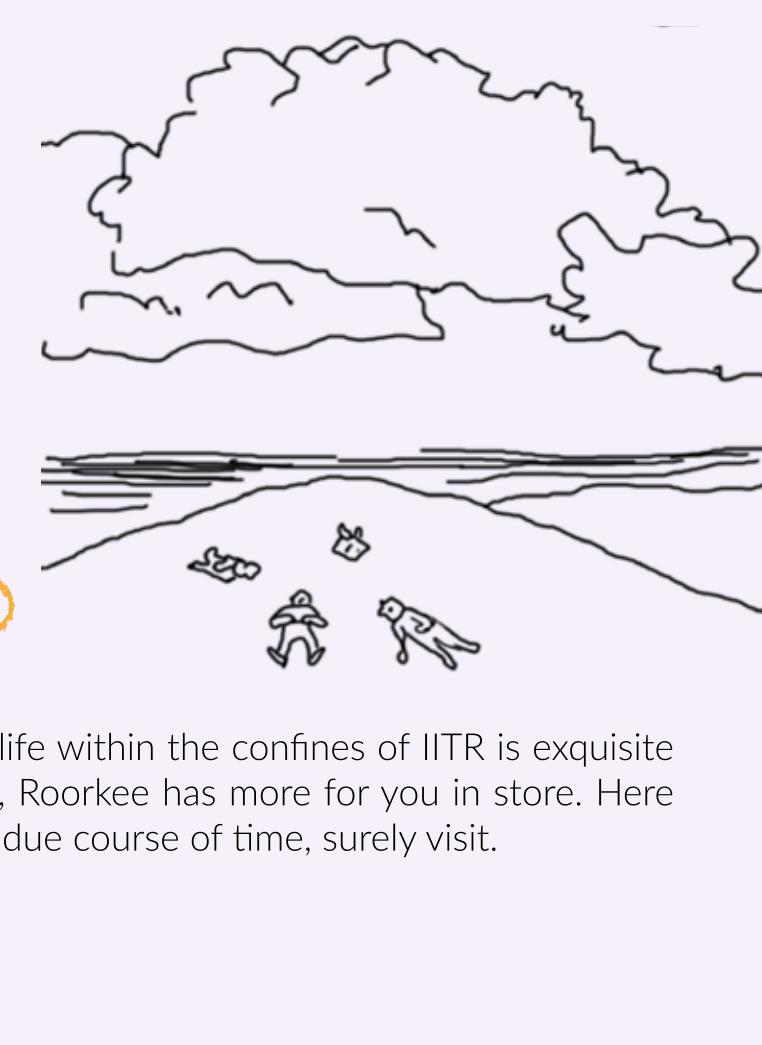
Unlike its sister restaurants- CCD and Amul, Utopia, located on the 2nd floor of the M Activity Centre is open till 11 PM and is the perfect place in campus to get dosas wh satiate your hunger. Utopia offers Chinese, Continental and South Indian Cuisines and is perfect place to gossip with your friends while munching and also ensuring that it doesn't l your pockets too much. They also offers a variety of coolers, which we would not recommend you to try.

If you are looking  
of Multi Activity C  
your academic sti  
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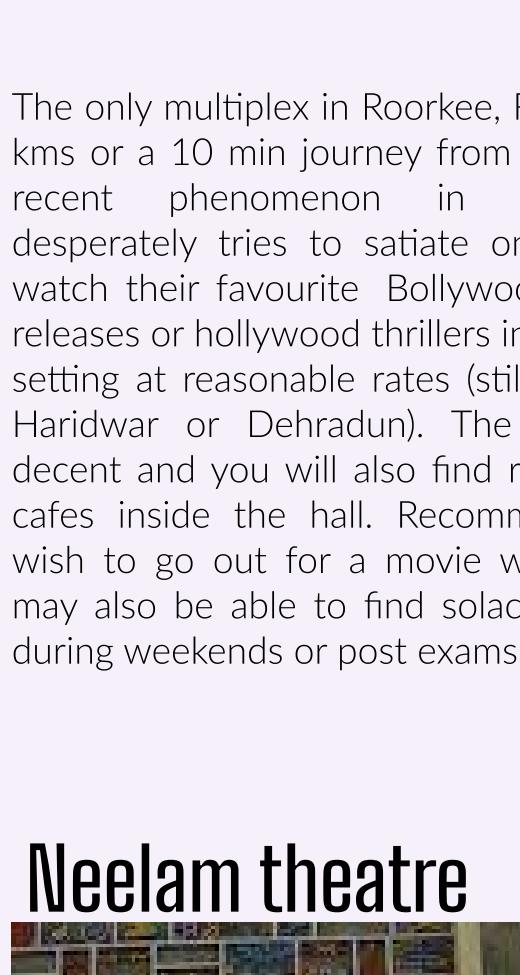
**Tamar**  
If you want  
of campus,

# Places of interest

(outside campus)



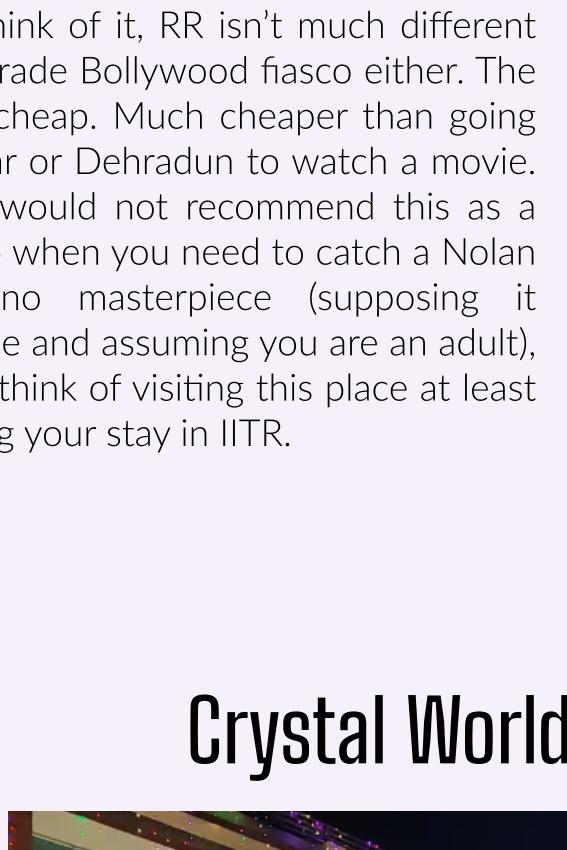
We hope we have established by now that life within the confines of IITR is exquisite and suffocating at the same time. However, Roorkee has more for you in store. Here are a few places outside campus you will, in due course of time, surely visit.



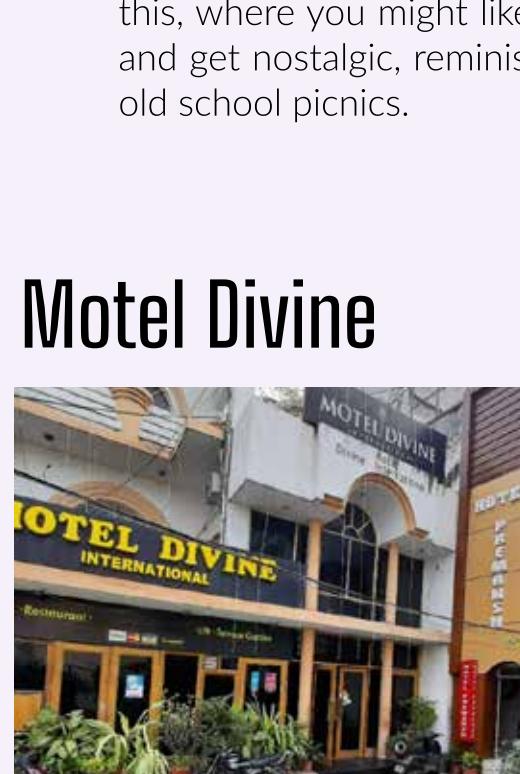
## The Canal and Solani Aqueduct

Although everyone signs the undertaking form which promises that they won't be going anywhere near the canal or aqueduct (barring those who registered online), there's hardly any undergrad who hasn't visited it once. The aqueduct is a marvel of civil engineering. Located approximately 2 kms from the Century Gate, the place is worth the pain of waking up in the morning for sunrise after pulling an all-nighter. The sound of the gushing river is serene and peaceful. A wonderful place to get away from life, this spot is also known to sport quite a few exotic birds.

The only multiplex in Roorkee, RR is about 4.5 kms or a 10 min journey from the campus. A recent phenomenon in Roorkee, RR desperately tries to satiate one's desires to watch their favourite Bollywood actors' new releases or hollywood thrillers in a comfortable setting at reasonable rates (still cheaper than Haridwar or Dehradun). The 3D-quality is decent and you will also find restaurants and cafes inside the hall. Recommended if you wish to go out for a movie with peers. You may also be able to find solace in this place during weekends or post exams.



## Neelam theatre



About 800m from the campus, there exists the only \*cinema hall\* inside Roorkee. It usually screens B-grade Bollywood movies, whose names can put even Kanti Shah (of Fauji Fauj Mein, Padosi Mauj Mein and Gunda fame) to start looking for a place to hide his embarrassed face. There are exceptions to this rule, of course. But then come to think of it, RR isn't much different from a B-grade Bollywood fiasco either. The theatre is cheap. Much cheaper than going to Haridwar or Dehradun to watch a movie. While we would not recommend this as a place to go when you need to catch a Nolan or Tarantino masterpiece (supposing it showed one and assuming you are an adult), you might think of visiting this place at least once during your stay in IITR.

A fairly recent addition to Roorkee's getaway destinations, Crystal World used to be for those of you unholy, promiscuous, spiteful scoundrels who lust after KFC's Chicken before they arrived at Roorkee. The place is basically a large, expensive food court with big names like Gelato and Keventers. This is for those of you rich numbskulls who are too posh to grace our very own Spice Club. There is also a functional water park right next to this, where you might like to pay a visit and get nostalgic, reminiscing the good old school picnics.



## Crystal World

Riya Elizabeth John

## Motel Divine

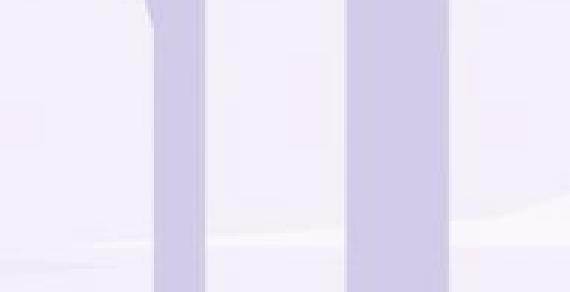


Ah, the (in)famous Motel Divine. You will get acquainted with this place as soon as your Freshers' Parties and Intro Chapos begin. Loud Punjabi music and EDM is the name of the game here, as the junta manically headbangs to Manali Trance and gets drunk on Pineapple Raita.

Certain other members of R, have a different and deeper connection with the same. Often called the green dungeons, members of Roorkee have been known to find refuge in the well that never dries (until 11 PM). Considered holy, this part of Motel Divine is often a spiritual journey. Readers will soon find out about this same.

As mentioned in the FAQs, this is the one stop-shop for all your daily needs. The Student's Store, in particular, is one of the few places every student at R goes to. For the brave ones reading this, you'll find some great street-side food here too. Located right outside Shatabdi Dwar (Century Gate for those of the New World), shops here include bookshops, medical stores, general stores, poster printing stores etc. You shall never have to go anywhere else as far as daily needs are concerned.

## Civil Lines



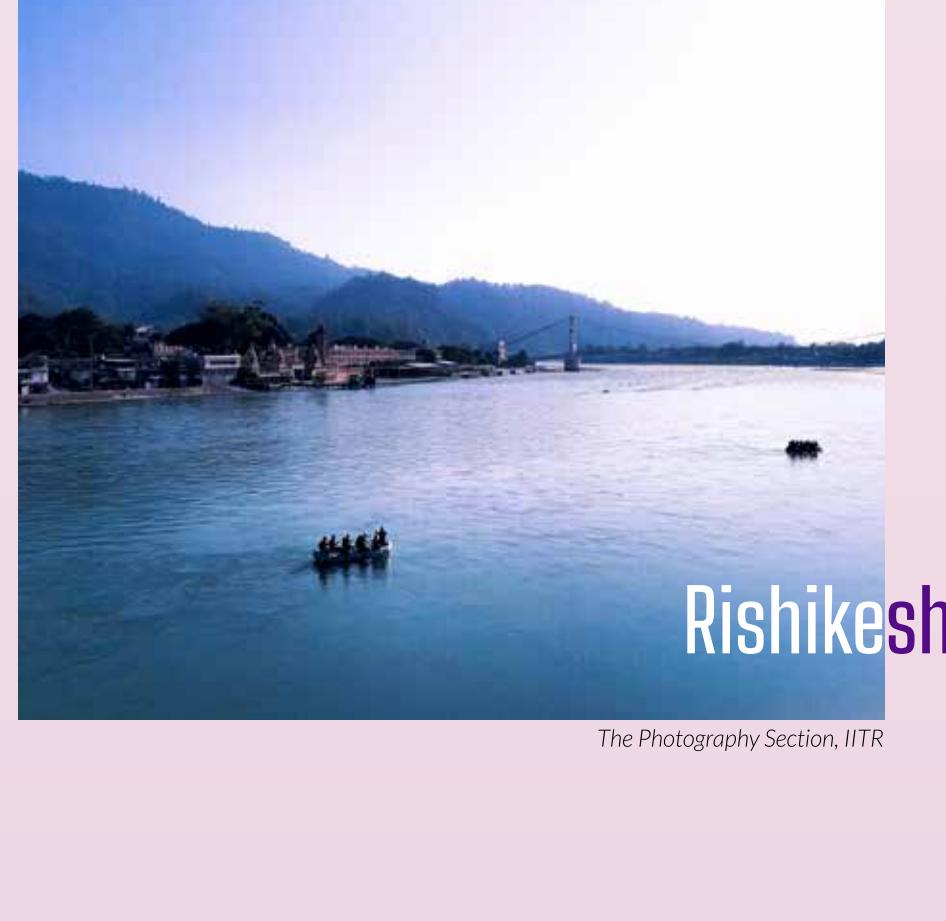
# Off Campus Tourism

For all that's been said about the places on campus and within Roorkee itself, life can get a little monotonous. So what does one do if one has a couple of days free, and wants to get away from an annoying roommate? Luckily, Roorkee is surrounded by places that you can visit on a shoestring budget.



Haridwar

When one thinks of Haridwar, images of the sunrise, high-as-a-kite babas and people praying come to mind. However, it is not the same for a resident of R. You might want to visit Haridwar with your friends if plans of camping under the clear starry skies, and sharing stories with your friends while one of you gently strums a guitar in the background sound appealing to you. The next good thing you could do is go for a small hike to the Mansadevi temple while watching the sun come up enroute (this is obviously not for you if your roommate switches off your alarm for you). Apart from this, many often flock to Haridwar to watch movies and chill with their buddies.



*The Photography Section, IITR*



Dehradun is about 2 hours away from the campus and that's where you go to watch famous movies on the first day if nearby theatres are full, or shop at a mall, or enjoy tasty food at lavish restaurants. Apart from this, Robber's Cave is a popular picnicking, hiking and wading spot to be visited. Dehradun also serves as a starting point for many small bike trips to places like Mussoorie, Kanatal or Dhanaulti. One of the major benefits of being at the foothills of the Himalayas is that one could also go on treks to rejuvenate themselves. The 'Himalayan Explorer Club' or HEC is a students' club solely serving this purpose.

# Forget all about the pressure of days

This quiet park is located a little discreetly. A left turn near Cafe Coffee Day takes you into the professors' living quarters. The buildings are conveniently placed around a beautiful little park with a few swings and slides and a lot of open area. A few benches adorn the edges - great spots for introspection. Evenings find the park busy with kids, but after dark, this place is perfect for an hour of peace and solitude if the guards do not shoo you away.

A quiet walk alone in the dark, with only the chirping of crickets to keep you company. The smell of eucalyptus leaves and jasmine flowers reminiscent of a time and place you left behind, the voice of Thom Yorke bleeding out your anguish. A lonely little pupper crosses your path and you stop to pet him. You decide to sit there by the side of the road for a while and let the tide of emotions roll over you. Life is easy for no one, and we all need a place to get away.

Here are a few places in Roorkee (not restricted to the campus) that you can wander off to, and hide from the pressure of days :

## The Professor's Square



Vansh Mehra



Vidhi Khosla

One of the first places you will visit once you arrive at Roorkee, will be Civil Lines - the one stop shop for all your daily needs. The straight road once you step out of Century Gate, is lined on both sides with shops that cater to your every need. This shopping boulevard eventually leads you to the Ganga Canal. We'd be fools to not mention that this place can be a densely populated, sweaty mess that melts all souls into one dehydrated monster. Darkness to the rescue. The ever flowing river can lead you down multiple memory lanes, not to mention the tear jerking reflection of the moon. The soft gushing of the river can soothe even the darkest soul, as can the slight breeze on your face, reminiscent of a forgotten caress. Come here to reminisce and to feel insignificant.

It won't be long before people lead you to the brilliant CBRI canteen. Great Paranthas make for some great dinner table conversation if you don't mind the half-hour wait. However one must venture even further inside to find the cinematically perfect roads that take you into a different world altogether. Music sounds holistic for the first time- the leaves and flowers dancing and hollering their poignant yet beautiful stories. Each colour hits a different note, fireflies appear and fade away in perfect tempo, and a world of colour and sound blends into one grand wave of emotion that stops time and punches the wind out of you.

## Ganga Canal



The best places to get away from life are not the ones other people tell you about. These places are not too hard to find, yet they can mean different things to different people. The most niche and lonely places, though, will always be the places you find on one of your 3 AM solitary adventures. Which brings us to the best getaway : the 3 AM campus walk. Make sure you experience the brilliance of this campus late at night too.

Be sure to check out some **memoirs** our beautiful seniors wrote, fondly reminiscing about their time spent here.

# From the author

Here you are, having bravely and successfully (hopefully) made it through the 60 odd pages of humongous information. Here you are, at the end of our Freshman Guide. **We apologise**, but we'd like to go back to what we started with - life at IIT-R is not always easy, not in the least, and for some of you, it can prove to be some of the most painful 4 years of your lives. Some of you, by the time your course ends, might even wish for it to end sooner - a thought that is not entirely alien to us. Between all the aforementioned wonderfulness and niceness of Roorkee, these contemplations do peep their head out from the crevices. And we would be remiss to not address this.

To begin with, we hope all of you take this guide with a pinch of salt. We come with our own faults and idiosyncrasies, that we are well aware of, and the whole of the guide (at least for the most part), was written in good humour. We hope that all readers understand this, and devour the guide in the same vein as it was written.

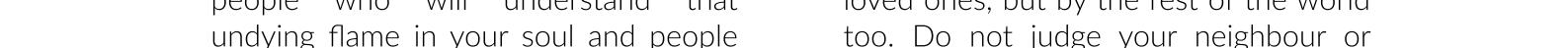
The authors of this guide are not ignorant of the human condition, nor do they attempt to discredit or belittle it. We purposely try to paint a rosy picture of R-Land - you definitely don't need us to paint a dark, brooding picture of Roorkee, for chances are you'll be familiar with it after a couple of years of your time here. At this point however, we'd like to dive headfirst into it. And we'd like to give you a satisfactory reason as to why we choose to focus only on the positives.

The writers perfectly understand the nature of the various predicaments you

might find yourselves in during your short and eventful stay here at Roorkee. You might find yourself to be completely inferior to all your colleagues in the field you thought you'd excel in; you might be in a position where you'd want to change your field of study, but can't, owing to family pressure or need for immediate capital: you might find yourself entangled in an unfortunate love triangle, or you might turn out to be the victim of unrequited love, a love that shakes your very soul and shatters your self-esteem; or you might be depressed for a shit-load of many other reasons, reasons that we do not claim to understand in the least. Yet, we assure you that you're not alone. Not only have the authors individually gone through what has been previously mentioned, but we have also gone through innumerable other levels of personal hell, and some of us still find ourselves centered at the eye of the storm.

"How can you possibly understand what I'm going through? You're not me, you never will be, and your words fall on unhearing ears! Can you be possibly so dense, so foolish, that you would assume that the fact that others go through similar feelings, can possibly hush or extinguish the eternal flame in my heart? In my soul? Can anyone possibly deny my isolation, my loneliness?"

The very fact that we can frame your questions in this way is testimony to the fact that we probably know a bit about all of this. In any case, even if we don't get you completely, that's still no reason to not reach out to us, or to anyone for that matter.



While we may have the resources to pen down and publish our feelings that resonate with you, we assure you (based on our personal experiences), that many more such humans do inhabit Roorkee - people who will understand that undying flame in your soul and people who possess the power to quench it. Many of you may often resort to isolating yourselves, in the hope that something may come of it, since it is these 'external' humans who are causing you all these problems. However, as the Russian philosopher, psychologist and author Fyodor Dostoevsky would agree, the true joy in living is to be only found in living as a human, amongst other human beings, and capable of loving the ones surrounding you. For true unhappiness and insurmountable grief is experienced only by those who cease to love, and we're certain that those of you reading this haven't reached such an unfortunate stage. There is always hope for a revival, even though it might seem that the specificity of your problems renders them incomprehensible to anyone who asks 'How are you doing?'.

It is true nobody can possibly understand or empathise with your exact condition. Your involvement in an unfortunate love triangle can't possibly be reduced to Bollywood nonsense. You may have gone through an incredible amount of suffering before ending up in the position you find yourself in. And so we tell you - don't let anyone tell you that your suffering is a joke.

Time and time again though, we have found that such stifling and bridling emotions often give birth to a more kind and profound human being. At the end of it all, compassion is what drives us as a species, and trust us when we say that a few kind words to someone who is a bit suffering might go a long way in making things a bit easier for them.

We urge and request you to not be

embittered and disheartened by feelings of incompetence, inadequacy, and loneliness. As long as you can love, you are human, and as long as you're human, you're needed by not just your loved ones, but by the rest of the world too. Do not judge your neighbour or your batchmate based on how he judges you or others, for he may himself be going through his own personal hell, and it is not for any of us to denounce anyone else.

We hope you understand why we painted such a positive picture of IITR. We hope this guide makes you aware of how Roorkee is filled to the brim with things to explore, to fight for, cry over, compete in hopes of and if life sometimes doesn't work out exactly the way you want it to, to not abhor the pain, but to move on forward. We hope it gives you as many (and much more) reasons to live joyfully, as life gives you reasons to live bitterly and unhappily. We urge you to contact any of us and any others you know in case you're feeling particularly down, but we emphasise once again: while the soul may never heal, the heart does become bountiful and all-loving, and in this renewed man, one can live a life previously unknown and impossible, and such a life is indeed beautiful and profound.

This guide has been brought to you by Watch Out! If you liked reading this - you can check out the rest of the stuff we do at our website. We would love to hear back from you. So feel free to give us feedback. Even if it is just to send us a smiley, please do! You have no idea how much it would mean to us. You really wouldn't want to know either.

Welcome to R-Land, we may not know you personally, but we do (for the most part) love you.

Cheers.