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Watch Out!

the official media body of IITR

Presents



The Ultimate **FRESHMAN'S GUIDE**

To IIT Roorkee

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DON'T PANIC



01.

We're not going to lie. 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 showers 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 he has 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. It contains contributions from countless B. Techs, M. Techs, PhDs, Professors and Directors.

Even though Watch Out! I 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 1993 when a slithering reptile was observed in Covidind Bhawan.

However, Watch Out! I 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, dear reader, are experiencing vivid hallucinations which involve faint visions of this guide. And slowly but steadily, these words are taking shape exactly the way you want them to take shape. 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.

Nevertheless, this guide shall be the ultimate authority over any matter legal, financial, or otherwise pertaining to the equitable distribution of bun-samosa inside the campus, from now till infinity.

So let's dive into it.

INTRODUCTION

IITR is big. Not as big as you might have thought. But it's big enough to deter you from attending boring lectures at 8am. Nay, lectures in general. 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 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 rubished 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 1845. It was the time when speaking in a British accent did not make you effeminate 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 tubedown 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 a role in maintenance of the Ganges canal, construction of dam 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 and Pyramids of Giza. The number of pictures people upload on their facebook profiles during their foreign internships every year substantiate this rumor.



*BTW, it does not snows in Roorkee

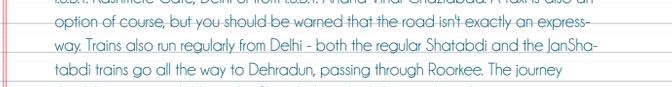
This guidebook aims at presenting an almost unbiased, unadulterated and unprejudiced picture of IITR to the incoming fresher. You can use this guidebook as follows:

- 1. Read through all the chapters one by one.
- 2. As a reference.
- 3. As an icebreaker in parties when trying to chat with the opposite sex.

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.

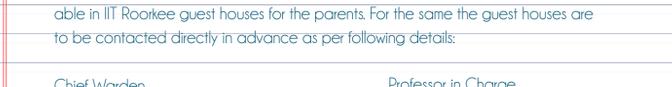


03.

FAQ's

Q. Let's start, oddly enough, from the beginning. How do I get to Roorkee?

Ans. 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 from 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 Ghaziabad. A taxi is also an option of course, but you should be warned that the road isn't exactly an express-way. 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.



Q. What about once I reach? Will there be accommodation for my parents and me?

Ans. The hostel room is made available to the students on their arrival. However accompanying parents have to make their own stay arrangements and the parents 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 as per following details:

Chief Warden	Professor in Charge
Khosla International House	N.C. Nigam Guest House
IIT Roorkee	IIT Roorkee
Telephone No. 01332-284100	Telephone No. 01332-286749; 286750

Heavy rush of parents is expected during the period Feb, 2021 and hence the parents are advised either to avoid this period to visit the campus or make the arrangements in advance in hotels in the city or in the nearby towns before their arrival.

Q. Yeah, speaking of hostels, which one will I get? How is allocation done?

Ans. All first-year B.Tech and B.Arch students are given rooms in Rajendra Bhawan. (I'm talking about boys, of course, the girls are allotted rooms in Sarojini Bhawan). After a year, the boys will be transferred to one of the many other bhawans, while the girls shift to the Kasturba Bhawan. Most rooms in the first year will be on twin sharing basis, though some of you may get a single seater. This allocation is done based on the AIR Rank in JEE Advanced. Don't worry though - everyone gets their own room after the first year. Sorry girls, you'll have to wait for a year more than the guys. Check out the piece Hostel Life in this guide is you wish to know more.

Q. What will be there in my hostel room? What should I bring?

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

Q. Alright, pricks, let me ask you this : what do I not bring?

Ans. "Did you get that? He's not that dumb after all." That is the first good question you've asked us. 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.

You're probably inclined to think of Roorkee as an icy cold land - the place lies at the foothills of the Himalayas after all. 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. If you're thinking of bringing 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. Pack light though. Oh and as you're probably aware by now, Roorkee has no fancy places to dress up for. We have a piece on Places of Interest, a few pages ahead in this Guide. However, if you're planning on charming the populace with your extravagant clothes - think again. That is not to say, we don't have parties, but more on that later.

Most importantly though, don't bring along a ginormous and rigid sense of pride, or in other words, an ego. This campus may fail to educate you, may fail to make you happy and may fail to give you any sense of direction in life - but it will not fail to humble you. Whatever you think you're good at - you'll find people who do it better. You'll find prodigies, hard-workers and geniuses all around you. Nothing to be afraid of though. If you're willing to learn, this campus will not fail to educate.

Q. How about registration? What items need to be brought and what are the procedures?

Ans. As far as registration is concerned, you need to bring whatever is specified in your offer letter. All those forms need to be filled up. Once you come here, there'll be a day of "Orientation" when you'll be introduced to the department. The next day, you'll have registration. This will involve opening an account at a bank, and your subject and hostel registration. Once this is done, you'll be issued an Identity card (keep it carefully, it is your identification on campus for at least 4 years!) Congratulations! You're now a student at IIT-R!

Q. Wait a minute! What about the banks? Give me some details!

Ans. Okay, there are 2 major banks on campus: Punjab National Bank and State Bank of India. You have to open an account with one or the other. They both have ATMs on campus. To see the locations of the ATMs you should check out the institute maps and also the details of the facilities here. With your account you'll also get online banking and ATM cards.

Q. Will there be any other formalities afterwards for registration?

Ans. There will be, a little later, an online registration for which a notice will be put up. That's a simple process which you'll be guided through.

Q. What's the campus like? How's the campus life?

Ans. What are you, a poet? Anyway, the campus is lush green, calm and serene and is well maintained throughout the year. Campus life here is sure to have you involved in many things at all points of time. Overall personality development is given a lot of importance, and student groups are extremely active here. Everything that happens in the campus has student participation behind it. In other words, it's your campus, have fun! All the pieces in this guide, attempt to tell you everything we think a fresher should know about Roorkee. We urge you to go through it all!

Q. What about the recreational and sports facilities?

Ans. We have excellent sports facilities here at IIT-R. Well-maintained stadiums and courts for each and every sport are available. Cricket, football, basketball, athletics - you name it. We have a Students' Club dedicated to recreation, which has table tennis, Billiards, Snooker, Pool and Foosball tables, a lounge, and so on. For more information, read the piece Sports in this guide.

Q. How about other extra-curricular activities?

Ans. Like I said, everything on campus is run by the students. You could be a part of news and literary magazines if you've a flair for writing. If you happen to know the capital of Bolivia, join the Literary Section of the Cultural Society and quiz with like-minded people(?). Or if you fancy singing, or flailing your arms as though they were independent of your body, well, you guessed it, sections exist for that, too. If none of these strike you as your can of coke, don't worry, you'll always find something for yourself here.

Q. Will I have net connectivity in my room?

Ans. All the hostels are Wi-Fi connected, that is, wireless internet permeates your space (putting it dramatically). Apart from that you have the institute Computer Centre and Bhawan Computer Centres. You'll also be connected by Wireless LANs, to other computers in your hostel, through WiFi

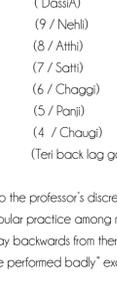
Q. What's the climate like?

Ans. You'll see a continental, read extreme, climate. This means that it starts getting cold in about November.

Q. What, that's it??? I still have questions!

Ans. Unfortunately, we're running out of time. But do mail us to have your questions answered. The mail us page will tell you our ids.

ACADEMICS



04.

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 without bothering you with too many details, we present a readable and not-so-boring intro to the Academic System. For lack of a better title, we christen it ACAD-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 etcetera 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.

- <http://watchoutitracin/2019/06/guide-to-branches>
- <http://watchoutitracin/2018/06/architecture-at-iitr-roorkee>

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, may be 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.

Type: There are many courses that are made compulsory for all branches. These are more common in the first year, and are usually general courses that everyone must complete. These include courses like 'Advanced Engineering Mathematics', 'Environmental Sciences', 'Ethics' etcetera. These compulsory courses generally aim to shape you as a more well-rounded, informed and responsible human being. They terribly fail in doing so. You will also encounter Elective Courses, but more on that in a minute.

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 CGPA 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. Loosely translated to 'kodi' in Hindi, the term makes for some very catchy phrases which you shall witness in the future.

Relative Grading

The world of IITR is governed by the laws of a) physics and b) relative grading. However, only one of these sets is invariant and reliable enough to bet on. Relative grading is basically the education equivalent of second century gladiator fights, and is one of the most esoteric traits to grace the IITR academia. Instead of being pitted against the syllabus as you're used to, you now also have to fight it out with your classmates - you are judged and graded based on how you perform in comparison to everyone else who took the course with you. The general formula for calculating grades according to this system, goes something like this:

The mean and standard deviation is computed for the marks of the entire class and grades are awarded accordingly.

$X > \text{Mean}(\mu) + 1.5 * \text{Standard Deviation} =>$	(DassiA)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) + 1 * \text{SD} < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) + 1.5 * \text{Standard Deviation} =>$	(9 / Nehli)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) + 0.5 * \text{SD} < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) + 1.0 * \text{Standard Deviation} =>$	(8 / Athli)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) + 0.5 * \text{Standard Deviation} =>$	(7 / Satti)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) - 0.5 * \text{SD}(\sigma) < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) =>$	(6 / Chaggi)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) - 1.0 * \text{SD}(\sigma) < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) - 0.5 * \text{SD}(\sigma) =>$	(5 / Panji)
$\text{Mean}(\mu) - 1.5 * \text{SD}(\sigma) < X < \text{Mean}(\mu) - 1.0 * \text{SD}(\sigma) =>$	(4 / Chaugi)
$X < \text{Mean}(\mu) =>$	(Teri back lag gayi)

However, whether or not this convention is actually followed is entirely up to the professor's discretion. They may resort to absolute grading, follow this, or come up with something entirely new. A popular practice among many professors is to award A to a certain number of students at the top and then work their way backwards from there. This may seem cruel at first, but on the upside, the "It's not just me, everyone performed badly" excuse actually makes sense now.

GPA

GPA or Grade Point Average is a rating that is used to judge your academic performance. You are given a grade in each course after completion. You multiply the grades' values with the corresponding courses' credit and add all of them up. Now you divide it by the sum of credits, and you get your grade point average.

If you do it for one semester, it is called your SCGA or SG.

If you do it for your entire lifespan at IITR (until the moment you get reminded about your CGPA by an enthusiastic faculty), it is called your CGPA.

Whatever your immediate seniors may claim, your CG is one of the things that sticks onto your resume for the initial years. Vital for foreign internships, research prospects and fat paychecks, ; the authors of this guide would recommend that you keep more than just an eye on it.

Electives

In the off chance you find your departmental courses too easy to incite any stress or anxiety, the institute also allows students to opt for electives in each semester starting from the third. These are optional courses including those from departments other than your own. In addition to facilitating holistic learning and familiarization with other departments.

Elective courses can be anything from film appreciation to quantum computing, giving you total control over 2-3 credits of your program each semester. They are roughly divided into two basic categories viz. Humanities, Social Sciences and Management Courses (HSSMEC) and Open Elective Courses (OEC). You also have Department Electives. Here, you get to choose between various specialisations in tandem with your field of study. These become excessively important in your final year.

End term exams

The months of November and April witness the migration of hoards of clueless students from Georgia and SBCBC (Shree Balaji Courtley Bhawan Cafe – a social adhesive of sorts) to the murky corridors of MGCL (Mahatma Gandhi Central Library). Derelict books are dusted off Gigabytes of study material change hands. Chissus are stalked for their impeccable notes. This time is characterised by many symptoms, which include sleep deprivation, prolonged pointless hours on facebook and reddit, excessive yearning for food (which requires you to leave your table) and an unavoidable lust for funny youtube videos. The authors of this guide have often found brilliant articles, videos, movies and music during these unholy months.

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 secures 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 grade lower than what they would have been awarded normally.

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 SCGA becomes lesser than or equal to 4.00.
- Their SCGA is below that of the previous semester by two points or more (eg. if you get a 7.5 in your third semester, followed by a 5.0 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 the same.

If a student secures an SCGA <4.00 after the first semester, but has sufficient attendance (ie >75%), the student will then be allowed to register for all courses but one in the next semester. If the student does not have sufficient attendance, they're allowed to register for all courses but two in the next semester.

Branch Change

So maybe your JEE rank landed you in Biotech, but while your professor raves on about enzymes and cell membranes, you dream of towering scrapers and the intricacies involved in the design and construction of such modern marvels. Maybe you find the diesel engines in your mechanical department a tad bit too noisy or maybe you just hold a mild resentment towards your classmates... whatever be your reasons for wanting a new branch, prepare to play the Game of Grades.

The rules are subject to frequent changes. Last year the applicants could fill in only upto a maximum of 3 branches of their choice. Also, there is no special reservation of seats associated with branch change. Your grades are your only saving grace in this rat-race for the holy grail of the academic world at IITR - ghissus shall be pitted against each other, blood shall be shed, and the victorious ones shall emerge from the ashes, to (maybe) step into a better world. In addition, only 10% of the total seats of any branch are open for the incoming branch changers, not to mention that the strength of any branch should not fall down by more than 25% due to the outgoing BCs. The rules also (obviously) disallow a potential BC from failing any course, and from committing any acts of indiscipline. Oh, and if you're a B/Arch student, sorry, but you're not eligible.



A well-meaning senior in action

Of course, while better paydays, better company and pure pension for a trade are all sensible and powerful incentives, the real challenge is to say no to the late night bakar sessions over chai in the canteen and resist binge-watching that trending drama series on Netflix your roommate has been feverishly raving about.

Such epithets are not earned easily. So battle it out against your peers, renounce your worldly pleasures, maybe miss out on a few chapos in order to get branded as the infamous "BC".

*Any resemblance that this acronym bears with that of a rather infamous Hindi swear word is born to be nothing more than an innocuous coincidence.

For further reading, Check out | <http://watchoullitracin/2019/08/branch-change>

Minors

Your Major is your dedicated area of study and makes up most of your coursework. It's the branch you were admitted to when you joined the institute, unless of course, you manage to get a switcharoo after your first semester. A minor is basically you opting to take around 20 credits worth of courses from another discipline at the end of your second year in order to have an extra clause in your degree that says you have a "minor specialization in X", X being whatever your second love happens to be.

A Minor may be handy if you plan to pursue a career that is core to a department other than yours.

Departmental Honours

Departmental honours is pretty similar to a minor, except you have to choose courses from your own department's electives to meet the 18 credit quota. Also requires you to have a C.GPA of more than 7.5 at the end of your 5th semester. An honours implies a higher level of familiarization with your core curriculum and is quite beneficial if you plan to pursue something along those lines.

Audit

Audits are another 8 credits worth of courses one can take up in their third year. Unlike most other courses however, you are not graded for these, save a binary Pass-Fail quotient. Regardless, all other rules like attendance requirements and such still hold as they would for any other course. Although it may seem pointless at first, these courses can still be used to grace your resume.

Special Classification

Social strata in Planet R can be taxonomically divided into 2 kingdoms - Chissus and non-Chissus. Further phyla include productive and non-productive Chissus. Non-Chissus thrive on the top rung of the social ladder, and Chissus triumph academically. The Chissus account for 50% of the occupancy of MGCL on normal non-exam days. The other 50% is made up of young couples looking for a quiet corner to canoe.

Projects

It is considered fashionable to adorn your resume with tons of cleverly worded academic projects, other than the compulsory B.Tech project one is required to do in one's final year. Besides being a niche resume point, a project also allows one to specialise in a topic, only to realise ultimately that research is not everyone's cup of tea.

Along with projects from their home departments, students often take up projects from the Department of Management Studies in fields such as Finance, Marketing, Supply Chain Management and the whole shebang. To be gifted with the dubious honour of working on a project, one needs to diligently follow the given procedure -

- Knock on a professor's office and try to convince him/her that you are absolutely the one he needs to work with, and that you definitely won't abandon his project halfway.
- Fail and repeat Step 1.

The campus also provides a provision for a foreign BTR details of which can be found in the UG Academic Booklet.

Semester Exchange

As the name suggests, this is when you opt - and are selected - for an exchange semester. You get to spend the semester in universities and institutes across the world - but only those that are associated with IITR (the ones with MOUs). Not only does this add charm to your resume and increase your eventual paycheck (or better your chances of landing at a good university as a researcher, if you're that way inclined), a semester abroad is also an incredible opportunity to travel and experience life previously not privy to you. Such experiences are known to expand your intellectual horizons by making you aware and receptive of a plethora of cultures, careers, opinions, cuisines etc. Be sure to aim for it. Here we briefly summarise the guidelines regarding the same :

(1) Transfer of credits earned by the students from institutions is permitted, subject to approval of DAPC, HOD and Dean, Academic Affairs.

(4) The credits earned in other institute will be considered for awarding the degree.

(5) The maximum permissible limit for transfer of credits will be 24.

(6) The subjects and grades earned will be indicated in the consolidated grade sheet/transcripts with the remark that the grades have been awarded by the host institution.

(7) Credits earned and grades will not be considered towards calculation of SCGA/CCPA.

(8) Grades earned in host institutions will not be considered for any award/prize of the Institute.

Scholarships

James thomson Scholarship

James thomson facilitates students with an All India Rank under 300 in JEE Advanced, found exclusively in the Computer Science department, to avail an amount of 25,000/- every month, provided they manage to maintain a CGPA of more than 8.0 at the end of each academic year (Which may be a bit harder than you imagine).

Aditya Birla Scholarship

Aditya Birla Scholarship is available to the top 20 students (JEE Rank-wise) in the institute. The selection process for this highly coveted scholarship involves a multi-step procedure including write-ups, interviews and a felicitation ceremony to say nothing of the free flight to Mumbai. ABS scholars receive a sum of 1,00,000/- annually. But the true merit of this scholarship lies in the networking opportunities it offers with one of the biggest conglomerates in India.

Merit-cum-Means Scholarship

Inspire is offered exclusively to students enrolled in basic science streams aka Integrated MSc courses with a 4 digit JEE AIR or less. Eligible candidates may avail 80000/- every year. Not to mention, Inspire is also quite a valuable epithet and is a crucial requisite for Inspire Fellowship, one of the major grants offered to research scholars in India.

Awards

Excellence Award from IITR Heritage foundation:

The IITR alumni of USA founded the Heritage foundation in 2007. The Excellence awards are awarded keeping in mind academic, co-curricular and extracurricular achievements. The amount offered though is not fixed, being entirely dependent on the donation pool for the year.

IITR Encore Awards:

Encore is an endowment fund established by the batch of 1989. The fund itself was established in 2014 marking the 25th anniversary of their graduation from the institute.

The awards are divided into two categories:

Merit-cum-means: 4-6 awards worth Rs.30,000 awarded to 2nd year undergrads for all round excellence.

All-round Excellence: 2-3 awards worth Rs.50,000 awarded to 4th year undergrads for academics, sports, arts, social service and overall leadership.

Directors Gold Medal:

The Directors Gold Medal is awarded at the time of convocation to the student with the highest CGPA across the institute at the end of their program.

Tarachand Scholarship:

Tara Chand Kanti Devi Cash Prizes of Rs. 25000/- to the student scoring highest C.GPA in B.Tech Civil 3rd Year

Rai Bahadur Khushi Ram Sud & Smt. Durga Devi Sud Memorial Cash Prize:

Rai Bahadur Khushi Ram Sud & Smt. Durga Devi Sud Memorial Cash Prize of Rs. 5000/- for obtaining highest CGPA in B.Tech. (Civil), II Year class

Lt. Gen. Ram Adhar Loomba Cash Prize (F):

Lt. Gen. Ram Adhar Loomba Cash Prize of Rs. 5000/- for the student who obtains highest CGPA in B.Tech. (Civil) III Year (among female students)

Kaustubh Roy Memorial Cash Prize:

Kaustubh Roy Memorial Cash Prize of Rs. 6000/- for obtaining highest CGPA up to B. Tech. Mech.Engg. III year

Rai Singh Jain Cash Prize(F):

Rai Singh Jain Cash Prize of Rs. 3000/- for the girl student obtaining highest CGPA in B.Tech. (CSE/E&C/Elect.) III and IIIrd Year

Rai Singh Jain & Mrs. Shakuntla Devi Jain Cash Prize :

Rai Singh Jain & Mrs. Shakuntla Devi Jain Cash Prize of Rs. 3000/- for the student (Male or Female) obtaining highest CGPA in B.Tech (CSE/E&C/Elect.) III and IIIrd Year

Prof. P.Mukhopadhyay Cash Prize :

Prof. P.Mukhopadhyay Cash Prize of Rs. 2000/- for obtaining highest CGPA in B.Tech. (Elect.) III year

Shri Raghuraj Behari Mathur Cash Prize :

Shri Raghuraj Behari Mathur Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- for a male and a female student who have obtained highest CGPA amongst male and female students respectively in B. Tech. Civil I year

Gauri Shanker – Malli Prize:

Gauri Shanker – Malli Prize of Rs. 10,000/- for the student who obtains highest CGPA in B.Tech. (Civil) III Year.

Air Cnadr Shyam Chand Mehra :

Air Cnadr Shyam Chand Mehra Scholarship* of Rs. 10,000/- to girl students of B.Tech Ist,II and IIIrd year for obtaining highest CGPA in B.Tech. Electrical Engg in their respective batches.

"1988 Batch Award" Cash Award:

"1988 Batch Award" Cash Award of Rs. 12000/- to a student of all UG Programmes in Engineering for each year respectively on the basis of Academics Performance of Autumn Semester

EC-72 Batch" Cash Award:

EC-72 Batch" Cash Award of Rs. 10,000/- for the student of 3rd year B.Tech. (E & CE) based upon performance of the student up to 2nd year.

Ajit Singh Yadav Memorial Proficiency Prize:

Ajit Singh Yadav Memorial Proficiency Prize" the First Cash Prize of Rs. 25000/- and the Second Cash Prize of Rs. 15000/- to a student (Male/Female) of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering Deptt. 4th year on the basis of weightage upto 75% having highest CGPA upto 3rd year in MIED and 25% (1) Introduction to Environmental Studies (CE) (2) Ethics & Self Awareness(HSS) and (3) Engineering Analysis & Design (ME) and (4) Principles of Industrial Engineering (ME).

Nayyar Award for Excellence in Communication:

Nayyar Award three prizes of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 20,000 for students in 3rd, 4th and 5th years of UG/IDD courses and all students of PG courses are eligible.

Manoj Jain Awards for Human Values:

Manoj Jain Awards of Rs. 50,000/- plus Shield & certificate of Final years students of B. Tech., B/Arch and Dual degree engineering Bachelor course students. (Male and Female).

Bhagwan Devatma Award for Excellence in Social Service :

Award will consist of Rs. 20,000 Cash Prize, a Certificate and a Gold-plated Medal. The award will be given to the student during third year of his/her studies.

Sh. Pandit Shiv Dayal Singh Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Service:

Award will consist of Rs. 20,000 Cash Prize, a Certificate and a Gold-plated Medal. The award will be given to the student during third year of his/her studies.

For further information, click [here](#)



Online Semester

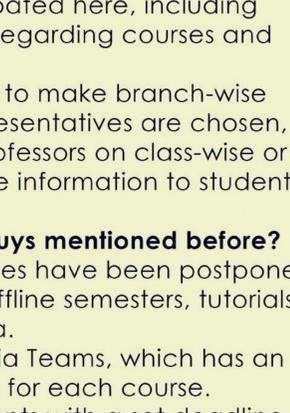
Well, who knew that one guy eating a bat would put us in this situation.

Sadly, your first semester on campus is (for now anyway) online. So, instead of attending classes in the LHC, you'll be soon making acquaintances with virtual entities like Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex and good ol' Google Meet.

Now, you're probably wondering how those fabled lectures of IIT R will be conducted - and what the new experience will be like. Our professors use different softwares to teach us- we've listed and described some of them here.

Microsoft Teams, is the default platform that helps you keep track of not only your courses but also assignments and resources related to the course. Other platforms like Cisco Webex and Google Meet might also be used- based on the preferences of the professor.

*This statement may or may not reference an actual event
Lecture Hall Complex*



FAQs

What are the requirements for online classes?

All you need is a good internet connection and a device (with a webcam) that can run the necessary programs - Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex, Google Meet etc. We also recommend a pair of earphones/headphones that come with microphones. Be prepared for eight hour sessions, and the exhaustion that follows.

How will I communicate with the professors?

On registration, each student receives an institute email ID which serves as the primary mode of communication between students and the institute. Many important notices are floated here, including but not limited to information regarding courses and classes.

Aside from mail, students tend to make branch-wise WhatsApp groups, where representatives are chosen, who maintain contact with professors on class-wise or batch-wise levels and relay the information to students.

What about the tutorials you guys mentioned before?

While practicals for most courses have been postponed to the (hopefully) upcoming offline semesters, tutorials still continue to haunt the junta.

Tutorials are also conducted via Teams, which has an integrated assignment feature for each course. Professors or TAs give assignments with a set deadline. One must solve the assignment within that deadline. Submissions are made usually by scanned PDFs of written solutions. Do not, at any costs, forget to hand in your assignment once your submission is uploaded.

How can I study outside of lectures?

Feeling brave, are we? Professors usually provide study material to students via mail or via class representatives. You will also be given electronic access to the Central Library for other references. Some lectures can also be accessed via NPTEL, a digital platform where courses from various IITs are available.

INANE CAMPUS



05.

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

- Stepping on the main-building lawns is strictly prohibited. You might get shot at sight or worse, be exorcised to two and a half hours of Gunda. There are exceptions of course; like if it's your convo, or during Cogni and Thoms.
- Conversing/Looking at/Walking with the females in front of KB or SB is banned. The concerned security guards never fail to make situations awkward either.
- For some weird reason, attendance at NSO is taken more seriously than in the lectures. No wonder students running for their NSO practice initially, are, in the later parts of the year, found running from practice.
- But attendance in lectures is important too. You can see the administration putting out short attendance notices, sometimes after the exam has been conducted.
- 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.
- Sleeping in the library is prohibited. You'd think it's obvious, but wait till you find a section or two in the library. The induced sleep can knock you out in seconds. The comfy-sofa textbook is under CCTV surveillance and is carefully patrolled by guards. On the other hand, watching TV shows and indulging in PDA with your beloved in the journal section, is completely fine. Certain people experience intense emotional anguish though, and so, we do not recommend indulging in PDA.
- Under no circumstances should you send cheeky messages to, or poke, the better looking females of the institute on social media without knowing them personally. It might result in you getting blocked, reported, or both.
- Asking a fellow fresher his JEE rank is fine. As long as you don't offer yours in response. 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.
- Creation of fake FB profiles under the guise of humour is prohibited. Everyone knows they serve the purposes of only very desperate stalkers.
- Wearing "bathroom slippers" to lectures is strictly not allowed. Doing so may result in you being expelled from the classroom and consequently missing out on the tremendously important knowledge being delivered by the omniscient profs. Oh, and also attendance.
- 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, the woman you're currently in love with but can't make a move on since she's (obviously) with a better man, your parents and your profs. Letting your homies know how much you love them, though, is considered ritualistic and is

ROORKEE'S 10 COMMANDMENTS

- Thou shalt have no other docs before the identity card.
- Thou shalt not rag.
- Thou shalt not indulge in the consumption of alcohol, or harmful drugs.
- Thou shalt not be violent, nor indulge in any unkind, indecent behaviour towards thy neighbours.
- Thou shalt not take the law into thy own hands and trust GOD (Adosw) to take care of all thy problems.
- Thou shalt not become members of outside societies or join discussions of a political nature without prior permission of thy Institute.
- Thou shalt not deny mess, club and other facilities to other students.
- Thou shalt not be a bad boi.
- Thou shalt be a good boi.
- Thou shalt say Peace Out when you have nothing else to say.
Peace Out.

RESEARCH



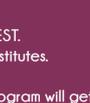
06.

"There is a theory which states that human beings have managed to exist on this planet for so long because of their inflexible inquisition and ability to systematically investigate, study and reach at explorable conclusions, henceforth referred to as research. There is another theory which states that since we are all ultimately going to die and spend the rest of our time in the universe as tiny carbon particles moving around in the limitless abyss of space, there isn't much point in existing at all."

-Nowan Ewer

In R, research is given foremost importance. Unlike our sister IITs, we do not believe in burning down laboratories as part of an intensive, fascinating and passionate experiment - we here 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 again stopped working. 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 they're doing.

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. Even though many other associations for better research are into consideration in IITR, like its sister IITs, it falls short of delivering the world class environment for undergraduate research. To compensate this, there are certain programmes by the government for promoting undergraduate research on campus, one of which is:

About
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.

Minimum Grade Requirements

- CGPA > 7.0 for IITs/IIITs.
- CGPA > 8.0 for NITs/ISERs/ NISER/IIEST.
- CGPA > 8.5 for students from other institutes.

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

Guidelines

- Applications need to be submitted through an online portal where the applicants will upload their transcripts (marksheets), photograph, a 500-word research statement, and resume.
- Applicants need to mention names of five faculty members of their choice from the list of faculty members interested in having a summer intern.
- The term of the summer training should not be less than 6 weeks.
- Students of IITR will be allowed to begin their summer internship immediately after the completion of the end-term examination.
- 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 3500/month (including mess facility).

Website- spark.iitr.ac.in

Almost all major IITs, ISERs and research institutes have their equivalent of SPARK for students

INTERNS

07.

A large fraction of students in the first and the second year measure time in the units of

Current time (T_c) - Time to the application process for Interns (T_i) =

Time till I can justify binge watching Chunky Pandey movies without succumbing to remorse at the sight of stale crumbs of wafers that adorn my face - a stark reminder of the vacuum that is my list of achievements ever since I have come to this college. (T_j)

T₃ finds its use in a host of equations making up the calculus of the life of a Roorkee inhabiting human.

$$P(\text{saying 'uuf yes' to 'chal night out time homeboy'}) = T_3^{420/17} / A$$

Where P stands for probability, and A is a constant determined by how much of a buttprick you are.

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 third year, where place placements (albeit a smaller scale), applications come a-hiring - the process which is referred to as an "on-campus intern". With the TPO wearing a cape and coming to your rescue, it involves rounds of testing, applications, interviews and hopeful perusal of lists on channel-L.

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 mailboy- <https://www.universallclass.com/for-course/using-gmail-101.htm>), while many also involve you seeking referrals from seniors, family members and even professors.

You can apply for these interns 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

PLACEMENTS

The current state of affairs is not exactly great. Things change drastically when you enter the final year. Here for the final year students, the months of October, November and December are taken over by the one and only season: 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 Placement Complex, 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:

- It begins and ends in your final year.
- It is highly unpredictable.
- Your CG, irrespective of the department, matters.
- 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, Google and Facebook, Investment Banks like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, Oil and Mining companies of Schlumberger, Shell and Rio Tinto 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. 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 advice 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.

Placement Complex

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 inside-and-outside building; with walls, windows and doors. However horror awaits the seniors in as they are grilled on questions about science, technology and business, and then offered two broos: 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.



SPORTS

08.

Fortunately (or unfortunately?), the sports culture at IIT Roorkee does not bear even the slightest resemblance to a recent Dhama movie. There is, however, a lot to look forward to if you're an avid sports-person 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, which incidentally is just about when the basketball girls come in for practice ("wink wink"). An old folk-tale at IITR speaks of distraught, sleepy, and sweaty aliens grazing 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 ordinance 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).

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 IIT R, 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. Incidentally, the most popular song here is 'Lose Yourself'. (We are of the opinion that Eminem should improve upon his original song and rename it 'Lose your Plab'). 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 Salu Bhai movie, the people continuing the gym usually end up being one of two kinds: those who form part of the weight-lifting team of IITR or those who wish to make it to the same.

The sports facilities also include courts for basketball, lawn tennis, squash, badminton, table tennis, volleyball etc.

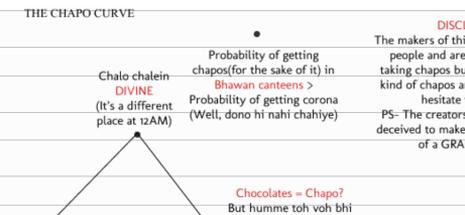
There is also a rowing club somewhere in the woods near the Salani Aqueduct. It's something that is unique about IITR but given that we are mentioning it in the end, you can assume that its current state is not exactly great, not many know of its existence, and if at all people use this facility is a mystery we haven't cracked, like the one about the aliens of LBS.

GRAPHS

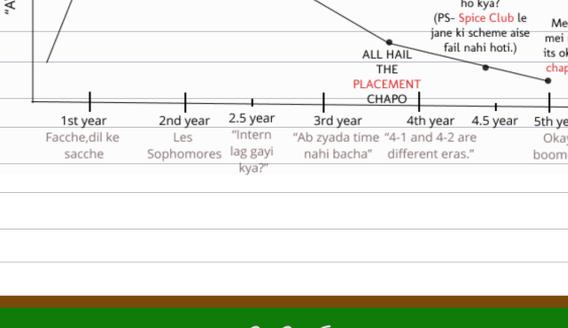
09.

Coming up with shitty graphs that make that cute girl chuckle is an age-old trick which helps you become the cool-cat of your social circle. You all cleared JEE Advanced, we hope we don't need to tell you what a graph is and what its purpose is. We found various trends at IITR that we have tried our best to visualise through these graphs. Note: Although extensive research has been put into the making of these graphs, it's best if the readers take them with a pinch of salt.

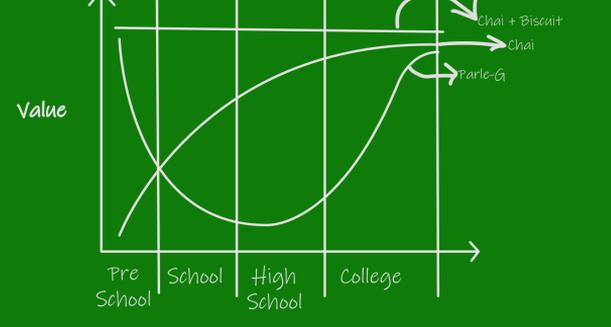
Processing power of various esteemed universities over time



Entropy vs time for canteen waale bhैया



THE CHAPO CURVE



$$2 + 2 = 5$$



CAMPUS GROUPS

10.

The most dominant species of IITR (after dogs, trees) are the infamous homo sapiens. It has been observed that the needs and wants of these mammals range from basic necessities (of food, sleep, territory, gaming, pornography etc.) to absurd desires of social recognition and acceptance by the members of the same species. Contrary to Maslow's need hierarchy theory (thanks to the mess food of R/B), newly arrived members of these species give up on their basic physiological needs quite early, trading it for acceptance into the established social order. This effect becomes obvious during events such as the recruitment season for cultural groups and posts for the Cognizance Organizing team.

Time has divided the humans living on the IITR campus into several such groups, tribes and clans. Each one of them has its own traditions and values which differentiate it from other groups. The Freshman's Guide attempts to mention some major groups and clubs that exist in IITR and their impact on a freshman's life. We provide you with recruitment crackers wherever we can.

CULTURAL Society

The cultural society (CultSoc) is one of the most diverse and happening groups of IITR. The only catch here is that most groups of the CultSoc have a recruitment process ensures exclusivity which might come in handy on your resume (read facebook profile), this doesn't imply that this mechanism snatches the opportunity to learn. The recruitments are held in the spring semester and with the introduction of music and dance classes, the competition for entry is made fairer and more inclusive. Moreover, some societies even recruit members from sophomores and pre final year students.

The cultural society includes the following sections:

Dramatics Section:

The Broadway of IITR, you can easily identify the members of the dramatics section by their insanely loud voices and a deep, almost incomprehensible devotion to their scripts. Known for their religious practice routines and a fierce perfection in plays that make people laugh, cry, angry and, in a few cases, scared (we are talking about Badal Sarkar's Baaki Ithahas here), the dramatics section performs 3 stage plays and one street play every academic year.

Recruitment Cracker: The Dramatics section is perhaps one of the toughest Cultural Society groups to get into. A booming voice is a must. Having a repertoire of cheesy Bollywood monologues also helps.

Choreography and Dance:

If you are a typical Indian dancer who reluctantly dances in baraats, this section is not for you. Although, saying that it requires prodigious dancing skills (that make Mithun Da go Kya baat, 3 times) isn't completely accurate either. Choreo (in IITR lingo) trains part-time dancer IITians into complete performers. Their shows are generally filled with power-packed performances, with the dance-forms ranging from Jazz, Western and Contemporary to typical Bollywood, Punjabi and South Indian. You get to glimpse their year-long hardwork in the cultural week, their performances in Footloose (Thomso event) and flash mob(s) they organize in Thomso and Cogni. If you are really lucky, you get to star in your very own YouTube music video (read: Shape of You) and face an onslaught of selfie requests from the insane fandom.

Recruitment Cracker: Being a good dancer (in others' opinion) is more than enough.

Music Section:

Music is a way of life at IITR. After being classified on the basis of gender, year, branch, group, societies and number of Bun Samosas you can eat in a day, you can, and will be, classified on the basis of the kind of music you listen to. The Music Section of IITR consists of some very remarkable artists who showcase their talents and semester-long hard work at shows like Prelude, Dhun and Swaranjali. The diversity of artists in this section is quite unique.

From Indian classical to western hard rock, this group has all kinds of musicians, each with a distinct taste in Music. Selection in this group is based purely on skill.

Recruitment Cracker: Less chances of selection if you are just another aspiring IITian with 2.5 months of practice on acoustic guitar (there are more than plenty).

Cinematics Section:

CineSec (in IITR lingo) is dedicated to film and video-making on campus. Equipped with professional cameras and instruments, CineSec is responsible for creating short movies, campus news and trends, interviews, animations, info-videos, event coverages and feedbacks on events in IITR campus. This section deals in various aspects of movie making such as scripting, editing, direction and production. Their works can be found on their official YouTube channel. Though it's not always true, their work can be a little too abstract at times.

Recruitment Cracker: A knowledge of filmmaking is not necessary. You just need to be a film-enthusiast and show an understanding of what elements are required. Warning: making a film/video is a very menial job and requires a lot of patience.

The Quizzing Section:

The quizzing section is an open group (only) which is open for participation from the entirety of the IITR Junta. If getting overly enthusiastic about knowing trivial details about things that hardly matter when it comes to improving your grade or bagging that 30 Lpa job gets you excited, this section welcomes you. The section organises a Freshman Quiz at the start of the academic year, and sends contingents to Nihilanth, the annual inter IIT-IMT quiz, which is considered the Mecca of Indian Quizzing.

Recruitment Cracker: This is an open group and no formal recruitment is held. Although regular attendance in quizzes will usually guarantee a place in the Nihilanth/Inter IIT contingent.

The Debating Society:

Fondly known as the DebSoc, the section is filled with people who pride themselves over formulating arguments over things they might or might not have a pinheads' worth of knowledge about. Their facebook pictures inevitably feature a podium, a raised hand and DebSoc members themselves; however, these pictures should not be misinterpreted as Nazi propaganda. The society also conducts knowledge sessions and open debates for the betterment of the IITR junta, featuring topics such as economics, geopolitics and history.

Recruitment cracker: No previous debating/public speaking experience is required. Only a knack for logically and rationally thinking out things will be enough for you to become a part of the society.

Kshitij:

Kshitij is the official literary magazine of IIT Roorkee. They publish stories and poems written by the students who are part of it and also host open editorials (in both Hindi and English). The frequency of publishing varies from 3-4 magazines per year. Like their fellow campus magazine, Geek Gazette, their team has four verticals: Editorial (Hindi & English), Finance, Web-Design and Design.

Recruitment Cracker: Different cells require different characteristics: Writing well for Editorials; familiarity with modern designing tools and web-development for Design and Web-D; a knack of being people and selling stuff for Finance.

Audio and Lights Section:

These two sections form the backbone of any event in the convocation hall, especially during the cultural week. The audio section manages the surround sound and the microphones, while the lights section does an amazing job of lighting up the convocation for the events. Apart from this, the Audio Section also hosts a radio show on the evening of Valentine's Day. The show is probably the only time when the radio is heard by entities other than night guards and insomniac souls. Students can dedicate songs to their paramours in this event.

Recruitment Cracker: Nothing in particular. However, a preliminary knowledge of surround sound and circuitry would give you an edge in Audio. A past experience of having set up diwali lights at home might come in handy while applying for lights.

Stand-up section

The Standup Club is a place where one gets to take their jokes from the bhawan mess to the stage. This group was formed with the intention of creating a culture for standup comedy on campus because writing jokes on answer scripts is a bit of a gamble (we do not endorse this, do not try this). The club organises open mics where you can try out your content. The club also organises one major show called Jokes Apart, at the end of every semester, where you get bigger audiences and is touted to be the R-equivalent of Netflix specials.

Recruitment Cracker: The auditions require you to come prepared with a two-minute set of original jokes, so it is a good idea to watch a lot of stand up comedy, and observe everything around you. There is content everywhere, they say.

OTHER Campus Groups

SDSLabs:

SDSLabs is one of the most iconic groups of IITR. Its initiation in 2010 acted as a symbol of hope for the geek community who were tired of being branded as uncool and banished from the happening places on the campus. SDS also includes various other subsections like Programming and Algorithms Group (PAG), Data Science Group (DSG) and InfoSecIITR. There's however a dispute over the origin of SDS Labs. Some say that it was established the same time as that of AT&T's Bell Labs and helped in the development of Unix. We don't believe them, as after all, Unix was made by God himself.

Members of this section are responsible for winning arbitrary hackathons, organizing the most fun and educational workshops and lectures for the junta of IITR, developing really cool applications like Muzi, Study Portal and Cerebro, and also hacking into your ex's facebook profile. (check them out on: <https://sdslabs.co/>)

Recruitment cracker: Attend their lectures and workshops, and keep an eye out for the competitions they regularly hold, as winners may get to skip the boring tests and buzz straight to the interviews

IMG:

Formed as IITR's website management group in 2000-01, IMG was formally established in the spring of 2001-02. It was set up as the first ever student organization to provide free and friendly online resources to the IITR junta.

Acting as a gathering point for aspiring web-developers, IMG quickly began to take responsibilities of Institute level projects such as managing the official website of the institute, registration online, and other ancient entities which if we mention, will only embarrass them.

13 years down the line, members of IMG have alienated themselves from the clutches of the administration and function as an independent student body (maintaining some vital apps of Placement Online and Academics).

Their frequent debates, on who-kicks-whose-arse with members of yet another student-body which also develops web-app, on Quora, provides healthy entertainment for people who are not a part of either. (If you're in campus, check them out on <http://channel1.in>)

Both IMG and SDS Labs prove a rallying point for aspiring web-developers and programmers. They enjoy grand chaps in their AC offices and make everyone jealous by posting about it on facebook.

MDG:

Once a part of SDS, MDG is now an independent student group of developers and designers focused on creating useful mobile applications for the IITR junta and beyond. Despite the name and initial motivation behind the group, MDG now explores a lot of different Computer Science domains and is a major contributor to the lovely development culture of IITR.

Recruitment cracker: Join them in their interactive workshops, learn about the latest in the Tech-world and watch out for their latest podcast called MDG Talks.

PAG:

The programming and algorithms group spearheads the competitive programming movement in the campus. Like SDS and IMG, this group is held in high regard for converting novice programmers into lucrative and sought after coding machines for companies and varsities alike. Organizing intra campus coding competitions and sending contingents to national and international competitions are some of the activities this group undertakes. Overhearing someone sleep talk about syntaxes and maths jargon is a scientifically proven way to identify a member.

INFOSEC

Founded in 2016, InfoSecIITR is a group of information security enthusiasts. They regularly participate in competitive hacking competitions and have been consistently ranked among the top 3 CTF teams in India. Like their sister groups, they also conduct a number of competitions and workshops to raise awareness about the surprisingly niche field of cybersecurity.

Recruitment cracker: None. InfoSecIITR is an open group and everyone is invited to attend their meetings, with regular participation being the only entryway into the core team.

QAGAAR

Qagaar is a group that aims to create a safe, welcoming, and accepting environment for all and foster a healthy supportive atmosphere on the campus. It aims to sensitize the campus junta and turn it into a safe space for all. Brought back to life amidst the Pandemic, their current focus is to help people learn and un-learn things they've been conditioned to think about the LGBTQ+ community.

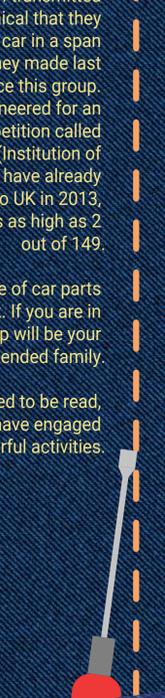
DSG:

In October 2016, as a subsection of SDS Labs, the Data Science Group of IITR was launched with the aim of developing an interest for and making the campus junta aware of the different areas to explore in data science and machine learning. In their own words, "Being the boom in the market that DS is, there is no doubt on the future of this group."

The biggest advantage that students in this group get due to their affiliation with SDS is the opportunity to sit at every high paying CS job, and which is why their Facebook group has over 1000 members, all aiming for the lucrative entrance into the core team.

SPIC-MACAY:

Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth, is an international organization and its chapter in IIT Roorkee organizes a plethora of cultural events throughout the year. The events, as the name of the group dictates, consist of Indian classical music concerts, folk dance groups, traditional drama, movie screenings and other shows where there's a possibility of you running into your Profs. Contrary to popular belief, the members of this section are probably the most active members of any campus group - as seen by the sheer number of events they organize during the academic year.



IITR MOTORSPORTS:

Humans (read aliens) with brains where neuron-transmitted electrochemical signals are so mechanical that they manage to fabricate a Formula Style Race car in a span of 365 days (which may appear the same they made last year but still differ somehow), grace this group.

The Formula Style Race car is engineered for an international collegiate Design competition called Formulae Student, organised by IMechE (Institution of Mechanical Engineers). The Race cars have already flown worldwide, from Australia in 2011 to UK in 2013, and have managed to secure positions as high as 2 out of 149.

Recruitment Cracker - Some knowledge of car parts and interests in cars will do the trick. If you are in Mech. Engg., then surely this group will be your extended family.

Downside - A lot of books are required to be read, which becomes quite difficult if you have engaged yourself in other cheerful activities.

Team Robocon:

This rather innocent group of ambitious students of IITR broke their way into the limelight a few years back, following their spectacular performance in the Robotic Contests (Robocons) organised by Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) and its member countries. Robocon is the biggest international robotics competition in the Asia-Pacific region. The magnitude of the competition can be judged from the fact that only one team from a country is allowed to participate, with the host being allowed to field two teams. Participation in it requires inputs from all fields of robotics with heavy emphasis on concept design, robot programming, etc to achieve a predefined goal based on a theme declared by the host country.

Team Robocon of IITR finished 7th in the national stage and won the award for Best Innovative Robot.

E-Cell:

Entrepreneurship Development Cell, IIT Roorkee is a student group which aims to promote entrepreneurship in campus. IITR, being a placement centric institute (by that we mean people killing for jobs), has witnessed a very slow increase in the enthusiasm of students towards entrepreneurship.

The members of this group, when not busy with their own startups and garnering crores of turnover for their companies, help in organizing talks, meet-ups and other events that aim to support other entrepreneurs of the campus.

ShARE-IITR:

The Roorkee chapter of the non-profit organization Sharing Analysis of Regional Economies (ShARE IITR), was established in 2007. The aim of this society, in their words, is to understand the complexities of local socio-economic issues through presentations, conferences and projects.

The other less popular aim, like any other campus group, is to have fun in the parties. The members of this group work on projects that aim at studying some global economic, business and social issues.

They also organize quizzes, seminars and group discussions on the current strategies and research in the real world.



WatchOut!:

Watch Out! is the official news and media body of IIT Roorkee, the group responsible for the creation of this Freshman Guide. We cover the happenings and ongoings of life at IIT Roorkee along with the issues that surround the administration, placements, academics, cultural council and bhawans. Some editorials and notorious fake news pieces also make way on our website and Facebook page. In conjunction to the web presence, a print magazine is distributed every semester.

Geek Gazette:

Started 6 years ago as a technology oriented magazine, Geek Gazette functions under the aegis of the ACM IIT Roorkee Chapter. Growing out of their original aim, GG has expanded to include topics even obliquely related with technology. The functioning is similar to other magazines in the campus, with the magazine being divided into four verticals: Editorial, Finance, Design and Web Development. They come out with a self-financed semesterly issue which opines about topics that are covered in extensive detail in the boundless abyss famous around the world as the internet.

Cinema Club:

In ancient days, the students of IIT Roorkee used to hold movie screenings for the R-junta every weekend where everyone, from professors to students, had a great time. Somewhere down the line (we think after the release of movies like Jai Santoshi Maa) the tradition was discontinued.

The Cinema Club was restarted a few years back by some brave souls. After two really fantastic screenings of newly released movies, it is exactly what stands between the students and mass-suicides here in IITR. It organizes the special screenings of movies partly because there is no other cinema hall within 10 kms of the campus, and partly because the members don't have much else to do. These screenings (which are free of cost, by the way) are met with much fanfare in a Convo bottled down to its full capacity.

SMP:

Often a freshman's life becomes a tightrope walk between diving into various co-curriculars while chugging along with the daily ordeal of academics. In an effort to foster a healthy interaction with senior students, the institute has flagged off a Student Mentorship Programme (SMP).

Still in its nascent stages, the initiative promises to reform the inhibitions to senior-junior interaction and constructive information flow, imposed by a plethora of reasons, both administrative and otherwise.

The mentors are carefully selected on the basis of their CG, past experience, campus involvement, number of foreign internships, and the number of ways they can smuggle unspecified hydrocarbon based liquid compounds into the campus every week.

Fine ARTS

Fine Arts Section is the artists' group of the campus. It is an open group, and thus invites the enthusiastic participation of all the IITR residents. If the prospect of lots of charcoal pencils, spray paints, acrylic/oil/water/any-other-type-that-you-can-think-of colours scattered on canvases and floors all around a room (basically what the fine art room looks like) excites you, then this section calls out to you. The group is renowned for decorating the campus with wall/road paintings during any fest and its annual art exhibition held during Cognizance, Darpan.

Recruitment Cracker: This is an open group, but recruitments are held for the selection of a core team for managing the section. If you have a flair for creating visually appealing things out of anything that leaves a mark, this place should feel like home.

DESIGN STUDIO

Design Studio is the official design group of IITR. And no, they're not partners-in-crime with the fine arts section. 'Design is the art of problem-solving' is a common phrase you'll probably hear them saying every time they try explaining to you the difference. DS handles design projects of various kinds, both on and off campus. Their on campus contributions include becoming the Design partners for various events and exhibitions of IITR and off campus involves designing websites, apps, logos etc for nice companies.

Recruitment cracker: What you need is the ability to think differently (cliche, we know) - to be able to identify problems in the things around you, be it an e-rick or a chair, and suggest solutions for the same. Creativity with shapes and colours is an added bonus that will get you going for the graphic part of designing.

HIMALAYAN explorer's CLUB

Himalayan Explorer's Club Adventurers, and Nature Lovers - this one's for you! The HEC of IITR organizes lovely treks and trips to the Himalayas, exploring ways and passes that you may never have discovered on your own. High altitude adventures, rangering, roving, safari trips and mountaineering courses are also a part of the deal. Apart from this, HEC also conducts various in-campus activities like Skating Camps, cycle races and plantation of trees.

Recruitment cracker: No fitness-freakery is required; a sound mind and a healthy body will do just fine. The treks are open for all. Recruitments are held from the second year onwards, but anyone is welcome to volunteer.

ROORKEE CARES

Roorkee Cares Founded by Professor Gargi Singh, Roorkee Cares is an organisation run largely by students and professors with the aim of caring for animals in the R-Land. In the past, it has rescued and helped dogs, squirrels, endangered birds etc

Recruitment cracker: No recruitments are held. Anyone can go ahead and volunteer to do something nice for the non human residents of the campus.

S.A.E

Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is a group of enthusiastic and self motivated students who strive to pursue their interests in automobiles.

It is a collegiate chapter of SAE India, which is affiliated to SAE International - a society which sets standards for materials and design in automotive fields. SAE organizes workshops and lectures on various topics to fuel the interest of students in automobiles. It also organizes industrial visits to automotive and allied industries in Roorkee's proximity.

The main objective is to foster automotive culture on campus. It hosts Powerdrift -- a remote controlled IC Engine car competition - which adds a major thrill to Cognizance, the tech fest of IITR. The students can also take Open Technical Projects under SAE to get hands on experience in automobile building.

A recent addition to their team has been the constitution of SAE Aero -- for tackling aeromodelling competitions, home and abroad. Various designs of planes were explored during Srishthi. The team also took part in Techkriti, IIT Kanpur and won the third place in Aeronave during Cognizance.

Finance

The club was established to spur a culture of finance in the IITR campus. Finance Club not only leads one onto a path of career development in finance but it also promotes self development of its members. The club members get it all, ranging from hard work to partying even harder.

Worldquant's IQC is the firstmost competition that the newcomers are prepared for. Be it NISM certifications or CFA and FRM levels they stand up for all!

The finance club organizes certain introductory workshops to spread the know-hows of finance and some basic topics in it. Their main event is the Finfest organized every year during Cognizance. Apart from that the FC also invites guests (including CXOs) to share their thoughts and experiences in the form of different events with the campus junta.

TEAM KNOX

Team Knox is a student-run organization that designs, builds, and tests off-road vehicles every year. The vehicles are built to survive rough terrains, steep rocky hills, and mud. Team Knox competes in Baja SAE intercollegiate competition where they are pitted against hundred plus teams. Every car is subjected to thorough scrutiny in the static events before checking its worthiness in dynamic events where attributes such as acceleration, maneuverability, hill climb, suspension and traction are tested. So if hands-on work is what you're looking for, then this is the place to be.

Recruitment Cracker: Whether you have built a car from scratch or have never touched a wrench in your life, you are eligible as long as you are interested to work as a team.



With projects ranging from AR models and quadcopters to self driving cars and an assortment of bots, ArIES is the premier electronics group on campus with a fondness for artificial intelligence. They represent the institute at the annual Inter-IIT Tech Meet but their flagship event remains Srishti, when they emerge from their year long hibernation to toil with gay abandon for their exhibition before returning to their slumber.

Recruitment Cracker : *While the group is open to all, recruitments to the core team occur after Srishti. Enthusiastic participation in the event all but guarantees the job.*

VLG:

Ever wondered how your phone can sort images by the people in them? Or how Siri can speak in full sentences? The Vision and Language Group aims to spearhead the campus Deep Learning culture through various means of disseminating resources on solving such problems.

Freshly birthed, they will conduct their first ever recruitments this year albeit for 2nd and 3rd years only.

Physics and Astronomy CLUB

Open discussions on physics papers and cool models in Srishti - PaAC is your WhatsApp group with your science geeks from school all matured up and professional. Last year they built a cloud chamber - particle detector! Capitalizing on Roorkee's remote location, they turn to the (night) sky, hosting star gazing sessions. They even have a special star gazing deck in the new SAC building.

Recruitment cracker : attendance and participation in their meetings goes a long way.

IARC

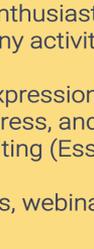
Institute Alumni Relations Cell (IARC), is a cell working under the aegis of Dean of Resources and Alumni Affairs. It aims to bridge the gap between alumni and student community for the mutual greater good. This is achieved by the group members by carrying out various initiatives, like:

~ **Raionzo:** The student-alum fest, usually held right after the freshers join college(i.e, in a world untouched by Covid virus). Fun fact, we're the only IIT to hold such an event!

~ **The Alumni Podcast** (https://instagram.com/tap_iitr?igshid=19xo1okzg2ovf - yes they're on Insta): An informal chat series documenting the stories of IIT Roorkee alumni, one conversation at a time.

~ **Mock Interviews for Internship session :** Organised for the 3rd year students, wherein they were interviewed (and given solid advice) by alumni members to give them an edge during the actual interviews.

Recruitment cracker : If you're interested, and have ideas about improving relations with the IITR alumni- this is the place for you. Volunteer and participate in their events (Raionzo Fest, for eg.), to learn more about their activities!



WELLNESS CENTER

Express Engage Emerge

Their Counselling Services help students to focus on and understand more clearly the issues that concern them. This includes tackling personal, family and peer problems as well as managing academics more responsibly.

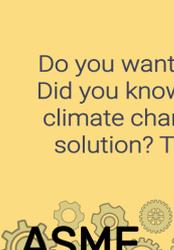
Asides from providing a safe space for you to come talk freely- The enthusiastic student members at Wellness Centre conduct many activities and events to engage the R-landers.

Regular Expression events in which they encourage people to come express, and let their feelings out on paper, by virtue of either writing (Essay competitions), drawing, quizzes etc.

Expert talks, webinars on sensitive issues are frequently organised.

Building community through fun in person events and workshops like yoga meditation, Sensitisation of faculties towards students' workshop, Psychological first aid workshop etc.

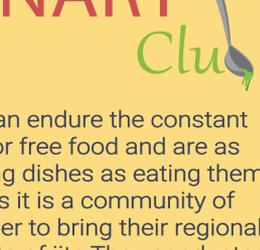
Recruitment cracker: If you're empathetic and sensitive towards your peers, and show the willingness to help them, you'll fit right in. Volunteer, and join their workshops/Talks to know more about how they work!



IEEE Student chapter

From ever slimmer laptops to autonomous vehicles to sending a rocket to the other end of the solar system to mimicking your brain, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Student Branch provides an environment for like minded engineers to explore and learn from each other. They have played a major role in the evolution of the undergraduate research culture of the ECE department and past members have gone on to work at top international universities and companies. They also conduct regular discussions and lectures delivered by both current members and the global network of professionals associated with the IEEE.

Recruitment Cracker: This is an open group and is open to all who are interested.



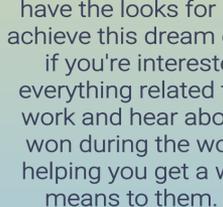
Eco Group was founded last year by super enthusiastic first year green soldiers, marching on the path to make the campus (hence a part of the world) green, sustainable and eco friendly.

The green army has already made its mark - installed segregation bins in the hostels, partnered with an electronic waste recycling company, hosted webinars for the village students in collaboration with UBA, worked along with NSS for several awareness campaigns.

The Eco Group is currently under the umbrella of the Institute Green Committee with the Director as Chairman. The group will keep brainstorming new ideas to make the campus and the world a better place.

Recruitment Cracker:

Do you want to solve humanity's current greatest crisis? Did you know India is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change? Are you determined to be a part of the solution? Then hop on, you are already enlisted in the green army!



American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is a not-for-profit membership organization that enables collaboration, knowledge-sharing, career-enrichment, and skill development across all engineering disciplines towards a goal of helping the global engineering community develop solutions to benefit lives and livelihoods.

The Student Chapter in IIT Roorkee was initiated to enhance the quality level of practical implementation. It is multidisciplinary consisting mainly of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

As of now, the students primarily participate in the Human Powered Vehicle Challenge (HPVC) and Student Design Competition.

The Newly constituted Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) club as a part of ASME IITR chapter has taken a step towards underwater research.

Recruitment cracker : Attending the introductory talk and workshops organised by the club will go a long way.

CULINARY Clu

The group to be a part of if you can endure the constant nagging of your friends asking for free food and are as interested in cooking mouthwatering dishes as eating them.

Though still in its nascent stages it is a community of enthusiastic people coming together to bring their regional cuisines and much more to the junta of iitr. They conducted a cook off during Thomsa, to check them out visit their student run cafes during the weekend to eat some of the most delicious food you'll find here in roorkee.

Recruitment cracker: *Open to all interested students though there is a recruitment process to be a part of the team running the student cafes, some past cooking experience will come in handy. Having the ability to cook Maggi might not be the talent they are looking for.*

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

If your interests include capturing beautiful moments happening around but not limited to posting every picture you take on a page dedicated to your "photography" then this group might be the haven you are looking for in campus.

A creative bunch of people looking for beauty in places most of us tend to overlook they won in the inter iit cult meet held last year. For a glimpse of their work look out for their annual exhibition 'lumiere' during cognizance.

Recruitment cracker: *The recruitment process includes showing some of your best work followed by an interview where your basic knowledge of photography is tested. Impress them to get in.*



Interested in being the next Tony stark? Give up you don't have the looks for it. Anyhow this group might not help you achieve this dream of yours but can be a one stop destination if you're interested in robotics, artificial intelligence and everything related to it. You will get to experience their good work and hear about the numerous competitions they have won during the workshops and sessions they will conduct, helping you get a wider view of what robotics is and what it means to them. With projects being floated at different times during the academic year, you can get a taste of the work they do firsthand and showcase your work during *Shrishti*, which should be one of the most important events for you if you plan to be a part of this group.

Recruitment cracker: Enthusiastic participation for a project in shrishti will surely go a long way for you. The interview can be easily aced by doing the same.

Campus Politics .

For thousands of years, the warlords of the galaxies far-far away have fought innumerable, ruthless battles. Sports 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 IIT-R 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 pertain- ing to what to do with the freshly allocated funds (hint: relay existing roads) and to whom should we let out the space in front of the students' club (hint: switch between two very similar retail brands) happen (in) frequently, everyone knows that the final decision is taken by a green little infant enjoying this reality show from somewhere in the universe.

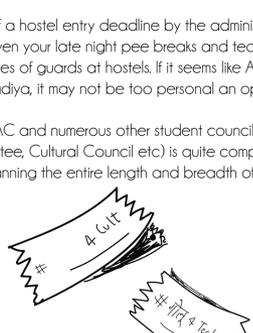
The Student Affairs Council (SAC) is the body that represents student community in the IITR senate. After a long and violent history of intense political campaigns and several electoral reforms, the mega election extravaganza is scheduled to be held each year in the Spring Semester. As the atmosphere starts getting politically charged, introductions are made, affiliations are expressed, 'pacts' are signed and chapsos are given. One may even get a glimpse of the persons that are contesting, through 'Presidential' debates where you get to enjoy free cartooned drinks.

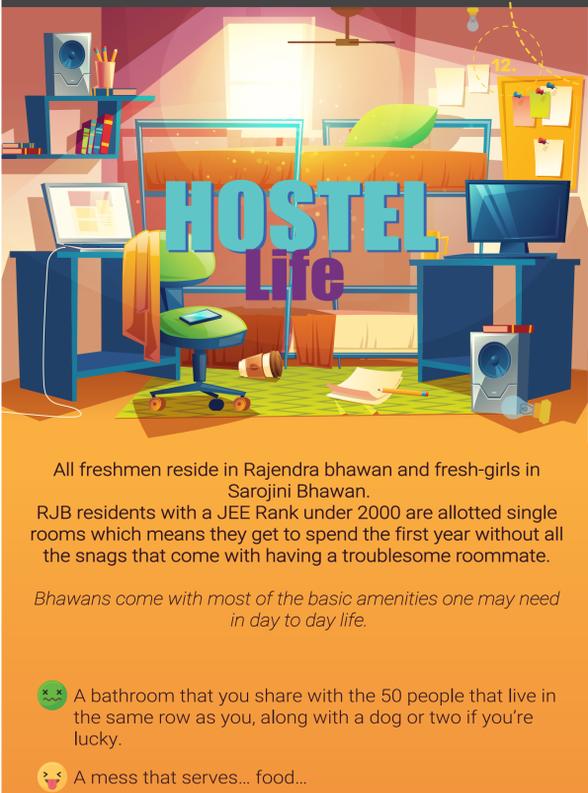
Like it or hate it, it's almost impossible to be indifferent towards the poly season. Seniors try their best to act like godfathers to their corresponding juniors and encourage them to vote for their own mates. As swarms of perfect strangers start moving from door to door, screaming out their manifestos and decorating (read littering) the corridors and hallways with their shabbily hand-written paper cards and posters, we won't blame you if you are reminded of a Shyam Benegal political thriller. Their promises range from slightly laughable to excessively outrageous and usually tend to involve the terms geysters, washrooms, gym, attendance and chapo. 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.

The SAC consists of student representatives at the bhawan level as well as the insti level. Every citizen (he who has an enrolment number) in R-Land gets to vote in the SAC elections. The positions at bhawan level are Bhawan Secretary, Mess Secretary, Sports Secretary, Cultural Secretary, Technical Secretary and Maintenance Secretary and are voted for by bhawan members. At the institute level, there are seven General Secretaries- CS Academics (UG & PG), Technical Affairs, Professional Affairs, Hostel Affairs, Cultural Affairs and Sports.

The election season may also witness the enforcement of a hostel entry deadline by the administration resulting in a prohibition on "inter bhawan movements". Even your late night pee breaks and tea breaks might be looked upon with suspicion by the all-seeing eyes of guards at hostels. If it seems like Admiral General Aladdin holding elections in the Republic of Wadiya, it may not be too personal an opinion.

The exact structure and functioning of the Senate, the SAC and numerous other student councils and committees (like the Technical Council, Academic Committee, Cultural Council etc) is quite complicated. WatchOut! will soon release a comprehensive article spanning the entire length and breadth of the same.





HOSTEL Life

All freshmen reside in Rajendra bhawan and fresh-girls in Sarojini Bhawan. RJB residents with a JEE Rank under 2000 are allotted single rooms which means they get to spend the first year without all the snags that come with having a troublesome roommate.

Bhawns come with most of the basic amenities one may need in day to day life.

- 🤢 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.
- 🍴 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 sports-out sessions, whatever your reasons for that may be.
- 😄 There's also undogly fast LAN connection in every room, perfect for multiplayer showdowns and movie nights arranged on a whim.

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.

C Block of RJB is widely known and feared as a place of unsettling corridors and unruly stoners; the rumors are yet to be confirmed. The top floor of B block is the lair of ghisssu, the only place free of commotion on the night before exams.

- 😓 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 salon offers an avenue for many of your self-care needs.
- 😊 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 (usually not for GPL purposes, rest assured). 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.
- 👍 Bathrooms on every corner of every floor, cleaned twice a day.
- 😊 A stationery shop - your life saviour for all the last-minute graphs and practical files that you'll need.
- 😊 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.

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.

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 at R, this is true quite literally. These months are remarkable in that they have a lot of things to look forward to. October heralds Rookvocation and Thomso, while March brings with it Sangram, Sishiti, 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 IIT-R, Thomso is the time of year when cool kids of DU come down upon Roorkee. It will be important to mention how bravely this festival survived before the unfortunate disaster of 2010 which led to it being banned in 2011. However, it was re-launched with rigor in 2012 and people actually hoped that it was better to forget about the heavenly days again on campus.

Surprise struck the junta in the autumn of 2013 when Thomso'13 was unexpectedly kick-ass in every imaginable way. It has remained that way since then. Undoubtedly, Thomso will be the best time of your campus life.

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. Live shows and musicians have often been invited, although the CBS events 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 through 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 - specially 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

Sankalp kicks off the trinity of fests in the spring semester. Sankalp is the socio technical fest, organized by NSS. Though in its nascent stages, 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.

It is mostly ignored by the rest of the campus.

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:

- Begging his facebook friends to like the Cogni page.
- Putting up posters in Bhawns.
- 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?".

The quandary remains unresolved, and we are open to any sort of inputs. Please mail us at watchOut@yahoo.co.in.

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 jelling 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, regularly a month or two before the fest can land you in one of the B Teams and maybe give you your sattu 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 IITs

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. Roorkee hosted the Cultural Meet in 2018 and it was arguably the best of the year (because you know more IITians). 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.

SPORTS

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 duke it out to make it first to the summer camps and then the winter camp (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. Last year, owing to some brilliant performances by all the athletes involved, IITR managed to grab the second spot overall.

Cult

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 spheres. The power gap between the more established and newer IITs is gradually decreasing. IITR managed to pull of some spectacular performances and grabbed the second spot overall.

TECH

All events that don't fit in either of the above categories get thrown here. Seven of these competitions have been held so far, and IITR grabbed the numero uno spot in the last edition, held at IIT Bombay. Events here include Bio Quizzes, Financial Case Studies, Hardware Modelling and Robotics etc. As is expected of IITians, these competitions rarely fail to amaze and stupefy, and as opposed to the Cult Meet, the Tech Meet is considered holy and pivotal not only by the students, but by the administration of all the participating IITs as well.

Birds of R-land

"Seriously, how often do you really look at a man's shoes?"
-Red, Snowhawk Redemption
It's true - we rarely notice a man's shoes. We also rarely notice what's up above. The authors of this piece urge the readers to delve into a world previously unknown - the world of bird-watching. This article aims to list out the most exquisite birds found in R-land. Commonly sighted birds in Roorkee are crows, maimas, doves, pigeons, parakeets, egrets, robins and babblers to name a few. The authors of this piece used Google Lens, weird Google searches like 'birds with funky hair-dos', posts on r/whatsitbird, and a book titled 'Birds of The Indian Subcontinent', to identify the various avian dinosaurs found in Roorkee. Readers are encouraged to use the same to identify the listed birds, and hopefully also spot and identify more.

HOOPOE OR THE JOHNNY BRAVO
 These birds are the easiest to identify. The origins of the Mahawk hairstyle should now be fairly obvious. Lavish stripes, weird hair and a characteristic curved beak render them extremely conspicuous. They are however, rarely sighted. These birds do not have any primary hobs; they have however, been spotted around Nescafe and LBS.

These birds are named after their call - a loud 'oap', usually in sets of three. The national bird of Israel also knows its way to a lady's heart - the males are known to indulge in 'courtship feeding', which is exactly what it sounds like.

INDIAN GREY HORNBILL
 These commonly found, devilishly handsome arboreal lads are primarily sighted in pairs. The weak hearted must be warned; the villainous store is food for nightmares. The arrow-like flight of these birds is a sight to behold. Look out for faint traces of supercilium.

Trees with branches that seek out to the heavens found near Nescafe. Crows are the primary hobs of these birds. Writers famously sport upwards of 6 hornbills in these trees.

BLACK HOODED ORIOLE
 These strikingly yellow birds with shady, mobster-like black hoods are passerine, which makes them that much more scary. Passerine birds (or perching birds) are characterized by the arrangement of their toes (three pointing forwards and one back). Their blinding yellow plumage makes them hard to miss.

These birds have often been spotted near LBS and the NH gate.
 A Bengali folk-tale tells the story of a distraught wife in a merchant family, who is tormented by her mother-in-law. Unable to bear the pain, the wife steels herself with turmeric paste and covers herself with an earthen pot, thereby killing herself. A poodess then resurrects her as a black-hooded oriole. Thus a Bengali name for the bird is 'benebou' or 'merchant's wife'. Another name is 'hald pakh' or 'the turmeric bird'.

BROWN HEADED BARBET
 Also known as the Large Green Barbet, this bird is plump with a short neck (much like certain professors you'll see in your time here). The head is streaked brown, while the rest of the plumage is a beautiful, grassy green. Their red beaks make them a bit-coloured blessing in Roorkee. These birds are fairly uncommon, and no hobs have been identified on campus. Readers are advised to look closely at dense green trees; owing to their plumpage, casual glances often miss these birds.

RUFIOUS TREPPEE
 This long-tailed, musical bird is common throughout the campus. Their long tail and cinnamon-coloured back make them particularly easy to identify. Their long tail may suggest otherwise, but these birds are part of the crow family. They are ubiquitous throughout the campus, much like crows.

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER
 With its poorly red beak and rich blue plumage, this tree kingfisher is noticeable from afar. Large white patches on blue and black wings make for a truly majestic sight, and the chosen ones among us get to see this bird in action - an exhilarating downward swoop that ends with a small prey clutched in its talons. These birds are often found outside the campus, near the ponds. They have also been spotted near Ravindra Bhawan and The Convocation Hall.

WOODPECKER
 The woodpecker is one of the few rarely sighted birds at R-land. The exact sub-species found within our campus is as of yet unknown - it is highly probable that they are forest-bird woodpeckers. The rich multi-colored plumage of these angelic birds comes as a breath of fresh air, and the truly lucky ones can find them necessarily pecking away.

These birds are primarily found near the Physics and Mathematics Department and around Jawahar Bhawan. Readers are encouraged to venture into roads that seemingly lead nowhere - deserted areas are known for their mysterious gifts.

RED EYED CHESTNUT HOPPER OR THE STONER
 Also called the Greater Coucal, this constantly stoned bird is a visual treat - coppery brown wings that shimmer against the sunlight, a renegade purple underside and eyes that chill your spine. Their deep, booming, resonant calls are quite literally annoying - the bird's calls are associated with many superstitions and beliefs in India. No such hobs have been identified within the campus. Readers are advised to look closely for these birds can be mistaken for crows from afar.

PIED KINGFISHER
 As opposed to the White Throated Kingfisher, the Pied Kingfisher is a water kingfisher. A spectacularly chaotic black and white plumage, along with a white supercilium make them exceedingly distinctive. Being water kingfishers, these birds are usually spotted hovering above clear lakes and ponds. As with the White Throated Kingfisher, the lucky and determined one, shall get to see this bird in action.

BLACK IBIS
 The largest bird on our list, the Black Ibis (also called the Red Naped Ibis) is quite the early one of the most wondrous birds in the Indian Subcontinent. The plumage is primarily blue-green; it is quite impossible to capture the iridescence in mere words. Long legs and a long downward-curving bill make this bird all the more ethereal. Needless to say, the black ibis can be missed by only the blind.

Unfortunately, the Black Ibis has not been spotted anywhere within the campus so far. On occasion, these birds can be seen flying over the campus. These birds have been spotted near the Ganga Canal.

INDIAN PEAFOWL
 Ah, the peafowl. The national bird of India needs no introduction. Easily one of the most strikingly elegant and graceful birds, it is impossible to think of not being able to identify at least the male of this species.

While earlier these birds were found in abundance inside CBRI, now they are less likely to be spotted there. The banks of the Ganga Canal have been known to be frequented by these beautiful birds. One can always try one's luck with CBRI though.

"The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me sick". These words were penned down by Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, in one of his letters to Asa Gray. The problem Darwin faced was quite simple - the humongous, multicolored tail of the male heavily embarrassed the bird's dignity and got. Still, all the males were found to be this way, and this went directly against his principle of natural selection. Natural selection demanded the survival of the fittest; however, the existence of the ginormous peacock's tail, and the stunning cutters of the stag, threatened to contradict his theory. He came up with a solution of course. Eventually, Darwin penned down the theory of sexual selection, which explained the existence of beauty in animals - even if this beauty severely stunted the species - as a way of dealing with the problem of finding mates. Natural selection and sexual selection together determined the fate of the species, and sometimes, they acted against each other. To know about the various challenges Darwin faced while coming up with this theory, click on the helpful links provided at the end.

HONORABLE MENTION :
 A veteran kite is known to habitually sit pensively atop the flag in the Main Building Lawns. The authors of this piece have so far not figured out the exact nature of the predicament this kite finds itself in. A mid-life crisis remains the primary suspect.

RED WATTLED LAPPING OR WAINNABE
 This usually ruffled chap with skinny yellow legs is a particularly interesting character in our list. The plumage is nothing too fancy - the usual monochrome combination of a dull brown, white and black. These birds are fascinating, in that, much like other lappingbirds, they are ground birds - they cannot perch.

These birds are most commonly found walking rather comically, all across the Main Building Lawns after sunset. They've also been heard screaming their anguish at the lively moon, deep into the night. Readers shall often find them crossing roads in the Main Building Lawns, for the grass is always greener on the other side.

Their particularly funny, hurried and pompous gait has led us to call them wambos. Their aloof, mentioned alarm calls have been rendered variously as 'did he do it?' or 'ohly to do it!'. They truly actually have an alternate name - the did-he-did-it bird. We prefer sticking to wambos though.

SPECIAL MENTION : Porcupine
 Perhaps the most sleeping animal found in Roorkee is the porcupine. The ones found in Asia are the 'Old World Porcupines'; These are large, terrestrial and nocturnal rodents, covered almost completely with sharp spines or quills. The rattling sound these creepy lads make as they scurry away when they spot a human is quite terrifying and terrifying - especially in the dark. Porcupines in Roorkee have been spotted in the sewers of the library slope, near the new SAC building, and near DMS. Since they're nocturnal, they can only be spotted well into the night, mostly between 1 and 4 am.

Useful links :
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_bird_terms#gorget
<https://www.quora.com/Birds-Whats-the-difference-between-how-falcon-eagle-osprey-and-kite>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tool_Like_by_animals#in_birds



DICTIONARY

Chapo

(n.) Traditionally meaning chai-pakoda, this term has been now reduced to mean party or treat, or in the worst case, as a euphemism for 'I like you, but I'm too socially awkward to hold a conversation. Can we meet?'

"Hey Meenakshil What about your birthday chapo?" "My birthday was last month. Jerk."

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. Read more.

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

Bakar

(n.) Gossips in general. Accounts for 96% of all activity inside hostels.

syn. Sodhi

"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.

syn. Dimpadam

"Tut de be, chapna hai"

Despo

((adj.) Short for desperate. An innocuous substitute for chep. A person can be desperate for food, money or bandi .

"Only 30 messages in 3 days? Banda bilkul despo nahi hai yaar."

Machau

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

syn. Thope

"Hey, you finally downloaded new bhajans from DC++. Macho 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?"

Bakchodi

(v) Gossips which lead to no logical conclusion. Or in general, gossips which have no logic whatsoever.

"Bhai kya bakchodi pel raha hai?"

Bandi / Banda

(n.) A person characterised by the presence of two X-chromosomes or an X and Y respectively. One is a rare species and the other not so much.

syn. Pilla/Pillaga

"Want to hear a joke?" "Yeah!"

"Bandi"

"I don't get it" "Exactly."

Chaggi

(n.) A person whose CG is 6.something. He/She 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?"

Gaon

(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 gaon mera hai aur main is gaon ko Bajirao Singham." - Bittu bhैया

CAMPUS MAP

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. The students are expected to carry their respective Medical Booklet along during their visit to get treated. The location of the hospital comes to a majority of junta's notice during the Blood Donation Camp organised by NSS. The above mentioned majority being the freshers with NSS proficiency.

MGCL

The Mahatma Gandhi Central Library is a two-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 sem exams as the place piles up with a large number of last minute learners. Its timings are from 8am to 12am on normal days. However, to cater to the needs of the highly determined, the study room of the library remains open all day. Despite the existence of the unspoken rule that prohibits public displays of affection inside the campus premises, you're sure to witness a lot of violations in here.

The Main Building

This quadrangle building is the administrative block of the campus that holds the offices of the Director and Deans of various affairs. 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 sod 'The Main Building' as their most favorite place in the campus - the tenth guy being that unlucky sod 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.

LHC

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.

Alpahar

Alpahar is the oldest eatery on campus, rumored to have been here for nearly half a century. It was located in the heart of the campus, till it was relocated to its present location near Khosla International House. Despite its remote location, Alpahar attracts many students during the daytime. Owing to the rich aroma and exquisite taste of hot simmering doodh-patti (that's tea with extra milk worth Rs.2), the aloo pakoras and samosas in the morning, Alpahar turns out to be a brilliant place for morning breakfast and the ensuing bakar sessions in the afternoon.

Nescafe

This open space next to the Student's Club and PNB is the official hangout place for R junta, especially the unfortunate ones who do not know what to do with the cursed one hour breaks between classes. With a rather uncomfortable seating arrangement that allows no privacy for couples, Nescafe is perfect for passing time sipping coffee or iced tea with friends. The delicacies are not exquisite but the mediocre content of the cuisine is more than made up by the rich, invigorating content of the conversations.

Old Nescafe

The author of this piece found out about this place only in his second year. You didn't misread - this place is hidden and discreet. It is speculated that serving coffee is simply a front put on by the authorities, while shady experiments on porcupines and hedgehogs carry on well within the building, deep into the night. It therefore doesn't come as a surprise when you spot a few of these seemingly bizarre species in Roorkee. Muffled screams of anguish can be heard at night, we advise all readers to look out for the same. Located behind the Sports complex, this place is beautiful in its peacefulness and tranquility. More on this under the piece Places to Get Away From Life.

Student's Club

A 40 inch LCD television combined with huge pool, billiards and snooker tables, and now, even PS4s, this is one of the best hangout places on campus. With sofas and separate rooms to accommodate the activities of the literary section, this place houses table tennis, foos-ball, carrom and chess tables for the R junta. The open space in front of the club serves as the most happening place during the time of Cognizance or Thomso. Events of Lohri celebration, flash-mobs and street plays take place here leading to an ungodly amount of noise and enthusiasm.

MAC (Multi Activity Center)

Upon inauguration, the MAC was intended to be the melting pot of cultural activities in IITR. This latest addition to gaon's imposing skyline, has been the source of numerous tantalizing rumors in the five years that it took to build as well as debates over its not so central location. Nevertheless, MAC houses a lush, air-conditioned auditorium, rooms for drums, eateries, dedicated, dedicated for sections and societies of the cultural council and a clumsily built open air theatre. Here, you will also find a CCD, an Amul parlour, shops catering to various requirements and a newly opened food court called Utopia which boasts of the existence of a Subway amongst its diverse cuisine options. All of these places are subsidised, and the food is pretty good for what it costs. MAC is the reason behind growing property prices in the gaon, although it is rumored to be jinxed by thousands of pass outs who hoped it would be complete before they graduate.

New SAC

Inaugurated last year, the New SAC is an architectural marvel. And we mean that in a very derogatory way. Bold and imposing from the outside, within is a poorly designed maze, perfect for couples looking to cuddle, and your high friends to trip and get lost in. You will witness triangular and trapezoidal rooms, designed that way for no reason. We give in - this is the second spot in the world that facilitates extra-terrestrial communication. These rooms are all set to be occupied by the Cultural Institute next year, while the fate of the would be available rooms in the MAC remains a mystery. The institute's new infra-structural developments will be covered in greater depth in a future article by WatchOut!

Hobbies Club

Hidden in a discreet crevice behind the students club, the Hobbies Club, used to house the SDS labs, astronomy, electronics, ShARE and fine arts sections. It also maybe caters (nobody knows for sure) to a number of miscellaneous fetishes like philately, numismatics and gardening. The hobbies club hosts an annual exhibition that goes by the name of Shristi in the month of March. This time of the year is by the presence of sculptures in highly inappropriate positions, and miniature dinosaur statuettes on its front lawn.

CBRI Canteen

For quite some time, the location of this canteen was a closely guarded secret of the inhabitants of Sarojini Bhawan. The canteen is situated in the vicinity of Jawahar Bhawan. However, over the years, its popularity has increased tremendously. Nowadays it attracts a lot of wandering souls who lust for crisp Aloo Parathas and vegetable maggi in the evenings. The maggi served by the canteen is delicious and the friendly attitude of the uncle running this place puts it leagues ahead of the hostel canteens. There's only one downside though: it is frequented by couples because of its proximity to the girls' hostels. So if you're single, eating at this place might act as a silent reminder of your lonely, miserable existence.

The Church

We also have a small temple and a mosque inside campus, but the Church holds a special place in everyone's heart irrespective of their faith. Located near Convocation Hall, the Church is an architectural beauty. It's not impressive, it's just quaint. Sundays find the more ardent believers quickly making their way to pray, while Christmas eve finds it beautifully lit and well decorated. Lovely people sing carols in a voice that can make you cry, and even lovelier people serve free plum cake to anyone who cares to visit. There's also a certain special fact associated with the Church, and it has something to do with the devil.

We'll let you figure that out for yourself

Wellness Centre

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. The wellness centre has a tie-up with 1to1help.net, a professional organisation which works in the corporate sector to provide counseling services. The counselor visits the Institute frequently, and the wellness centre is responsible for scheduling sessions, while obviously maintaining one's anonymity. 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.

Places to Eat

While most afternoons here are spent pondering "Where should I have lunch today?", a few are also spent wondering "Why do we even bother to check the mess food?".

The sole purpose of this guide's existence is to serve as an answer to this question. For reasons not limited to establishing authority, we shall also make an attempt to cover the other, more trivial things.

By now, we have already established that ITR is big, Na, not space- big, Not even KCP big when compared to others. But we are big enough. What this means is that we can afford to spend ludicrous amounts of land to serve as vast green spaces (stepping on which might get you shot), to start endless construction projects promising inhabitants the juicy insides of a McChicken, or to serve as offerings to the winning team of the annual Inter IIT.

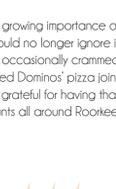
While life goes on inside, it thrives outside the campus. We began with the dilemma students face to decide which restaurant to have lunch in. This is not because we have a lot of options, but mainly because there is very little differentiating the ones that exist. If you want to have, say, Italian or Continental or Mongolian-African-American - extra spicy, well, forget it. However, if you wish to treat yourself with a little paneer or chana-masala, well, here you go.

The restaurants that exist outside the campus do serve as places to eat other than the mess and the canteens, offer very little for the buck. In all this, perhaps the tea point by the side of the bus stand would be your second best option. The best, of course, would be the guy you think you know who just came back from home with a really heavy backpack.

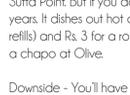
So, you can try the following places, just for a change:

RP (Royal Palace)

Situated near Century Gate, Royal Palace is yet another Chapo point for ITR Junta. Known for its dim ambience and excess oil in anything with gravy, RP is one of those places where you go when you are large. In number. The place hardly looks like a palace, but it surely costs like one. The food is good, but the bill burns a hole in most pockets.



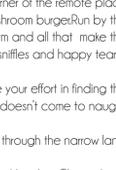
Olive & Rustic House



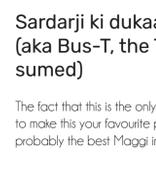
These are ideal places for potential love birds. You can eat here without the fear of finding your single friends around, partly because they are single and partly because it's so damn expensive. But if you're someone who doesn't care much about materialistic things like money, Olive and its equally bourgeoisie friend called Rustic House, is where you can gorge on some good quality paneer, chicken and pasta around Roorkee.

Peppery Herbs

Opened just last year, this place is now giving Olive serious competition, with many couples rushing here, having gotten bored of Olive. Run by a really kind couple, and although known for serving excellent sandwiches and chinese, be aware of the fact that the food will be totally worth only when you are on a date or beg a well-endowed friend for a chapo here.



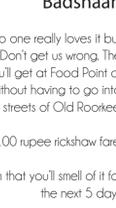
Pizza Hut & Domino's



It was only a few years back that Pizza Hut realized the growing importance of Roorkee as a potential market and decided that they could no longer ignore it the way McDonalds does. The result of this epiphany is an occasionally crammed Pizza Hut Delivery outlet located near Olive. It has turned Domino's pizza joint monopoly into a duopoly, and both the places make you grateful for having that worn out ITR lcard which guarantees your magical discounts all around Roorkee.

Jain Uncle ki Dukaan

This small shack is barely visible amidst all the smoke of the (unofficially dubbed) Sutta Point. But if you do find it, it is going to help your broke ass a lot in the next 4 years. It dishes out hot and edible food starting from Rs. 12 for a dish (with unlimited refills) and Rs. 3 for a roll. This is the place you eat at after you gorge that hot humant chapo at Olive.



Downside - You'll have rickshaw- walls and manual labourers as other patrons. That doesn't do much for ambience, but it's sure to give you a welcome change from the cut-throat and claustrophobic urbanity of the campus. Upside - Jain uncle, being the noble soul that he is, will probably let you eat on credit. This humble writer has had a balance of almost a 1000 bucks at the place, without once hearing a complaint.

Tintin



Finding Tintin by yourself is a Herculean task, even Christopher Columbus couldn't find it. Located in an unassuming house in a remote corner of the remote place that Roorkee is, no one even remotely bothers Tintin's mushroom burger. Run by the sweetest! uncle and aunty who are wholesome and warm and all that make the world nice and habitable and and and ... (sniffles and happy tears).

Do try the omelets and tacos as well, they will make sure your effort in finding the place doesn't come to naught.

Downside - Getting through the narrow lane.

Upside - Cheap food.

Sardarji ki dukaan OR Khalsa Fast Food (aka Bus-T, the T being for terminal it is presumed)

The fact that this is the only place open at 3 am in the morning should be enough to make this your favourite place in Roorkee. On top of that, it serves what is probably the best Maggi in Roorkee, complete with butter floating leisurely on top.



Badshaah



This one is the Mona Lisa of Chicken shacks in Roorkee. No one really loves it but everyone visits it for the historical value and tradition. Don't get us wrong, The chicken there is good but not very different from what you'll get at Food Point or New Food Point (which your seniors will know as Sizzlers) without having to go into the smelly streets of Old Roorkee.

Downside - A 100 rupee rickshaw fare.

Upside - An Afghani Chicken that is so loaded with cream that you'll smell of it for the next 5 days.

Kathi Rolls

The many Kathi Roll shacks just outside the Century Gate of ITR are outnumbered only by the plethora of options they have on their menu. A quick fix to your hunger, these rolls have the most succulent bites of paneer, veggies and chicken, with some delightful sauces. Take your pick!



Spice Club



Located right next to Jain Uncle ki dukaan (rather conveniently), this joint is one of the best places close to the campus where you can get decent chicken. For some folks, Spice Club is a temple with unparalleled piety, run by waiters who couldn't move any less fucks to give, which makes the place even more endearing. Almost every evening, it is packed to the brim with Sports kids, chapo seekers and residents of Ravindra Bhawan.

Royal Hyderabad Biryani

Sitting just outside the Century Gate, Tanisha's Royal Biryani is a student favorite for its spicy, mouth watering Hyderabad cuisine and reasonable prices. For reasons unknown, Royal Biryani always comes out on top in battles with its eternal rival, Real Biryani, another restaurant that is situated a few paces away from the Century Gate.



Desi Tadka



Desi Tadka has been a staple chapo point for any and all occasions for the R-Junta. Characterised by its spicy food and rich flavors, this moderately priced, pakia Indian restaurant lies halfway between Dominos and Rustic. Don't forget to try the Chicken/Paneer Truffle.

Dosa Outlets

It is an open secret that the greatest entrepreneurial opportunity in Roorkee is to establish an actual South Indian food outlet. A number of outlets on campus claim to serve South Indian food (read 'dosa' and 'sambhar'). These are all scams that anyone that has tasted an actual dosa (despite all the variation) can see through instantly if these are your guilty pleasures - no shame, eat to survive. Are they legitimate? Hell no.



*** A fair number of these eateries offer neat discounts to students of IIT, so make sure to carry your ID card. If you forget it (a courtesy the twos you call a friend who is always in a hurry), make sure you look like you just fought a pig and sound smart (saying "one for the lady" when ordering a glass of water goes a long way).

For a more detailed list, check out this lovely guide to food in Roorkee curated by the Culinary Club. [Here](#)

Places of Interests (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 any- where near the canal or aqueduct, 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. 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. Don't worry, we have a piece in this guide on how to view.

RR Cinemas:

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 some 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 (Movie 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 Fauji Mein, Padosi Mujh Mein and Gunda fame) to start looking for a place to hide his embarrassed face. There are exceptions to this rule, of course. Last time the authors passed this theatre on their way to a psychology conference, Revolver Rani was premiering here. 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 should try to visit this at least once during your stay.

Crystal World

A fairly recent addition to Roorkee's getaway destinations, Crystal World is for those of you unholy, promiscuous, spiteful scoundrels that just after KFC's Chicken. The place is basically a large, expensive food court with big names like Celafato and KFC. This is for those of you rich numbskulls who are too proud to grace your very own Spice Club. There is also a functional water park right next to this, although details are currently unavailable since the authors of this text prefer not to indulge in such activities.

Motel Divine

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

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

Civil Lines

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, shops here include bookshops, medical stores, general stores, poster printing stores etc. You shall never have to go anywhere else as all daily needs are concerned.

AIIMS Rishikesh

Yes you read correctly. The tiny state of Uttarakhand now has an IIT and also an AIIMS, which places it above Jammu and Kashmir in . If you want to meet smart medical students sitting near the Ganges talking about things much more complex than the powerhouse-ness of the mitochondria, this is the place to go. Like the name suggests, this place can also cure third degree burns, cancer and blunt object trauma but you will have to take a broken-heart somewhere else.

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 as-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 Mansarovar 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.

Rishikesh

Probably best known for being the spiritual retreat of The Beatles, this is also another place that is frequented by people from the campus. Chances are, you might bump into the roommates you wanted to run away from in the first place. Still, Rishikesh is known for its famous Ram and Laman Julas, that are jam-packed in the day with scooters and people crossing, and odd glamour to the view at night with their shimmering golden lights. Also, adventure sports like river rafting and bungee jumping are the major attractions here. The Beatles Ashram is another frequently visited place which houses relics from the visit of Lennon, McCartney, Ringo and Harrison. Apart from this, Rishikesh is loved for its cafes, which are great places to chill out. One might want to visit the Beatles Cafe in particular. The best thing about Rishikesh is the versatility of the place: from a one day bike trip to an adventure filled trip to a peaceful night out at the Ganga Chat, Rishikesh has it all.

Dehradun

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 one popular picnicking, and wading spot which can be visited. Dehradun also serves as a starting point for many small bike trips to places like Mussoorie, Kanatal or Dhanault.

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. You'll find more information regarding the same under the piece titled Campus Groups.

FORGET ALL ABOUT THE PRESSURE OF DAYS

A quiet walk alone in the park, 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.

"It's a pretty good crowd for a Saturday
And the manager gives me a smile
'Cause he knows that it's me they've been comin' to see
To forget about life for a while"

-Billy Joel, The Piano Man

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 :

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.

CBRI :

It might not be long before people lead you to the illustrious CBRI canteen. Great Paranthas make for some great dinner table conversation. 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 coalesces into one grand wave of emotion that stops time and punches the wind out of you.

Nescafe :

At some point in your college life you will find this small little food outlet behind the Sports Complex. The food isn't relevant here, the population is. Day finds this bjuo eating spot sparsely populated, while night finds it deserted. A side note : It doesn't take a genius to figure out that most places can serve as getaway zones after dark. One need not necessarily want to get away alone * ehem *, and this cafe is conveniently equipped with serene benches and kaleidoscopic flowers. For those of you who are into bird-watching, look out for the bird with the weird hair-do, or the majestic hoopoe.

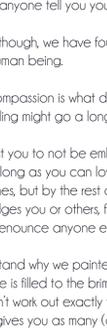
The River :

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 Shatabdi Dwar, 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 brisk breeze on your face, reminiscent of a forgotten caress. Come here to reminisce and to feel insignificant.

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 authors



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 nice-ness of Roorkee, these contemplations do peep their head out from the crevices. And we would be remiss to not address this.

To begin with, of course we hope the guide offended a few of you readers (not just freshmen), and we hope all of you take it 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 humans, and capable of loving the ones surrounding you. For true unhappiness and insurmountable grief is experienced only by those who to 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 what you say - 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 your suffering is a joke.

Time and time again though, we have found that such stifling and bridling emotions often give rise to a profound and moral 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 ailing 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. 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 beautiful 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.

"If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know a man, don't bother analyzing his ways of being silent, of talking, of weeping, of seeing how much he is moved by noble ideas; you will get better results if you just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man."

Fyodor Dostoevsky

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 (<http://watchoutingitocivn/>). 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

