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Watch Out!

The Freshman Issue '19



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Welcome to Roorkee, dear freshman!

There is a good chance that this issue won't find you in the best of mental states. In all likelihood, you would already have fostered some hate for your roommate, grown tired of the unappetizing food in the mess, cried a couple of times because you miss your family, and in an effort to make some new friends, wrecked every social interaction you might've taken a shot at. You might also be tormented and embittered by the fact that dogs (actual dogs, not guys who act like dogs) are fellow companions when it comes to using the washroom. Consequently, you might want to tear this glossy magazine apart that we so kindly delivered to your doorstep, just to vent out your frustration .

That's how most of us spent our first week at this place; and we'd love to tell you that it gets better as time goes by and how it's all duck-soup from here on out. But as you will soon find out for yourself, we'd be liars if we told you so.

However, with hearty assertion, we can claim that you will, in fact, not be the only one who shall..

- 1.) Soon be surprised at how quickly you're running out of money, even though you'll spend it only on instant noodles and photocopying notes
- 2.) Struggle with the concept of having to do your laundry regularly
- 3.) Fail to juggle between your social life and academic responsibilities
- 4.) Skip your meals and
- 5.) Lie to your parents about going to bed early

And that, is the greatest thing about it all! Roorkee is painful, but marvellous; and most of its glory is hidden in the generous amount of empathy you'll find among the people here. Everyone you see around you is almost as confused as you are. As a matter of fact, even the guy who's been here a year or two longer than you have, is probably still stumbling through his days at R and doesn't quite have it all figured out.

This Freshman Issue then, aims to welcome you to this beautiful campus. The nice people at Watch Out! hope that this 24-page book (that you were going to tear apart a couple of paragraphs ago) makes the initial couple of weeks at R just a little bit easier!



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The Students Affairs Council

The Student Affairs' Council of IIT Roorkee is a student managed body which discusses the grievances of the student populace with the administration. It functions as a two-tier body, with a central arm at the institute-wide level, and a subordinate bhawan council for every hostel. The institute level positions are elected by the students in the later half of the spring semester, through the secret-ballot process.

The major issues you might face regarding the administration are something that these students are well equipped to help you with. An open Facebook group by the name of **SAC IITR Discussion Forum** is usually the place for discussion on all issues the students might have. You are welcome to post your queries on this forum, or simply drop a message to these students, who'd be happy to help you out.

The eight elected students for the 2019-20 session, and their corresponding duties are:

General Secretary, Academic Affairs |

Vadada Kalyan Kumar (UG) & Vishal Mishra (PG)

- Bringing changes in academic policies
- Catering to academic and scholarship related issues of UG & PG students
- Promotion of Undergraduate Research

General Secretary, Hostel Affairs |

Aniket Jaiswal

- Ensures proper implementation of bhawan level affairs, activities and initiatives
- Is responsible for undertaking inter-bhawan activities in the campus
- There is also an elected representative for carrying out these duties for the PG Hostels, Deputy General Secretary: Saurabh Upadhyay

General Secretary, Professional Affairs |

Mula Sai Varun

- Looks over the holistic professional development of students through planned training activities to help us secure good placements and internships.
- Responsible to work in collaboration with non technical groups for organizing institute level events
- Student point of contact for the international relations office.

General Secretary, Technical Affairs |

Abhishek Kumar

- Student representative of all the student run technical bodies in the campus
- Coordinator of IIT Roorkee in annual inter IIT technical team
- Information dissemination and collection related to internet and available software licences procured by the institute

General Secretary, Sports Affairs |

Mahipal Singh Bhati

- Representative of the Institute Sports Council, IIT Roorkee
- Coordinates inter-bhawan and inter-collegiate sports tournaments
- Serves as the SAC representative in the Inter-IIT sports meet

General Secretary, Cultural Affairs |

Divyansh Jain

- Head of the Cultural Society, IIT Roorkee
- Responsible for cultural activities inside the institute

Campus Facilities

Apart from the usual, boring, departments and hostels, the campus of IIT Roorkee has multiple buildings you'd probably have to frequent to solve most of your daily issues. Here's a handy list of the most important ones!

Lecture Halls |

The institute has 2 main lecture halls, both conveniently located near the main building, and the library. The older one, connected to the Department of Management Studies (DoMS), has 2 halls with comparatively larger seating capacity. The new lecture hall complex is a recently built 4-storied building behind the DoMS. Both the complexes have well-constructed, air-conditioned lecture halls with multiple projectors. A third LHC is under construction, allegedly with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Library |

The Mahatma Gandhi Central Library (MGCL) is a rather impressive structure in its own right. The library houses more than 3.5 lakh books as well as many age old publications. It also has computers for you to use, and has a reading room by its side. The library offers a Textbook Loan Scheme, or TBLS, for the entire semester, and remains open for 24 hours during exam times.

Banks |

The Institute has branches of two national banks, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and the State Bank of India (SBI). The former is located next to the Students Club while the latter flanks the Senate Hall in the Main Building. SBI and PNB, combined, have 6 ATMs around the campus, one of each in the respective main branches and the MAC, one SBI ATM next to the canteen in Cautley Bhawan and one inside CBRI.

Institute Hospital |

The Institute Hospital is a 50-bedded medical care centre offering OPD, emergency and IPD, laboratory, X-ray & ECG services, among others, to the faculty, staff and the students of the institute, for no charge. Ambulance services are also available for in-house and off-campus referrals at all times.

Training and Placement Office |

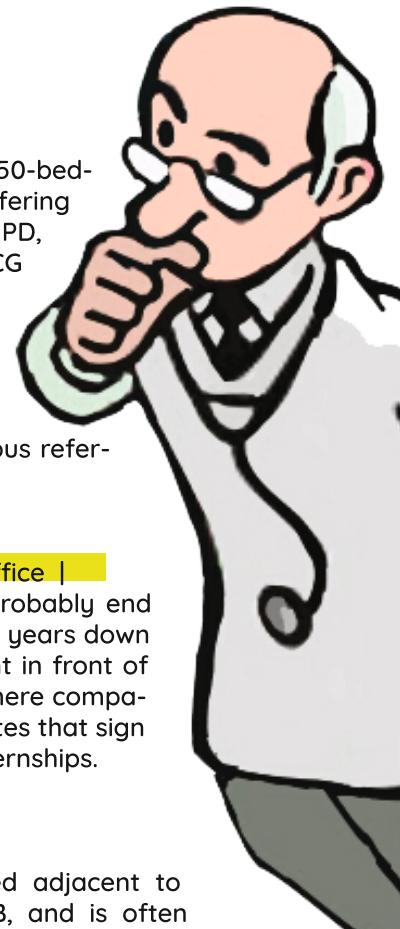
The TPO is where you'll probably end up in borrowed suits a few years down the line. The complex, right in front of the Convocation Hall, is where companies interview the candidates that sign up for placements and internships.

The Post Office |

The Post Office is located adjacent to Georgia and next to PNB, and is often surrounded by fruit vendors during the best part of the day. It serves the usual postal services and facilitates regular flow of mail. This facility is quite useful for the transfer of larger packages and hard-mailing of transcripts to various national and international universities.

The Institute Instrumentation Center |

The IIC houses large number of sophisticated instruments used for high magnification imaging, precision chemical analysis etc. The Centre is run by trained technical manpower and researchers, who are guided by experienced faculty experts. The IIC collaborates with industries on R&D and consultancy projects as well. The facilities are extended to students and researchers of other institutes as well.



FRESHMAN ISSUE

Batch of 2019

Institute Computer Center (ICC) |

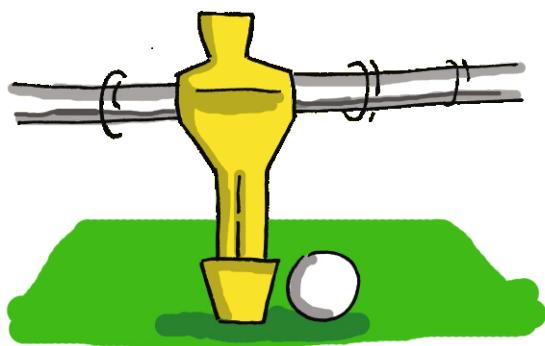
The go-to place for resolving all software and internet-related issues, the Computer Center is located just behind the Chemistry Department on the road leading to the Hobbies Club. Everything from your channel-I registration to LAN registration gets done here. In addition, the Information Management Group's (IMG) lab is situated here.

Multi Activity Center (MAC) |

The MAC houses an impressive auditorium, rooms for indoor games, eateries, dedicated rooms for sections of the cultural council, and an open air theatre. The offices of Cognizance and Thomso are in this building along with the SAC office. The top floor is occupied exclusively by Team Robocon. We also have a heavily subsidised Cafe Coffee Day outlet and an Amul Parlour, in addition to a newly opened Food Court called 'Utopia' which is particularly famous for sporting a Subway store within its confines.

Tinkering Lab |

Just as the name suggests, this place is designed for the students to tinker with original ideas. It was developed in association with Oxigen, with the grand vision of producing 100 entrepreneurs from the campus. The lab boasts of top-notch facilities for product design and development.



Train Reservation Office |

Situated at the end of the road leading to the hospital, this place has three functioning ticket windows. Discount forms are also available for students to avail cheaper tickets during vacations.

Students' Club |

A 40-inch LCD television & PS4 Consoles combined with huge spaces for pool, billiards and snooker tables: this is arguable one of the best places to chill inside IITR. Indoor games like chess, carrom, foosball and table-tennis are also available here. The open space in front of the club, called the UG Floor, serves as the most happening place during the time of Cognizance and Thomso. It also serves as a gathering place during Holi and Diwali.

TIDES Business Incubator |

The Technology Innovation & Development of Entrepreneurship Support (TIDES) Business Incubator facilitates incubation of new enterprises with innovative technologies by providing them with physical, technical, financial and networking supports and services. If you are a startup enthusiast, this place has got everything you'd hope for.

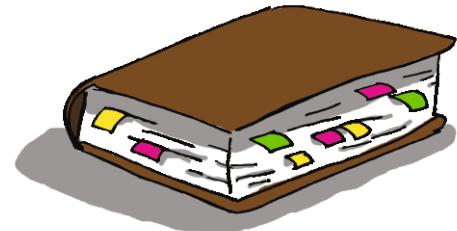
Students Activity Center (SAC) |

Home to campus groups both technical and cultural, this newly constructed building features state-of-the-art architectural designs which might give you the feel of the Grand Staircase of Hogwarts (Try reaching the 4th floor). The structure also harbours exhibitions such as 'Srishti' by the Students Technical Council, 'Darpan' by the Fine Arts Section and 'Lumiere' by the Photography section. The student-run-cafe (Courtesy of the Culinary Club) opens up on Saturdays and Sundays, which you might wanna try out as well.

Design Innovation Centre (DIC) |

The Design Innovation Center (DIC), is one of the twenty DICs being set up in the country by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The center aims to cultivate a culture of design and innovation, while primarily addressing the relevant problems of the North-West Himalayan region.

Campus Dictionary



Here's a handy glossary that explains the mildly amusing terms people from Roorkee frequently incorporate in their vocabulary. You might want to do so yourself, if you want to fit in!

1. 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 don't really have any topic to talk with you. Can we meet?'

"Hey Meenakshi! What about your birthday chapo?"

"My birthday was last month. Jerk."

2. Ghissu :

(n.) The kind of person everyone wants to become, but can't; and therefore those who can are subjected to social ridicule. Characterised by high GPA and a (generally) absent social life.

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

3. Kholu :

(n.) Literally meaning opener, in IITR this term refers to the person who opens the institute and/or branch by fetching the best rank in JEE-Adv. in the institute or the corresponding branch.

"Humaari branch ka kholu kaun hai be?"

4. Bakchodi :

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

"Bhai kya bakchodi pel raha hai?"

5. Poly :

(n.) A purposive act of building contacts through conversational skills, good looks and (if nothing else works) running around doing menial jobs in Thomso or Cogni; through which you snatch away future opportunities from more deserving candidates. Short for politics.

"Mere department mein bahaut poly chalti hai yaar"

6. Bandi :

(n.) A person characterised by the presence of two X-chromosomes. A rare species in IIT.

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

"Bandi"

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

7. 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 lagti aur meri chaggi?"

8. Gaoon :

(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 gaoon mera hai aur main is gaoon kaa Bajirao Singham."

9. Fachcha :

(n.) A fresher in college, i.e., someone in the first year of his college. Recognised by die-hard optimism and high hopes which soon vanish under the dying smoke of sutta and effect of certain liquid carbon compounds.

In an interview of any section

"Haan, Kabir. Why should we select you in our group?"

"Sir, Main udna chahta hoon, daudna chahta hoon, girna bhi chahta hoon, bas rukna nahi chahta"

"Bas kar fachche. You're in."

10. GPL :

(n.) The exact full-form of this acronym remains a controversy, so we will provide you with a less gross version. GPL stands for Grand Picchhwada Laat. It is the holy ceremony of constant butt-smashing that takes place:

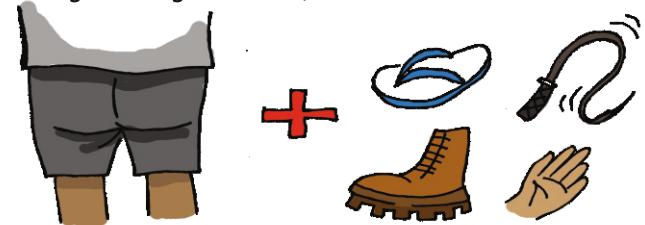
a) On your birthday.

b) On any day your friends feel like doing it.

GPL is instantaneous. GPL is brief. GPL is fun. (Not for the person on the receiving end).

"Yar, the Prof made me Class Representative today."

"Abey dekh kya rahe ho, GPL lo saale ki!"



Eccent-R-ics



Saap

Metaphorical serpents, as opposed to actual snakes, are not uncommon in R-land. They may try to instill credence in the naive minds of unsuspecting individuals with relatable and seemingly inconspicuous banter like "Yaar maine bhi kuch nahi padha" and the sort, only to then pull a quick Brutus on them come exam-time. Although such vile and ungodly creatures are usually indiscernible from the nondescript R-resident at first glance, they can be easily identified by the uncanny contrast between their academic scores and the claims of helplessness they fabricated a day prior.

Shakespeare ke Chot(d)e

This genus consists of pseudo firangis who take pride in their inability to hold proper conversations without the utilization of imposing vocabulary and vague references to ancient Latin literature that are bound (and intended) to leave Average Ram Sharma flabbergasted and shaken up - not to mention the associated birth of a deeply engraved inferiority complex. Being the minority however, this anglo-complex seems to wear off after a month of two of being labeled as pretentious twats by every other person they come in contact with.



Jaded Truth-Seekers

A species predominantly found in the corridors of Jawahar Bhawan, or stumbling out of Motel Divine on better days. These pilgrims of Nirvana have took to seeking solace in bitter bottles and tiny puffs of euphoria. While these unruly congregations might come across as a bit much to those not acquainted with their ways, they insist that the plethora of substances they utilize - for the sake of their holy quest - are nothing but essential inputs for the sustenance of the soul.

Weeaboos

On the off chance that you're a time-traveller from the stone-age who hasn't heard of anime, you might become thoroughly acquainted with it as you waddle your way through the first semester, looking for more and more ways to distract yourself from the monotony of life. Anime is one of God's more delightful mistakes. Those that walk this niche path of culture, are often referred to as weeb/animaniacs/degenerate-trash, and can often be identified by their tendency to throw around incongruous Japanese vocabulary(read : anime terms) in between "conversations" and their dubious social skills. Being a weaboo unhealthily increases your chances of being a hikikomori, or shut-in.

Roorkee no Hikkikomori

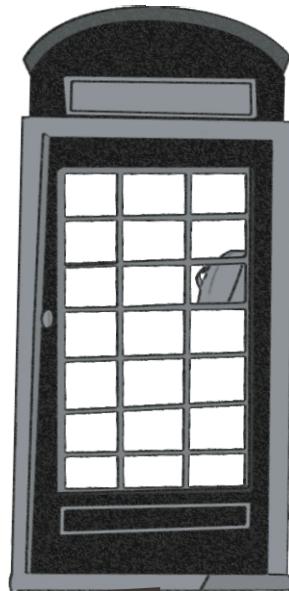
There also exist those that prefer the serenity and relative unhappening-ness of their room to the bustle-filled, chaotic brand of fun that most of the campus has to offer. Contrary to popular belief, shut-ins cannot always be associated with high GPAs and a non-existent social life. What these beings of mystique actually do with all the time at their hands remains one of the many mysteries that IITR has to offer.

Waiting

He saw the green flag out of the corner of his eye. The engine revved up. The platform moved backwards. The cacophony of the announcements and the densely packed railway station turned into a deafening silence. Slowly, each part of her started disappearing, until he could only see an outstretched hand. It was a 24 hour journey. As the train rounded the corner, his heart sank. The day had finally arrived, and the train slowly chugged along to Roorkee.

It was the late 70s. He came from a humble, hard-working household. He wasn't handsome, he wasn't very smart. He didn't play a lot of games and he could never afford the luxuries of art. He did, however, have her. They'd been childhood sweethearts. She'd been the quintessential belle with velvet hands, while he'd been the coarse, rugged, nobody. He didn't speak English all that well. And when he did, he'd fumble, and she'd throw her head back and make a sound that resembled a whale. He trembled at times - a nervous tell. She'd whisk it away. Nobody knew what she saw in him, but there they were, slowly drawn apart by the train.

A year passed by, then two. It seemed to have flashed by in every aspect other than one - he hadn't seen her in what felt like a decade. Promises had been made, they were to exchange letters every month. The first one he wrote took up 4 pages, the first one she wrote scored 10. He had never had friends, nobody other than her. He wasn't shy or arrogant, he just never found the need for anyone else. That continued in college. He'd wait for classes to end everyday, so he could sip his tea and wait for the postman to come calling. And when he wasn't waiting, he wrote. He wrote songs of love, and passionate poetry, his only companions in Roorkee. He was incredibly alone, but the memory of her touch never let him make sense of his solitude.



A phone booth opened up a year after he joined college. It was a quaint little cabin with a picturesque path leading up to it right opposite Azad Bhawan. He never told his parents; he only ever wanted to talk to her. They could never speak for more than 10 minutes - there was always someone in line. The days coalesced into one - he never did anything else. He'd wait for classes to end to rush to get his tea and get in line, and then he'd wait for the night to end. He spent his days waiting.

She sent shorter letters now. It made sense in his head - she was older and busier too, how much could she write? Yet he never noticed the constant length of his own letters. Nothing had changed for him, how could it? He had to pass his tests, and he had to talk to her - what could have changed? They never hit the 10 minute mark after a while. Seven, to five, to a mere two; his hands trembled more often now.

It'd been two years. They spoke for a few minutes, once a month. The postman never showed up last month. And the month before that. He wrote furiously though, and skipping a day waiting for her call was beyond reason. The chai went cold, but the phone never rang. He spent his days waiting.

Years passed by. A different city, a different girl. She wasn't the same. Nothing felt the same. As she fell asleep to Almost Blue, he made himself a cup of tea again. He trembled every night, she never knew about it. The sound of a blaring horn reminded him again of the green flag, and the engine revving up. He never quite forgot that whale like noise. The tea went cold, the record ended, yet the phone never rang. He spent his days waiting.

Birds of R-land

HOOPOE or THE JOHNNY BRAVO

These birds are the easiest to identify. The origins of the Mohawk 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 hubs; they have however been spotted around Nescafe and LBS.

These birds are named after their call - a loud 'oop', 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.

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 tri-coloured blessing in Roorkee.



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 flameback woodpeckers. The rich multi-coloured plumage of these angelic birds comes as a breath of fresh air and the truly lucky ones can find them incessantly 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.

INDIAN GREY HORNBILL

These commonly found, devilishly handsome arboreal lads are primarily sighted in pairs. The weak hearted must be warned; the villainous stare 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 Georgia Cafe are the primary hubs of these birds. Winters famously sport upwards of 6 hornbills in these trees.



RED WATTLED LAPWING or WANNABE

This usually rotund chap with skinny yellow legs is a particularly interesting character in our list. The plumage is nothing too fancy - the usual mainaesque combination of a dull brown, white and black. These birds are fascinating, in that, much like other lapwings, 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 lonely 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.



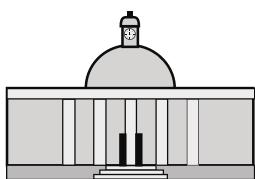
Campus Map



MAC (Multi-Activity Centre)



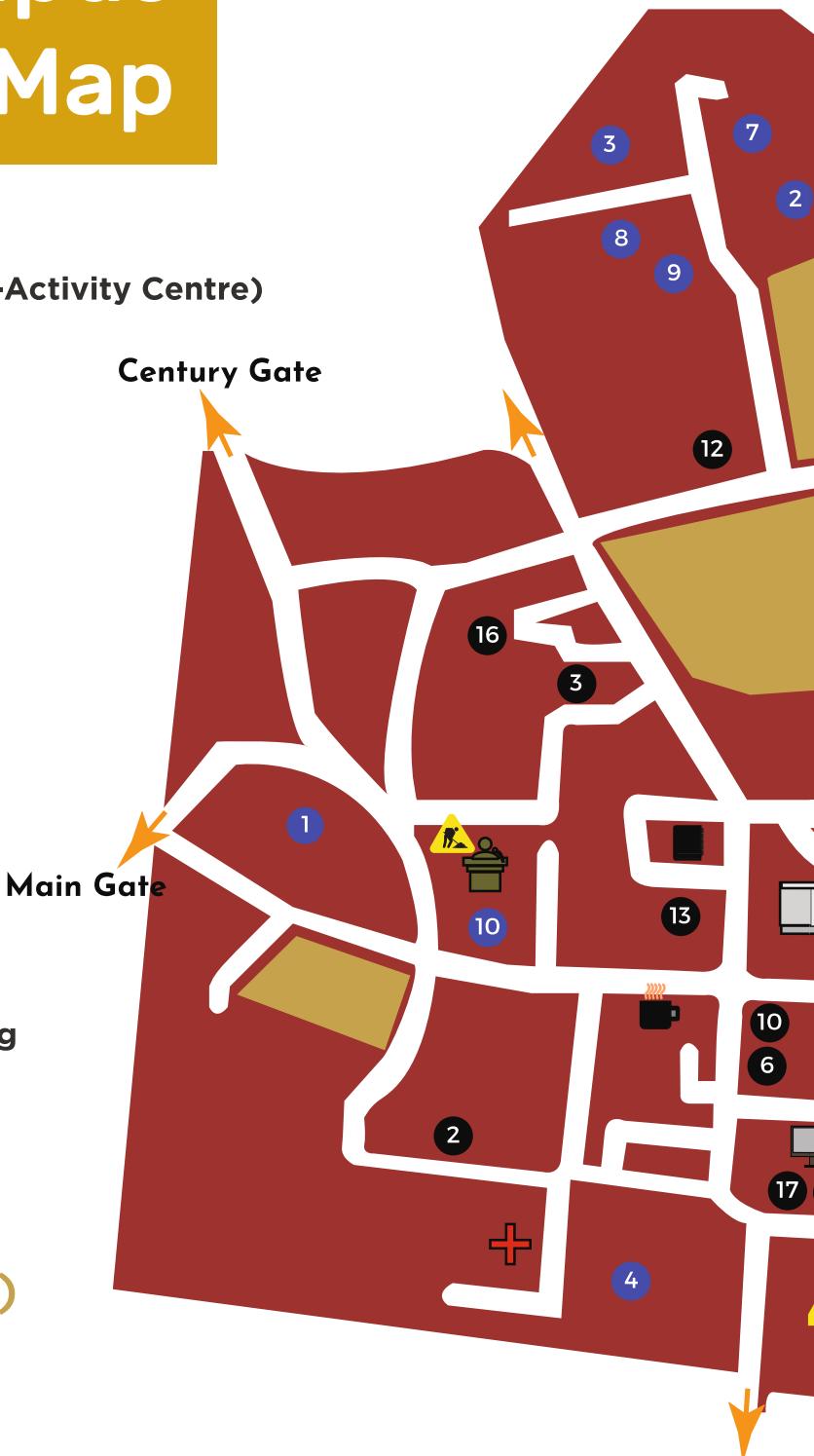
Georgia Café



Main Building

Hostels (Bhawans)

1. Azad Bhawan
2. Cautley Bhawan
3. Ganga Bhawan
4. Govind Bhawan
5. Jawahar Bhawan
6. Kasturba Bhawan
7. Radhakrishnan Bhawan
8. Rajendra Bhawan
9. Rajiv Bhawan
10. Ravindra Bhawan
11. Sarojini Bhawan
12. New Students' Hostel



LHC (Lecture Hall Complex)

● Departments

- 
1. Department of Architecture & Planning
2. Department of Biotechnology
3. Department of Chemical Engineering
4. Department of Chemistry
5. Department of Civil Engineering
6. Department of Computer Science & Engineering
7. Department of Earthquake Engineering
8. Department of Earth Sciences
9. Department of Electrical Engineering
10. Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering
11. Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
12. Department of Hydrology
13. Department of Management Studies
14. Department of Mathematics
15. Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
16. Department of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering
17. Department of Physics
18. Department of Water Resources & Management

Mahatma Gandhi Central Library

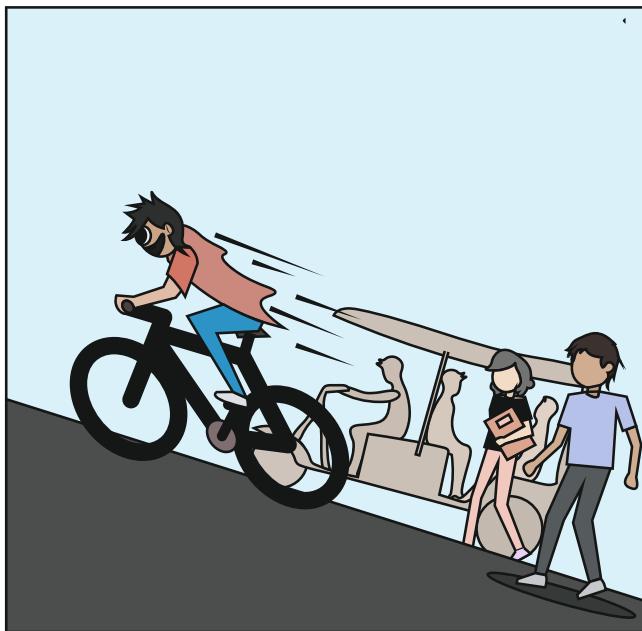
TO CBRI(Central Building Research Institute)

Institute Computer Centre



Institute Hospital

Comic Strip



Help Groups

In the last few years, three wellness groups have been formed on our campus to help the overall student well-being. These groups function under the Associate Dean of Students' Welfare (Student Wellness), currently Prof. Aalok Misra. The three groups especially cater to Freshmen and help you adjust to college life. In case you were dozing off during the orientations, here we give you a brief insight into these groups and their functioning.

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 counselling services. The counsellor 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 counsellor if one prefers that.

The wellness centre also organises talks on various issues and conducts activities for UG and PG students to increase bonding.

Contact:teamwellnesss@iitr.ac.in
Oshin Sapra: 9557920492



Student Mentorship Program

Launched in the academic year 2016-2017, The Student Mentorship Program aims to connect the First Year Students to Student Mentors from the final or pre-final year. The Mentor acts as a guide and helps the freshmen get through the first year of college life. Emphasis is laid on selecting mentors from different fields and areas including but not limited to: Competitive coders, Designers, Web Developers, Sports, Academia and heads of different campus groups. Other than the regular mentor-mentee sessions, there are also several other initiatives including cross-mentorship sessions, workshops and career talks.

Contact:smp@iitr.ac.in
Laksh Arora: 99272 54921

Academic Reinforcement Program

Started in the last few weeks of the autumn semester of 2017 as an initiative to aid the freshmen with the academic labyrinth, the Academic Reinforcement Program (ARP) has grown to become a prime platform to help facchas boost their infernal score, also known as grade pointer. ARP assigns course-specific Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UGTAs, or in short TAs) to every student, to help them get by the basics and principles of their respective courses. They may conduct study sessions whenever required, to clear the doubts, and if demanded, give chapos. These UGTAs are sophomores or seniors who excelled the same course during their time. Besides teaching and solving doubts, UGTA also acts as a bridge between students and professors.

ARP also conducts open sessions and a series of lectures to help freshmen choose their respective career paths.

Contact:Saurabh Kumar: 9410571484



A Clash of Egos

What if she is too loud?

What if he hides a Sledgehammer under his pillow to smash your blaring alarm into eternal silence?

What if you don't like her?

What if he is over-friendly?

What if she hates the way you burp after that disgusting mess lunch?

What if she is inflicted with a malignant disease, say, an obsessive need to keep the room clean? The constant nagging and badgering to keep the room tidy could drive you nuts. She refuses to see how having all your clothes and socks and the usual, weird impedimenta cluttered around you, induces in you a sense of serene calm, and is in fact an expression of your creativity.

Maybe you hate her phone's ringtone. Every time that cursed cell rings, the dirtiest expletives cross your mind. Or maybe you are reminded of your own loneliness and you drown in yet another wave of desolation. How come nobody ever calls you unless it's about marking their proxy attendance?

And when you are fervently praying to the universe in all sincerity and desperation to help you with the exams (which loom overhead like dementors), and making grand promises to yourself to ensure a fresh, new start (next semester) by improving your sleep-cycle and completing your assignments on your own - your meditative spell is broken by a sudden burst of laughter from your bedside: your roommate is hysterical about that damned, hackneyed Netflix show. It will take the entire extent of your will and determination to not pole-vault across the room and drive your makeshift spear through his detestable gut.

And what will you do, if every time you return to your room you find your chocolate chip biscuits missing and your roommate absolutely glowing with a strange contentment that can only result from, well, devouring chocolate chip biscuits. Why of course you'll sell his sweaty socks and nauseatingly smelly shoes online!

You may be convinced that he is the devil's wing-man, having come straight outta hell to wreck misery, but we assure you, he isn't. The counselling committee stringently checks all such documents before confirming the admission of any student, and such a fascinating detail about his origins could not have escaped them. So you can rule out all your conspiracy theories that say that he's alien or some primal creature of the jungle. It may baffle you as to how he manages to bait so many unsuspecting seniors into taking him out on chapos. And as you take the heavy steps towards the mess you wish you were that wily too.

But if you think hard enough, you'll realize there are certain perks too. Life surely does become easier when you can pretend that your roommate is the raison d'être for your unmentionable CGPA. And when you struggle with questions like "whether we eat soup or drink soup?", or sweat over selecting a cool enough name for your wifi hotspot, he will be by your side, literally, albeit in a state of blissful oblivion. Also, he is the one you can kick when he snores peacefully, comfortably sprawled on the bed, while you are still up at 5 am completing the assignment for the 8 am class.

True, life with your roommate will not always be rainbows and unicorns. You may be quite the tortured soul but the wounds will heal, the resentment shall fade away, for after all, your roommate is going to be the least of your problems here.

It will not be long before you bond over the night-long rants on the mess-ki-daal, mess-ki-roti and MAN-001 assignments. You will diss the CR for not being able to get the class cancelled when it rained, and then there's PUBG, of course .

So it is fine if you two aren't like Batman and Robin or Jai and Veeru - you two can come up with your own version of coolness. There is some fun to look forward to (or so we continue telling ourselves after finishing the one year tenure).

Bhawans

GAON

Rajendra

This Bhawan houses nincompoops and delirious kids; no that's not us, but this is how you are going to address yourself while reminiscing the freshman days. It is composed of sprawling stone buildings with enough play spaces where lads are found exhilarating over football matches, cricket matches, volleyball, badminton and sometimes even beating each other and tearing clothes. You tend to abhor this place when you first step in and a shitty mess on top will make you more homesick than ever. But slowly you will settle in making peace with the exotic species around you and the constant raucous of the campus will keep you engaged. Take care of your expensive clothing (why did you even bring them here?) because they will start fading from the laundry basket cloth by cloth and one day you will be staring at your empty cupboard. Even the canteen isn't at par and hence the reason why the desperately hungry kids pester their seniors for chapos all day, all week.

Rajendra Bhawan seems to be full of cons but that doesn't stop it from being the best Bhawan on the campus. There is an aroma of eagerness and vivacity and you spend your most carefree days of the campus within the walls of this dwelling. You tend to find your best mates and best enemies within these premises and you will be heartbroken when you leave it. RJB is one of those things that you only love in the hindsight.

Radhakrishna (RKB)

RKB is ou-R very own example of Potemkin's village - it's a new hostel with a functioning lift which can mislead you into believing that it's a great place to stay. Sooner rather than later though, you will come across some (read: all) inhabitants of this Bhawan cribbing about their extremely small rooms and their seventh-world struggles of existing with a bed AND a table. You will never find any traces of the canteen (apart from a small tapri) until you get to reside here. The Masala patties of the tapri is a must-try. RKB is supposedly the tallest building in the campus and the view from the rooms on the 6th and 7th floors is worth dying for (we tend to be dramatic, the view is okay). Just in case you find yourself living here, here's a small caution: there is an unmistakable non-uniformity in the levels of air quality within this dwelling. The toxicity level rises as you ascend to higher floors. Some find it obnoxious while others find their true nature here.

Rajiv

Smugly situated opposite the MAC, this beautiful and quality establishment is a blessing to live in. It sports (arguably) the best mess and boasts of the best view from the balcony. Newer architecture, open terrace for canteen area and a (relatively) prime location makes it one of the most enviable Bhawans in the campus. Surprisingly it is found that mostly all the good boys reside here (nice guys finish last but end up in Rajiv). The existence of CCD, Food Court, Cultural Council, a general store and ATMs within a 40-second radius is the biggest luxury Rajeev Bhawan has to offer. The newly opened night canteen is becoming a popular spot for people to hang out at night. If it's 3:30 am and you can't sleep, take a walk through the campus, order the yummiest bhelpuri at this night canteen (only available here) and rejoice in the gobsmacking spice of the bhel, for your life shall remain bland for the most part.

Cautley

With big palm trees greeting you at the entrance, there is something undeniably special about the grandeur of this Bhawan. A wholesome environment with a great mess, great canteen and lavish Bhawan Days bring it into our notice despite it being a PG residence. The Bhawan has a very rich culture when it comes to sports and extracurricular activities with a fully functional music room and a gym. The inmates work really hard for their Bhawan Day and we get to witness the most amazing murals and decorations. Having Cautley's Chai and Maggi while setting camp on the road with your gang used to be the highlight of the late-night strolls and night-outs, until recently when night canteens were made functional in almost all the hostels. Nevertheless, Cautley will remain irreplaceable. It is conveniently located in the gaon area and the canteens are usually full with members of the cultural council, hogging bun omelettes and soup Maggi after long hours of practice sessions.

Ganga

You will see this quaint Bhawan right beside your current hostel (if you're a male), and only in the rarest of circumstances will you venture to cross the boundaries and dare to enter this hostel during your entire stay at IITR (umm well politics can make you do anything so let's exempt that case). It's not haunted, it's just that it is inhabited by species that the undergrad population is usually apprehensive of interacting with. Located in an inaccessible, remote corner of the Gaon, many girls don't even know of its existence until they're informed by desperate males, clinging on to any ice breaker. If you are adventurous, have a death-wish, or are trying to butter your TAs, you'll end up visiting and we advise you to try the Parathas in the canteen.



SHEHAR

Ravindra

The day is not far when the campus will celebrate and rue the inevitable demise of this age-old, beloved establishment. Stone walls will come crashing down, and nothing but a heap of ash and ruin will remain : a morose reminder of the most resourceful hostel this campus has ever seen. Various cases of crumbling balconies, and regular ceiling leakages during the rains (you are never going to miss the 8 am lectures because the dripping water will keep you wide awake) have been reported. The inhabitants are usually found praising this trembling structure established way back in 1959 - while they're aware that the Bhawan might collapse on them any day, they claim that this fact counters the morbid monotony of everyday life. The Ravindra Bhawan is weirdly famous for a 'free food canteen' and the canteen wale bhaiyas are found chit-chatting and gossiping with the students which clearly depicts the brotherly bond they share. This Bhawan is extremely conveniently located, with the LHC adjacent to it, Georgia and ATMs opposite it, and the JD Gate a mere stone's throw away. You are bound to spend an unhealthy amount of money on the lip-smacking Paneer Dilruba and Afghani Chicken served at Spice Club, located closer than the mess, if you live here. The infrastructure and location of the blocks are said to be tricky because 2 kids were lost while searching for their mentor's room last year. They still haven't been found.

Sarojni

One of the oldest and smallest hostels, this bhawan is undoubtedly a warm, homely place. Occupied by B.Tech 1st year and PhD girls who are accommodated in different wings, girls, you are never going to have as much fun in your living quarters after your first year. Its lawns are full of flowers, and the fruit stall, poetically situated under the shade of a mango tree, is a go-to place after your classes are over. The corridors echo with peals of high-pitched laughter, and even the visitor's room is usually occupied for movie sessions, gaming and gossiping. Brace yourself to involuntarily eavesdrop on some weird and creepy conversations between the senior females around you during mess hours and in canteens. The Bhawan Day of Sarojini Bhawan is considered to be the most glamorous night (perhaps at par with the Prom Night) in the campus.

Azad

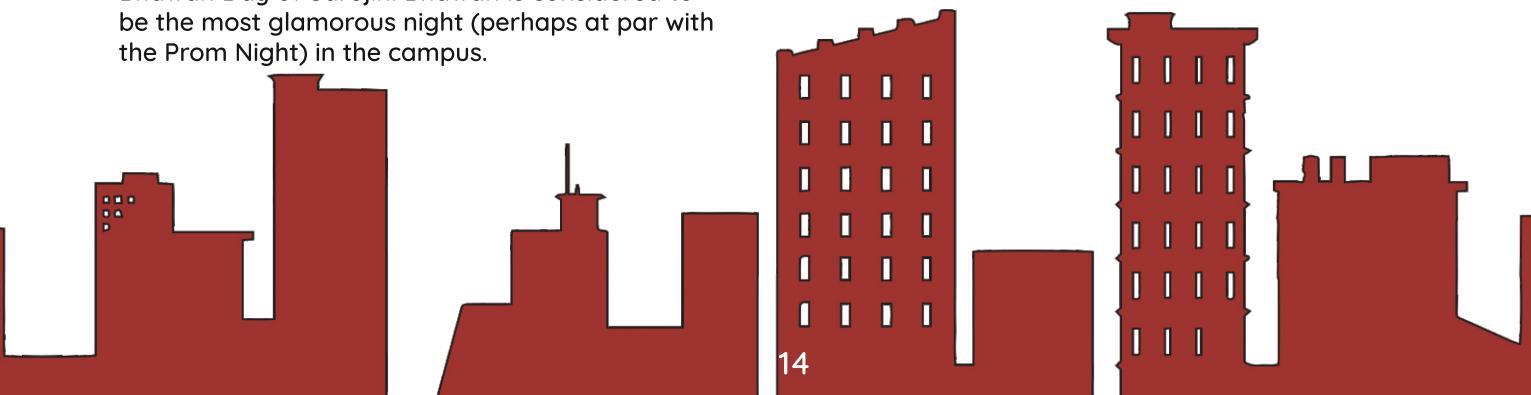
Another PG residence, you will often grace this hostel with a sideways glance during your visits to the main gate. You might also stop by to admire some beautiful wall paintings made by the students (we believe it houses some of our best artists). The volleyball courts are usually overflowing with enthusiasm and sweat during the evening and late-night matches between the local residents. This Bhawan holds a special place in our hearts. The visitor's room of this Bhawan is a sacred place for Watch Out!, where every year the new comrades battle through the recruitment process and we pick the ones of our kind.

Kasturba

Newly constructed with modern infrastructure, coloured walls and doors, 6 floors, a functioning lift (without the ethereal paan spit-stain), and an elegant entrance, Kasturba Bhawan feels like a good upgradation after spending a year within those pale grey walls with metal cupboards and rusting grills. But soon you'll miss a sense of connection and warmth that you enjoyed at Sarojini. The mess is decent enough and the reading room is an absolute delight with bean bags, small wooden stools and colourful chairs. This is the best place to escape the hustle-bustle of the campus and relax after an exhausting (read: unproductive) day. A sad truth though: life gets lonelier here as the years fly by, but the place has almost everything for your comfort and you usually tend to spend more time outside than within its confines. Anyway, the SAC building is right opposite the Bhawan so, yeet!

Jawahar

Located adjacent to the Architecture department, "Green" is an apt colour-characterisation for Jawahar Bhawan. Green, for the verdant lawns and for certain advanced herbs found within the establishment that we aren't supposed to mention. The variety of recreational activities available (wink) attracts a large crowd from the campus - inhabitant or not. Regular screening of football and cricket matches in the lawns conveniently placed next to the canteen, the existence of a resourceful and multifunctional club room, enough



grounds for multiple muddy football matches on a rainy Saturday, and a recurring obnoxious (read : divine) smell in the corridor while visiting the washroom, add to the thrills of residing in this Bhawan. Jawahar has historically been a melting pot of mixed ideologies, communities and political theories; consequently, this part of R-land is usually considered sensitive during the days of elections (it will take seconds to see an altercation escalate into punches and blows eventually turning arms & noses red).

Though far from almost all the regular confluence spots of IITR inhabitants (like LHC, Library, MAC and Century Gate), the luxury of spacious rooms, balconies where you can enjoy the mild sun on a lazy winter afternoon, and the presence of the Sarojini Bhawan right in front of the Bhawan (we can sense some sly smiles curving slowly on certain faces) make this hostel a well reputed dwelling spot amongst the blokes in the campus.

Govind

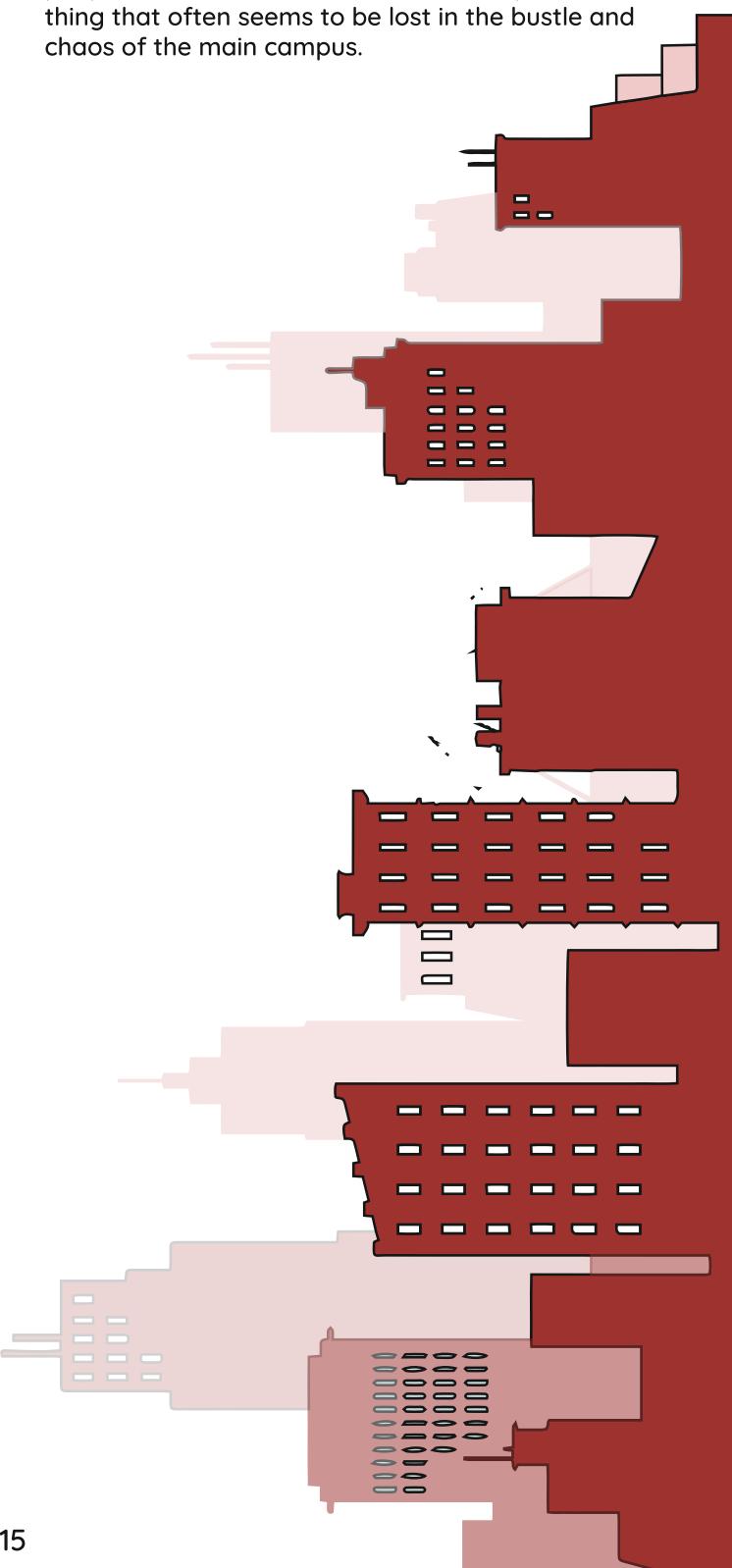
Built separately from the rest of the hostels, this Bhawan has well-established facilities and we have rarely found people complaining or ranting about their living quarters. It is located adjacent to the hospital, close to most departments, and the LHC. There are unique luxuries - Govind's USP - personal tennis courts and a mini-library with over 600 books. A major disadvantage is the presence of Ravindra's Lounge opposite the Bhawan, where frequent marriages/ parties are hosted and students are troubled with loud jarring music. The canteen usually occupies a sweet spot in everyone's heart at IIT-R but readers are advised to be wary of professors who frequent this canteen - keep your controversial rants to yourself. Though an old establishment, this Bhawan is a good blend of everything and the general happiness index is found to be relatively high which can be attributed to a high dog density in this area. Doggos spread pure love and nothing else!

Vigyan Kunj

This is the newest Bhawan, with state-of-the-art infrastructure, which will make you rethink if you booked train to the right town. It is located behind Jawahar Bhawan and is cut off from most of the campus. It hasn't been fully occupied yet, but this bhawan is bound to raise the living standards of the campus. We are still not sure who will be allotted this place, but rumours tell us that PG girls will be occupying this hostel in the short run, while it'll succeed Ravindra in the long run.

Saharanpur Campus

The Saharanpur campus of IIT Roorkee is situated in, well, Saharanpur, around 25 kms(roughly half an hour) away from the main campus here in R, and now houses no more than the Paper and Pulp Technology and the Polymer Science departments. Being a remote complex that often seems to be forgotten in talks about IITR, some might be prompted to think less of Roorkee's estranged brother. And although it's not quite as grandiose as its central counterpart - the fabled R-land - many would argue otherwise. With a tight-knit community of less than a thousand people, the familial vibe across the campus is something that often seems to be lost in the bustle and chaos of the main campus.

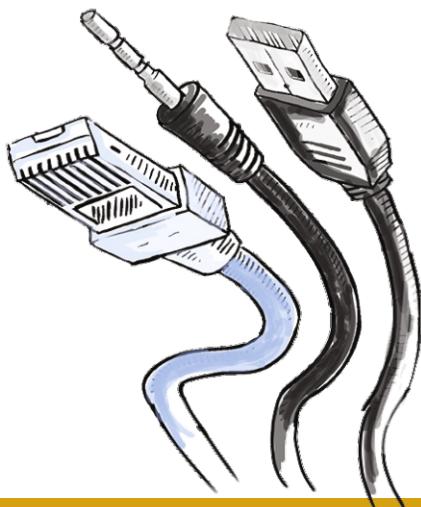


Take it from us!

Take it from us!

Things you should do online as soon as you get your LAN connection:

1. Let your friends on Facebook know you've started studying at IIT Roorkee.
2. Click a picture in front of the James Thomson Building and put it up as your profile picture. Let this serve as a reminder to your friends on Facebook that you've started studying at IIT Roorkee.
3. Drop a message to your ex (the one you broke up with thinking you'd find someone better here). Get rid of the delusion and rekindle the romance.
4. Send a friend request to everyone who has ever studied at R, except your room mate. Let the roommate send you one. Establish dominance. Let them know who the alpha is.
5. Sell your roommate's stuff online. Blame it on the guy next door.
6. Follow Watch Out! We're a bunch of opinionated rascals who share constructive commentary on everything related to IIT Roorkee, along with the occasional useful (read : useless) advice on how to survive here.



Ways you can reveal to your parents that you're actually a huge let-down:

Judging by the fact that you made it to one of the best engineering colleges in the country, your parents must be pretty pleased with you. As they bask in your glory back at home and step up their expectations from their wunderkind (a.k.a you), the whole idea of not matching up to their hopes and dreams might scare you, and even make you wonder if this is the right time to subtly fool your parents into believing that their prodigious child is actually one big disappointment. If so, you might want to try one (or all) of these questionable shams that we feel would get them off your back.

1. Stop getting haircuts and/or grow your beard out.
Or if you're a girl, go bald and/or grow your beard out.
2. Get thrown out of a class because you were wearing shorts, and joke about it during your daily (read : weekly) call.
Which you wore instead of the pair of pants they got for you. Even though they weren't on sale.
3. Call them to ask for some money on Mother's/Father's Day.
Spend that money on anything but a nice gift for them.
4. Get cast as a villain in one of the Dramatic Section's plays.
Send your picture to your parents with the caption 'I think I found my true calling.'
5. Text them at 3 am telling them how you are unhappy with the death of a beloved Game of Thrones character.
That way they'll know you have an unhealthy obsession with fictional characters and a disturbed sleep-cycle.
6. Not star in a viral YouTube video even after your parents sent you to IIT Roorkee.
They probably won't feel 'like paradise/on top of the world' after that.
7. Date a Chief Editor of Watch Out!.
Home run!

College Essentials

| Things you Think you need | Things you actually need |
|--|--|
| <p>Your JEE notebooks: They could be useful for revising those pesky trigonometry formulae. And Irodov.</p>  | <p>We'd be genuinely surprised if you read anything (even short stories) during your stay here. The only thing you will read is the class ghissu's notes, 6 hours before the exam. Your 3rd grade collection of Tinkles, Champaks and Amar Chitra Kathas should be enough.</p> |
| <p>Gym shoes: Because you've had enough of compromising on your fitness during JEE prep. It's time to get ripped.</p>  | <p>Laddoos: The tummy won't help your chances with the opposite sex; but at least your parents won't disown you on your first trip back home for losing ten kilos due to the mess food.</p>  |
| <p>A Newspaper Subscription: UPSC Prelims are only 4 years away. It's time to queue up to join the rat race.</p> | <p>A Newspaper Subscription: You'll need a lot of newspaper to line your cupboards and shelves. The White-wash (choona) doesn't come off your clothes easily.</p> |
| <p>A pencil box: Containing pens of 3 different colours, pencils, an eraser, a ruler and a highlighter. Your class-notes need to be immaculate.</p>  | <p>One Rs. 3 Ball Pen: If you drum up the enthusiasm to carry any more than this to class by the time your first semester is over, you're probably in a very slim minority</p>  |
| <p>A Laptop: For binge watching NPTEL lectures and completing courses on EDX and Coursera.</p>  | <p>A Hotstar subscription: For catching up on your daily dose of Hindi soaps. TVs are a scarce commodity at R.</p>  |
| <p>Soap, shampoo and body wash: The sweltering Roorkee heat will require you to bathe daily and maintain your hygiene.</p>  | <p>A can of deodorant: You really thought you were going to bathe daily? With this handy invention, you will rarely need to visit the dark shower cubicles of RJB.</p>  |
| <p>A pair of formal shoes, loafers, sandals and sneakers: Dignified footwear for every occasion</p>  | <p>Slippers: You can literally wear them anywhere. Also, getting kicked out of class for wearing bathroom slippers is a quintessential college experience.</p>  |

Watch Out! Picks

We presume that you're already familiar with mainstream/famous works of art like Rick and Morty, Breaking Bad, Pink Floyd, Radiohead, Oliver Twist, War and Peace etc. Here we bring to you 5 relatively less popular and niche movies, TV shows, books etc. We hope you try some of them out.

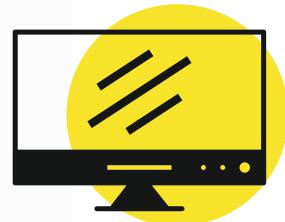
Movies



- Good Will Hunting
- Schindler's List
- Requiem For A Dream
- Scent Of A Woman
- Monty Python and The Holy Grail

TV Series

- The Office
- Hannibal
- BoJack Horseman
- The Sopranos
- The Wire



Books



- The Great Gatsby | F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 1984 | George Orwell
- The Brothers Karamazov | Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Ulysses | James Joyce
- Norwegian Wood | Haruki Murakami

Watch Out! Picks

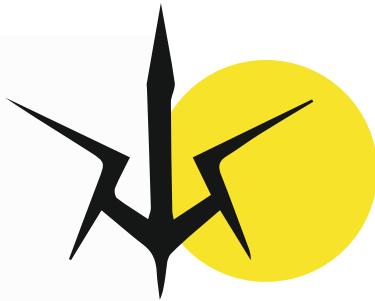


Music

- King Crimson (for prog snobs)
- Chet Baker (for jazz aficionados)
- Johnny Cash (for country lovers)
- Kendrick Lamar (for rap fans)
- Frederic Chopin (for classical enthusiasts)

Anime

- Welcome to The N.H.K
- Steinsgate
- Psycho Pass
- Code Geass
- Akame ga kill



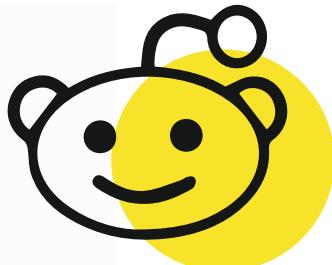
Games



- Witcher 3
- Dark souls 3
- Apex Legends
- Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes
- Shadow Of The Tomb Raider

Subreddits

- r/2meirl4meirl
- r/Blackmagicfuckery
- r/GarlicBreadMemes
- r/madlads
- r/Showerthoughts



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