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## FIRST SPEAKER

During my last visit home, my brother made a remark that almost had me choking on the delicious *puttu-kadala* I was enjoying after months. His assertion that I could no longer call the place we sat eating breakfast in as *home* was whimsical at best, but it sent me spiralling on a curious series of thoughts. As I swallowed down every merciful morsel that adorned my plate, I was thankful for the precious little comforts that came my way every time I leave R to visit home, which as my mother takes great pains to remind me, is far too infrequent. Imploring the inconsiderate sibling to save his sharp wit for the impending entrance exam that might see him inhabit R or better in the future, I drove my thoughts back to the place where my days were just as numbered.

After 4 years of calling R home- 4 years of watching it evolve in one way or the other- I can imagine how tragic a parting of ways would turn out to be. A complete severing of ties deprives one of being witness to that amazing phenomenon called transformation- to which IITR has been no stranger. Ten or twenty years on, if one wishes to return for a fleeting, furtive peek at good old R, one might be left astounded by what has transpired. Wouldn't the batch of 1986 look at the wi-fi and the sprawling Central Library with rather disbelieving eyes? Would it be conceivable for the present batch to envisage a future where newly-developed gills in human beings would aid them to conduct classes underwater, thus eliminating the possibility of students falling asleep by mistake?

Alright, that last part was a bit too fanciful. But IITR is changing every moment, and we have decided to look back fondly at all that has happened in the 10 years following its conception as the 7<sup>th</sup> IIT in the country, as also what we can dream about, nay expect in the near future. Meanwhile, the Placement Season came and passed without causing more than the occasional flutter, much like that majorly hyped Salman Khan movie where he refused to take his shirt off before the final scene. Roorkee can scarcely boast of 1 crore packages or multiple job-offers by Facebook and CERN, but an overall feeling of general improvement and contentment is hard to shrug off. As the search for research flounders on its steps and leaves the pursuers gaping in the dark, WONA offers some much needed insight into this fantastic drama unfolding on campus year after year.

We wouldn't be doing the traditionalists any favours here by continuing with our diabolical trend of exploring unconventional topics- this time, by delving deep into the (mostly hollow) pockets of the IITR brethren. Be prepared to be taken for a ride, literally. As for the rest of this heavier-than-usual issue, we stick mostly to the customary, while never hesitating to maunder a bit towards newer pastures once in a while, all for enthralling the readers with something fresh. I welcome you with a hello, but a goodbye will be before long.

-ED



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**20** **GOING PLACES:**  
The World is in peril. Japan lies in tatters. Libya is in civil-strife. Penguins are facing extinction. Hell's bells have started ringing. But we have other things to worry about- a lucrative job or two more years of ghissai.  
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**24** **CASH ME IF YOU CAN:**  
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**12 TIME:** IIT Roorkee meets the ghosts of its past, present and future.



# ALMOST FAMOUS

*Every nerve of his diminutive figure trembling, the young WONA correspondent knocks at the looming Jawahar door. "Enter", barks a stentorian voice. As the door swings open, this young correspondent is terrified by the sight of the 6'4 tall, 200 pound frame who greets him with a crushing shake. WONA attempts the impossible, only to discover that the hard-to-miss Simerpreet Singh is but a gentle giant. A candid chat with our sports secretary, albeit from a safe distance of 5m... just in case.*



Q) First things first, campus crushes?

SS: My first crush was Guneet ma'am who was in fourth year when I was in my first year. *(We bet even she looked up to you!)*

Q) Why basketball?

SS: I was always into sports. I was initially taken into NSO due to my height *(now, we know how the selection process works)* and gradually with seniors' support, I improved my game. *(So you basically you are just one big accident?)*

Q) You have often been accused of being aggressive on court. What's your take on that?

SS: While I firmly believe that aggression plays an important role in any game, my coach is of the opinion that I lose my focus sometimes. But we always make up after a match; it's a different equation on and off the court. *(Sreeshanth, are you listening?)*



Q) What is the one thing that you would miss after leaving the campus?

SS: Basketball! Without it, I would have nothing to do from 6-8PM everyday. *(I'm sure the presence of the girls team nearby helped too)*

Q) What is your reply to allegations of poly in sports?

SS: Politics definitely exists in sports at certain levels. It is impossible to please everyone once you are in a position of power. *(With a great frame comes great power, right?)*

Q) What is the craziest thing you have done during your stay on campus?

SS: Although I haven't really been a spook during my time on campus, there was this one time when I went to a British cemetery at 9pm in the night that one might call crazy. *(did the ghost drop dead at your sight?)*

Q) What do you think about Watch out?

SS: <insert clichéd answer here>

*Thanks a million, Simer, for this diplomatic interview, and also for not beating the crap out of us. May you scale even greater heights in the future.*





## WONA-leaks

Steve Jobs (CEO and co-founder of Apple) announced on 17 Jan 2011 that he will be going on indefinite leave owing to persisting poor health. In an emotional e-mail sent to his team, Jobs compared his love for Apple to a monkey's love for Banana and Bill Gates' love for Cookie, insisting that he will be back sooner rather than later.

But while his unwitting colleagues along with the rest of the world lapped up all the hogwash regarding his illness, what was Jobs really up to? Highly placed officials in a casual conversation with WONA accidentally let slip the fact that the friendly Electronics research scholar who goes by the name of T.M.T. Murugan is none other than Mr. Jobs himself in a most clever disguise! This shocking revelation comes just days following an altercation between a B. Tech Computer Science student and Murugan that happened after the latter annihilated the budding undergrad in a game of QUABBLE (Quantum Scrabble).

The fact that Steve Jobs visited India many years ago in search of enlightenment is well known. What is not known however is a more recent extremely low-profile trip he undertook some time last year, apparently to sign a MoU with the Professor's Union for, wait for it, building an LHC! The Lecture Hall Complex, as they call it, is home to an underground facility where sinister plans are unfolding, backed by mammoth finances. No wonder professors are frequently seen taking their kids out in Audis these days.

Reliable sources have gone as far as to reveal the nature of the highly clandestine project that has been placed in the hands of these trustworthy professors- the isolation of the mysterious particle that has been so intriguingly named Particle of Our Dreams (POD). When implanted in the brain of a person, POD apparently alters the contour of his/her body by bending the light rays, thus enabling them to assume any appearance/shape based on their whims and fancies. It won't be long before your neighbourhood dhobhi succeeds in taking Angelina Jolie out for dinner having astutely assumed the guise of her handsome husband!

Next time, think twice before trying to engage in an intellectual duel with your friendly RS. You wouldn't know what hit you!



## Tech-ila Shots

The dawn of a new era brings with it frightening new possibilities of war, albeit not one with weapons of mass destruction or bearded despots. Nay, this war shall be fought over zeroes and ones and name of the new-age WMD is information. From online credit-card transactions to email to transferring that flirtatious IM over GTalk to the guy next door masquerading as a cute girl, secure communication of most forms today owes its existence to Messrs. Rivest, Shamir and Adleman, and their eponymous RSA algorithm, which contrary to popular perception has nothing to do with the Republic of South Africa. For over thirty years, RSA has been the de facto standard for encrypting data over networks and cryptographers are as close to cracking it as our physics department is to discovering the Higgs Boson. At its nucleus, RSA is based on a public key that is openly distributed and a private key known only to the recipient, both of which are derived from a number that is a product of two large primes, known as a semiprime. The principle behind the working of RSA is public key cryptography: Imagine an open box that anybody can fill with a message and lock but once locked, only the one with the master key can open and read the message.

Ironically, RSA's USP lies in the fact that its strength lies on shaky mathematical ground, the openness of PvsNP and the lack of a polynomial-time algorithm for factorizing numbers. Thirty years of concerted efforts by hackers and researchers alike have yielded mere peanuts, simultaneously a cause of relief and worry. And yet if history has taught us anything it is only that thieves would spend any amount of time and money to steal data. Considering the fact that 768-bit numbers have been factorized in recent times, one cannot totally discount the factorization of RSA keys which are generally 1024-2048 bits long in the slightly distant future. In 1994, Peter Shor illustrated that quantum computers could factorize large numbers in a matter of hours though quantum computing is as close to reality as time travel and  $i$  (iota). However, the biggest cause for concern is that researchers are no closer to developing a successor for RSA than they were 30 years ago and the possibility of secure communication in a sans-RSA scenario seems bleak at the moment. Perhaps we should take a leaf out the book of RSA, an algorithm so resilient to the onslaught of time. What have we learned from RSA? In the wise words of Adleman, "If Ron Rivest wants to put your name first on the resulting paper, let him. "ARS sounds better to me now".



## Srishti 2011

## SDS Labs

Srishti, the Annual Hobbies Club festival of IIT Roorkee began this year with the inauguration of a high-tech lab of the Software Development Section, by our Director Dr. S. C. Saxena. The main attraction was the 3X3 matrix of monitors, streaming videos as one integrated unit called Skynet. The exhibition featured some highly interesting applications hand-picked by the judges, like android-based chat applications with translators, FilePanda, a self-updating software repository and DC++, the client software that enables the use of the DC server established and maintained by SDS Labs. A heap of other useful applications, released by the dedicated group at SDS labs can be accessed at 192.168.208.208. Apart from this, the section organized a programming quiz named Bits and Bytes, which attracted about 200 participants and had three rounds. The first two were written rounds with fairly challenging questions on programming and aptitude, while the last round was anticlimactically a general quiz on computers which intimidated none of the finalists. Ardent programmers found their coding haven in Codematics, a two-day online event that posed math problems, each of which demanded time efficient codes. Gunjan Sharma, 4<sup>th</sup> year B. Tech. CSE was declared the winner of the same.

## Photography

With around 650 entries for the exhibition, this event was a runaway success for the Photography Section. With themes as diverse as Indian Culture, Still-Life, Road Scene, Pollution, Silhouette and Monuments, the photographs submitted were all beautifully captured and classier in comparison to previous years'. "On the spot events saw participation from forty students, which is a pretty decent number for Srishti." says Bhanwar Singh, Joint Secretary of the Photography Section. Captivating events like Fotophilia, Pic Hunt and Pic Quest were real crowd pullers. Photogram is the art of capturing a picture on a photosensitive paper without using a camera. The workshop cum competition named after this concept was a popular pick among the students owing to the interesting method applied in developing the impression.

## Stargazing

The Stargazing section offered a wide variety to pick from during the three days of Srishti 2011. A bevy of events was organised, ranging from Astrofi, an online fiction writing competition, to Astronomy Quotient, a quiz on astronomy, to Wookie Work, a collage making competition. 'Measure It' saw people pitting their measuring genius against the Earth's vastness. R2D2, a competition for dynamic model-making was won by a team of Int. M.Sc. Physics 1<sup>st</sup> year students with their model of a radio telescope. Watt-O-Junk saw static models competing with each other.

There was an event called Starpedia, which involved competitive displays of informative charts. Varun Paul, a second year Chemical Engineering student had his charts adjudged as the best of the lot. Art and creativity also made their presence felt with Starry Act and Astrogallery, painting and photography themed events respectively. Ashmeet Singh of 1<sup>st</sup> yr. Int. M.Sc. Physics deserves a special mention here as he walked away with the spoils in Astronomy Quotient, Astrogallery and R2D2. The conventional star observation session was an attraction for professors and students alike.

## Robotics

The robotics and models section organised a plethora of events including projects, model displays and various competitions. Projects were presented under four categories, namely Autodrome (auto-bots display), Modosoft (robot designing on softwares), Robo-Manipulator and Aeromodelling. The Assistive Technology section, according to the secretary, Rajveer Singh, saw extraordinary model displays with bots designed to assist the handicapped with day to day activities. There was also a gamut of competitions from Robomania to Paper-Bridge on day one, Junkyard Wars and Mech-Motion on the second day and Vaigyanik (a science quiz) on the final day. The overall turnout of participants was fairly encouraging, with 20-30 teams per contest. Srishti'11 has definitely raised the bar and laid the foundation for an even better show next year.





## Arth 2011

Arth, a nationwide B-Plan competition was organized by EDC, IIT Roorkee and the finals were held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2011. The event attracted more than a hundred entries from B-schools and technical institutions from across the country, 15 of which were shortlisted for the final round. A team of 2<sup>nd</sup> year students from IITR bagged the top honours with a sensational idea that was aptly titled 'Adisters'.

Budding socio-entrepreneurs had it tough in the main round, which was a closed door presentation before the judges. The top ideas from this round got selected for the 'Audience Round', wherein the People's Choice Award was decided based on audience votes. Team Adisters, once again proved their mettle by sweeping this award too. A register that is now available at half the original price, Adister has both the front and back covers carrying advertisements which keeps the cost of the register low. There were several other ideas which deserved special mention, like 'Infotainment' and 'Gyan Unnati'. Infotainment was entered by an alumnus of ISM-Dhanbad and is essentially the brainchild of a DTH channel that airs informative TV programs for children. Gyan Unnati, on the other hand, is an institution aimed at imparting vocational training to village children. Needless to say, the competition was a huge success and will surely inspire the future exchange of innovative ideas.

## An Initiative by DOMS

Initiatives undertaken by the Department of Management Studies (DoMS) IITR to increase knowledge sharing among its sister institutes and other management institutes bore fruit in the form of an event which took place in the DoMS Multi-purpose Hall from 21-23 February, 2011. It was a national level programme to promote knowledge sharing practice and to provide a platform for research scholars from different institutes to come together and present papers on their respective researches. Through a healthy interaction with the audience present, scholars also discussed varied problems faced by them during their research, in an attempt to find a potent solution to them. Although still in its nascent phases, the program got a encouraging response from the students and professors alike; with professors readily giving their expert inputs and suggestions to the students present. The event saw a good participation from 5 sister IITs and many other management institutes.

## Science Project

ASME- IITR chapter organised Technologia Verde, a Science project competition for school-going children living in Roorkee, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011. This competition received an overwhelming response with over 300 students from 12 participating schools. The participants were then divided into 3 categories-beginners, intermediate and advanced, based on their ages. Another category which was specifically designed for the theme 'green technologies' was open to all age groups. The hard work put in by the participants was evident in the quality of their models and charts. Though it was a competitive event judged by the professors of the Mechanical Engineering Department, efforts of each and every participant were highly appreciated by all those present.

## Swaranjali

The Convocation Hall came to life on 22<sup>nd</sup> February with Swaranjali, the annual classical music festival of IIT Roorkee that was organised by the Music Section as part of the cultural week. As is the wont with events of this nature, a traditional light-lamping ceremony kicked off proceedings. The Chief Guest on the day was our honourable Director Dr. S.C. Saxena. 'Chhadaria' by Ankit was played first up, and this beautiful rendition was followed by a few eclectic performances, which included 'Na Jaa' by Ayush Verma, 'Mohe Panghat Pe' by Nisha & Kartikeya and 'Arziyaan' by Rohit. Another noteworthy performance of the evening was 'Karvaan' sung by the duo of Kartikeya and Hemant Sagar. The limelight was however hogged by the poignant instrumental number with Aniket, the lead musician playing the flute. Apart from being a skilled flute player, he is also proficient with the keyboard and the harmonium. The beauty of the music was such that the audience were left spell-bound.

Another highlight of the evening was the tabla played by Gautam Nayak. Swaranjali ended with a vote of thanks by the anchors Shreyansh Thakur and Sushmita, followed by an inspiring speech and an impromptu song sung very impressively by Prof. Kulkarni, ex-president of CulSoc. The poor student turnout notwithstanding, the show was an extremely memorable one for the ones present.

## Sangram 2011

Sports lie at the very heart of extracurricular activities in our institute. With our impressive facilities, IITR has always excelled in sports, and there was little doubt from the beginning that Sangram 2011 was going to be a fantastic success. It kicked off on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February with the opening ceremony at the LBS ground, and saw participation from over a 1000 athletes through its course.

All the athletes were addressed by our institute's director and took a pledge to participate in the competition in a fair and sporting manner. Unfortunately, the pledge remained a mere chant as the action on the field was all but sporting. Sangram saw its fair share of hassles and squabbles with teams fighting tooth and nail both on and off the field. The home team had

an excellent tournament with brilliant performance in almost all the games, but special mention must be given to the participants from IIT Kanpur, Graphic Era, JUIT Noida and NIT-Jalandhar for their eye-catching performances.

The sporting extravaganza lasted for three days and finally ended with the closing ceremony on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February at the LBS ground. The closing ceremony was mostly about the prize distribution and hence, quite unfortunately, was poorly attended by our home crowd. Unsurprisingly, medal winners from IITR were jeered vehemently by their fellow participants from other institute.

Overall winners: IIT Roorkee

Sport	MEN		WOMEN	
	Winner	Runner Up	Winner	Runner Up
BasketBall	IIT Roorkee	Manavrachna U	BITS, Pilani	JET Noida
Volleyball	IIT Roorkee	BRCM	IIT Roorkee	BITS, Pilani
Tennis	IIT Roorkee	IIT Kanpur	IIT Roorkee	IIT Kanpur
Table Tennis	IIT Roorkee	BITS, Pilani	JP Solan	IIT Roorkee
Cricket	IIT Roorkee	NIT Jalandhar		
Squash	IIT Roorkee (A)	IITR (B)		
Football	Graphic Era	NIT Jalandhar		
Hockey	IITR	IIT Kanpur		

Sport	Men	Women
Basketball	Lokesh Gulati	Sreevarsh Rajshekar
Football	Shivam Ravat	
Cricket	Ashish Arpit	
Badminton	Siddharth	Malvika Sharma
Tennis	Mohit Choudary	Shreya Bharadwaj
Weightlifting	Avinash Nigam	
Squash	Abhay Sood	
Athletics	Sachit Sanan	Pragati Choudhury

## Inter Bhawan Sports

	AB	RJB	RVB	GVB	JMB	CTB	RKB	GNB	MLB
Football					10	6			
Basketball		4			10			6	2
Hockey	10		4		6		2		
Tennis					10		6		
Badminton	10	6					4		
T.T		10		6			4		
Cricket				10	6		4		2
Volleyball				4	10	2			6
Squash			10		4		6		

## And then there were none

'And then there were none', a very popular detective novel by Agatha Christie, was performed as a play of the same name by members of the Dramatics Section on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February as part of the cultural week. The modest crowd that gathered at OP Jain Auditorium to watch it on the first day were not disappointed. It was an excellent and accomplished performance- one that was only to be bettered the coming day which saw a larger audience. Unfortunately, the show had to be cut short due to unforeseen circumstances.






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## In remembrance...



Manish Kumar Guddolian  
(1990-2011)

Manish found great happiness on being selected to one of India's most prestigious colleges, IIT Roorkee. It was the culmination of two years of relentless hard work, not to mention tremendous encouragement from his family. He was one of the most talented individuals in school and his peers used to respect him a lot. In college, he never wished to restrict himself to studies. He involved himself in many activities- he loved sports, he used to run in the LBS and he frequented the gym quite often. Occasionally, he played football and cricket and being an adventurous fellow, came on a trekking trip with me as well.

During the mid semester exams, he prepared as well as he could, but the result wasn't up to his expectations. He always wanted to be the Einstein of his class and he thought that the IIT system would definitely help him, but he was sorely disappointed by the indifference of the system towards his research ambitions. I still remember a remark he made- "*Yaar sab yahaan CGPA basis mein kyun hota hai?*" and I could never find a satisfactory answer to his

question. He realised that in an IIT, CGPA was everything and he was shunned because of his low grades. This made him sad.

During the Annual Cycle Race in his first year, Manish prepared hard and came 10<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> among the participants from RJB, after me. This momentary happiness soon passed when the results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester came out. His parents asked him to stay back and repeat the courses he had failed in. In 2<sup>nd</sup> year, he lived in Azad Bhawan and his performance deteriorated further. On his parents' suggestion, he came to RKB to live with the juniors and repeat his second year.

He gradually felt that there was nothing left for him to look forward to. In the eyes of his mates he never found a single drop of compassion, let alone in his juniors'. He retreated into a shell. When I asked him to make some new friends and become social, his reply was always the same- "*Yaar mujhe logon se dar lagta hai*". He had developed a terrible inferiority complex.

Manish was a good person and a good friend. May god bless his soul.

Rameshwari Ahrwar  
B.Tech. Chemical III

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# Watch Out Redressal Cell

*All work and no play, they say, makes Jack a dull boy. All play and no work makes him a chaggi. Come August, and RJB is abuzz with multi-coloured posters enticing the naive fachcha to enter the realms of awesome-ness (read Cul-Soc). A few interviews and three years later, the same fachcha has all but abandoned his books and grades for sojourns with his section-buddies. WONA delves into the the popular perception that sections on campus take up too much of students' time and interviews Dr. M.J Nigam, Head, Cultural Council regarding the same. Surprisingly, the perception is no more than an urban legend, or so opine the students.*



Does being part of campus sections have an adverse effect on a student's academics?

Too much of anything is bad. These sections were introduced as a medium of relaxation from studies and a healthy break from academics. When you come to IIT, your ultimate objective is to study well. If that is not being fulfilled, other activities are nothing but a waste of time. I think programs like Pehla Nasha and Swaranjali on a semesterly basis are quite sufficient engagement. More such events can be organised as long as they do not affect academics. You must realise that this is the reason why cultural programs cannot last for more than a week at a time.

Has the role of any of these sections undergone changes since UOR was made into an IIT?

I have to say that it has definitely increased manifold. Even with such a rise in participation, the overall quality hasn't taken a beating- credit to the students for that. Earlier complete focus was only on classical performances but now things have changed. Students are much more creative and they want their uniqueness to be portrayed in everything they do.

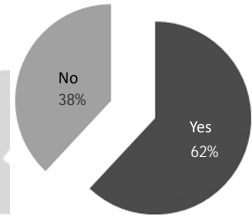
What are the criteria for incorporating a new section into the cultural council? Do you think there is a shortage of sections in our institute?

I have absolutely no complaints regarding the number of sections on campus- it is quite satisfactory. In fact, I'd dare say that a saturation point has been reached. The inclusion of a new section in the cultural council depends solely upon the quality of work being done. I believe that rather than contriving to launch newer activities, students must turn their focus towards consolidating the present cul-soc setup.

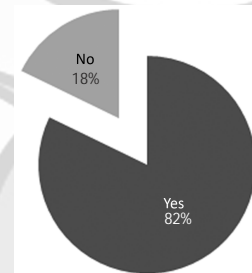
But then there are almost 6000 people in the institute and only 400 of them are involved in cultural groups. Wouldn't the others feel left out?

There is no reason for anyone to feel left out. There were proper selection procedures for all interested students to get into the groups. In the end only the most talented ones have been selected. The point is that we don't want people to come just for the sake of being a part. Indeed if anyone is really interested we must ask them to come forward and if they are good, they must surely be given a chance.

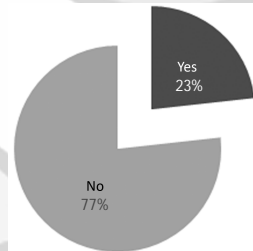
**Are you involved in any sections on campus?**



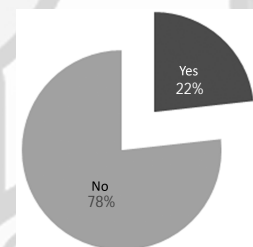
**Do you find group interactions useful?**



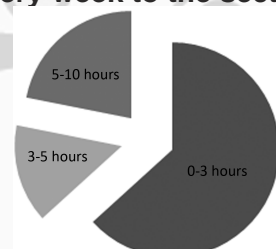
**Do you think your involvement in the section has an adverse effect on your academics?**



**Do you prefer to hang out with your section friends over your non-section friends?**



**How much time do you devote every week to the section?**







*Profs and students, Yin and Yang, Tom and Jerry, disparity has never been more apparent. From the petty arguments about mid-sem marks to serious ego clashes, one can always find a student or two grumbling about how professors are insensitive to their problems and blaming them for all the issues students face. Au Contraire, professors can never stop harping about how students are disinterested and try belittling the profs. That relationships between professors and students are strained is no secret. Who is the real culprit? The jury is out on this one.*

No man is born without vices, and professors are no exceptions. Middle aged as majority of the profs are, their character is built mostly on old values and ethics whereas the students are more broad-minded people, which inevitably leads to a generation gap. The difference in opinions between students and professors can be elaborated by several examples, some of which cases where I have personally been at the receiving end.



Indradeep Banerjee  
Int. Msc Physic III

There have been instances where genuine doubts in a student's mind are misunderstood to be a challenge to the professors. At times, some professors do not allow students coming from far-off departments to enter their classes, even if they are a tiny bit late. Recently, the SAC had suggested a change in course structure in order to make it more appealing to the new generation but the offer was turned down on a hotfoot by the Administration. This shows how non-responsive the professors are to the idea of change. Old-school thoughts might be sacred in their books, but they have to be open to the possibility that these very ideas could hurt more than help matters in the present day.

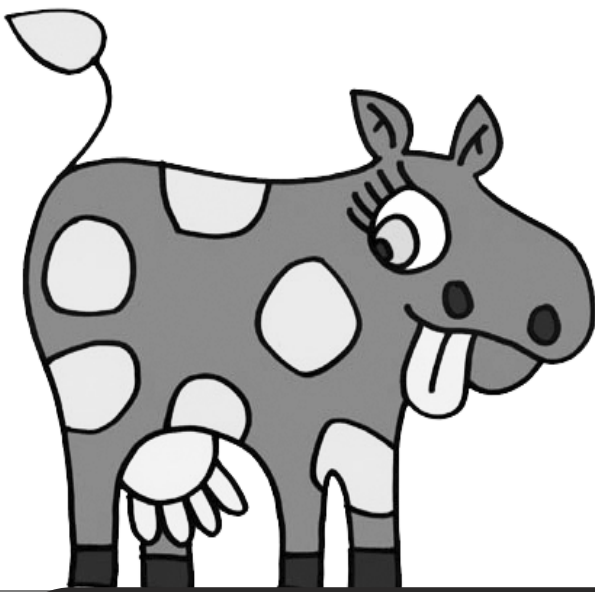
Various programs that were to be held in the college were banned only because the professors found it too progressive and their attitude towards modernisation is, more often than not, archaic. I believe that all the issues between students and professors can be resolved if the professors are more sensitive towards our pleas.

I don't think that the professors have any ego problems; in fact it's the students who are generally hell bent upon insulting their teachers and do not give them the respect they deserve. The students consider themselves to be a cut above the rest as they've qualified JEE. What they forget is that these professors are well qualified to train young minds like theirs and are much more knowledgeable. One can find students imitating a professor's accent, commenting on his body language and hooting in a lecture rather than trying to grasp the knowledge he is trying to impart. In such a situation, it is but natural for a professor to go on the defensive, even get angry and lash out at the idiots who take a jab at his self respect.



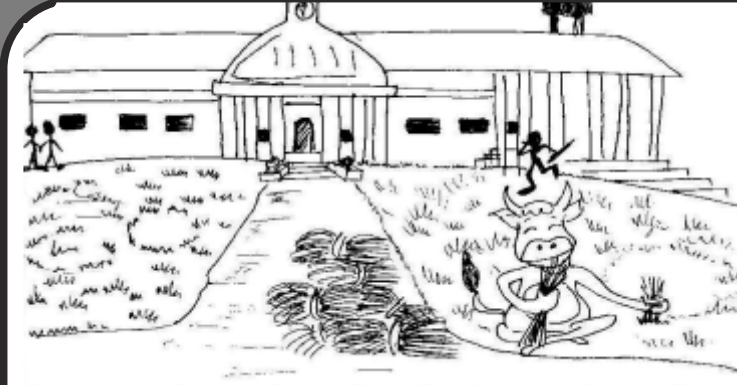
Moni Kumari Gupta  
Int. Msc Chemistry IV

To teach a class with eighty odd pairs of eyes looking at you is a very demanding job, so the professors' temper is justified to some extent. There may be times when professors are not able to answer a student's doubts properly- we have to agree that this happens majorly because they are not given suitable subjects to teach. Many students complain that teachers do not allow them to enter even a minute or two after time. They must realise that no matter how far away they are coming from, the professor simply cannot start permitting late entries because students will most definitely take undue advantage of this. All said and done, I think it's time we start giving our professors the respect that they so rightly command owing to their age, profession and knowledge.

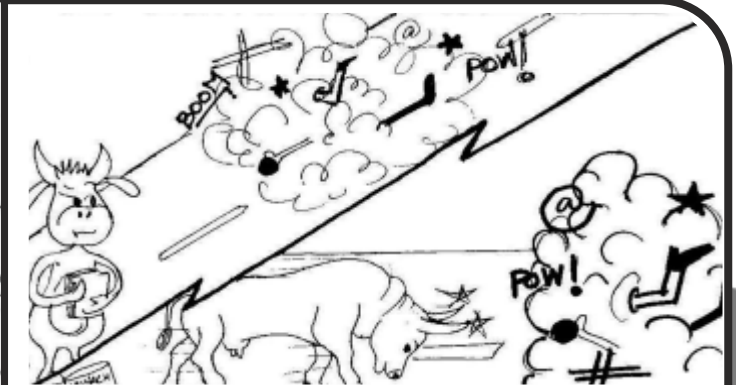


## PURPLE COW

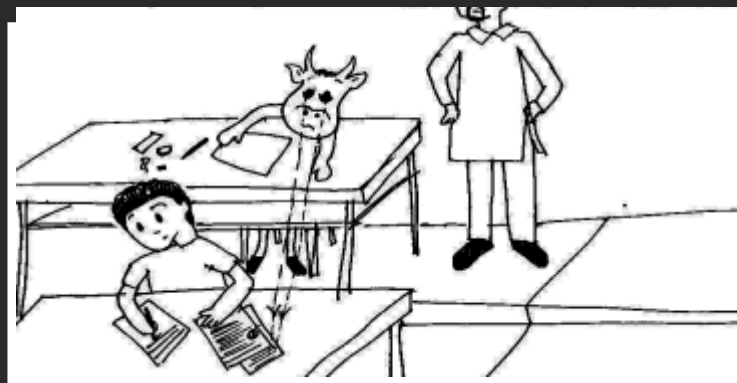
*Excellence is almost a weakness for Purple Cow. Blinding academic success four semesters in a row has put him well on path to Schlum- as also antagonised him in the eyes of his bovine friends. In a first, PC endeavours to lose disciplinary marks in ways that have characterised his astounding genius over the years.*



PC decides it is 'high' time he celebrates Green Day in front of the Main Building.



Buoyed by gym-sessions and armed with sariyas, PC takes on the might of the campus muscle-men.



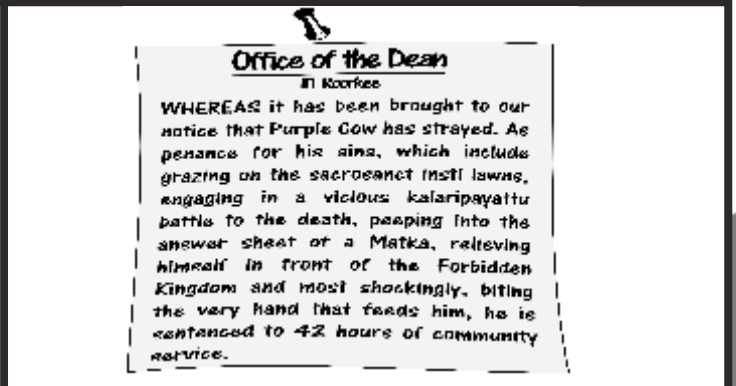
Having finished his paper in a trice, PC still makes sure the prof watches him gaping at his neighbour's work.



Location: Hill View Apartments. Objective: PCleaks.



PC gets kicks out of smuggling priceless onions out of the mess and into the hands of the eager road-side sabzi-waala.



For the first time, PC's friends are envious of his fame



*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of bakar, it was the age of ghissai, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of transformation, it was the season of reminiscence, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to the promised land.*

# TIME

At the ripe young age of 153 years, the belated decision to convert UoR into an IIT was taken, much to the chagrin of many a professor and delight of the student community. A decade has since passed- a mindboggling period that promises to leave its mark on the insti like none of the several decades before it. As the country tried to come to terms with Rakhi Sawant's newfound stardom and trillion rupee scams replacing million rupee ones, the insti grappled with its own little fairy-tale revolutions unfolding in every nook and corner of the campus.

What are the ten things that have indubitably shaped IIT Roorkee? WONA finds out.



## What's in a name?

Arguably the most significant change in its history, the transformation into an IIT has brought about a paradigm shift in the ways of the insti. Higher grants, more departments, newer buildings, a more diverse student population and a deeply regretful alumni are but some of the consequences of this transformation. For all its rich heritage as the oldest technical institution in India, the insti needed to change to be in sync with the newfangled world. And change it did

## When the predator becomes the prey...

Come July, and the insti is adorned with striking replicas of the Supreme Court directive regarding ragging. Affidavits are signed and sermons are discoursed. So much so that seniors think twice before even laying their eyes upon anyone who looks suspiciously like a first year.

Fachchas, on the other hand, strut around the campus, safe in the knowledge that their predators have their hands tied. Although this seems the order of the day now, the insti wasn't always like this. "There was a time not too long back when the first years were scared to death of their seniors! Not only did they have to follow a strict dress code, they weren't even allowed to ride on cycles!" says Y.K Gupta, a senior mathematics professor and a UOR graduate.

## The Name of the Game

While the so-called lynchpins of campus politics harbour unfettered delusions of grandeur, the fact remains that Poly is now nothing but a pale shadow of its inglorious past. Those who believe life is too boring these days can only look back wistfully at an era where brutal gang-wars and kidnappings weren't uncommon among competing parties. The authorities can heave a sigh of relief that little of that legacy is left behind.

## Student Demographics

Although cries of '*entraa*' and the heavy beats of '*janjanaka*' echoing in the corridors may not be an uncommon occurrence nowadays, there was a time when the insti was almost completely devoid of students from down under. The fact that it's an IIT now seems to have lured South Indians out of their dens, with them making up more than twenty percent of the present student populace. Student demographics have undergone a sea change, now that more girls have started to come to our insti. Experts tell us that the sex ratio is on the way up.



### Fidelity, no strings attached

Except for the few damned souls in RKB, the entire campus has become accustomed to an almost ubiquitous internet connection in their hostel rooms, so much so that a pre-Wi-Fi era seems inconceivable to most! Agonisingly slow it might be at times, but Wi-Fi has transcended from being a luxury to an absolute necessity (though its availability might prompt us to argue otherwise). Be it for Ghissai, Facebook-ing, serial downloading, participating in the latest Cognizance event or other covert activities, the internet has become a must have tool at our finger tips. For better or for worse, the Wi-Fi has definitely and irrevocably changed the campus.

### .se7en

In what could be the most important number on campus, 192.168.121.7 seems to be the defining change that the Wi-Fi and the intranet have brought upon us. Channel-I is our one stop shop for lectures, tutorials, notices, buy-and-sell, the arcade or the ever so hilarious Think Tank forums. We might as well be living in the Stone Age if not for the technological advancements provided by Channel-I. The new applications being introduced by the IMG seem to be a welcome distraction from the humdrum of daily life (or so they want us to believe). In addition to revolutionising the information dissemination system in the campus (and totally confusing our dear professors), the intranet provides a means to connect with other students on a day-to-day, personal basis. Theoretically, that is.

### Tomorrow Never Dies

Every passing year seemed to pose the same question- does an IIT need a cultural festival? As galling as it was for the TOCs to face such persistent skepticism, Thomso's loss turned out to be Cogni's gain. The tech fest has only grown from strength to strength since its inception in '03. From thinking energy, going green to technovating India to working for a better tomorrow, the COCs ensured with the help of riveting guest lectures and sociopathic abuse of artificial intelligence that the fests never were as lame as the taglines seem to suggest. Although a resident geek (of #fail fame) would politely beg to differ, Cognizance has well and truly put IITR on the technical radar of the country's brightest.

### Superstructure

The IITs, known to be reservoirs of knowledge and temples of learning, shelter some of the best brains of the nation. As years passed, this number saw a tumultuous rise thanks to the paternal benevolence of Mr. Arjun Singh. Naturally, there arose a need for a bigger and better library to replace the very modest Mohammed Hafeez building- and thus emerged out of nowhere one of the architectural marvels of the twentieth century - the Mahatma Gandhi Central Library. This spacious, sprawling structure now serves multifarious purposes- updating Facebook status messages, catching an afternoon nap, beating the harsh summers or just to seek a romantic spot away from prying eyes.

### Domino's and CCD

Tired sick of Alpahar and University Canteen, unsatisfied with Nesci and Snacks Point and scared stiff of over-exposure to mess food, people in the insti had been struggling with lack of dining options in and around the campus. That is when like a whiff of fresh air arrived CCD and Dominos to save the day. Overpriced without doubt, but the depraved souls of IITR were crying out loud for this for ages. While the room delivery service is a blessing for those who can now get their share of cheese bursts even in their Worlds of Warcraft, CCD seems to have replaced Nesci as the new lovers' retreat, with the added advantage of being away from the envious eyes of the uncommitted and the ever vigilant eyes of the guards.

### Lips don't lie

Just when we had started thinking that the newspapers had had enough of us, Thomso 2010 showed us just how wrong we were. The paparazzi took notice of our decadent morals and culture, and taking a break from their other daring sting operations, decided to take up this cause. Never before has an event evoked the entire gamut of emotions in a public like this- disgust, anger, envy, amusement and rarely, even indifference. Unsurprisingly, the students on campus are divided in their opinions as well. One student ecstatically reveals how he is suddenly a celebrity in his hometown. *"Friends and relatives who haven't ever cared to wish me on my birthday were calling me frantically when they saw the scandal on television!"* Sandeep Kumar, II year Chemical IDD, however feels that we should be more careful henceforth as we are responsible for keeping our culture alive.



# MAP OF IITR



Purani Padosan



(In)voluntary Military Service



Nayi Padosan

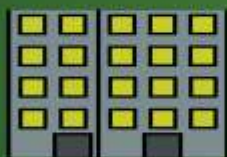


Did I just rock your world??

Saraswati Lok



GAON  
Who moved my cow?



ABN  
Poor man's LBS

Venue for 4242 OLYMPICS



OUT OF BOUNDS

Run,  
Forest,  
Run!

L.B.S.

Adolf  
Hitler's  
Eccentric  
Companion



META  
Balls of Steel



CHEMICAL  
Highway to Shell

CONVO

The Theatre of Dreams



All the Diro's Men



DHOOM

Rok sako toh rok lo





JAWAHAR

Bird watchers  
Ahoy



Sorority  
Bastille



ARCHITECTURE  
&  
Family Planning



KHOSLA  
ka ghosla



Baker's street

Dharti pe Boj



W.R.D.M.



CIVIL  
Shakey  
Foundations



MECH & IND  
Chalti kaa naam  
BAJA



MAIN BUILDING  
The power...  
is theirs!



C.U.L.S.O.C.



Thank you for Smoking

ELECTRICAL  
BHELpuri



??  
Mandi



English in  
Hindi

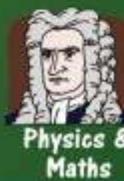


Twinless  
Tower

IMG  
The source is strong  
with this one



Chemistry



Physics &  
Maths



M.G.C.L.  
50 days to MT-I  
Ghiss on you Crazy Diamond

RESERVOIR DOMS



IITR's own  
LHC

UG



Fools on  
Pool



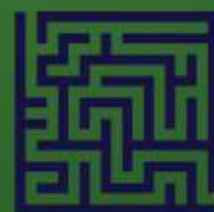
Ek Bargar Banaa  
do



CAAGNI & TOC  
Money plant



GOVIND  
Enough talk, let's  
FIGHT!!



RAVINDRA  
Labyrinth  
of the  
BHUPPItaur



WORKSHOPaholics  
Unanonymous



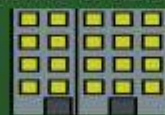
WHY-O-TECH



LATIPSOH  
Where the diseased  
die

The Hounds of AZADville

All the Diro's Men



MOUNT  
Proferest



## Back To The Future

The Mayans were wrong, and the world didn't end in 2012. WONA's trusty in-house time traveler gives us an update from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

### Mess food

Domino's has closed down, people have long forgotten Alpahar, and selling stationery is the only source of income for the canteens, as top chefs from all over the world have arrived in R-land to work in the Bhawan messes. As a result, IITR becomes the most sought after insti in the country. Elsewhere in the world, the number of IITs has increased to one hundred and forty two, India has won the FIFA World Cup, people have finally dared to think beyond IIMs and pigs have developed wings and started flying.

### Multiplexes

Although ardent fans beg to differ, and no matter how much proof they bring to the contrary, Neelam is not a theatre. Nor is Civil Lines a shopping arcade. To cater to the needs of those who agree, a 10 storied mall opens in Roorkee, along with a multiplex. Loyal fans however, still go to Neelam for the ultimate cinematic experience. Besides which, some movies just can't be shown in a multiplex.

### Change in course structure

With the introduction of brand new courses like Bakar-101, Gaming-201, Movies-102 and Relationships-420, the administration has taken admirable efforts towards educating students in the most important aspects of life. Students can now learn everything required for surviving 4 years on this campus and beyond from the best professors in the country... though no one really knows the course contents of Bunking-101.

### Sex Ratio

Mayawati has become Prime Minister and women empowerment has scaled meteoric heights. As a result, the ratio of girls to boys in the campus has become 10:1. The insti is deemed unsafe for boys at night and deadlines are imposed in their bhawans. Girls, on the other hand, roam about the campus at will, undertaking weekly excursions to Rishikesh and Haridwar.

### New York Placement Center

Now that the Noida placement centre is finally up, Roorkee decides to go global. The insti placements have reached new heights, and IITRians are in demand the world over. So much so that now, Wall Street companies come to the placement centre to submit their CVs to recruit the students. After which, the company officials are interviewed by them. The student then picks the company that he thinks suits him best.

### Co-ed Hostels

Unable to cope with the sudden influx of the fairer sex on campus over the last few years, the authorities have no choice but to declare all hostels to be co-ed. Overjoyed men and women soon come crashing back down to earth as they realise the price of living with each other- cleaner bathrooms, no more LAN parties and Rihanna and Evanescence blaring out loud from within feminine quarters.



### Attendance

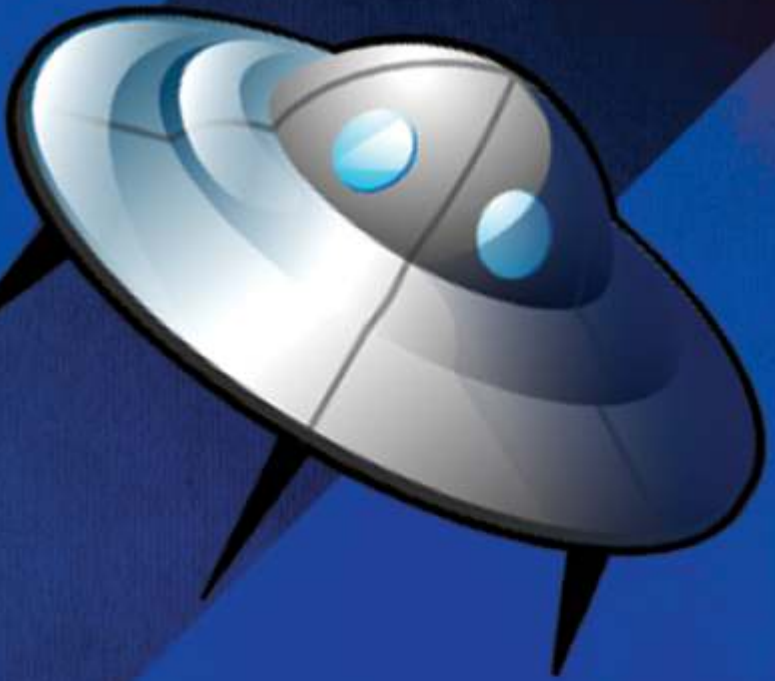
Attendance, or the lack of it, has been a pain in the neck for students for quite some time. Especially during winters, when it seems almost pointless to leave the heavenly confines of the blanket because all you do is sleep in class. Which is why the new director, a IITR graduate and a five pointer himself, decides to scrap compulsory attendance. Gamers around the insti rejoice.

### No bells, yet.

The best of Indian institutions dream of having a Nobel prize-winning alumnus and IIT Roorkee has done everyone proud by having no less than 3 Nobel Prize winners, and a Fields medal winner to boot! Laugh not, for this was a result of all the voodoo magic that our directors performed for the well being of our institution.

### Band baaja.

Wi-Fi troubles are a thing of the past, along with quaint devices such as pen drives and external HDDs, with the provision of high speed broadband internet in each and every room of each and every bhawan. Complete movies downloaded in seconds and an actually working LAN network has rendered large capacity devices obsolete. The institute will finally catch up with the rest of the world in the Information Age leaving behind dark and dreary memories of the Dark Ages we live in now. In other news, the baby pandas have taken over China and are now dictating terms to the USA.



### The News Magazine

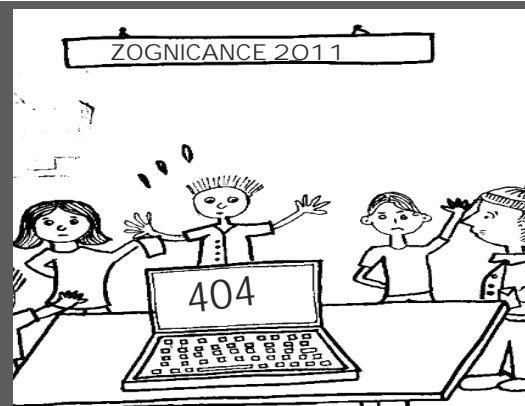
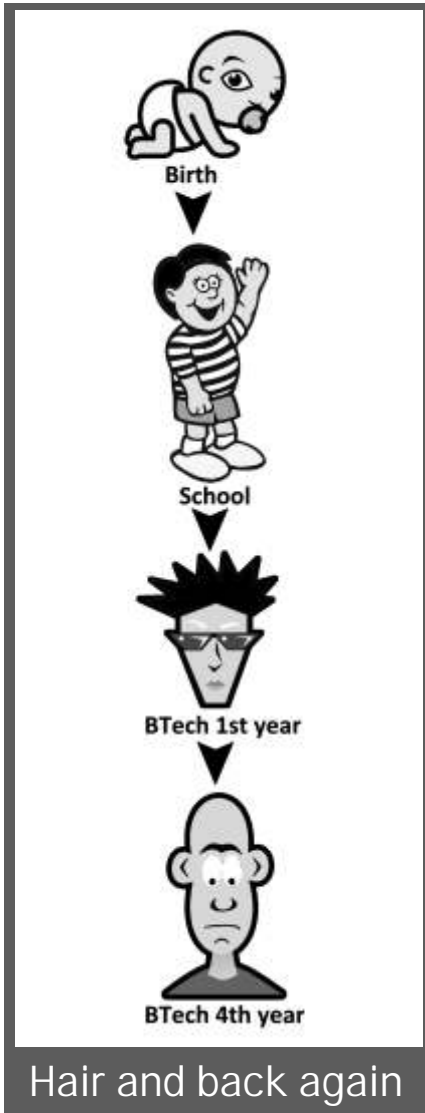
Daring journalists from our magazine carry out a series of sting operations and track Osama Bin Laden's hideout to the EC Tower. Documentary, 'The News Magazine', creates waves at the box office, breaking the previous records set by Avatar. Produced by IIT Roorkee, the movie shows the rise of the world's premier news magazine, Watch Out.



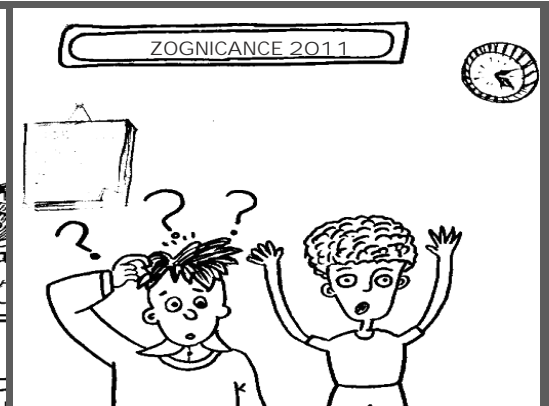


More than words...

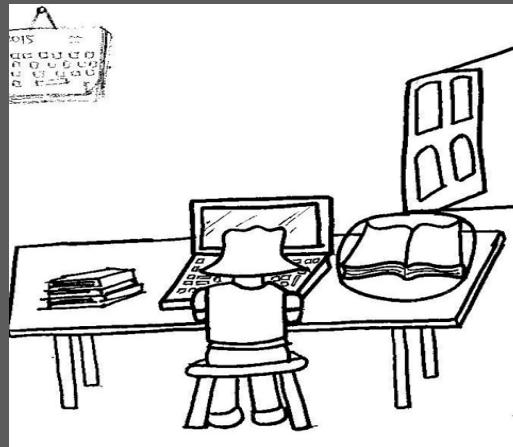
Zognicance 2011



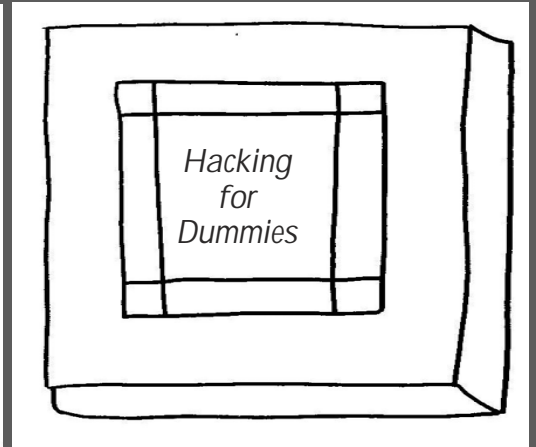
Mayday, mayday!! Papa, we have a problem! The Zognicance site is down... yet again! Call the experts asap.



Dude we are &^#%\*!&^#%^&%!! ACP Pradyuman ko bulaaao!



Deep inside the recesses of KB, the girl with the Beiber tattoo caresses her secret weapon...



...available at 50% discount at Jogindra Book Depot!

# GALAXY

Computers & Communications

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# ONCE UPON A TIME IN ROORKEE

*Every nook and corner of the institute has a story to tell. The infinite path to the Senate that many a happy couple once walked down hand in hand, Alpahar- host to brilliant conversations galore over chai and pakoras, and the Department laboratories where experiments brought much sorrow to the professors as they brought joy to the knights of the tale.*

*Good times run their course eventually, but memories are immortal. Watch Out attempts for the very first time to drill deep into the minds of our favourite alumni and excavate some of the best anecdotes that would more than filling a few pages of print, serve to transport the readers into an era where the fascinating life of their predecessors unfolded, in the place they once called home.*

Meet Yella, an IIM-A student. The current fourth year lot on campus might remember Rahul Yellisetti as the lynchpin of Programme Management and a basketball player par excellence. His exploits are now part of Roorkee folklore; we bring to you a small account of the same, *straight from the horse's mouth.*



■ The most unforgettable memories of my life in Roorkee have to be of the many quizzes I took part in as a member of the Literary Section. I remember this one quiz during Thomso 2005 where a quiz-master with the unique nickname of 'Mummy' tortured us for a long time with verbose 'out of the world' questions that were in tiny font size. Much to the dismay of those of the organisers, the participants started filing out of the Civil audi (which was a common venue for such events back then) mid-way through the quiz! We pleaded with them to stay put and somehow kept the quiz going... but it was nevertheless a colossal disaster. It was hardly a surprise then that Watch Out ripped us apart the next day in their newsletter- there was this extremely scathing piece written by your then Ed-in-C Tejo Vihas (who was a good friend of mine). Later that night, Tejo and me had a good laugh over the whole matter while sipping steaming hot tea in Ravindra canteen.

The good thing about these quizzes was the number of classic phrases and quotes that we learned about and then went on to use in our own quizzes! There was another brilliant quiz, one conducted by this guy called Supriyo. An extremely arbit question about Congo (I think) was asked and passed around all teams without any correct answers. I took a shot and said Micheal Jackson, but as luck would have it, I was way off the mark! Visibly disappointed with the moot response to what he believed was an excellent question, Supriyo ventured to question us- "Do none of you guys read about African politics?" My god, such was the seriousness with which he asked this that it was a few moments before we could shrug it off and burst into guffaws of laughter.

Deb, Tejo, Mohneet, Matthew, Arjun and myself... Lit Sec made us the best of friends. We kept in touch even after college, calling each other up from time to time and meeting in person whenever we would be in the same town. This one time, we got together and had a few drinks, following which we hooked up a laptop to a large screen TV and thus ran through a load of old IITR quizzes... Those were the days."



*He should have seen it coming. For almost a month now, ever since he had painstakingly constructed a resume, he awaited the big day. His hair was cropped short, the black suit could put Barney Stinson to shame. A dab of oil, a shot of deodorant and the absence of his customary stubble. As he sat alert and erect in the pre-placement talk, he repeated what his senior had asked him to say in his intro. The list was out. And so was he.*

*He should have seen it coming. He didn't.*

## GOING PLACES

No one feels the pangs of failure more than your average IITian. The rank fiasco, the inevitable grade point decline and the commitment imbroglio. It's a difficult life. And as India inexorably moves on the highway to glory, you can almost hear a collective groan of despondency, as beads of sweat run down foreheads, capped by fervent pleas to the gods—prayers to avoid the embarrassment that can only come with certified joblessness.

So what is it that companies actually want? CG? Co-curriculars? Expertise in handling *sariyas*? WONA finds out more.

### Beyond Ghissing

The placement dream is a powerful force in people's lives on campus. It serves as a catalyst that drives our hobbies, our interests and even the sport that we choose to play.

Of late, the Information Management Group has also seen a boost in its credibility. It is believed to speak not only for its members' coding prowess, but also underlines their professionalism and dedication. "I've seen students from diverse specialisations, getting software jobs because of IMG on their resume", says Anurag Paul of P&I 3<sup>rd</sup> year, an IMG member.

Some of these popular perceptions seem to be in sync with the demands of the corporate employers. Mr. Shreekant Shiralkar Senior Executive, Accenture, tells us that mass recruiters, such as those for IT jobs, don't care much about extra-curricular involvements. But this is not the case for core jobs. He goes on to say, "A lot of business takes place on the golf course. Companies therefore, prefer those with better social and communication skills, or those who are able to prove so."

And what about the Holy Grail itself, that cup of salvation, the Inter-IIT certificate? This madness after sports received some shaky validation in what Mr. Salil Kapoor, COO of Dish TV told us. He said, "Extra-curricular activities, particularly sports matter in the sense that they give an impression of fitness



and a well-rounded personality. But, they are never a final criterion of judgement."

Finally, some of us discount the over-emphasis laid on anything beyond books as useless. Sandeep Chatterjee, a 4<sup>th</sup> year Electrical Engineering student is sure that he would prefer academics to anything else any day. He says, "Every short-listing depends on CGPA. But unfortunately, this realization often comes too late."



## Project Mania

A few years ago, when the institute was still UoR, the academic calendar had a shorter last semester. Placements took place after the completion of the course and the B. Tech. projects. The final year students got six weeks to work on their B. Tech. projects and came up with original work (or so we're told). Mostly, job offers were linked to the quality of these projects. But present times see people getting their offer letters long before the beginning of the last lap of their academic journey here. This shift in the calendar has brought a marked change in the focus of the students. They've lost all incentive to come up with good and novel submissions. There is also an accompanying belief that decorating the resume with projects, internships and other extra-curricular accomplishments impresses the interviewer. As an expected corollary, projects have become a fad amongst the second and third year students. They hardly give a thought to their skills and abilities. A lot of teachers, when approached by these students, advise them against it. At a stage when the students haven't done enough departmental courses and don't know much about the subjects, their understanding of the project work remains vague and incomplete. But the rush continues, regardless of the loss of quality.

Mr. Shiralkar highlights the importance of spending time on only relevant projects, "Projects available in an institute are limited by several factors, including time and industry requirements. But by and large, projects taken up should reflect an individual's career plans. Any unrelated projects and misplaced priorities only work as drawbacks. What a recruiter looks for isn't quantity, but quality and coherence with career goals. There is a lot of competition and



interviewers don't have much time. You should be able to convince them of your appropriateness in that short period of time. That necessarily includes showing them relevant work and being able to give reasons for your choices."

According to Mr. Salil Kapoor, COO, Dish TV, "An undergraduate student need not worry about work experience and projects. It is mainly research applicants who are expected to have these attributes in their resume."

## MCQs

Careers in research have a tough time competing with the hefty pay slips of industrial, management and even finance jobs.



Research is taken up by those who couldn't go abroad, or whose jobs weren't as charming as their peers'. To put it rather bluntly, that mundane guy in your class would not do an MS if he got a 15L package in campus placements.

Shayak Sen, an IITR alumnus and founder of CheeseCare says, "Higher studies in science may be the perfect option for those with a keen interest in their

subject. But, if one makes this choice for lack of a better option, they may be heading for a career and, in turn, a life they'd never like."

In the case of an MBA, however challenging the competition may be; people are ready to take the plunge for the atrocious placements beyond the treacherous road. It is a well-known fact that industrial and management jobs do not provide an individual the opportunity of scientific innovation. Then, why a trained engineer, who was so enthusiastic about Physics four years ago, would compromise his passion, is a disturbing concern.

It doesn't seem to be a concern to Shayak, though. He believes, "Nothing is compromised if people make the right choices. The trade-offs happen only when students land up in jobs not meant for them. It is then, that interests are subdued and personal happiness is stifled."

It is, therefore, imperative to have clear career goals and to make the right choices at the right time. If you are an academics-oriented individual and dying to get placed in a certain company, it is suggested that you first find out the profile of the job. Otherwise, the future endeavours may find you struggling to keep your actions and aspirations aligned.



Padhai abhi baaki hai mere dost

The syllabus modifications, done over the last twenty years reflect not so much the institute's intentions to keep up with the latest technological advancements, but more to respond to the changing demands of the industry.

The course structure of all departments has seen the focus being shifted from traditional core courses to those demanded by the industries today. Dr. Pramod Aggarwal of the Electrical

Engineering Department has seen the emphasis being moved from courses on machines and elective drives to microprocessor related subjects in his own department.

The choice of software and application centric courses, particularly as electives, is very popular among the students. Courses in Data Structures, Operations Research and Discrete Mathematics are highly demanded due to their pertinence to the needs of the recruiting companies.

Professor P.S. Chani of the Department of Architecture provides an insight into the changing trends in architectural training and the need to keep up. "The basic principles of a subject mostly, remain the same. With technological advancements, problem-solving techniques receive an overhaul. The syllabus should be updated frequently enough to integrate these developments and keep our students at par with those, elsewhere."

Most of the recruiting companies do not want specialised students. They can train them for specialized jobs on their own. Most of the technical knowledge gained is in any case not going to be used by a majority of the students. What they look for are quick and diligent learners with basic technical skills.

Another very noticeable trend is the increased dependence on last-minute rote learning to scrape a decent grade. This, in other words, means the constant degradation of quality, or as professor Tina Pujara of the Department of Architecture puts it, "a lack of enrichment and continuous improvement because of a change in priorities." But, she doesn't blame the students, since she finds it only practical in today's world.



*Industry professionals seem unanimous on one count- that real life's nothing compared to what college prepared them for. Be it a Master's or a PPO, the road that lies ahead is laden with sorrows and hardships. All those sections and groups, those GDs, deliberations and debates, and the entire gamut of resume building measures (RBM) are pointless. Life gets dirty, it becomes unfair.*

*As the Joker said, "It's all part of the plan."*



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With the Indian cricket team vanquishing every single of cricket's titans and firmly cementing its place at the peak, it seems there is no one to challenge us but ourselves. WONA examines an alternate cricket team that would give the current members a run for their money and fame.

# WONA 11

Arindam Chaudhary (C)



His 'dare to think beyond' attitude makes him the perfect choice to captain the team. Also known for his overseas experience, the pony-tailed man with the 'Happy dent' smile will definitely lead the country to world cup glory and beyond.

Chetan Bhagat



Tired of professors' daughters and best friends' sisters, the father of contemporary Indian masala fantasy is part of the XI as a pinch hitter.

Dev Anand

The evergreen actor joins the XI for his 'abhi toh hum jawaan hai' perspective and an obsession with the word 'century', which means he has all the attributes required to play the long innings.



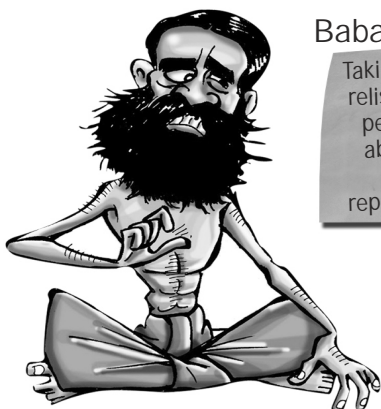
A Raja

With a first name that leaves tongues wagging, the biggest grafter of the millennium has bought his way into the XI with the money he made from our cell phones.



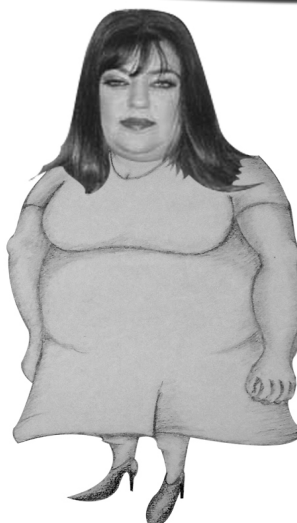
Baba Ramdev

Taking a break from the verbal rants he so relishes going on in public, this notorious personality joins the team for bringing about a mini-revolution in the fielding compartment with the help of his repertoire of breathtaking yogic postures.



Dolly Bindra

Whoever has seen her histrionics on the last season of Bigg Boss would agree that she is sledging-maestro reincarnate. The infamous Aussie ploy of mental disintegration will now come back to bite them when Ms. Bindra befuddles their minds from short leg.



Mithun da and Kanti Shah

The dynamic duo with over "42 + 3i" (the last three were a little complex) films between them made it to the XI while busy shooting in the nets for their 4th movie titled "Bhuvan Chakka".



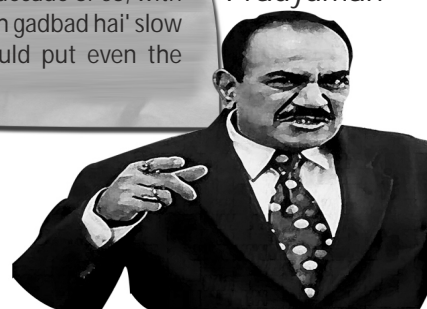
The Common Man

He has to make it to the team simply because the team is nothing without him. He breathes and lives cricket every moment. If anyone deserves to be there in the nation's hunt for the holy grail of cricket, it's him.



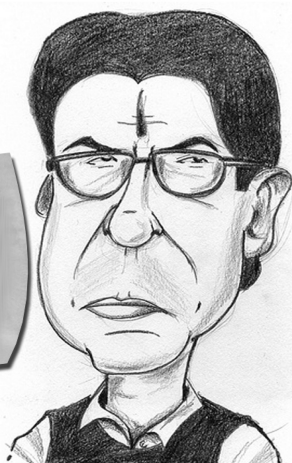
The maverick ACP has been solving cases on national television for the past decade or so, with a trademark right hand 'kuch toh gadbad hai' slow spin style of bowling that would put even the mercurial Kachra to shame.

ACP Pradyuman



Raj Thackeray

The man who famously divided Mumbai into two feudal groups will have the very same effect on opposition teams when he sets his tongue loose from the slips, finally doing his country some good.



Sourav Dada (12th man)

Poor Dada has to contend with carrying drinks and making sure his shirt stays on under all circumstances.





Monday, 10 a.m. A young lad, a gloomy face and an empty wallet. The glass doors of the ATM swing open; the card is swiped in and the pin is typed with great trepidation. Dread gives way to sheer joy as 500 INR makes its way out of the slot. This should keep me alive for the week, he muses. Off to Baadshah now. He caresses the note fondly and kisses it. My precious...

Tuesday, 10 a.m. A young lad, a gloomy face and an empty wallet. *Where is our precious...*

# CASH ME IF YOU CAN

**W**e all have met that guy who never forgets to forget his wallet in the canteen and whose balance seldom surpasses binary realms. He shirks from treating his friends to even a humble cup of chai and the complementary Tiger biscuits on his birthday. He is the financial genius who pays your debt off by borrowing money from another. IIT Roorkee is home to such magpies who incur curse after curse of their fellowmen who ever made the mistake of lending them money. In their defense, riches can turn to rags in the blink of an eye. WONA delves deep into the root of all good and evil on campus—money.

*Meet Mani. He never lends you his laptop, never lets you touch his cell phone and any greeting is met with a cursory glance as if you are taking away of his precious possessions. However, all this changes for a complete week when his pockets are filled with wads of moolah.*



### Day 1

It's a regular weekday evening for Mani, when he's back all exhausted by his rendezvous with a dozen muscular men in the insti gym. In dire need of nutrition, he rushes to the hostel mess only to find a queue so long that one would think the World Cup final tickets are being given away for free. It's not as if the food they are getting is in any way more edible than what they got the day before, or the days before that. Furious and famished, he heads to the SBI ATM to withdraw the monthly benevolence his father showers on him. He won't be eating in the mess. *Again.*

Taking full advantage of the 15% discount available to him, Mani never misses an opportunity to undertake pilgrimages to various holy shrines from Baadshah to Prakash, moving from chicken changezi to kadhai paneer. As his taste buds scream with ecstasy on consuming such mouth-watering delights, his wallet cries out in despair. His dinner bill invariably fills the coffers of Dominos and Chowringhee Lane. Even the Juicewallah has to thank Mani for his newfound wealth.

*"I believe I know every Dominos delivery boy personally now, and the Baadshah guy gets worried if I fail to go there during any weekend. More than three-fourths of the money I spend every month goes on food" neighbourhood friendly glutton Shubham Gupta, Metallurgy BTech (III year) says.*

*"The mess food can prove fatal at times. I can't remember spending on anything except for food after coming to Roorkee, and I still keep losing weight all the time", moans Ankit Agarwal, MSc Chemistry IDD (II year).*

*Anonymous MSc student: "I have eaten like 5 rotis in the mess in my three years over here. Beat that!"*

### Day 2

Mani is getting ready for his classes with utmost haste when he realizes that his wardrobe has gone hoary. Having concluded that his pink capris would be most inappropriate for the classroom, he decides to bunk classes for the day in pursuit of re-dressal. With a wide range of new outlets opening up, Mani has no trouble whatsoever in finding the right pair of jeans and T-shirts that would display his tight forearms. He spends a lot on his hair with stylists, mulling over thousands of hairstyles before settling for the Jimi Hendrix look. The moment he's about to return, posters stuck on the walls of the saloon remind him that the shopping spree cannot end unless he gets his own 2K watch and cool dark shades, to make him look closer to god among hordes of otherwise worthless blind men. Mani envies the good boys, and deep down detests them- for they are the ones who keep track of every penny they spend- something that Mani knows he'll never be able to do.

*Sunny Mehrotra, Maths (III year), "My monthly expenditure is quite flexible, on logical basis – books, room accessories, medicines and cosmetics. Parents have a belief I won't spend unnecessarily and I don't want to give them any worries by spending too much."*

### Day 4

Mani knows about the pros and cons of being in a section. Although frequent chapos are a pain in the region where he keeps his wallet firmly entrenched, the pain pales in comparison with the pleasure he derives out of hanging out with members of the fairer sex- an opportunity he's aware he would have otherwise never got. He is in particular eyeing the girl with curly hair and pink lips and trying to catch her attention with jokes lifted from [flirtingfordummies.com](http://flirtingfordummies.com).

*A second year Electrical girl says, "80 % of my expenditure is on Food and the rest on phone recharge and message vouchers. Getting committed increases the spending by only a slight margin as the opposite sex refuses to let us pay as a sign of chivalry or whatever they like to call it. "*

### Day 3

A wintery evening sky, Mani is on his way to Nesci. It's one of those days when he prefers Alpahar and Nesci for an evening snack to the likes of Gaylords' and Happinezz. And it's then that he happens to bump into some of his section juniors around the kranti chowk. The juniors have by now learnt to relate the jingle of money emanating from Mani's pocket to the prospect of a chapo. Thus begins the loot.

A cup of chai is all he has to remain content with. Mani's mind wanders to the time when he inflicted the very same agony upon his once-favourite senior. Alas, life has come a full circle for him.

*Shikhar Srivastav CS IDD (III year) explains, "Chapos are a part of the legacy here. First years need incentives to work for the section, so chapos are a necessary evil. As juniors we get chapos, so obviously it's our turn now."*



### Day 5

Mani has now found his bliss- the one with the curly hair and pink lips. His trips to Dominos with his lady love have started to take a heavy toll on his bank balance. He now washes his clothes himself, uses coconut oil instead of Bryllcreem and even offers to serve garam chais in Alpahar for a nominal fee; all this to save more money for his girl.

One fine day, he commits a sin that in one instant obliterates all his noble deeds. He asks his partner to pay for the Choco lava she just had. Nothing could stop the love story from spiraling to a painful end after that.

*"Commitment definitely leads to more expenditure; phone bills burn a hole in your pocket, not to mention the money spent on trips and dinners", opines Anurag Nimesh, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Electrical IDD.*

*On the contrary as Ashin Jain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Civil says, "The expenditure depends on your partner; many would like to pay themselves but many like themselves to be pampered."*

### Day 6

Once a committed stud, Mani now stands with no girl, no money and no reason to bunk classes and go on journeys to Dehradun every weekend. Having Cola Shikanji in the Ravindra Canteen while engaging himself in deep conversation with the friendly canines is the only way he passes time in the evenings. He's now one of those ordinary single IIT men his ex always warned him about.

But is that all? Is Mani going to fade away as just another no-gooder? Fate decides otherwise.

*"The money I get at the start of every month is mostly spent in paying back the last month's debts. It is a vicious cycle through which every IITian has to go through", quips Vikram Mittu, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Civil.*

### Day 7

With almost everything lost, Mani resorts to Pink Floyd and long aimless rambles along Solani in the night. In the company of a few high-spirited gentlemen, he embraces the dark side and indulges in the royal game of poker. The quick learner that he is, Mani doesn't take long to defeat all those who'd taught him how to throw cards. Full house, Royal Flush, Straight Flush ... Yes, Poker has been his destiny. As the holy liquid flows freely, stakes increase and the great game goes on for hours. The quest ends with Mani shuffling away all his opponents, winning back three times over everything he had lost.

And the vicious money cycle starts all over again.

**In the wise words of ABBA, *all the things I could do if I just had a little money.***

Monthly budget of a regular IITR Boy:	Monthly budget of a regular IITR Girl:
800 – BADSHAH	500 – NESCI- OH, I NEVER HAD TO PAY!
200 – NESCI & ALPAHAR	500 – ALPAHAR OH, I NEVER HAD TO PAY!
500 – CHAPO	500 – DOMS OH, I NEVER HAD TO PAY!
150 – LIBRARY FINE	250 – MOBILE RECHARGE VOUCHERS I NEVER CALL
500 – RANDOM BHAWAN FINES	1000 – COSMETICS
700 – CARLSBERG	1500 – CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES
500 – DEHRADUN TRIP	200 – DIFFERENT COLOUR PENS- RED, BLUE, GREEN, BLACK, GOLDEN, PINK TO MAKE NOTES
REST –NOTHINGNESS	REST – SAVED
TOTAL – 3900	TOTAL -5000

\*The details shown in the table are purely fictitious, although occasional references to real-life characters are probably intentional.





# VERBATIM

*With more and more IIT students opting to go for management studies every year, there is a growing fear that engineering will soon become as redundant as our postal service. WONA endeavours to find a semblance of sense in this mad exodus by interviewing Prof. V.K. Nangia, HOD DOMS and a man with an excellent view of the prevailing tamasha.*



Why do you think so many engineers opt for MBA? Engineers more often than not lie at the bottom of the decision-making pyramid. An MBA not only helps in better understanding of management concepts, but also enables one to climb up several levels on said pyramid and hence play a more significant role in the decision making. The noteworthy point here is that leadership is a quality which supersedes management as you go along the flow of hierarchy. However, to start with, it is advisable to have at least two degrees.

As you said it is advisable to have at least two degrees; should we expect more 5 yr dual degree programmes including MBA in the future?

A graduate is only as good as an uneducated person as far as the industry is concerned. There is a high scope for dual degree programmes. Historically, the IITs were set up for P.G. students, hence we see more dual degree programmes today. The 5yr Process engineering with MBA programme in Saharanpur was an initiative of the dean of the Saharanpur campus. In Roorkee to we see a high scope for such programmes. In my opinion, if someone wants to be a true global professional, he should do an MBA from U.S.A, but if someone wants to live in India then IIMs are the best option.

What type of structure and curriculum does DoMS- IITR follow?

Management schools all around the world follow two schools of thought. One is that of Sloane School of Management which prefers an analytical approach to finance. The second being that of Harvard Business School which focuses more on case studies and social sciences. DoMS-IITR takes the middle road by giving students a mixed bag of lectures, case studies and models. I personally prefer people with 1-2 yrs experience as they are better equipped to understand MBA subjects.

How is the interaction between DoMS and UG students?

I enjoy a very healthy interaction with B-tech students who take up inter-disciplinary projects of their choice. Being a hard task master, I expect the student to be motivated and up to date with their work. Some students just disappear after a few meetings; I wish to tell them that I don't have any hard feelings and they are welcome to approach me again. In fact, DoMS would like to float more electives in a year than the current ones.

Tell us something about the history of DoMS-IITR.

DoMS was established in 1998 and the first batch graduated in 2000. I visited IIMs to see their classroom structure, so that the department building could be set up with proper planning. In UoR days, DOMS was open to people from all disciplines. And I believe diversity is always a boon for peer interactions. I remember once having an army colonel with excellent leadership qualities as a student. He inculcated cultural values and discipline among all his batch mates. Having people from only one discipline, as is usually the case with management schools within IITs, makes the classes very dull, resulting in poor peer interaction.





## Agony Aunt

Dear Agony Aunt,  
Failed miserably in JRE(Jedi Record Examination), I have.  
Do what I must?

Master Yoda

Yo-da,  
English \*\*\*\*\* . Do you speak it?

Agony Dear,  
I am the perfect mother, sister, wife and BFF of guys and  
gals on campus. Phir bhi log meri maarte kyun hai?  
Pink Pahadi

Not-so-dear PP,  
Either come out of the pretty pink closet, or get yourself  
a girl!

Dearest Aunty,  
My parents have found what they believe is the perfect  
match for me- tall, fair and handsome dude, with an IIT,  
IIM and Harvard degree to boot. But my heart belongs to  
my classmate Champu. What the hell do I do?  
Savitri

Savitri Behena,  
I am proud of you. No power in this world is greater than  
love. But wait, you said he has money... and fame... and  
looks... Oh dear! Give me his number.

Agonyji,  
Nobody eats the food in my mess anymore. I can't sleep  
in the night... where did I go wrong?

The Mess Guy

MG Bhai,  
It's not you. It's Anna Hazare. Take a chill pill.



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