

The IIT Allahabad Handbook



Some free ka *gyaan* about how to
thrive and survive on *Jhalwa ka pani*

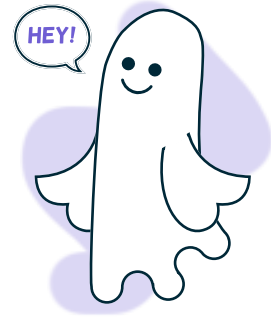
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1.

Hello World

My name is **Old Monk**. Some say I'm the ghost of an old professor who used to catch couples sneaking around the campus in the middle of the night. Some believe I'm the ghost of a Ph.D. student who still hasn't been able to complete his thesis. Others say I'm the ghost of an ECE student



who died after eating food served in the mess. While a few believe I'm the ghost of a *maggu* who jumped from the *paani ki tanki* (more on the *Paani ki Tanki* later) after scoring 99/100 in the End Sems. But the general consensus on the campus is that I'm a fictitious character concocted by some lousy seniors who had nothing better to do than to waste their time and that of hundreds of others reading this.

No! Don't you dare close this guide now that you've started. Else the dreadful curse of Old Monk shall fall upon you and you shall graduate without ever having experienced the loving touch of a girl if you're a guy. If you're a girl then you'll be absolutely fine. You'll find many people more than willing to offer you their affections. Myself included **blush blush**.

If you are reading this, you are either a critic, or a fan, or some random person looking for ideas to pitch, or in the best case a freshman of IIIT-A. In any case, **welcome to Jhalwa!**

This guide, penned by me, the cheerful and know-it-all Old Monk, would be a mini-tour, a survival guide and an overall review of IIITA for you.

Statutory Warning:

Go through this guide at your own risk, I do not take guarantee of information provided herein, because after all, I'm just a fictitious character.

Let the madness ensue.

2.

Campus Tour

After all the research you would have done while making your preference list, and some more research after being allotted IIT-A, you would have read/heard a lot about the world-class infrastructure, especially on Quora. **Surprise Surprise**, everything you read about this college's infrastructure is true. Yes the area is called "Jhalwa" and yeah it is no Hogwarts and as much as I would've loved to float above your heads while you had your food in the Great Hall, I'd still say that you'd love the campus right from the moment you set foot in here.

Admin Building



The first building that you'd probably visit on the campus. At first, you might find it pretty hot and stuffy, due to all your batchmates and their parents being lined up for the registration process. This is the place of the very first interaction with your batchmates so look around, talk to the students and start getting comfy. You'll probably meet your roommate here. And even though you might want to room up with some cool fun-loving guy, your mum will make sure that you're paired up with some *padhaku*! Oh well...

Health Centre

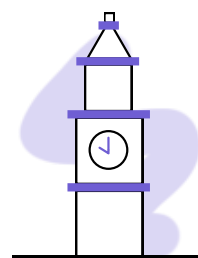
Feeling squeamish after last night's dinner in the mess? Want to skip a

lecture and need a medical? Head over to the Health Centre. And even though they'll probably give you a Paracetamol for all your problems, it's safe to say that none of the students have died under their care and joined me in haunting the campus. Yet.

This is also the place for late night conversations and secret meetings with, ermm, you know... But you are advised to steer clear of the spot late at night if you don't want to be labeled bold or attract special attention from seniors. Otherwise, it's a free country, what can I say.

The Clocktower

Ah, yes. The infamous clocktower. The destroyer of peace and the mild-heart-attack-inducing machine of death the sorts of which you would only find in dystopian fictions.



Alright, I've overdone it. But so has the clocktower. What it is, is actually evident from the name: a clocktower. It tells the time. How does it do this? Simple: every time an hour passes, a loud, booming, inescapable sound echoes the length and breadth of the entire campus, which announces the time, followed by the respective number of DONGS!, and, occasionally, a voice saying, *Jai Hind!* No kidding!

Sounds normal? Did I mention that directly below this clocktower is the college's logo, its name, and a few Hindi words you'd need a dictionary to decipher, all lit by electric lights that also constantly change colour? No, I didn't, and the reason why, is because, despite all its flaws, eventually you start to accept it as part of your life. Some people even like to take their sweethearts there for a midnight saunter! To be fair, it does make for a romantic spot.

The Pavillion

It's the huge seating area in front of the main ground. You'll often see many people here in the evenings. It is the favorite place of all the societies when it comes to holding their meetings. I absolutely love observing these meetings. They comprise of 10% fruitful discussions, 90% pointless arguments and 100% fun.

This place is credited to have heard the line "*Tumhara batch abhi tak ka sabse ch***ya batch aaya hai*" the most number of times. You'll see.

OC (Old Canteen)

Now technically, if the etching on the top of the building is to be believed, this place is actually called the "**Shopping Complex**" and yes, that's how they spelt shopping. The main attraction here is the Gupta Old Canteen - fondly called the OC - which lends its name to the entire complex. Why does everyone call it the OC? Good question. If you asked your immediate senior, they'd simply ask their seniors, who would then look towards their seniors, who would either have a sudden bout of coughing or would simply shrug. Yes, yes, I know I said that I'm a know-it-all, but even I don't know why this place is called the OC. It's the second biggest mystery in IIITA, the first one being what exactly is the role of the Gymkhana President other than standing next to the Director during ceremonies and posing for pictures with him. *Just a harmless joke, please don't kill me for this.*

Anyway, the OC sells anything and everything, unless they don't have it or it's out of stock. The food here is good, by which I mean you can swallow it and won't immediately feel like throwing up.

There's also a juice corner, which opens whenever the guy who runs it feels like opening it. You can find all sorts of juices in existence here, and then some. There's also a **drycleaning shop** which serves as a stationery and variety store. Whether they actually dryclean clothes or not is a mystery you'll have to figure out yourself. Next up is *Saundarya* beauty parlor, whose purpose of existence is pretty self-evident.

But that ain't the only parlor in town; no sir. Blotting the landscape like an inkstain on a white shirt is the obscenely red Amul parlor, which sells everything from Amul ice creams to Amul yoghurt to Amul french fries (what?) to anything else that has an Amul stamp on it.

Pro tip: Amul wale bhaiya will accept nothing

but exact change, so either have it on your person or like everyone else, start paying online. Or learn how to run really fast. It's up to you.

The Nescafe Shop

Its actual name is Prayagraj Upvan but literally no one calls it that. In fact, if you told the Nescafe wale *bhaiya* that his shop is called that, he'd probably be as surprised as the next person. He sells a smattering of different versions of coffee, some exotic flavors of maggi, and a few chocolates, but the chief attraction here is the fabled Ice Tea, which is only in stock when you're either out of campus or dead. And before you ask, yes, I have this refreshing sweet and salty drink almost daily. Or is it the tears of the many students who maybe took up engineering because they didn't know what else to do with their lives



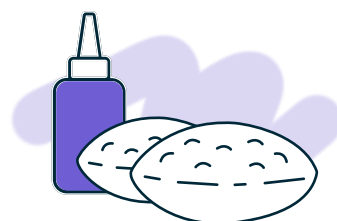
Amul Parlour was the second best thing that happened to the institute after Kala Sir. S/O

and now that they're here, they have to mindlessly code their way into oblivion, and do stupid assignments with the falsely gratifying hopes of being happy again someday.

Wow, that was dark. Just kidding, college is fun

Cafeteria

This used to be one of the best places to get good food inside the campus at a somewhat reasonable price. But this place has been closed for over a year now because the WHO officials found a rat's tail in the food.



Pyaaz Kachori – The OG dish

Just kidding, just kidding. It's just that the tender of the vendor (wow that rhymed) who was running the cafet ran out, and no one came to take his place after that. Every semester students rejoice after hearing rumours that the cafet is finally restarting, but just like "Agle sem mai fod dunga bro", it just never happens. Wow, that sounds eerily similar to that time you used to say "Drop year leke JEE fod dunga bro" and yet, here we are.

Oh and btw, they did find a dead mouse in the food served in the Girls' Mess in 2017, so you may want to keep your eyes open while eating. True story.

VH (Visitors' Hostel)

This is where your relatives or friends stay when they come to visit you at college. It has decent rooms at a good per-night price and a dining area where food is served from the GH-3 mess at a per-plate price. It also has a gym that is common for visitors and the girls.

Basically, all good things to leave an excellent impression on your parents when they accompany you to the college during your admission. It all goes downhill from here buddy.

CC-3 (Computer Centre 3)

This is the place you'll have your classes during your entire stay. It's huge and the best of students often get lost in CC3 (on purpose or otherwise) but you'll gradually find your way around. First years have their classes and labs on the ground floor itself so you don't have to roam around much. But you would come across your seniors now and then, so make sure you have a good first impression. Greet them with a smile and say hello when you can. These little gestures will earn you some bonus points and some free advice in times of need.

At night, the labs are crowded with couples who go there to "study". Don't be foolish enough to roam about the corridors at night unless you don't want a memorable meeting with a random 'group' of two people who may not be thrilled to see you.

Audi (Auditorium)

All major events take place here. It's very pretty and has strict rules against littering around. During the fests, movie marathons take place that go all night long. On other nights, it is mostly deserted, hence considered a special spot for *ahem*. (Yeah I know.

There seem to be a lot of such places on campus!) This is another entry to the list of curfew zones for juniors for the initial few days.



I try to scare the couples here, but they think that the noise is from some other couple behind the bushes.

CC1 and CC2

Nothing much to do for B.Tech peeps except meeting faculties personally. These are the same guys who're gonna bore you to death in the classrooms with their lectures. Why would anyone want to face these miserable profs in their offices too?

SAC (Student Activity Center)

This is the building where most of you would have your first interaction with your seniors because this is the place where all the major auditions and interviews for getting into different societies and teams (Dance, Music, Drama, Literary, Photography, Programming, Android to name a few) would take place. Home to all the cultural societies of the campus, this is where you'll find kids stacked up at all sorts of weird hours working on their society's events or the fests. Also, there are some sports facilities that are present at the SAC which include snooker, table tennis and even a squash court nearby.

BH (Boys Hostel)

Even if you skip this part it won't cause much harm, because this is the one place about which you won't complain in life, excluding those alternate visits to the caretaker's office since your fan's not working, or someone kicked in your door latch (believe it or not, this will happen very often). On day one you might be like, "I just can't live here!" but eventually this is going to be the one place in all of Allahabad that you'll miss the most during your vacations. Layout wise there are 5 boys' hostels; BH1 to BH4 are clustered together where the seniors live and there is a separately constructed BH5 where college puts the first years to keep the little pups safe in the shelter of

PHDs from their loving seniors. BH5 will be the best hostel you will get during your stay here in terms of infrastructure; there is everything available that you will need. Pro tip: Use the washing machine, toaster, geyser and everything you see to the most in your first year, because from the next year either it will barely work or will be nonexistent, because now the slob in you doesn't *need* them anymore, (don't worry students still live in harmony here). The first two years you'll be sharing room with one more guy whom you'll think of as a ch*tuya at first (9/10 times you'll be right), but will be the one with whom you'll discuss about that professor or about that girl at Nescafe till you realise it's time for breakfast. As to how the room allocation algorithm works, well, it's right up there with the Bermuda Triangle as mysteries we'll never know the answer to. Students of senior years are stuffed in BH- 1,2,3,4; there is no certain pattern in which you will be allocated rooms after your second year, so some of your batchmates will be changing rooms in the same hostel, some will be changing hostels while there will be some who will not even change their room. Trust me, I've been haunting this godforsaken college since the dawn of this century and it still stumps me how any of this is done.

PMC (Piya Milan Chauraha)



The boys come from their hostels on one side, the girls come from the other, and they meet in between in a very ceremonious fashion. Hence, the name. The place is marked with a huge streetlight that attracts all of Jhalwa's insects during the summers. I don't understand how these young students manage to, how should I put it

delicately, “celebrate romance” in the midst of those pesky insects! Even I’ve spent many nights looking out for a female ghost at the PMC, it does get lonely sometimes *sob sob*

Oh, and you should remember the full form of PMC during your healthy interactions with the seniors (if you don’t, they’ll somehow believe that your batch is filled with idiots and theirs was the last batch that deserved to be in IIITA. I’ve seen it happen so many times over the years that I’ve lost count).

NC (Night Canteen)

Nobody eats properly in the mess. Then they feel hungry at late hours. Don’t worry. Your hostel’s Night Canteen will come to your rescue. Anytime you’re hungry, feel free to buy the pricey Maggi. This is also the spot where your friends expect you to give them a treat (a pre-party of sorts) on your birthday, after they’ve bashed your bum with some good ol’ GPL.

GH (Girls Hostel)

This is the part that girls will read with utmost attention, though not half as much as the boys. The layout is simple: there are three hostels, each of a different size. GH-1 is occupied by the M.Tech students of all years, while all the first years of B.Tech reside in GH-2. After this rather sophisticated planning, the geniuses who allot the students gave up and went for a very long walk off a short pier, and so GH-3 was allotted to literally everyone else.

Just like the BH, the GH has an NC as well. Yup, you read it right: an

NC. As in one. Singular. But the troubles don't end here; college life wouldn't be half as interesting if they would. The NC in question isn't always functional; its existence is subject to the whims of the vendors, who themselves are far and few between. I suggest you keep the numbers of the local dhabas handy and familiarize yourself with the shady-yet-cozy Pocket Gate. There are no in-hostel timings, however, for the first one month, the Freshers might be asked to return to the hostel by 8 pm. A lady ghost friend of mine (yes, the friendzone is a real thing in my world too) told me that it is beneficial to have an amicable relationship with the Caretaker since she is the one who is going to approve the Outpasses needed to go outside the campus. The Campus in-time is 10 pm for the girls, else the guards might ask you to contact the Caretaker, and she won't be too happy about that.

3.

Academics

This guide has been written over a period of four years, with five generations of *Jhalwa-niwasis* having worked on this already (B2k15-B2k19). No this isn't because this is an extensive piece of art or anything, it's just that Engineering students tend to be very lazy (as you shall soon see). And even though the advice in the following section holds true across all generations of students, we suggest you take it with a pinch of salt. We wouldn't want anyone blaming us when they get a CGPA of 9.498 when they clearly deserved a 9.5!



Each semester would have 5 or 6 subjects which might or might not be related to your core branch. During the first year, most of you would be telling yourself that you don't need to study this, the syllabus is so fucked, why in the name of God is this needed?

Well, complain all you want but the truth is that you have to go through all of this, and this course structure is probably the best you can get amongst all the NITs, as there you would have had to study subjects like engineering drawing, chemistry, biology and shit like that even if you were a CS student. So be thankful for what you have (you can bitch all you want about profs or TAs, that's allowed).

CCLCAA

It took me quite a lot of roaming around your seniors just to know about the new ordinance which shall be applicable for you as well. It took them almost the entire year to finally get a hang of the system, which is fair since the new pattern of evaluation was adopted quite recently. It was implemented for B2k18 for the first time. A lot has changed in these two years, positively, since most loopholes were mended.

Even though you all will have a number of orientations which shall explain to you what the system is about, I shall share with you all that I've understood so far about the new ordinance:

Your semester is divided into three components: C1, C2, C3. The first two components, C1 and C2 consist of about eight weeks each, weigh 30% each in determining your semester pointer, and is the arena where the infamous continuous evaluation is positively applied.



*Research has found that the TAs will never be impressed with your answers, unless you're a *ahem**

The major change that you wouldn't have to face is that instead of the frequent tests which were given to your seniors (every tutorial in some subjects), assignments shall be allotted to you. Most of these will be given group-wise with an acceptable time frame for completion (and we all know how group assignments work, right?). I was told two weeks minimum shall be given for each, but it varies according to the nature of the assignment and is mostly more than that. After the completion of each assignment, a short viva may be conducted just to check the authenticity of your contribution.

You should know that the application of CCLCAA primarily depends upon the professor. Some may not even give those lengthy assignments, shall instead conduct barely one or two pre-announced quizzes; while some may take the system very seriously. And since it doesn't hurt to keep your fingers crossed to be allotted "chill" (as they call it) professors, you may as well do that.

The question, "*But Old Monk, how will I know the nature of the professor?*" may cross your mind and the answer to that lies in asking more such questions. Not to me, because duh, but to your seniors. Talk to them since it is expected that most professors must have taught them previously. Also, I shall suggest you to spend the first few weeks of C1 very carefully and judge the professor and meanwhile try to determine the marking pattern he may adopt.

About your practicals, well take lab attendance very seriously, since no proxies work there. Lab sessions are more relaxed in the new ordinance since not every lab is followed by a viva. It however can be tricky since it completely depends upon the professor and the head TA. Lab marks may be evaluated on the basis of vivas conducted once every three weeks or more and a lab test after the completion of each component.

Both the C1 and C2 components shall have a 'review test' at the end, which can be equated to the mid-sems of other colleges, so take them very seriously since the weightage of it, in most cases, is more than that of the assignments.

C3, on the other hand, will be a completely written examination and shall contribute to 40% in determining your final grade. It will be in the last two weeks of the semester and it shall not be very stressful, hoping that you have already prepared the same topics continuously for C1 and C2.

Ghissai Season

Ghissai season means exam time (C1, C2 and C3 review tests, that is). Why? You'll see. It's only during the exam season that the couples in the library finally start studying. Not all the heroes wear capes, some give us notes and previous years' question papers. For the people who spent their semester playing PubG in a hostel dorm and sitting in the OC, these last-minute notes from a first bencher are a boon.





You'll eventually learn the art to sleep 8 hours in 2 hours


The exam schedule is pure evil. There are no Sundays in the ghissai season. You spent the whole semester playing Counter-Strike and FIFA or trying to impress that cute girl in the other branch, or just sitting in your room staring at the wall, and now you want a holiday in between the exams? I'm sorry, but we don't do that here.


You might hear from your seniors about how they cram up all the stuff one night before the exam, well it's true for most of the IIITians and this is what you would find yourself doing, no matter how solemnly you promise to study regularly. No, don't do it. Don't think, "What does this ghost know about me? Of course, I'll study and get good grades". Oh there you go, you did it. Now you'll hate yourself when eventually you get a below-par CGPA. Don't tell me I didn't warn you.


Some free pieces of Old Monk advice:

-  At the start of the semester, some know-it-alls would hog most of the QA time and cause some longer than usual lectures. Don't hate them (I know it's impulsive, but you can at least try). These are the people who would be teaching you stuff at the last moments and solving your doubts and queries, so maintain good relations.

-  Go to all your classes. Yes, you might not want to, but you should so that you can take leaves when you actually need them, or when you are going through a mental breakdown, or want to save the world, whatever.

-  Take assignments seriously. Many can tell you what it costs, to not do the assignments (copy them at least). Break it down into sections, and try to solve all of it. Take help, ask around but make sure you do the assignments as they can have a huge impact on your final grade (and might save your holidays which would otherwise be spent preparing for back papers).

-  There is no downside to having good grades, no matter how skilled (or not) you may become. A lot of these subjects have a direct influence on your placements in the future, so do take care.

-  Don't complain: Nobody gives a f*ck about how hard you studied or how bad the marking was. Whining does not make you cool. Avoid it.

👍 There would come a point (in fact many) when you'd hate everyone and everything, you would be crying yourself to sleep and spend hours thinking about what you are doing with your life. If it does, and when it does - just remember that the world is stupid (including you) this is all in your head, and like everything, this too shall pass!

Wow! That is a lot of good advice. But all work and no play makes Tom a dull boy (yes I know this was super cliched for someone as cool and smart like me, but even the best of us have bad days, always remember that), so moving on to the fun stuff.

4.

College Fests

The Annual Cultural Fest, Effervescence

Hardly a few weeks into your college life and WHAM! you'll find yourself in the midst of preparations for Effervescence, or as it is lovingly called, Effe. One of the most happening times of the year, you're going to have a lot of fun during these three nights and also during the time leading up to the fest especially if you're a part of some cultural society or a volunteer for Effe. Your first proper interaction with your seniors will take place because of this fest.

All the three nights (evenings actually) are lined with pro-shows and main stage events like Footloose (group dance event), A'la Mode (the fashion show), Innovation (flagship drama event) and Incendiary (battle of the bands). Late in the night is when the crowd starts to roll with awesome DJs from across the country and the best part is the third (final) night - "The Celebrity Night". Effe boasts of having hosted celebs like Benny Dayal, Daler Mehdi, Neha Kakkar, ~~Sunidhi Chauhan~~, Neeti Mohan and Farhan Akhtar in the past and you can expect some famous celebs to visit the campus this year too!



*All the Rakhi Sawants become
Disha Patanis during Effe*

The afternoons have events for every person - if you have any talents that you'd like to show, or if you just want to hang out with your friends, head to any part of the campus and you would find something

happening over there. Literary, dance, photography, music, drama, food, or light and fun stuff, seek and ye shall find.

You may decide to become a volunteer and may get a chance to help out in organizing the fest along with your seniors. Depending on how dedicated you are, you may be delegated the chance to do some 'high-profile' jobs like looking after the travel and hospitality of the many celebs that visit the campus during the fest!

The Annual Technical Fest, Aparoksha

Turns out, this college has some pretty smart people. (Surprise, surprise). Some of them ask themselves “How can we mix fun with coding and electronics?”, and those very people are the ones who end up organizing Aparoksha (called APK lovingly) every year. Aparoksha is characterized by crazy themes (go ahead look up on Facebook), the country's biggest student-held hackathon - Hack in the North, gaming tournaments held in the open - and more than 45 diverse as hell tech events, some of which are especially for first-year students. There are some very solid electronics events as well - IIIT Allahabad's technical prowess shines through in three full days (yes, there are events at 3 AM as well. These IIIT people are pretty cool that way.)



You wanna hack? Done.

You wanna design websites? Check.

Wanna play Counter-Strike at four in the morning? They gotcha fam.

Humor night is another fun part where some really cool stand up comedians come to add a pinch of humor in the bored lives of these

geeky souls. APK'17 featured Karunesh Talwar while APK'18 had Kunal Kamra killing the audience with laughter & propaganda. APK'19, however, broke all barriers (security ones too) by bringing down the Sakht Launda, Zakir Khan on IIITA's stage.

The fest also features some great keynote speeches and conferences, and the tech community of the college looks forward to attending the fest in the month of March each year.

The Annual Sports Fest, ASMITA

Prone to overthinking stuff, ASMITA is Annual Sports Meet of IIIT Allahabad. Run, play, sweat it out. Every year, during the even semester, the sports enthusiasts of various colleges in and around Allahabad come together for this event. Starting off with Run for Harmony, a marathon before the three-day event, Asmita is an enjoyable period of time for even those who have never played a sport in their lives.

Various different types of events are held during ASMITA ranging from Athletics to sports like volleyball, football, and squash. So that you can choose your favorite, or just go out there and cheer your friends. The nights are beautiful and the ground is almost always filled with people enjoying the light cold February nights.

In an industry fuelled institute like IIIT-Allahabad, ASMITA gives the opportunity to one and all to grow as a person and inculcate various values and adapt a healthy lifestyle. It provides competition, excitement and joy to many.

5.

Societies

The body of societies in IIIT Allahabad (*Jhalwa*, really) is pretty diverse - there's every club you can think of, and then some. Joining some of these groups will take you a step closer to having a teeny bit better social life. I'll go over them in some detail, so when you sign up for being a volunteer, you may choose well.

Old Monk Protip: Don't overdo it. Repeat after me: "I don't have to join every society in all of the land".

The societies are split into three major categories:

1. Cultural
2. Technical
3. Sports

The hierarchy within societies goes as



Oh and I almost forgot. You'll find some Senior Members and Special Points of Contact in some societies. It's difficult to make your talentless friends Coordinators, that's why gymkhana guys satisfy them with these positions. Other times, these Senior Members are almost as deserving as the Coordis, it's just that there can't be 4 coordis, so some people have to settle with being the Senior Members. Ouch!

The selection takes place for all of these positions on the basis of interviews, but truth be told, the people in charge always notice those who are the most enthusiastic and well-suited to further their causes and the interview is just a way to strengthen these observations. So keep working, because it's really a whole lot of fun. All societies keep on working hard all through the year, and the events that come out rival the best of the best. Work hard and play harder - every successful event has an after-party as a de facto rule. Some of the best memories of your college life will be formed while working for your respective societies!

Cultural Clubs

This is where you get to explore parts of yourself you've always wanted to, or found interesting, but never really got a chance to do so. You get to learn a lot here. Your B.Tech degree won't mention what you learn here but do it well, and you'll come out of the institute as a much more rounded human.

Let's get on with the various societies and clubs that are up and running:

Note: All Society rooms have ACs. Don't discriminate on the basis of which room is bigger/more comfortable - in the end, everyone just waits for the AMS room to get empty.

📖 **Sarasva, The 'Lit'erary Society:** Wanna have first-hand experience organizing one of North India's biggest MUNs? Or meeting TEDx speakers personally? Or anchoring main stage events during Effe while being dressed like a smarty? If so, and you have even an inkling of experience or interest in writing, prose, poetry, quizzing or debating - this is the place to be. Sign up on the volunteer sheet ASAP.

Old Monk Protip: This society takes in the maximum number of volunteers so it's pretty easy to get in. Just be confident during the interview and you'll be through! Also, if you love talking, this is the place to be. These guys literally stay up all night sometimes and just talk about random shit.

🌐 **GeneticX Crew, The Dance Society:** If dance is what gets you going, this is your hangout. Learn, move, jive, and then teach - the Dance Society is always up and running for this purpose. Plus they also have a dank dance room with ACs so you can dance with ease.



Some of the best memes are made at the DanceSoc's expense

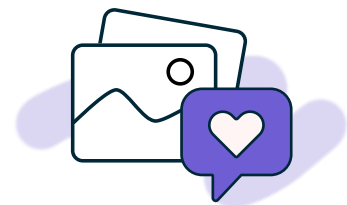
Old Monk Protip: Can't really help you here, you just have to be at least moderately good at dancing. But do try out for the auditions, you never know, the seniors may love your style of dancing, even if it's the age-old *baarati* dance!

🎵 **Virtuosi, the Music Society:** If music runs in your soul, then this is the place to prove it. If you already know how to play an instrument or have a melodious tune to your voice, this is your jive. The general favorites here are Rock - Indian and International as well as niche music styles. Even if you have never been on stage before, you can always come up and try, the seniors are super supportive and would definitely give you a chance if they see the potential.


Old Monk Protip: Again can't really help you a lot. But there's seriously no harm in trying. The writer who's controlling me right now (oh well alright... the writer who's impersonating Old Monk right now) went to the Music auditions and gave a crappy performance. He was rejected of course, but the seniors in that room made sure he didn't feel too bad about it!

📷 **AMS, The Acoustics and Media Society:** These are people who remain in high demand, as they cover almost all the big and small events and have the most important task - sound and visuals. They would be the ones sitting in the main auditorium's console or fixing mikes and lightings for you. They also click pro level DSLR waali DPs, so even if you don't join, have massive respect for them.

Old Monk Protip: If you have an interest in photography, photo editing, video editing, and the sorts, this is the place for you. AMS members are deeply adored by their batchmates because of the awesome DPs they churn out for everybody!




Every 2 out of 3 AMS members have a photography page on Instagram

 **Nirmiti, The Fine Arts Society:** Every decoration, every bit of artsy decoration that goes around the campus for any event big or small is under their purview. Especially fascinating are the themed designs during the fests. The “visual” aspect of every fest or event is under these people. The work here requires both creativity and hard work on the field level.



There are lot of graffitis in the pavillion, including one of this guy

Old Monk Protip: You’ll be asked to bring along a few of your drawings/sketches/works of art during the interview, so do keep them in handy.

 **Rangtarangini, The Dramatics Society:** The fact is, dramatics is one of the most hardworking societies in the college. Rangtarangini has some of the most talented actors, directors and screenwriters one can think of. It’s tough, no doubt - but if there’s ever a time when the halls are full, that’s when the dramatics society performs.

Old Monk Protip: I think everyone should try out for the dramatics auditions. It’s a great experience in itself. And you don’t even need to have any prior acting experience to get in. Just be confident during your auditions, have fun and face the audience (the seniors who’ll be overlooking the audition) and you stand a very good chance of getting through!

Team Effervescence

This is the crew that converts Effervescence related ideas on paper to tangible experience. A lot of volunteers are taken, so make sure you

sign up - because one minute you might be putting up banners and the next, receiving a star performer at the Visitor's hostel. Working hard is a must to get duly recognized, there might be moments of exhaustion and desperation but go through that with a smile and you might make it to the core team the next year.

Technical Clubs

I'm sure this is the section that most of you had been waiting for. There are mainly two tech clubs: **GeekHaven** and **Tesla**. Earlier Tesla was a wing within GeekHaven, but from 2018 onwards, Tesla has been promoted to being a society in itself. It's really easy to identify a member of any of these technical clubs. Their day-to-day conversations are done, not through English or Hindi or any other spoken language, no sir! They talk to each other through C, C++, Java, Python and any other cursed programming language they can lay their hands on. Their perfect example of a holiday is being wired into their laptops and embarking on mad coding sprees. The only female interaction that they have is when a girl asks them to complete her coding assignment or dual-boot her system and they help her out in hopes of impressing her. Poor guys.

Naah I'm just messing with ya! They're pretty cool kids (most of them anyway). As soon as you enter college, you'll want to join GeekHaven/Tesla but you'll have to prove your worth by going through their interviews in the month of April.

Both of these societies are comprised of a lot of wings. Let's take a brief tour of all of them.

Geekhaven

If you code, this is where you should be. There are wings for **everything**:

Web Development - Stats show that most people apply for the WebD wing during the April interviews. IITA has seen some great programmers come out of this wing and so they have a pretty cool legacy. Just one problem. They believe HTML is a programming language.



You get to hoard a shit ton of free t-shirts if you are active in FOSS

FOSS - You'll be confused by many things during your stay in IITA. One of them will be, "What's the full form of FOSS?". I don't know the answer to that either. All I know is that they write some awesome code and don't back down when it comes to sharing it with the world.

Design - The days (and nights) of Design Wing members revolve around the uncountable requests of their friends - "Bhai ek poster bana dega, please?" An extremely talented and creative bunch, they oblige most of the time, even if they do it begrudgingly.

Cyber Security - They're a bunch of really smart folks. They hold regular workshops and junior cybersecurity events for the first-year students. I'm told that they're pretty good at what they do. Which is why I won't talk much about them because I don't want to get hacked. Yes, I'm a ghost and I have a computer. Doesn't make sense? Well, neither does having ECE in an IT college but here we are!

Machine Learning - New kid on the block. This wing was started just two years ago. This wing's done some pretty cool things since its inception. Yes, sometimes they do write a bunch of if-else statements and try to pass it off as AI. But other times, they can be seen indulging in some pretty complex things!

Competitive Programming - The big boys. You're bound to have heard the phrase "coding culture" at least a quintillion number of times while doing your research about IITA. Well, this wing is a testament to the fact that IITA has some really awesome coders. The members of this wing prefer coding in some online competition over doing ANYTHING ELSE. Don't make the mistake of disturbing them while they're spewing magic with their fingertips. They. Will. Snap. At. You.



Tesla (The Electronic Society)

In what was hailed as a widely appreciated decision, Tesla, which was earlier a wing under GeekHaven, was carved out as a separate society. About time! Let's take a look at the 3 wings under this electronics society:

IOT - All I know is that IOT involves turning the classroom projector off using your smartphones. (OM ProTip: Try this stunt with extreme caution. No one will believe that a ghost put this idea in your head if you get caught). Btw expect these guys to teach you better things during their workshops and talks.

Robotics - They'll try to distract you with their "Path-Follower" and

“Obstruction-Avoider” bots. Pretty cool things really. But I won’t be impressed unless they built a sentient robot in collaboration with the Machine Learning wing. Just saying :P

Electronic Device and Automation - This is where the CUDA accelerated magic happens. MATLAB, PSpice, Network simulators - whichever strain of the electronics disease bites you - you’ll surely find some help here.

Team Aparoksha

Writing hundreds of lines of code, and organizing a fest is a lot different. This is the team which organizes Aparoksha, the annual technical fest of IIIT-A. Being a volunteer gives you lots of opportunities as already mentioned and this team works really hard to make activities like coding, development and designing a fun and fulfilling experience which you can enjoy with your friends, or total strangers for that matter.

IIIC

It stands for IIITA Info and Incubation Centre, is a Business Incubator set up in IIITA which provides monetary funds, technical support, human resource in the form of interns to various startups that seem promising. It consists of a Faculty body and the Student body and is supported by the Department of Electronics and Technology under the Startup India project of the Govt. of India. Being a volunteer here gives you



“Kutto ke liye tinder banate hai, bhai. Next unicorn!”

an opportunity to interact with various startups and may benefit you since you get a clear picture of the commercial world if you too, one day, plan to start a business of your own. They are also responsible for organizing the E-Summit in the month of February.

Sports Club

The sports club of IIITA is called SPIRIT. They play in and organize sports events (duh!). The events organized by them are quite enjoyable for the most part, be it inter-year tournaments or faculty vs student matches.

You'll have a decent amount of sports facilities available to you. You can enjoy - football, basketball, cricket, tennis, swimming, badminton, squash and not to forget, kabaddi with Jhalwa's insects.

SPIRIT gets to shine during Asmita, the annual sports fest. I seriously advise you to come out and cheer your friends during the fest even if you're not into any sports. You'll find the atmosphere on campus to be really awesome during this time. Also, it's a bonus if you get to witness a fight during the inter-college matches :P

Student's Gymkhana

Gymkhana Club is a term that was used in British Raj to denote a gentleman's club. Here at the college, Gymkhana or as we call it the Students' Gymkhana, is a student club/council of the students, by the students, for the students(not really).

Students' Gymkhana is part of most of the stuff that happens here at the college. Responsibilities of Students' Gymkhana range from helping in the conduction of various fests and organising the

Gymkhana Elections: Your golden opportunity to shine as a Neta. Every year in February, students vote for their favorite candidates in a fair election. I've heard that campaigning a couple of nights before the elections (i.e. visiting the rooms of your batchmates in the dead of the night and asking for votes) does the trick.



Don't be surprised if you find netaji at your doorstep the night before elections

Prayaas

Amidst all this buffoonery, it'd do well to mention a jewel of goodwill that works tirelessly day and night to help bright kids protect themselves by teaching them basic subjects but more importantly educates young minds about social evils. I'm, of course, talking about Prayaas, a volunteer movement initiated by the student fraternity of IIITA, which is your window to give back to society.

Yes, you read that right: we aren't just home to depressed programmers and tormented lovers; there are many who are genuinely seeking to create a meaningful change in Jhalwa. I know this because no volunteer of Prayaas will ever forget to remind you of this every time they meet you. There's no doubt that the Prayaas volunteers are relentlessly hard working; in the last semester alone they gave 5 presentations about how much work they're doing. Jokes aside though, if they gave 5 presentations, they touched the lives of 10 times as many children, and in a world as dog-eat-dog as ours, that counts for something.

6.

Campus Dictionary

If you want to survive in a college, you need to know its slang. I'll start off with locations in the college that are almost never referred to by their full names.



PMC Piya Milan Chauraha. Supposed to be infamous as a meeting place for couples. Though you would hardly come across anyone here other than large groups of friends if any.

“Yaar ye PMC pe keede aur couples dono bhot pareshan karte hai”

SAC Student Activity Centre. You're supposed to give your auditions and work for the fests/society events here. After you're done laughing at it's name of course.

“Sir naam se toh lgta hai SAC mein bhot serious kaam hota hoga?” “Bhai ek semester nikalne de, kya kya hota hai SAC mein sab pta chal jaega”

OC Old Canteen. I'm sorry I can't come up with a witty one-liner for this. It's literally a collection of 5-6 shops. I'm a ghost who haunts an engineering college, what more do you expect jeez.

“Yaar OC pe bhot cute ladki dekhi aaj”

“Bhai wo M.Tech ki thi”

CL Civil Lines. The city centre of Allahabad, place where you'll find edible

food and will be your go-to place after classes for hanging out with friends, watching a movie in Vinayak City Centre or for going out on a date for a cup of coffee.

“Bhai, CL meh jo ek naya cafe khula hai na, vahan humne teri crush ko ek senior ke sath dekha.”

HC Health Centre. Ill? Health Centre. Scam?

Effe’17. Hotel? Trivago

*“Arre ye HC mein kaise log baithe hain yaar.
COVID-19 hua hai paracetamol pakda di”*



CC Computer Centre - Computers, lots and lots of them. Duhh. Oh and also, classes, faculty offices, electronics labs, make-out points, bhool-bhulaiyaa, etc.

“Yaar CC-3 ke guard ne fir bhaga diya, shorts pehen ke chala gaya tha”

TA Teaching Assistants. They’re the M.Tech students who work for your profs and check and grade your papers. I’ve heard people tell their juniors never to mess with these TAs unless you want to face dire consequences. There is no assistance to speak of besides grades, if you have the prerequisite luck.

“Yaar uska hamesha lab me A+ aata hai”

“Bhai, uska chodh uski TA se setting hai.”

Tut Tutorials. A two hour monologue from the TA of the respective faculty, who knows nothing about that subject, they will hate these two hours of the week just as same as you if not more. Basically either you’ll be solving questions with your tears dropping on your notebook even on the

last bench, it depends on the TA (yeah we have a few Hitlers in Jhalwa too), just hope you get into same group as your crush. Luckily, after efforts by your seniors, this is mostly now like a doubt solving time and will not be mandatory for everyone to attend the whole two hours. But eh again, few Hilters won't let you sleep!

“Bhai, aaj Tut meh kuch important toh nahi hoga?”

“Arre aaj Dual degree wala TA ayega, kaafi chill banda hai”

TechFather/TechMother All of you will be given a roll number. For example, if your course is IT 4 years, your roll number will look something like IIT2020xxx. If it happens to be, let's say, IIT2020035. Then the senior with the roll number IIT2019035 will be your tech parent. You can go to them for advice regarding absolutely anything, but do not fret if they take time to reply. Do remember that they won't come out to find you. You'll have to find them. Take it as a challenge for yourselves. Of course I can tell you a simple trick to find anybody's techfather/techmother (*Man these folks need to invent a short form for techfather/techmother ASAP. Typing the whole thing over and over is an ordeal for my aging fingers*). But where's the fun in giving away hints like that!

“Mere techfather ne bola ki pointer se fark nahi padta.”

“Lekin meri techmother ne kaha fark padta hai islie ache se padhai krna. Mujhe toh tere wala zyada sahi lag rha hai.”

Intro Your seniors are curious to know about the bugs who've suddenly come to infest their beautiful campus and who call them “Bhaiya/Didi” instead of “Sir/Ma'am”. (Oh in case you're wondering, you are those bugs, dear freshmen :P) These seniors are going to ask you to give your introduction (intro). But it's not as simple as that. Intro is a rather fun

exercise and not all that straight-forward. I can tell you the finer details but again, where's the fun in that?

"Arre intro ka format yaad krliya?"

"Intro ka format bhi hota hai?"

*"Haan bhai, ye le." *Hands over a 34 page booklet**

PDP The first month or so will be filled with an unique experience where you get in contact with seniors (most probably techfathers/mothers at first), and you're asked some things about yourself. This gives you a chance to develop some great relations with your seniors which you'd probably look back upon later in your life. Maintain the right attitude and be a good sport. These PDP sessions will help you immensely in the near future by helping you build contacts with the seniors.

"Kal poori raat BH-4 mein tha"

"Kyu bhai"

"Arre PDP"



During a PDP, you may be asked to "pick" a thing using your butt.

GPL Every birthday, scholarship, internship, foreign opportunity, or anything positive in your life (for the guys mostly) is celebrated like this. A tight serving to the hind with a kick/slipper/shoe/leather-sandal/hand (one of the authors has also been beaten up with a hammer during his second year GPL, true story) is the norm. You take until you can or until your friends get bored.

"Bhai usne 2 jeans pehen rkhe hain, taaki GPL mein dard kam ho"

Effe Short for Effervesence, our annual cultural fest.

"Arre suna hai, effe mei is saal bhot paisa khaya?"

APK Short for Aparoksha, our annual technical fest.

“Bhai APK’20 coronavirus ki wajah se cancel hogya, coordi log depression mein hain, paisa nhi kha paye.”

Paani ki tanki This tall water tank holds a special place in every IITians heart. *“Question asked in GATE 2020 : Ye paani ki tanki, male hai ya female?”*

Malik Used to be one of the most famous food joints near IIITA. Shady af. *“Suna hai malik wale bhaiya pehle drugs bechte the”*

Mukesh Another food joint near IIITA. One of the few places that open during the day itself.

“Baby, campus aate waqt mere liye bhi ek mukesh ka paneer roll leke aana”

Kings Yes you guessed it right, one more food joint. You won’t die of hunger in Jhalwa. Also, became one of the most famous joints after Malik declined in popularity.

“Bore ho rha, Kings chalega?”

Sanskar Yet another food joint. I’m running out of things to say, there are simply too many food joints here.

“Chal Sanskar pe sutta maar ke aate hai”



Maal Herb that is believed to possess magical/medicinal values. Used to induce a state of peace and calm.

“Bhai effe wale Rambagh ka maal manga rhe hain, Kisi volunteer ko bhejde laane ke liye”

Ghissu A person who studies. A lot. Day and Night. Characterised by a high pointer and the presence of a lot of people in his/her room one day before the exam

“Ghissu logon ka koi dharm nhi hota”

Bandi A human being with two ‘X’ chromosomes who somehow agrees to date the pathetic loser that you are.

*“Kaise kaise ladko ki bandiya ban jati hai idhar IITa mein” *sigh**

Bakchodi Literally anything that doesn’t lead to a productive outcome. Har engineer ka dharm.

“SAC aa ja, juniors ko bula ke bakchodi karte hai”

Katna You use this word when life hands you lemons.

“Abe yaar Walmart last round mei kaat gyi”

Sem Engineers don’t measure time in hours, minutes, seconds. They measure it in units of semesters (sems). *“Agle sem pakka phod dunga”*

Narrator: *“Nope. Nahi fod paya”*

Proxy When you don’t want to attend the morning lecture because you slept at 6 in the morning, you ask your friend to say “Present sir” on your behalf when the prof calls out your roll number while taking the attendance. Putting in someone’s proxy is a very tricky procedure and is perfected after a lot of failed attempts.

“Bhai rinkiya ki proxy laga rha tha, prof ko pata chal gaya and usne meri ek hafte ki attendance kaat di.”

Pointer A Numerical Value that strangers use to judge you academically in a 15 minute interview.

“Kitna pointer aya is sem”

“Ladki se uski umar aur engineer se uska pointer kabhi nhi puchte, laxman”

I-Card Oh so you think you know what an i-card is? You clearly haven't met the IIITA guards then. Umm how should I tell you what it is without making it sound exaggerated? Simply put, an i-card is the “iklauta sarva shaktiman bhagwan” of the IIITA guards and God bless you if you forget to carry it when you're already late for class. They. Will. Send. You. Back.

“Bhaiya, I-card liye hai?”

7.

Conclusion

IIITA is a fairly good college. Yeah I know the city sucks and you feel you deserve an IIT. But you're here now and can't do much about it. Or can you? No, I'm not talking about re-appearing for JEE next year you dumb. I'm talking about making the best out of the situation you're in.

Over the years I've seen a lot of people come here, become all-rounders, enjoy their college life and fall in love with the college, and when the time comes for placements, walk away with packages that'll make even an IITian jealous. You see, it all depends on how you want to spend the next 4 years of your life. You can cry and mope around or you can go out and conquer everything and look back years later at the countless fond memories you made.

8.

Note from the Team

If anything in this guide offended you and you're thinking about pressing charges, then please be advised that the authors have watched enough seasons of *Suits* and *Boston Legal* to defend themselves in a court of law. However, on a more serious note, we would sincerely like to mention that all jokes in this guide were light-hearted jabs and weren't meant to hurt anyone.

Okay, alright, you got us. They were meant to cause a little damage but nothing that can't be mended by a behind-the-back bitching session about the authors. Though if you read something, got offended, closed this guide in a rage and didn't get around to this heartfelt disclaimer, then that's on you!

We would also like to point out that this is completely a student initiative with the aim to familiarize freshers with IIIT-A and help them feel a little less intimidated during their first few weeks of adapting to this new life. This Fresher's Guide in no way represents the college authorities and doesn't lay down the college's official guidelines either. Think of this guide as advice from your friendly seniors. You may visit IIITA's website and/or attend the many (boring) orientations before the start of the session to better understand the official guidelines.

In the end, we would like to say thanks to the faculty members who have helped students in academia; the guards and staff members who make sure our stay in the campus is comfy; the folks at scholarship department who help many students realise their dream of education and in the end, most importantly, thanks to you and every student who has ever studied in IIIT-A for bringing in fame to the institute. Good students are the most valuable asset of any institution, keep the legacy going.

That's us signing out, until next time.



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More confused than ever? Join our
dedicated Facebook group to get in touch.
facebook.com/groups/comejointhefam

– *Khush Raho, Machate Raho* –

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