

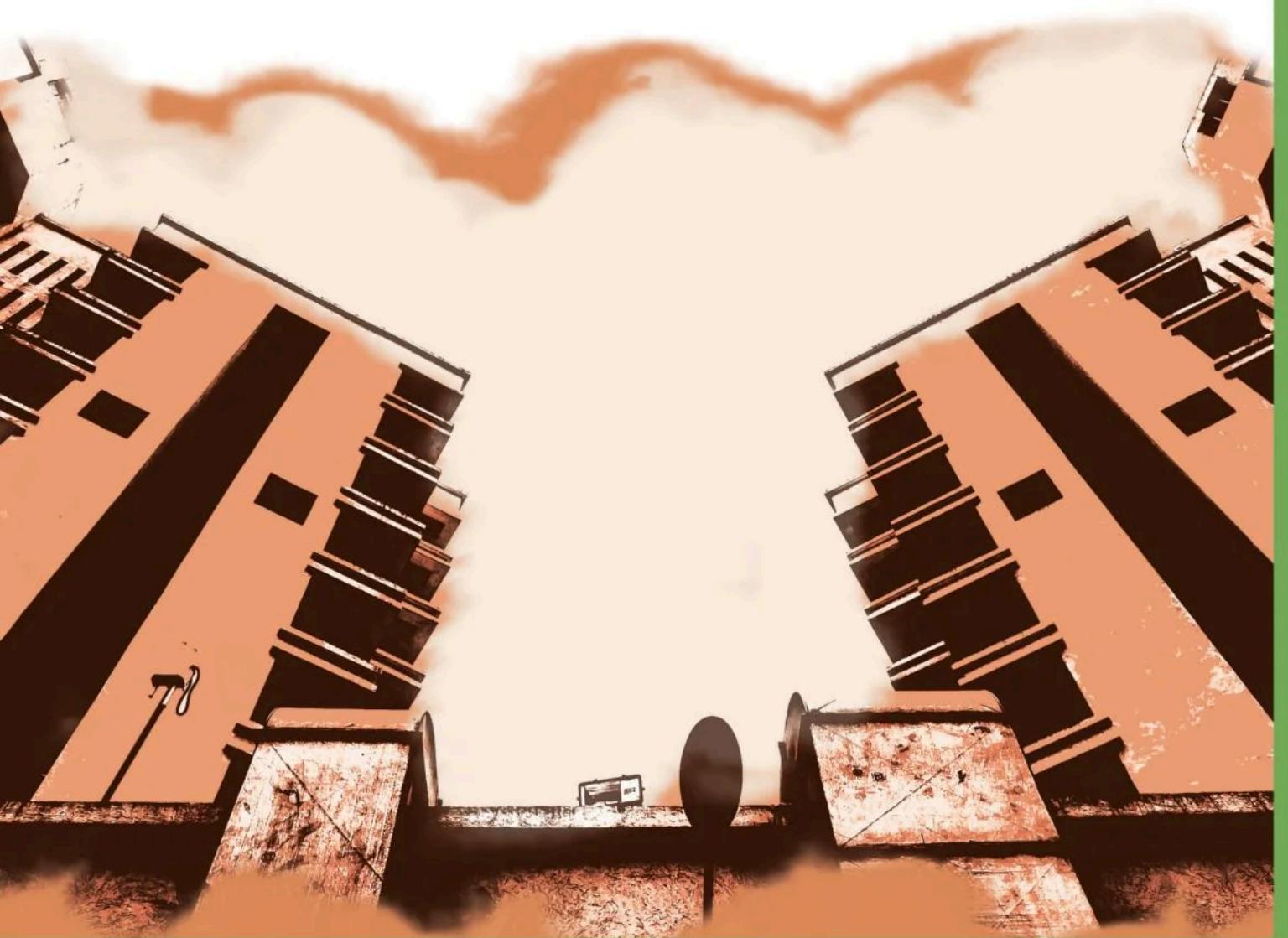
insight

IITB's official Student Media Body

FRESHERS' NEWSLETTER

VOL 6

	Pg
Branch Change	02
Adapting to life at IITB	04
Mumbai guide	06
Lingo	08
Unwritten Laws of Insti	11



BRANCH - CHANGE

Getting the branch you want at your preferred IIT is a luxury only a select few can afford. Many end up having to pick between the two, specifically those who wish to study in Mumbai- fascinated by what the city has to offer. It is perhaps to cater to these students that Branch-Change rules were significantly relaxed in 2011 and changed, if at all, for the better. This article takes you through the reasons to think about changing your branch and the factors you need to consider before making up your mind.

Branch - Change 101

In a weird Russian reversal, IITians don't choose their branch- their branch chooses them. Some make do with the branch their AIR enables them to enter, while others have to face societal pressure to choose branches that are more "in demand" and "evergreen".

However, IITB offers students after their first year a provision to move to their preferred branch (terms and conditions apply). While you can't try out the courses to get a feel of the branch before choosing it, you can always ask your seniors for fundae to find out what their branches are really like to help make up your mind.

Changing your branch potentially gives you the opportunity to redefine your stay in the Insti, and in some cases, your entire life. This procedure is your final chance to get into a branch you are passionate about, or into a stream you are more comfortable with. In short; this is not a decision to be taken lightly.

The Rules of the Game

While the entire list of rules is pretty exhaustive, it can be distilled down to a few points:

- No backlogs at the end of your first year.
- CPI above a certain threshold is necessary to effect a change of branch. The cutoff is 8 for the General Category and OBCs and 7 for the SCs, STs and PWDs.
- All Branch-Changes happen strictly in CPI order.
- Generally speaking, a branch can not expand to more than 10% of its sanctioned strength, nor can it contract to less than 85% of its original number.

Picking The Right Branch

The most important criteria that one should consider before opting for a Branch-Change is his/her interest in the field. The most common criteria that people do consider, however is the placement opportunities and the possibilities for higher studies- depending on whether they have an inclination for core jobs, non core jobs or research after graduation which are transient opinions for many of us in the first place.

Attractive internships and astronomical pay packages blind a large chunk of the students to chase CSE and EE departments without giving much thought to where their interests actually lie. Similarly there is a tendency among some students to Branch-Change, just so they can move from their perceived "lukkha" stream to a more "socially acceptable" one, irrespective of their inclination towards the new subject.

What complicates matters is that students at the end of their first year have no real inkling of what their Department actually has to offer. One or Two DICs are not enough evidence to judge

one's Department; but without any other objective parameter to gain insight, one has to resort to approaching seniors and/or just winging it.

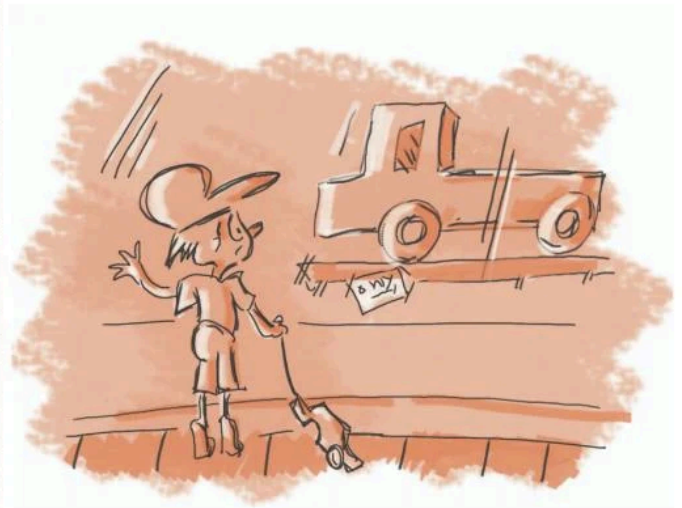
Does It Really Matter in the Long Run?

Yes and No. The answer is purely subjective to the person concerned.

For instance, if you are a person who's crazy about machines, robots, cars, levers etc. and should, in an ideal scenario, have taken up Mechanical Engineering, then BC-ing to Mech might just be the right choice for you. At the end of four years, even if you decide not to pursue higher studies or take up a job in the core sector, you would not only have gained immense knowledge in the field you like, but pursuing your passion is likely to help you enjoy your education- a feat rarely achieved in the Insti. Moreover, being interested in your courses reflects positively on your CPI- a number that matters. The magnitude of its importance might vary according to the profile you're looking at, but it's best not to get too influenced by the "moh-maaya" memes around this number.

On the other hand, if you are planning to BC just based on the JEE cutoffs, then this decision could backfire for a multitude of reasons. Firstly, you may not be interested in the topics taught in your new branch, and even though you might not be a fan of what is taught in your current branch now, you might be more likely to do better - CPI wise - in your current department due to less competition. The same competition will inevitably ensure you dedicate more hours to studying, thus limiting the time you wish to dedicate to any extracurricular activities or position of responsibility (PoR) you wish to take up. This could hinder any non core aspirations you might have.

TL;DR? While it should not be explicitly assumed that managing your CPI along with extra curriculars efficiently is next to impossible after a Branch-Change into an academically loaded branch; you should prepare yourself for an interesting challenge that increases significantly in difficulty if you are uninterested in your new branch in the first place.



Testimonials



Ritwick Chaudhry
EE Dual - CSE BTech

My decision to Branch-Change from Electrical Dual to Computer Science was not something I had planned right from the start. I started coding early in the Autumn semester and developed a huge crush on it over the first two sems. I didn't study just because I wanted to BC, but later on, near the end semester exams, I realised that if I'd step on the gas, then I could do it.

For the freshmen, I have some things that I would love to share. Branch-Change might appear to be a "Leap of Faith" but it is actually a very important decision that needs to be taken after a lot of thinking and taking into consideration all the factors. A word of caution to those interested in BC-ing to CS - if you are a person who wants to be the best in a room, Computer Science is probably going to give you a hard time. But yes, it is a branch which teaches you a lot of lessons and all in all, I feel it was a good decision to change to CSE.



Rishi Vanukuru
Civil Sophmore

Well to begin with I probably wanted to make the switch to a "better" branch early on in my first semester. I had notions of what each branch offered (albeit very coloured and incomplete ones), and I was of the opinion that I'd be doing what I was interested in, equally well in another one. And back then, reading pieces like this, of people who wanted to change their branch initially but didn't and then went on to say that it was the best thing that happened to them - I always thought that that was just everyone trying to see the bright side of life. And now I'm here writing this. And yes, I'm glad I didn't switch.

Hypocrite, you may say. But by the end of freshman year, I realised that what I was really interested in didn't fit any branch description. So staying where I was would give me the time to pursue my real interests to a much larger degree - be it spending more time on my Design minor or learning and making music. I really was averse to leaving the friends I'd made in my branch too. And now, a year later, looking around and seeing how things panned out for everyone, I don't think I could have asked for much better.



Basuhi Ravi
Aerospace BTech - EP BTech

For a lot of us, JEE-AIR based branch allocation is a shot in the dark. Needless to say, mine missed its mark. I knew I was interested in Physics before, it certainly held more allure than anything else and I think that was reason enough to try again, this time through Change of Branch.

Reflecting over my decision a year later, it seems like a very natural thing to have done. Now I love almost all my courses and find them interesting and worth studying for, which I believe justifies any decision pertaining to Academics on my part. Earlier last semester, in a rare moment of acknowledgment of my Change of Branch, I used to get asked why I didn't choose B.Tech Electrical Engineering, when I could have: to which my reply was usually a noncommittal 'Why would I want to?' and judging from a couple of the five odd Electrical courses EP students have to do to justify the prefix of 'Engineering', my response hasn't changed much over the past two semesters.

Long story short, Branch Change needn't be another round of shooting in the dark - it helps if you enter a branch you actually would love to be a part of.



Deepanshu Kush
Metallurgy BTech - MSc, Mathematics

From an early age, I discovered that I had a penchant for mathematics and that penchant grew into a passion as I got involved in the mathematical olympiad in high school. As soon as I finished my 12th, I decided to take the JEE and despite my inclination towards mathematics, after consulting some of my seniors and family members, I decided to give engineering a shot. I spent my first year here and when I realized what to look forward to as an engineering student, I was a tad disappointed. Subsequently, I decided to quit the B.Tech. programme and join the Chennai Mathematical Institute the following academic year.

It was during my summer project in the math department here when I first heard about the 5 year Integrated M.Sc. Mathematics programme. I met with Prof. Ravi Raghunathan, who is the faculty advisor for all students in this programme, and he convinced me that if I am passionate enough about learning math, the department here could provide me one of the best undergrad math educations across the country. I looked no further. I joined the programme the following academic year and the experience has been exhilarating! While this programme is certainly not for the light hearted, I'd heartily urge anyone with an ardour for mathematics to consider it.



Akhriti Varshney
Aerospace BTech - Mechanical BTech

Having followed the herd in the AIR-based choosing of a branch, a change-of-branch was always lurking in the back of my mind in the first year. I was one of those people who did not have a very clear inclination towards a particular branch though, so when the time came to fill the Branch-Change form, talking to seniors from all prospective branches helped me decide.

I guess you could say I was lucky in ending up in Mechanical since I've found a love for most of the courses we have. I'm also realising now that I did have a preference for all things Mechanical over other branches after all. Apart from the curriculum, the general aura and the perspective of people around you towards academic as well as non-academic affairs affects you a lot. That is something I'm grateful to have found in Mechanical. Eventually, to me, it didn't matter that I didn't have a definite liking for a certain branch. It turned out well for me anyway.



Raunaq Bhirangi
Mechanical Sophmore

Choosing a branch was not too hard for me. I had always been enthusiastic for Elec or Mech Engg. And when I saw I could get IITB Mech with my rank, it was a straight forward choice. When I came in I hadn't thought about a Branch Change. The thought hadn't even crossed my mind. Preferred branch, preferred institute, I was set. CS 101, though (yes, the same CS 101 which people accuse of killing any enthusiasm for programming they might have had), nurtured in me an inclination towards CSE. This increased with time, and by the end of my first year I was considering CSE as a Branch-Change option.

After giving it sufficient thought however, I felt Computer Science was more of a hobby of sorts, and not something I'd like to pursue as a career, and hence I did not fill the Branch-Change form. A year down the line, I have absolutely no regrets about not changing my branch. I have thoroughly enjoyed the courses in Mech, and a minor in CSE has reaffirmed my ideas of it being more of a hobby and less of a career option.

ADAPTING - To - LIFE - AT - IITB



Abhishek Andasu - Finding Your Passion

One of the unique things about IIT Bombay is the variety of opportunities available after graduation. The salient feature about the 'brand' is that it allows you to migrate between non core, academia and entrepreneurship in ways that few other professional degrees can. While this range of options, where each option requires a different approach, can seem confusing, I think it is also worthwhile to remember that this also offers you the freedom to find your own niche - to find something you would be happy and proud of doing.

That being said there are certain things that help ensure that whatever decision you make in the end is one that is well informed and fueled by your interests while adding to both your personality and skills. These I believe are vital precisely because they apply regardless of your long term career goals.

Attend as many talks, workshops as possible: With insti becoming more multidimensional the array of educative talks on offer is almost unparalleled in the country. Scholars, scientists, researchers, lawyers, politicians, bureaucrats of eminence come down to campus regularly and often their talks are illuminating - in terms of what is at the vanguard in their fields and what the current topics of deliberation are in society today. This liberty to learn, discuss and deliberate with the very best is an opportunity not worth missing. Personally a lot of these talks helped shape my career decision and I am certain will leave a lasting impact on you. Besides these there also are several short term workshops that will help you pick up an interesting skill or two.

Engage in an activity outside of acads: It's a great way to meet new people, build lasting relationships and develop proficiency in a domain that interests you. It is a support system and bond that is special and lasts beyond your time in insti. Seniors I have met in the debate club and Insight have helped me in moments of need and have given me some of the best advice in life.

Explore all that insti has to offer to you: Do a project with a professor that inspires you, learn a language, go on a student exchange, read as much as possible, travel - while you might not do all of these things, each of them will help shape your perception (not just about the world around you, but more importantly about yourself) and help you become a well rounded individual. These avenues are harder to access once you graduate.

Just a word of caution that none of this should be at the cost of your academics. In the eyes of the world around you, you enjoy this flexibility to experiment and explore only as long as you are performing decently in your studies, otherwise the expanse of opportunities available dwindles. Lastly, the most liberating thing about graduating from here is that you will never want for the basic necessities of life such as food, housing and clothing Use this as a platform to give you the courage to pursue your interests meaningfully.



Abhishek Gore Climbing The Branch Change Tree

The elusive branch change is something a lot of freshers seek to get by the end of the first year. Especially for those who rue

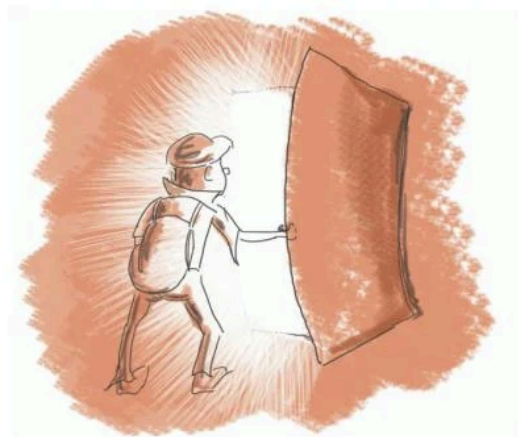
not getting a more sort after department during JEE, the branch change seems like an attractive second chance. It's important to keep in mind that since decisions right after JEE are made with little information and even less time, your preferences may change as you get more exposure to different branches throughout your first year, however at the same time you must remember that just because a certain branch has a higher cutoff, doesn't mean that pursuing it will be the best career choice that you make. Simply chasing after Computer Science or Electronics as soon as you enter college may be the mindset that the education system sets, but it isn't necessarily, one you must succumb to. Each branch has its own pros and cons and you must familiarise yourself with it before you decide.

However it's also important to note that transferring into your desired branch is easier said than done. It requires you to excel academically, while being graded relatively against a similarly talented and focussed set of peers. All of this while adapting to life at IITB and learning to deal with a new method of teaching. It's also important to note that achieving the high CPI needed to branch change also requires some degree of luck as you could miss out on a crucial grade by just a mark or two.

In my opinion, it's best to focus on doing well in acads instead of worrying about whether you'll get a branch change. Maintaining a good CPI definitely helps you a lot in the long run, and you will reap benefits regardless of whether you get to change your department. It's best not to take excess pressure and instead just aim to learn as much as you can. The important thing is to study to understand the concept and not worry about the end result. Just focus on studying for the next quiz and then the quiz after that. Working on acads one step at a time without any expectations from the process, is the key to relieving stress and performing to the best of your capacity.

Remember that even if you do get the opportunity to change your branch at the end of it all, don't just jump into the process. Keep an open mind to all the concepts taught, who knows maybe at the end of your first year, you may realize that the branch with a high cutoff doesn't really excite you and you prefer your original branch.

IITB offers brilliant opportunities to learn and excel in every department. So, relax, keep an open mind, and just focus on doing well.





Yash Sanghvi: Machau Machau Everywhere

Coming to this campus, I was average in every way possible. People whom I had only seen on the front page of newspapers, or on huge billboards, or BEST buses were now in the same hostel, competing with me. While I was just attending the orientations in awe, amazed by the cool stuff our seniors were up to, there were fellow freshers who'd confidently go and set the stage on fire. While I was still taking the feel of studying in an IIT, there were fellow students who were already asking intriguing questions in class, engaging in discussions with the profs. The first week here itself had done enough to instill inferiority and self-doubt in me. And, weird as it sounds, it helped. Before telling how, I'd like to tell you a small excerpt from a talk by Prof. N.B. Ballal during Mech Dept.'s Teachers' Day function: "I see certain awards for goodness in teaching. I think these are the most important. Better is trivial, best is admirable however being good...now that's difficult, because you need to define it. It's not comparative, it's absolute! Many people want to be the best without even defining what is good"

That's when I realised that I was drowning in self-doubt. I had somehow reached a point where I thought that it was futile to compete with this crowd because everyone appeared to be better than me. However that was never what I should have been aiming at. I should be aiming to be good and not better than the people before me. Slowly, I came out of the 'competitive' rat race, and set 'absolute' goals for myself. For example, instead of - 'be in top 10 DRs', the goal was now 'get CPI above 8'.

I no longer needed to compete with others when it came to extracurriculars, so I was able to determine the extra-curriculars I actually wanted to do and not just chase the most popular ones.

My definition of good kept changing with time and so my goals kept getting upgraded. I noticed that I wasn't much concerned about others doing better than me, this allowed me to do the things I wanted to without the stress of failing.

However for this way to succeed it's essential that you keep pushing yourself to be better than the person you were yesterday. Keep fighting to be a better version of yourself, everyday.

Always remember, if you want to feel inferior, the institute can make you feel inferior everyday, because no matter what you do, there will always be someone who does something better than you. Snap out of that mindset of competing and define your 'good'. Keep pushing yourself, and try to be a better version of yourself and eventually you will reach the 'best'.



Sahil Suman : Shaking off the Stress

It's really very exhilarating to step into IIT for the first time. You have a lot of uncertainties and hope for your future. These hopes lead to expectations and these expectations become the cause of stress.

Having explored different facets of the life in the institute, I would say that the stress that you face varies as you progress.

In your freshman year, you will be exposed to various institute bodies and activities, all of them vying for your attention. The overwhelming happenings of the institute coupled with the academic pressure and competition could lead you into the spiral of stress. It's important in such a situation that you explore things

in the beginning and later settle down. Know yourself and don't do things just because they're popular, find your interests.

IIT Bombay also spoils us with the multitude of options that it provides. This is the first time we come across freedoms like free internet throughout the day, no restrictions on movements and no curfew. Many people succumb to a habit of mindlessly using the internet for only gaming and entertainment. Given these freedom and distractions, time management is really necessary. In my opinion it's really helpful to plan your days and keep you goals in mind. The strategy that I use is to have a micro-schedule i.e., what you are going to do next day and also a macro-schedule i.e., what you will be doing in the coming week or so.

However if there's anything that I want you to take from this, it's that stress is very common, maybe the reason for the stress is professional such as stress due to academics or personal like relationship issues, self-doubt etc.

The first step to avoid stress is to acknowledge the fact that you are stressed. Acknowledge it, think of the reasons and potential solutions. If it becomes chaotic, maybe you can write it systematically on paper. You can also always approach counselors if you find your life to be getting messy. Being optimistic and resilient is the key to stress-free life. With just a bit of time management and belief these will be the most beautiful years of your life.

All the best for your stay at IITB.

Cherish it. Cheers!



Rahul Ramchandani Low (High) AIR? Don't care.

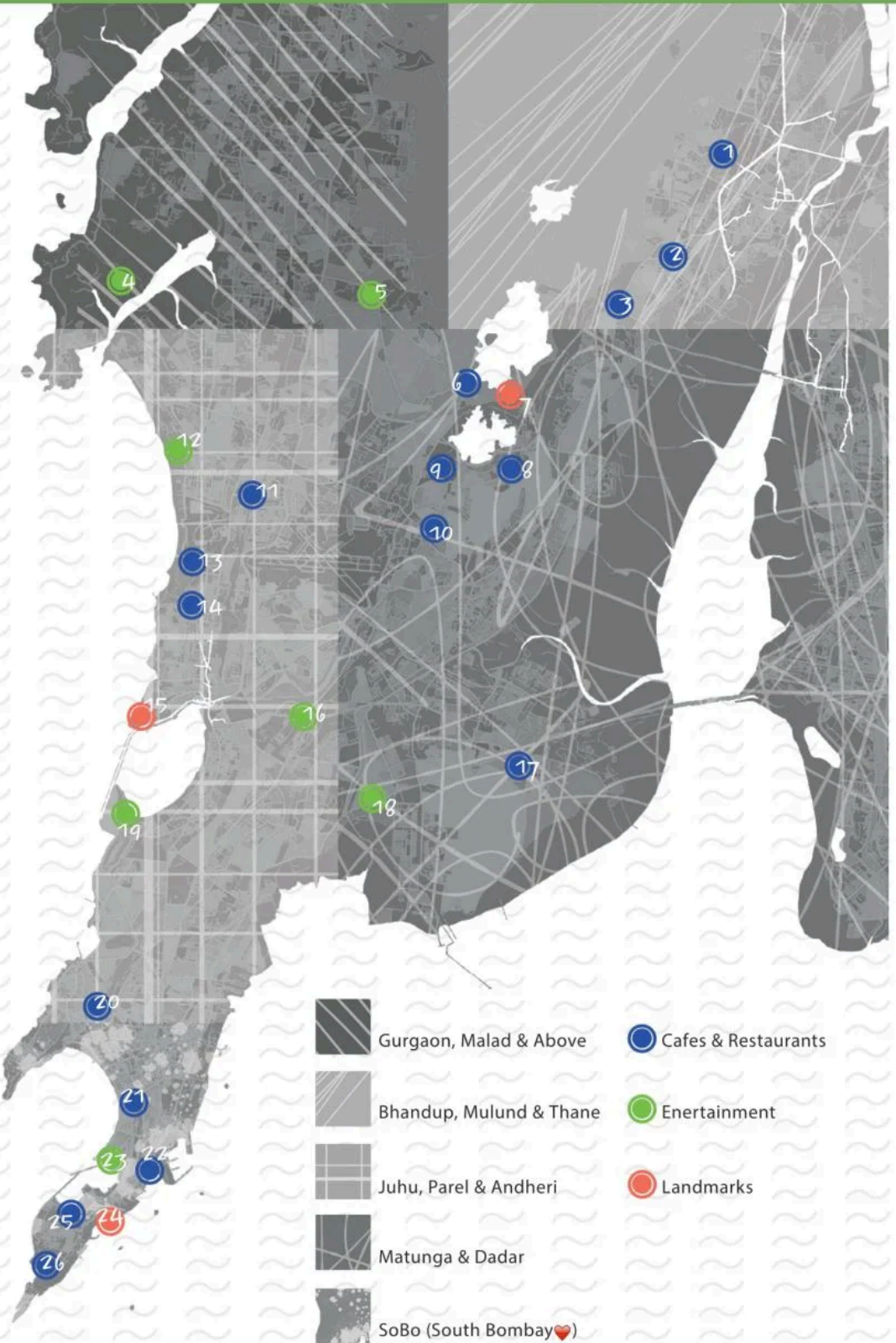
Like many others, I too found myself feeling under confident after coming to IIT Bombay. A rank of 2053 was worse than I had expected, and I was ashamed of talking to people about it. I know a lot of you feel the same, especially when you're new here and discussing AIR is just one of many ways freshers tend to talk about themselves.

However, if there's one big lesson that my five years here have taught me both through my own experiences and via others' too, it's this – you can be whatever you want to be. You can choose. Your AIR, just like everything else does not matter once you step onto campus. Don't allow yourself to feel bad about a number. It does not define you.

What you make of your experiences here will define you. IIT Bombay has all the people, resources and opportunities you will ever need, but it is ambition and your intention that will lead the way.

A pithy but profound aphorism I found useful – The thing preventing you most from success is yourself. I wish that I would have understood this earlier. The only reason I felt an inferiority-complex was because I allowed myself to feel that way. I was using my AIR to define my self-worth. I urge you to avoid this thinking. Don't let it box you in. You start afresh here. Every branch in this institute provides you with the opportunity to succeed. There may be biases that we form of branches in the institute based on their cut offs, but it's important to remember that every year there are people who achieve the best placements and the best research offers despite being in the branches that people consider to be 'lower'. Each area of study is different and with different scopes in that field. People's perception of it doesn't decrease its worth and definitely doesn't decrease the plethora of opportunities that it opens for you.

YOUR - GUIDE - TO - MUMBAI



- 1 **Tip n Town** | Thane | 180 INR
Veg Buffet that includes everything from South Indian food to sandwiches. Reaching this place will require you to change a couple of autos but it's worth it if you have to treat more than 20 people.
- 2 **Cinepolis** | Bhandup | 80-150 INR
- 3 **Zaffran** | Mulund | 500 INR
Zaffran is THE place for Mughlai food. Open till late this place is worth a visit if variety in cuisine is what you're looking for. At par with 'Apna Dhaba' if you're looking for dinner at 2am, though it is expensive.
- 4 **Water Kingdom** | Malad | 800 INR
You were told about this place by your aunts/uncles back home. If you've not been there yet, it is strongly recommended that you go soon.
- 5 **Mini Kashmir** | Aarey Colony | Free
Chilling place. For the minor-out of-Bombay experience. It's free and has boat rides but you'll probably be going here to chill with someone special.
- 6 **5 Spice** | Saki Naka | 250 INR
Chilling place. For the minor-out of-Bombay experience. It's free and has boat rides but you'll probably be going here to chill with someone special.
- 7 **IIT Bombay** | Powai
- 8 **Sigri** | Dadar/Powai | 800-1500 INR
Buffets don't get better than this. Many IITians are already huge fans of this place and quite rightly so. They claim to serve Greek food but well who can tell, though whatever they serve is a must-have. One slight problem – the price tag.
- 9 **Road House Bluez** | Andheri | 700 INR
The name should be enough to pull you there. Anyhow, if you're free on a Thursday or a Sunday, just go there and sing your heart out in this small cozy place. Food and other things are decently priced, making it a place worth going to.
- 10 **Global Fusion** | Andheri | 500 INR
Buffet-Buffer! If you have a bit of extra cash on you, then starve yourself for a day and just GO! BBQ Nation offers the finest grilled food (Veg and Non-Veg) while Global Fusion has one of the best spreads you'll find in Bombay.
- 11 **Red Box Cafe** | Juhu | 400 INR
Good Music, good food and a great ambience. When your friends from other cities are visiting and want a lounge to chill, this is the place to be.
- 12 **Prithvi Theatre** | Juhu | 150-300 INR
If you ever feel the need to embrace something intellectual, Prithvi Theatre will give what you seek and more.
- 13 **Irish Pub** | Juhu | 500 INR
When you need a place with loud pumping music with a DJ who knows his stuff, this is the place to be. The theme and ambience are pretty good too but be warned – this place is on the costlier side.
- 14 **Candies** | Juhu | 300 INR
3 Outlets in the Bandra Juhu area alone, this place can serve club sandwiches one night and switch to Sushi on another. Do check out their 'Angry Birds'-based cup cakes.
- 15 **Bandra-Worli Sealink** | Worli
- 16 **Phoenix Market City** | Kurla
- 17 **Sardar Pav-Bhaji** | Matunga | 100 INR
The name has it all. Pav Bhaji place open till 2am. Just find its location and go. Enough said.
Madras Cafe | Matunga | 300 INR
If South Indian food is what you crave and you're not packed with cash, just grab all the change you can and head on down here. Dosa is their speciality. Order one even if you're full and you will not regret it.
Mysore Cafe | Matunga | 200 INR
To rival Madras cafe, there is the Mysore Cafe. Similar in quality and price, but they serve the better filter coffee. Even huge foodies find it hard to distinguish between the two, but you've got to decide which is better for yourself.
- 18 **Hard Rock Cafe** | Parel | 500 INR
The second best place for music in town. Marginally cheaper than Blue Frog though their setup is marginally better.
Smaash | Parel | 1000 INR
Everything you wanted in Gaming Zone is here, including a special surprise for IIT Bombay students which is something we'll let you to explore by yourself.
Blue Frog Pub | Parel | Expensive
For the best music in town. Get a taste of the Mumbai rock scene. Always check what's playing before visiting. Filling up before leaving is advisable.
- 19 **Worli Seaface** | Worli
- 20 **Narayan Dosa** | Grant Road | 100 INR
People might tell you to keep a few medicines handy, all false claims. This place serves the best street dosa you'll find in Mumbai.
- 21 **Relish** | Nariman Point | 300 INR
A perfect date place. Calm, quiet and beautiful. The must-order list includes garlic bread and at least one Fondue.
- 22 **Bade Miya** | CST | 200 INR
Open night and day. This place redefines wraps (especially chicken wraps). Perfect for night out food down in South Mumbai.
- 23 **NCPA** | Nariman Point | Variable
Iconic, Historic and Amazing are just a few adjectives for this place. This place should be reserved for one of those days when something legendary is going to happen here.
- 24 **Fort Area** | CST
- 25 **Delhi Durbar** | Colaba | 400 INR
Mughlai food experts. You just can't miss the Biryani. Please note; be sure to make reservations, there's a chance that you'll be waiting for a good 40 minutes if you don't.
- 26 **Leopold** | Colaba | 200 INR
No matter which city they hail from, everyone has heard about this iconic tourist attraction in South Bombay. Though expensive, they serve the best pasta for miles. Also note, if you want to go up to their exclusive first floor lounge, you should be accompanied by a female "friend".

DEPARTMENTS



Civil- They might be past masters at balancing forces and torques (who wouldn't, when that is all one does for 4 years of their life), but can't for nuts balance their academics with their extracurriculars. Only a handful of them have ever become really famous - a certain crowd fondly referred to as the 'FR junta' (ask your ISMP mentors about this); and the guy who ever-so-forcefully proclaims 'Bangur Cement.. Sasta nahi, sabse achha'.



Elec- By tradition, they are 'harassed' by professors, and in turn, they, well, 'harass'... THESE guys are the real deal when it comes to mugging. This wannabe nobility is at peace only when talked about in the same breath with CS junta.



Energy- This small band of homeless children has been rumored to be found in the insti, but very few sightings have yet been reported.



EP- A bunch of kids who have been hoodwinked to believe that they will study science and engineering, but end up doing neither.



Aero- More like the Aye Ro Space department. Period.



Design- Playing video games and watching movies for their assignments takes such a heavy toll on their social lives that they are nowhere to be seen on the campus unless, of course, they deem you worthy enough of their company.



Computer Science- The nobility among the freshmen who strut around the campus preening like Hispanic peacocks, accepting the respect proffered to them by their fellow freshmen as if it's their birthright.



Meta- They go toe-to-toe with the Civil department not just for the title of 'Most Lukkha', but also for every other PoR under the sky.



BS Chem- The only branch independent of stereotypes.. But that's just because nobody knows or cares about them :P



Mechanical- Basically, just glorified Civil.

INSTI - LINGO

Welcome to this weird new place called IIT-Bombay. Like with any new place you'll find a new culture, and one the integral part of any culture is the language the people speak. Here are a few words that'll help you decipher what these people around you are talking about.

Arbit(adj.)-	Short for arbitrary. As in you'll be using this word in arbit ways.	Insti(n.)-	A shorthand for your new home.
Craxxxx(v.)-	Play on the word crack. Used for accomplishing something.	Junta(n.)-	A collection of people(very imaginative, we know).
DAC(n.)-	Disciplinary Action Committee. Something to be avoided in your entire stay.	Lukkha(v.)-	Anything you do to simply kill time. An activity much-revered post exams.
Ditch(v.)-	The second meaning when you google the word :P. Especially useful if have a habit of ducking out of plans.	Macha(n.) Machana (v.)-	To have done something exceptionally well
DoSA(n.)-	Dean of Student Affairs. The big boss all students answer to and take their issues to.	Matka(n.)-	An M.Tech(or any PG) student
Enthu(v.)-	Short for enthusiasm. We're sure it'll make it into your vocab by the end of the week.	Max(adj.)-	Superlative degree of anything. Eg: enthu maxxxx
Farra(n.)-	Standing for the FR(Fail-Repeat) grade. Something to be dreaded and avoided at all costs.	Mug(v.)-	to study
Freshie(n.)-	A first-year student. Synonymous with 'naive'.	Polt(n.)-	Short for politics
Sophie(n.)-	A second-year student. Essentially a freshie who doesn't know better.	RG(n.)-	Short for 'relative grading'. Used to describe the oh so many distractions your friends will come up with when you're trying to mug.
Infi(adj.)-	Short for infinite. Placeholder for any number greater three.	Scope(n.)-	Having no chance at all

TO - FRESHIES - WITH - LOVE

Each crop of freshmen hears it a bazillion times: The first year is a really big deal. Entering a spectacular little world (of an IITian, woohoo), you've just blazed a couple of woeful years and are ready (or maybe not) to take on the next, and certainly the most salient, years to come.

Often your preception about things will change as you grow here, and as a freshie you'd often be clueless about most of the things, and more often than that a lot of seniors call you stupid. And naturally, a chunk of contagious misconceptions will catch you, only for you to realise that all that bloats, is not afloat.

So here are a few words of wisdom and experience, for a smooth head start.

CPI and Branch: The Tyrannous Creepers

Given the odds, you most likely selected your branch based on whatever "best" your rank could provide. And contrary to what people say, all branches ARE amazing! THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IS ALL. There are immense opportunities in all of them along with amazing profs and alums who can be of immense help to you.

Nonetheless, you're not restricted by your branch and can make a career in other field or non-core jobs for that matter too. But as they say, what is worth doing, is worth doing well. So it is always advisable to give your branch a fair chance, and if it fails to interest you still, you have a variety of options to dive into.

Often divine slogans like 'blah-blah dhoka hai, padh lo beta mauka hai' or 'pain is temporary, CPI is forever' will grace your wing walls and boy, are they true. Understand that your primary purpose here is academics and like it or not, CPI is often the most accepted measure of your abilities, and you'll find serious advantages of a good CPI not only in here but also for a few years after you graduate. And the way the math works, a good cpi in the 1st year is pretty helpful. A solid pro tip: do attend classes, (even if half-dead), it makes a magnitude of difference.

Affiliate and Resonate: It's a vast ocean of learning

And it comes in all shapes and sizes. The insti provides you with a surfeiting amount of facilities and opportunities from a wide spectrum, to develop really any skills you'd want, all you need is to learn to look. Ranging from a great sports complex, pioneering technical teams, to an extravagant cultural scene, projects scholarships, exchange programs yadda yadda, this is really a place where you can find yourself (and when better than 1st year?).

Advice. Or a vice? Although this is the time when you learn decision making the best, you'll frequently want to consult seniors, who by personal experience, I can say are more than willing to help always. Though you might want to be a little careful since their humanly limited perspectives might not be a tailor-fit for you, and its advisable to have a second opinion always.

Fact time - humbly, you'll find that in everything, there's ALWAYS somebody who's better than you. It'll break your little bubble initially, but it really is a reminder for you to keep learning. Also, contrary to what it appears, nobody has it sorted, everybody is just trying to row their show.

So go out, participate in club activities, interact with your batchies, attend presentations of speakers because all of this

broadens your horizons, helps build contacts and allows you to grow tremendously.

Time and Health: The devouring elixirs

Time is the most expensive possession you have and it'll be best if you utilise it according to its worth. Although you might be overcharged for your days here, it'll be beneficial if you peruse and linearise your time and energies and not end up as the jack. Never fall for the rat race, enough with that, learn to take charge of yourself now.

Here and now you're in your 1st year, but before you know it you'll in your 2nd, 3rd and 4th year. Time literally passes by, and you'll soon realise there isn't much time for all the stuff you wanted to do. So reflect on yourself, set goals, and work accordingly. You'll not realise, but gradually be incorporating a very "valuable" skill, time-management.

Also note, there always be time to take care of your health, physical and emotional. Your friends will change, and grades will oscillate. There'll be plenty of lows while you're stuck here, and often you'll see your fellows acing at everything you just can't. Understand that these are implicit virtues and extremely important in the long run. Talk to people, counselors if need be, and never allow it to corrode your insides. Pro-tip: develop good support systems for yourself, there's fun in celebrating achievements, and bad days become way easier.

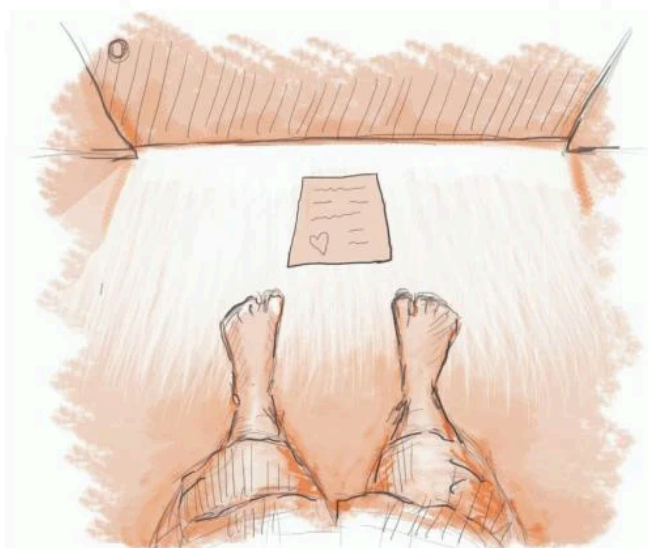
Needless to say, never forget to take out time to waste a moment (pun intended :P). And remember, avoid alcohol, narcotics whatsoever; it's a slippery road, and sometimes once is all it takes.

As rightly known, it's not making it here that's as important,

As what you make of the time you expend here.

So have fun with what you've earned,

Keep dreaming, and keep looking.



INSTI - ALMANAC

Juvenile July

Away from home, July welcomes you to a verdant campus amidst showers of heavy rains. And, you pray that the rain stays, it is for now the only friend you have in this woodland of chaddi-clad guys walking past. Running from one orientation to another, make sure you do not forget your umbrellas at the venues!

Aggressive August

August brings in competitions from every sphere of activity one can try in the institute. Fight for Hostel glory in Freshiezza, a cultural and sports bonanza for freshmen while bracing up for your first examinations during your stay over here. Well, building the right bonds and breaking the right ones matter here ;)

Speculative September

Get ready to go sanskaari and show off your kurtas! Teacher's day is here. Go get their blessings, because you will need them. Just when you thought you are getting settled, Hey Presto, midsems are knockin' on your doors! Gear yourself up to burn the midnight oil to umm... distract others from studying because, after all... everything is relative.

Obliging October

Now that the rains have receded, the scorching Mumbai heat takes over. After exams, being Not-So-Obsessed with studies seems to be the way forward. It's also that time of the year when you are introduced to the world of IBs. High time you began building an image amongst those seniors to become deserving organizers!

Notorious November

Your final exams are around the corner. But one leg's already home for the long holiday. One leg is already home for the long holiday, but one is stuck in institute thanks to all the MI & Tech-fest work. Peeing on your exams in between seems very much a possibility. Ultimately, it doesn't matter who you are.... What matters is how you crib!

Dirty-Great December

Small - Medium - Large - Asia's Largest. That's how the magnitude of every other event in the institute increases as days pass by in December. We will leave you to uncover all the surprises - after all you've come here for living the 'chaar din ka sapna'.

Judgemental January

After showing off your college T-shirts back home, it's time when you need to set some new sem resolutions, but you still haven't recovered from the December hangover. Moreover, it is time you put your seniors' needs over your own. Everyone needs a PoR. You are no different. Wait, what's a PoR?

Friendzoned February

Midsems are back. But so are a plethora of cultural festivals - be it your hostel or your department! Who said you were prepared enough to manage both? But, wait! Suddenly seniors are behaving all sugary with you. You are suddenly getting friend requests on Facebook from people you've never met. What's happening?

Multicolored March

While you brace yourselves for your first 'Insti Vaali Holi', at the same time, witness how an event drives almost everyone in the institute to bring out their cultural, technical, and diligent best to one platform in the institute - which can even give you a glimpse of god! Well, the less spoken the better :)

Ambitious April

Here comes the Valfi season, where you'll get high on the never-seen-before side of your seniors - sorry to say, your mentors included! But then, one last hurdle to fulfill your Branch Change hopes and before the summer holidays. You might want to get under the right branch to brave the scorching summer heat after all!

Specialist Summer

Summers at IITB are full of activities. Utilize them to go trekking in the Himalayas or to learn that sport/musical instrument you always wanted to. One can fill in their coffers by offering services to coaching classes nearby or just show off your tech enthu, building gadgets murmuring, 'It's playtime!'. Exploring academic research also looks like an option for some. But wait, home food is calling and you can't resist, can you?

NEW FRESHIES



UNWRITTEN - LAWS - OF - INSTI

Theory of Relativity

You will experience the Theory of Relativity first-hand during your lectures; 5 minutes of lecture time will feel like an hour. And when there's no wifi, too. Suddenly you will discover that there is joy in rereading your Facebook newsfeed every 10 minutes.

Law of Conservation of Sleep

It's scientifically proven that the average IITian requires 9 hours of sleep a day to be able to change the world. It's a fact. That's science. Unless you're the legendary one-man cappuccino shot, those measly 5-6 hours at night are never enough, so it's best that you make up the remaining 3-4 hours during lectures. What makes this much easier is that you'll already be half-asleep when you enter the Lecture Halls. The AC does the rest.

Love Thy Neighbour

Your neighbor is your best friend during labs, particularly during Engg Drawing labs. Who're you going to rely on when you can't figure out what that pistol-shaped mini drafter does when you forget your copy of ND Bhatt in your room? Your neighbor, that's who. Caveat: Your neighbor probably has the same expectations out of you.

Breakfast? What Breakfast?

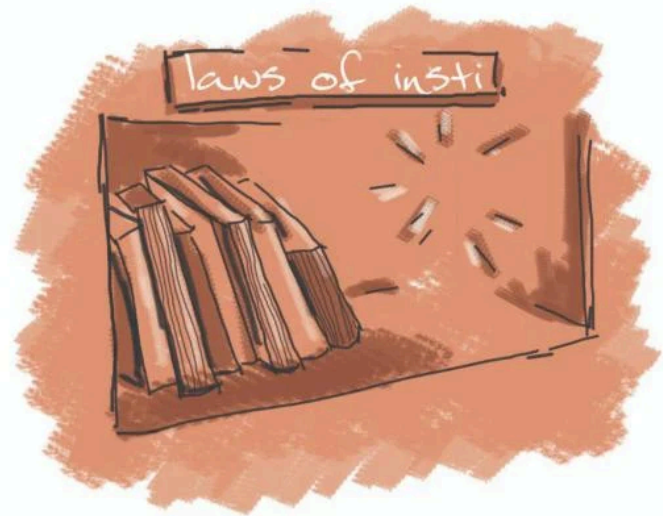
Rumour has it that this mythical being makes its presence felt only during the end sem week. There are traditionalists who hope to make its acquaintance during the sem, but soon they too realize that this legend is bigger than all of us. Lunch, now lunch is a meal we can all get behind. (Protip: Whatever you do, don't miss tiffin. You will be cursed with three consecutive terrible mess dinners. Three is quite the magic number)

False Craxx Alarm

If your mother calls to ask how you got married without her consent, learn to log out from Facebook before leaving your laptop defenseless to nefarious wingies. It'll prevent you from sending friend requests and ostensibly well-meaning "Hi dear how is u" messages to random girls and from changing your sexual orientation.

MI/TF God Hota Hai

Even if you don't find Mood Indigo and Techfest remotely interesting, you need to come to terms with this. Your eventual coolness amongst your batchmates will be determined by how many celebs you picked up from the airport for MI & TF, and how many selfies you took with them.



Elitism Ain't Bad

The most surefire way to enhance your elitist image among your peers is to actively participate in Literary Arts and Debate events; your friends will immediately start viewing you as the pretentious know-it-all you always aspired to be. For maximum effect, try to become a convener in either club. Source? The Imperial Great Big Book of Knowledge.

Can't Spell Power without POR

Speaking of images/statuses, nothing adds to your image/status like a POR (Position of Responsibility). People will come to you to get their work done, they will start owing you favors, and next thing you know, you are the ringleader of your own gang in insti. Friendships will be destroyed, wars will be waged, people will be avenged and cronies will machao polt to get you elected to an even higher POR. Imagine Gangs of Wasseypur, in Powai. (Warning: None of the above will happen, and you will just end up putting up posters in H15 for a whole year.)

Show Your Love

Friendships, relationships and achievements mean nothing if there isn't a status to commemorate it. The only true way to show your love for someone on an occasion is to post about it asap on their Facebook Timeline. Friend's birthdays, wingies craxxing PORs and internships, Mother's Day, Opposite Day, Pi Day, PIE Day - doesn't matter. A senti post which has at least 100 words and 5 hashtags is necessary for the required 150 likes to make your posts successful.

Law of Illusory Choices

IITB loves throwing some curve balls at its students; however, the ace up its sleeve is the illusion of choice. They tell you NSS and NCC are just as good as NSO. They send some inspiring speeches about discipline and service your way to sway opinion. They even offer flexible attendance. Ones with true resilience and strong spirit no longer labor under such illusions. Go play a sport. Nothing is more fun.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear freshers,

We hope you had a great first few weeks here at IIT Bombay.

We, at Insight, as the official student media body of the campus, are focussed on reporting all the exciting events happening in the campus, disseminating information and addressing the issues pertinent to the campus. We have our flagship newsletters which are distributed each and every student on campus, to make sure nobody misses out on pertinent issues.

We also have web articles online, and run a video-journalism body, the IIT-Bombay Broadcasting Channel.

Through this freshers' newsletter, we hope you get an introductory flavour of life at IIT Bombay, information which you will find handy, or just random facts about our beloved insti.

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter, as much as we enjoyed making it.

We would love to hear from you. If you have any feedback, or want to contribute on future Insight articles (yes, you can!), do let us know.

Cheers!

Aparajeya Dash

Chief Editor, Insight 2018-19

Phone No: 9769980113

E-mail: insight@iitb.ac.in

Website: <https://www.insightiitb.org>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/insight.iitbombay/>



THE TEAM

CHIEF EDITOR • Aparajeya Dash

Aman Sharma | Archita Vyas | Bhuyashi Deka | Charit Verma | Dimple Kochar | Franklin Varghese | Ivy Bhattacharya |

BOARD • • • • • Jenil Shah | Karan Trichal | Kireeti Akkunuri | Kumaresh Ramesh | Pranil Joshi | Priyash Singh | Sahil Bhargava |

Saman Siddiqui | Shreyas Maheshwari | Shubhankar Seth | Sucheta Ravikanti | Sukanya Kudva | Varun Sule | Nikhil Kumar

DESIGN TEAM • • Arnesh Mandal

Mrinal Biswas