

# Newspaper Clips

## October 14, 2013



### **IIT-Bombay prof sent first alert**

**VijaitaSingh** Posted online: Mon Oct 14 2013, 02:54 hrs

**New Delhi :** It was an IIT-Bombay professor who first sounded the alert on the fast-moving Cyclone Phailin, five days before it actually hit the east coast on Saturday night.

Professor Kapil Gupta, who has been studying urban flooding since the 2005 Mumbai floods, noticed the warning on October 7, on a website run by the US Air Force and Navy. He alerted the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which brought together all the concerned agencies, leading to the timely evacuation of over nine lakh people. Though the US website said it was a "medium alert", the Indian agencies preferred not to take a chance.

Gupta, a member of the core team which advises NDMA on natural disasters, said he regularly monitors various weather websites, including that of the Hawaii-based Joint Typhoon Warning Centre (JTWC). On October 7, at around 11:30 pm, he saw the warning on the Bay of Bengal.

"Like every other day, I was monitoring JTWC's website... they had issued a warning of a possible cyclone. At that time it was a medium alert. I immediately informed the NDMA through SMS and e-mail. Since I have been studying urban flooding, I regularly monitor the international websites. This was the best monitored cyclone. It is one of the biggest cyclones, with an average diameter of 700 kms," said Gupta.

The next morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) passed on real-time information about the cyclone to the NDMA.

"We knew it was going to be big. I got the first message from Prof Gupta about a week back. He even sent a satellite image of the cyclone which was building. The IMD was also on the job and they gave accurate information. All this helped us to be better prepared," said M Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA.

"This was no Uttarakhand because we had precise information this time. The early warning system gave accurate information. The IMD was sharing information in real time. It was confident this time about the intensity and impact of the cyclone," said Reddy.

"The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was also confident that it could assess the situation and handle it accordingly," said Reddy, adding that there was better coordination between the agencies including the state government

# THE HINDU Business Line

---

## Internship offers pour in at IITs

Deepa Nair

Mumbai, Oct 13:

The campuses of Indian Institutes of Technology are buzzing this year with pre-placement offers. Many companies seem to prefer hiring students who worked with them as interns.

So, despite the slowing economy, these campuses have seen an increase in the number of such offers this year.

According to Damini Gandham, Dual Degree student at IIT-Madras, "Earlier, when we used to approach companies for recruitment, many of them said they don't have a structured programme for internships. However, this year, more companies formalised an internship process and have come forward to recruit students for internships."

IIT-M has already received 55 pre-placement offers this year, while last year the institute received 30 offers. Four students at IIT-M also went through interviews with the companies that they worked for during their internship for placements. IIT-Guwahati has received 45 pre-placement offers along with four pre-placement interview offers.

Avijit Chatterjee, Professor-in-Charge, Placement, IIT-Bombay (IIT-B), said "We are expecting a lot of pre-placement offers this year as the number of internships increased over 40 per cent last year. Till now, we have received 75 offers. We are expecting more pre-placement offers as few companies who give offers every year have not yet released them."

IIT-Kanpur has received 85 pre-placement offers so far this year compared with last year's 75. "Recruitment through internships is better because the company is able to assess if the student is a right fit for the company. Also, since the student has worked there, he has a better understanding of the company's work culture and expectations," Amit Saraswat, Overall Placement Coordinator, IIT-Kanpur.

"After interning at a leading investment bank, I realised that just analysing financials of various companies is not really my interest, so I have rejected the pre-placement offer that I got from them. Now, I would like to try my hand at management consulting as I feel I will have a more diverse exposure. There is a slight risk as one consulting firm has dropped out of recruitments this year," said a B. Tech student from IIT-B, requesting anonymity.

Harish Y.V.S., Placement Co-Ordinator, IIT-Guwahati, said, "The pay package has seen an increase in almost all the companies compared with last year. Moreover, in India, students were offered 21.4 lakh per annum by an organisation, which is the maximum so far. Among international offers \$1,25,000 is the highest."

The final placements of IITs are scheduled to begin on December 1.

# Business Standard

---

IANS | Roorkee October 13, 2013 Last Updated at 13:42 IST

## IIT-Roorkee working on easy-tear packaging, best healthcare models

Do you find it frustrating tearing open small ketchup sachets or other air-tight plastic packets? IIT-Roorkee is embarking on an innovative packaging technique that will not only tear easily but be bio-degradable.

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R), situated in the hilly state of Uttarakhand, is also embarking on two other projects - providing the best of healthcare at affordable costs to remote villages in the hill state as well as effective water harvesting and waste water management in the hills.

Three centres of excellence are being developed by students and faculty of the premier institution - Centre for Urban Design and Development, Centre for Packaging and Centre for Healthcare Engineering.

"I call these centres of excellence because they are very different from the academic entity. It is how we can leverage the strengths of our researchers and then reach society and help them," IIT-Roorkee director Pradipta Banerji told IANS.

Elaborating on the packaging technology, Banerji said: "Whenever you have to open ketchup packets it is difficult to tear them and the contents spill out. We are working to develop easy and flexible packaging for the Indian market. It will be a blend of paper pulp and polymer technology."

IIT-Roorkee is the only IIT that has pulp and paper technology and polymer science departments.

"The centre will bring together the students and teachers to create bio-degradable innovative and flexible packaging," he said.

"The Indian market is in dire need of easy packaging technology."

Banerji said he is keen to take the best of healthcare provided by superspeciality hospital chains to remote villages in the state.

"We want to deliver the best and affordable healthcare to the remotest villages, like in Mana, which is situated in Chamoli district. Our effort is to be able to deliver the same healthcare which Max Hospital in Dehradun delivers," said Banerji.

The centre will also be working on a design for a hospital setup, complete with proper sanitation and a well-planned structure of construction and hospital management. It would work as a basic design for setting up future large healthcare centres in the state.

Researchers from the department of nuclear science, electrical engineering, chemistry and biotechnology will work to develop an effective healthcare model, he said.

For optimum water utilization in the hill state, IIT-Roorkee is also working on rain water harvesting, waste water recycling and water management. This would help farmers with irrigating their terrace farms.

The Centre for Urban Design and Development will bring together students and teachers of architectural planning, civil and electronics engineering and the departments of earth and earthquake sciences to develop models for waste management, he said.

"We are also looking at a couple of villages as pilot sites around which these water management projects will be developed. However, this project will be taken forward only after close interaction with the people of the region so that their wants and aspirations are fulfilled," he said.

The director is hopeful the institution will be able to deliver on the projects.


(Shradha Chettri can be contacted at [shradha.c@ians.in](mailto:shradha.c@ians.in))

[Apoorva Puranik](#), **Hindustan Times**

Mumbai, October 14, 2013

First Published: 08:35 IST(14/10/2013)

Last Updated: 08:38 IST(14/10/2013)

 Print

## String of free apps facilitating online learning in Mumbai colleges

An influx of free apps to make online learning more accessible is slowly transforming education in city colleges. Academicians too are making efforts to bridge the gap between their technologically advanced students and traditional, black board learning. Mangesh Karandikar, professor, Mumbai University's department of journalism and mass communication, has developed a free series of an Android app called 'EduSanchar', which explains communication theories in easy to read formats.

"Communication theories are often difficult to understand. But such tools make them easier. Plus, it is a great way to revise before exams," said Samantha D'souza, a BMM student from St Andrews College, Bandra.

Priyanka Ketkar, a resident of Thane, gives French lessons to students in London via video chatting.

"Though class room interactions are essential, online learning is convenient," she said.

Recently, the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) tied up with EdX, a non-profit, to provide online versions of lectures held at IIT to non-IIT students.

Before Edx, IIT-B had a centre for distance engineering education programme, called CDEEP.

"The lectures are very informative for students who couldn't make it to IIT. The IITians who have missed a lecture can also listen to it online," said Aman Chowdhery, a second year student at IIT-B.

School education is not far behind. MT Educare, the parent company of Mahesh Tutorials, a coaching institute, has developed a unique e-learning tool called 'Robomate'.

"It's a study friend for students who are shy and don't ask doubts in class," said Chhaya Shastri, director, MT Educare.

According to Basanti Roy, educationist and former secretary of the state board's Mumbai division, technology and e-learning are needed to supplement education.

"The national policy is encouraging technological advancements in education. However, virtual mediums cannot replace class room interaction since it is very important for students to have peer groups and socialise," said Roy.

## Synchronicity'13 - Rockest Immortalis @IIT Kanpur

(<http://www.coolage.in/2013/10/13/synchronicity13-rockest-immortalis-iit-kanpur/>)



[Synchronicity](#), the biggest, meanest and the most awesome rock fiesta in the country is back. Be prepared to be blown away by the rush of chilly guitar riffs as the top bands in the country set afire their instruments for the ultimate title. Over the years, Synchronicity has proved its worth by being a launch pad for some of India's biggest rock acts including PARIKRAMA, THEM CLONES, INNER SANCTUM, BLAKC, PCRC and many more. This year, it gets bigger and meaner as it promises to break all barriers and emerge as the flagship rock competition in India with 'The Flying Eyes' being confirmed as International headlining act.

The Flying Eyes are a heavy, psychedelic rock band hailing from Baltimore, Maryland. They have played supporting gigs with national acts such as Dead Meadow, The Raveonettes, The Black Angels and Dan Auerbach among many others. They founded and host "Farm Fest", a DIY music festival in the Maryland countryside. The Flying Eyes have featured the legendary Rockpalast television show, the Orange Blossom Special festival (DE), Stoned From The Underground (DE) and Trutnov Open Air (CZ). The band is currently supporting the release of their new album "Lowlands" with a 50 date European tour.

Embedded as a part of the super-happening matrix of [ANTARAGNI](#), the event kicks off with Roadtrip held at major venues in metro cities. For the first time Synchronicity has announced that all the roadtrip shows will have headlining acts by prominent bands of the zone. Hundreds of bands are expected to battle it out for the final showdown, to be held on the final night at IIT Kanpur where prizes worth 6 lakhs await the winner. It sure is going to be one hell of a ride, but we don't recommend putting your seatbelts on!

The Roadtrip kick started with the Bangalore prelims on 30th of August. The event was organized at the Bak Bak bar in association with the Score Night and was headlined by Chennai's Junkyard Groove. 'DwhetsTone' and 'Eswara' project made the cut to national eliminations from Bangalore zone. The next stop of the Road trip was Mumbai. The Mumbai leg was held at Grillopolis on 2nd September. The night was headlined and judged by Synchronicity'12 winners, [The Family](#)

[Cheese](#). It was one hell of a night with the bands outclassing their rivals as the performances levels kept soaring. The judges were thoroughly pleased with the performances. 'Trinergic', 'Treble Bite' and 'Whats in the name' made it through to national eliminations. 'The Hoffman Code' were the lucky winners of a wild card entry.

So book your tickets and pack your bags to see the best upcoming bands in India battle it out on the 25th of October in the national eliminations at IIT Kanpur. With so many bands out to win, we can't wait to see who carries the day. Rock Est Immortalis!

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## IIT-Kharagpur invites students for techno-management fest

TNN | Oct 14, 2013, 04:37 AM IST



**iFOREX**  
**Forex for Beginners**  
 Learn how to become a forex trader  
 → | Get your Free Copy Now

ALLAHABAD: With IIT-Kharagpur hosting its annual **techno-management fest** 'Kshitij' from January 31 next year, representatives of the premier institute are busy holding meetings with students and teachers from engineering colleges of the city and Allahabad University.

One such student and representative of IIT-Kharagpur, Anand Burman told TOI that since its **inceptio** in 2004, there has been no looking back for Kshitij. Starting out with the humble participation of a few hundred in its nascent years, Kshitij has grown by leaps and bounds to become **the behemoth** it is today. The fest has witnessed some of the **brightest minds** of their time compete among themselves to create wonders and reach new **pinnacles** of excellence. Kshitij 2013 saw a total participation of over 65,000 and an amount of Rs 60 lac was offered as prize money. To participate in the fest, students need to register on the website [www.ktj.in](http://www.ktj.in), which happens to be India's largest student-run website, having recorded a **whopping 8 million hits** last year.

He further informed that a **multitude** of exciting online events will commence from the first week of November itself. The students should start preparing their submissions soon, with the last date for sending them in being December 15, 2013. With a **plethora** of activities to enrich and **illuminat** your intellect, mingled with bouts of fun, Kshitij 2014 promises to leave you with a lifetime of memories, he said. Moreover, team Kshitij will also be conducting workshops throughout the country, where participants will get to learn and hence enhance their skills in the field of robotics.

## Material wastage plagues industry: experts

Lalatendu Mishra

Changes in material handling process can help companies save a minimum 10 per cent of their materials that go waste or get lost during transit, said experts.

To improve cost-efficiency and bottom lines, organisations must provide due importance to material handling, a neglected area, they said.

“Currently, material wastage is to the tune of 10 per cent in any plant. It is rampant in coal and iron ore. This is due to contamination, pilferage or spillage during transit. If companies can plug this, the benefit will be enormous,” said Babak Mukhopadhyay, General Manager & Head Material Handling Systems, L&T Construction, on the sidelines of an industry event, Powder & Bulk Solids India 2013, here.

“Manufacturing and mining sector is 1.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the benefit will be huge if companies can adopt the right kind of operation and equipment for material handling,” Mr. Mukhopadhyay added.

Normally, companies provide least priority to material handling but blame it for any crisis.

Experts said now time had come to get rid of age old practices in material handling and companies must embrace modern technology and make use of special conveyer systems.

As consumption goes up, there would be more demand of minerals, energy and water. So emphasis should be given on energy-efficient systems that can consume less water while handling of material, they said. The need of the hour was to optimise the processes and it was critical during the current turbulent times, they added.

Material handling plays a crucial role in the development of infrastructure to help meet time and cost.

“The development of the infrastructural sector has been and will continue to be a priority for the government. This, in turn, necessitates the attention on production, storage, and transport of materials, said VK Agarwal, IIT-Delhi.

The size of material handling industry in India is Rs.15,000 crore growing by 15-20 per cent a year.

Growing competition, stress on quality and tightening of environmental norms have put additional pressure on all industry sectors, including chemical, plastics, pharmaceutical, food and on all raw materials handling industries, such as mining, coal-fired power generation and dry handling bulk ports.

And the right kind of material handling equipment can make all the difference.

Though sectors such as port and power and steel mills were embracing modern technology, material handling in foodgrains and fertilizers remained an area of concern, said experts.

### ***The size of material handling industry***

***in India is***

***Rs.15,000 crore growing by 15-20 per cent a year***

Printable version | Oct 14, 2013 12:16:16 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/material-wastage-plagues-industry-experts/article5232485.ece>

© The Hindu



# The Public World Of Science

*Behind the successes of corporate laboratories is the hard work of US university researchers*

Dipankar Gupta



This news flash is for those who believe we need more Steve Jobs than university scientists to better our lives. The

2013 Nobel prize winners in medicine, physics and chemistry are all professors, each and every one of them. Yet public thinking today, in India and elsewhere, downgrades university laboratories in favour of corporate research units.

Another flash. It is not true either that privately funded Ivy League universities always corner all the glory. Apart from the usual presence of Harvard, Yale and Stanford, this year's Nobel winners scatter shot to our notice universities like Edinburgh, Tel Aviv, Strasbourg and Brussels. Already, over the years, there are 22 Nobel laureates in Washington State University, 12 in University of Minnesota, 11 in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the list goes on.

Further, as the winners of the chemistry prize have readily admitted, they could not have done what they did had Norman Allinger not shown them the way. Norman, who? Well, Norman Allinger is a real live wire and a full-time guru to all those who use computers to figure out chemistry. For more information, please check the University of Georgia in Athens, USA, another public institution, where Professor Allinger has quietly worked for decades.

In medicine, the case for state financing of research is even stronger: Without the backing of America's federally-funded National Institute of Health (NIH), the 2013 Nobel winners for medicine would be scraping petri dishes to no effect. Instead, they are feted today among scientists everywhere for adding to our understanding of how the transport system in our cells works. If the link between this and keeping the heart beating is even more transparent now, don't forget to thank the NIH in your prayers.

Ironically, even as we celebrate our latest Nobel winners in medicine the NIH, which has supported most of their re-

**Entrepreneurs are jostling each other in a number of fields from drugs, to transistors, to LEDs, to space technology, but behind most of these money-spinners is a busy, underpaid university scientist**

search, is facing cutbacks in federal funding. The winners of this year's Nobel prize for medicine drew upward of \$49 million from NIH but neither the public, nor the American state, recognises this connection.

In the corporate sector there is little room for fundamental research which is why Nobel prizes are normally awarded to



University scientists are the real engines of innovation

university scientists. James E Rothman, one of the 2013 Nobel laureates for medicine, tells us why. For good, thoroughbred science be prepared for years of failure where "your idea was the only limit (and) any risk could be taken, no matter how difficult".

Think like this in a corporate research outfit and you would be asked to take a rest. As failure is a deadly sin in these establishments, the luxury of not succeeding would not get past the receptionist. Let's get back to Steve Jobs, once again. He was brilliant, charismatic, daring and audacious. Yet without Alan Turing, who worked in Britain's National Physical Laboratory and then in the University of Manchester, there would neither be computer science nor formalisation of the concept of "algorithm".

If someone said Mark Zuckerberg in the middle of this, then remember also Tim Berners-Lee who invented the World Wide Web (WWW). Zuckerberg leveraged it to become one of the richest people on this planet, but it was at CERN that Tim Berners-Lee turned on the World Wide Web like a switch in 1989. For the record, CERN is a Geneva-based centre for research supported by 12 European countries. Berners-Lee is today a professor in the University of Southampton, UK – neither Ivy League nor private.

So, university-led pure science does all the hard work for corporate laboratories to package the results for public delivery and magnum profits. Entrepreneurs are jostling each other in a number of fields from drugs, to transistors, to LEDs, to space technology, but

behind most of these money-spinners is a busy, underpaid university scientist.

Take professor John Bardeen, the brain behind transistors and semiconductors. For most of his active career he worked for a shabbily decent salary at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He, nevertheless, holds the record of winning the Nobel prize twice. No crystal credentialled star professor in Harvard or Yale has managed this feat so far.

Recently, Novartis's claim that it still had patent rights for Glivec, a cancer medication, became the subject of intense debate in India. This year, the Supreme Court ruled that the patent period for Glivec was over. Therefore, royalty claims for that drug were immoral. It was like charging box office rates for complimentary tickets. Here again, what escaped full public disclosure was that America's NIH sponsored all the basic research behind Glivec before Novartis took it to the stores.

As our universities are in bad shape, we hardly think of pure sciences in India. IIT Bombay may be the best in the country but is 251<sup>st</sup> in world ranking. If that fact is stomach-turning it is because there are several universities in China, Korea and even Hong Kong that figure among the top 100.

But as we baked our humble pie, we have no option but to eat it!

*The writer is a social scientist.*