

Biography

As the one having a bright record throughout the student life, I wanted to opt for challenging career. The excitement of setting a goal and solving it by new scientific techniques and innovations with a single-minded devotion has fascinated me ever since and has led me to choose research as my passion.

I completed my High school studies from Science College, Patna where I got interested in Basic sciences. I accomplished 5th rank in the Regional Mathematical Olympiad-2005 and travelling ahead in this field I qualified the prestigious Joint Entrance Examination 2007 with an All India Rank of 3,851 among more than 3,00,000 students and joined the Integrated Masters programme at the Department of Chemistry, IIT Roorkee. I hail from a modest financial background and considering the economic situation of my parents, completing 5 years in college was a difficult task. Thanks to the INSPIRE scholarship program launched by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India which has financially supported my studies. This support enhanced my motivation to explore different areas during my undergraduate course work through the choice of electives in Chemistry, Humanities and Social Sciences and other departments

Summer breaks from the institute offered me the opportunity to experience undergraduate research. I gladly accepted the vacation time as a way to get hands-on experience on chemistry research. My introduction to research in Chemistry formally began when I was awarded the fellowship for summer internship at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. I interned during May-July 2009 under the supervision of Dr. S. A. Babu, where I studied enantioselectivity of Indium and learned the basic laboratory techniques. In the summer of 2010, I was granted the fellowship for summer research project at IIT Bombay. I worked in the research group of Dr. **I. N. N. Namboothiri** on “Synthesis of rigid and directional cage compounds” during May-July 2010. Working under him gave me profound understanding of current organic chemistry research and modern laboratory techniques. I joined the laboratory of Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad, where I worked on the project “Synthetic strategy towards precursors of natural product analogue Eribulin” during the summer of 2011.

I have also a keen interest in reading and writing scientific articles. Recently my one article has been published : The Compendium of Organometallic Chemistry & 2010 Nobel Prize: Noble Metals are Noble, Amit Kumar and **Moni Kumari Gupta**, *The chemical Educator*, **2011**, 16, 288-294. After experiencing the research environments in the laboratories of renowned scientists, I am thoroughly convinced that a PhD in synthetic chemistry would be the best way to realise my hope of contributing to this field of fundamental research which has innumerable exciting possibilities.

Apart from these academic activities and achievements, I am equally interested in extracurricular activities. I have excelled in Bharatnatyam-a South Indian form of classical dance- and completed a 5 years training with distinction from ‘Rabindra Bhwan’. I have also been an active member of Choreography & Dance Club of my Institute since 2007 and participated in many cultural events. In a view of becoming a successful researcher and leader I joined the institute club of the Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) and helped organising events such as B- Quiz, Panel Discussion, B- Plan competition, Guest lectures and others. I have also helped in organizing the institute technical festival (Cognizance). I was the Coordinator of central Controls team in 2010. I also

held the post of Joint Organising Secretary of Cognizance'09 and the coordinator of Cognizance'08, Department of Chemistry.

Struggle and Challenges have always been part of my life and so to enjoy some more challenges I joined the Himalayan Explorers' Club (HEC) in 2007 that promotes adventurous activities among students in the Institute. My active involvement and participation made me the Joint Secretary (2009-10) & Secretary (2010-11) of the institute girls section. Here I promoted training for the students defence skills in Taekwondo camps and led various arduous treks, white water rafting expeditions and organized skating camps, Cycle races and Indian Mountaineering Federation training camps. One of my articles, an account of my tryst with nature, featured in the Annual Magazine of Himalayan Explorers' club. I also won the 2nd prize in Annual Cycle Race-2009 for racing 18km. organised by HEC.

By virtue of my excellent academic record and performance in extracurricular activities I have been recipient of many awards and honours. I have been awarded the Annual Excellence Award from IIT Roorkee Heritage Foundation for excellence in academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular achievements in 2010 and 2011. I was also honoured for the 'Best Dressed Girl student of 2008-09' of IIT Roorkee by the Director, IIT Roorkee. I have also won the 2nd prize in paper presentation on 'Green Chemistry' during Cognizance'08, the 2nd largest Annual Technical Festival in the Indian subcontinent, held at IIT Roorkee. I have also scored an All India Rank of 287 in Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)-2011.

I want to use my knowledge and experiences gained to explore current research trends in Synthetic chemistry and pursue my Doctoral studies at the Cambridge University. Many thanks to the 'Schlumberger Faculty for the future' program for its financial support to carry my studies.

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