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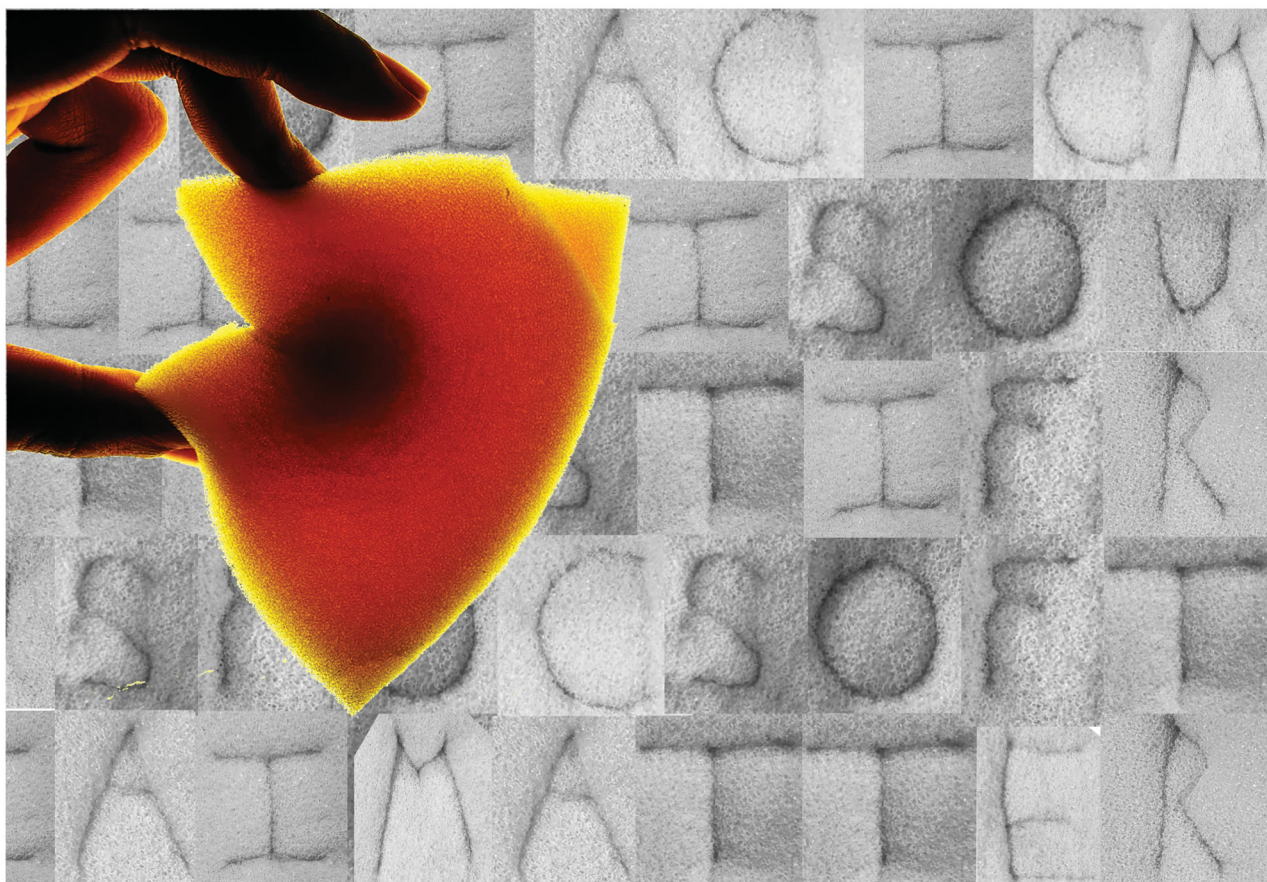
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Showcasing research from Professor Shankar Ghosh's laboratory, Department of Condensed Matter Physics & Materials Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India.

Imprinting reversible deformations on a compressed soft rod network

You can encode a memory of deformation on a kitchen sponge. Just compress it between your fingers and the rods in the sponge network come in contact and get stuck in a buckled state. You can imprint deformations on this writable surface, similar to writing on a sandpile. Made a mistake? Just relax it between your fingers to erase and re-write. The hyper-elastic polymeric material can be frozen below its glass transition temperature for long term storage of deformations. Could this be a possible mechanism for emergent functionality in biopolymers?

As featured in:



See Harsh Jain and Shankar Ghosh, *Soft Matter*, 2024, **20**, 5053.