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To Whom it May Concern

05/03/2022

**Letter of Reference for Siddhesh Rege**

I am writing this letter to provide a recommendation on the scientific and personnel qualifications of Siddhesh Rege. I have known Siddhesh Rege since July 2020 when he joined the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) as a postgraduate student. IITs are renowned worldwide for their competitive research and teaching and have a stiff selection criterion for admission. At IITD, Siddhesh Rege is working in my research group (Surface and Macromolecular Chemistry Laboratory) since July 2021. His MTech project work is on the intercalation and exfoliation of nanoclay in water-based adhesives. The project involved the surface modification of nanoclay to enhance its dispersion followed by the incorporation of modified nanoclay into the water-based adhesive. The aim of this project is to improve the properties of water-based adhesives. This project is in collaboration with Pidilite Industries. Since the start of the project, he took full responsibility for the execution of his project work. During monthly presentations, he has prepared excellent presentations with detailed reports about his progress, his interpretation of the results obtained, and work to be done in the future. He was honest and forthcoming about his results. During discussions, he was proactive and suggested alternative ways of approaching the project.

Since joining the degree course, Siddhesh has shown an eagerness to learn more about the field of polymer science and to strengthen his fundamental knowledge about the subject. Apart from the courses related to the fundamentals of polymers, he took specialized elective courses related to topics like polymeric composites, nanocomposites, coatings, and rubber technology, which serve as an example of his eagerness to learn. His exceptional academic performance is proof of his interest in this field.

Siddhesh has shown himself to be an innovative, sincere, and hardworking student. He has good ideas, he commenced his research work actively, and can perform tasks independently. He is an excellent team worker. I sincerely believe that Siddhesh Rege will be a great addition to your research group. I strongly recommend recommending Siddhesh Rege for admission to your doctoral program.

Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Leena