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Dear New IITKgpian:

Warm greetings from the desk of Dean (Students' Affairs) and hearty congratulations on being accepted at IIT Kharagpur. I hope you are as excited as I am to mark the commencement of your stay here at IIT Kharagpur, to savour the magic called *IIT Kgp experience*. We will take this treasured journey together in the right earnest.

You have decided to study at one of the best academic institutes in this country, which is also the oldest and the largest IIT. We are quite often called the torch-bearer of the IIT system and we are pretty proud of that. Let me assure you that with the kind of academic and extra-curricular infrastructure we have, you are about to embark on a special voyage that will offer you some of the best moments you have ever lived through and which you will cherish for the rest of your life. The atmosphere on the campus is unique amongst the IITs and I am sure you will enjoy it and make the best use of it.

Rest assured that our academic standards are rock solid and are attaining newer heights everyday. We are always ranked well among the engineering institutes in the country and this year is no exception. Every effort is continually made to enhance the student life that you are going to be part of as soon as you arrive. You will find this campus to be lush green and large (over 2100 acres) with spread out areas earmarked for (a) student halls of residence (there are twenty of them and three more are being built), (b) the academic area and (c) residential area for faculty members and staff. You are likely to find the Gymkhana facilities quite attractive and you must make good use of it. I sincerely hope that you do take part in some of the numerous athletic and cultural activities that are routinely on offer during the year. I strongly urge you to blend the studies and play (and cultural activities) with the right balance, and use this opportunity to build a well rounded personality by the time you graduate as a true blue IITian. I also urge you to take note of the rules and regulations that exist for all of us here at IIT Kharagpur - I am referring to both academic guidelines and also the rules for conduct and discipline. We strongly believe that education teaches us not only how to think but the principles by which

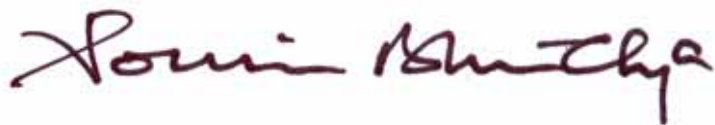
to live. You will find us here to be loving and compassionate and at the same time professional, firm and clinical in dealing with violators of our code of discipline and conduct. Having fun is human, but please be a *responsible citizen*.

Please be firm to say no to any act of ragging, we can eliminate this menace from our society only if all of us stand firm against it. We have a series of plans to deter such acts of ragging and we are quite sure we will be able to offer you an incident free stay so that you can concentrate on your primary objective of studying and enjoying the student life here in our institute. We have in place a strong *mentor* programme to help you tide over the early days here and lend you a helping hand when you need it most. Our counsellors and visiting consultant psychiatrist at the *counselling centre* will extend that critical support if you have a need for it.

If you find the experience here at any time a little overwhelming (and there is nothing unusual about it), please do not hesitate to contact us. I would love to hear from you, even if you have no problem as such. Just drop a line over email to say hello. I will feel connected.

Feel free to get in touch with us in case you need any help or if you need any clarification on any matter. Have a great time at our beloved institute. And the final word: remain focused on your primary job, do not go astray; if it appears that you are drifting away, immediately get serious help.

*Welcome aboard !*

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, reading "Soumi Banerjee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.