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### Field Ecology Research in Arunachal Pradesh during the Summer

This document is essential reading for participants in the above programme, and their parents/guardians.

1. I will be carrying out research in ecology in Arunachal Pradesh during during May-July, every year.
2. Students are under no obligation to participate in the above programme. They may utilise their summer scholarship and contingency grants (as applicable) for expenses associated with the above programme. Nevertheless, any participation will be entirely voluntary and from a personal interest to be trained in and to contribute to ecological research and conservation in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The official programme will start in Guwahati on the scheduled date (arrive in Guwahati the previous day) and end on returning to the same city (home journey the next day). Travel between home or IISER-Pune and Guwahati will be organised by the students themselves.
4. Students will be hosted in basic field conditions during the programme (tents, simple food, etc). They should be prepared for sustained heavy rains, cold weather and leeches.
5. Students may be unable to contact their families by phone for days or even weeks. The emergency phone numbers provided to the parents/guardians is strictly meant for exceptional/emergency situations only. **Please note that lack of communication is an indication of normalcy.**

#### Safety Issues

6. The camp sites are situated in a remote wilderness between 20 and 60 km from the nearest human habitation; there are no facilities at the campsite for any emergency, medical or otherwise. Students susceptible to medical emergencies should consider this, and seek advice from their doctor, before joining the programme.
7. The forest is inhabited by potentially dangerous wildlife including among others elephants, gaur, black bear, and some venomous snakes and arthropods. We have not had any casualty in any of the groups that I have led into that area during the last decade. This is largely due to the scrupulous following of safety rules in the forest, especially when studying potentially dangerous animals.
8. Arunachal Pradesh itself is as safe as any other state in India. However, access into Arunachal is through pockets of Assam which have a history of insurgency. Again, we have not had any mishaps in any of the groups I have led to that area during the last decade.
9. Nevertheless, participants and their parents/guardians have to realise that neither IISER-Pune nor I can guarantee safety of the participants in such a programme.
10. Students will be expected to abide by any rules of behaviour imposed by me or my representative during the programme. Consumption of alcohol and narcotics of any sort is strictly forbidden during the entire period. Any violation could result in expulsion of the student from the programme, as irresponsible behaviour may jeopardise others in the group as well.

*Ramana Athreya*

*I have read and understood this document*

student's name, signature and date

*I have read and understood this document*

parent's/guardian's name, signature and date





