

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati, India**

AND

**The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, USA**

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (having the address at Karakambadi Road, Rami Reddy Nagar, Mangalam (P.O.), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh 517507) (hereinafter referred to as IISER)

AND

Columbia University (having the address at 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Schermerhorn Extension, 1200 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027) (hereinafter referred to as CU)

Create this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU") with respect to the establishment of a research collaboration between IISER and CU, in order to conduct collaborative research on the endemic birds of the Western Ghats of southwestern India.

### I


#### PURPOSE

1. IISER in Tirupati is a research and teaching institute, with an established lab, headed by Dr. Robin Vijayan (Assistant Professor) that focuses on the ecology, evolution and biogeography of avifauna in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.
2. Mr. Vijay Ramesh is a PhD student (co-advised by Prof. Don J Melnick and Prof. Ruth DeFries) in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, CU, focusing on temporal changes in the level and distribution of genetic variation in species of endemic birds of the Western Ghats.
3. This MoU provides Mr. Vijay Ramesh an affiliation as 'Visiting Research Student' with IISER in Tirupati for his PhD research.
4. Dr. Robin Vijayan will share genetic material (including blood samples, tissues, and DNA sequences) from contemporary specimens of species of birds that are agreed upon to be the focus of Mr. Vijay Ramesh's PhD research.

III

**MODIFICATION**

Any modification or amendment of this MoU shall be made on the basis of mutual written understanding and agreement. Each party shall sign two identical copies of this MoU and retain one copy or sign electronic PDF copies exchanged via email.

  
"Responsible Party" 8/5/2019

निदेशक / Director  
भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान तिरुपती  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Tirupati  
तिरुपती/Tirupati - 517507, भारत/India.

**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati, India**



"Responsible"

**Maya Tolstoy**

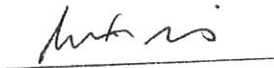
**Interim Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences and**

**Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

**Columbia University in the City of New York, USA**

**TTS#: 53535**

**While not parties to the agreement, the following individuals agree and acknowledge that they have read and understood the terms of this MOU:**



**Prof. Ruth DeFries**

**Columbia Professor**