Applications are invited for Four Junior Research Fellow (JRF) positions at IISER Kolkata for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Research in Madhya Pradesh

We require **four Junior Research Fellows** for a project on '**Monitoring Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Ecosystem Enhancement under the Green India Mission**', funded by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. We plan to recruit **two JRFs** for research on **(a) Plant Diversity and Ecosystem Services**; and **two JRFs** for **(b) Faunal Diversity (Butterflies, Birds, and Mammals)** to be carried out in **11 Forest Divisions** of Madhya Pradesh. The JRFs will also have to coordinate a few events to impart training on biodiversity monitoring using an existing biodiversity monitoring protocol to Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members in multiple locations across Madhya Pradesh. The positions will be based at IISER Kolkata but will require **extensive time on fieldwork** in the forests of Madhya Pradesh, followed by landscape ecological analyses at IISER Kolkata.

Title of Project: Monitoring Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Ecosystem Enhancement under the Green India Mission: Phase 2

1. **Number of positions available:** Four

2. **Funding Agency:** Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Bhopal,

3. **Project PI**: Dr Robert John Chandran, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, IISER Kolkata

4. **Essential Qualifications:** Master's degree in Botany/ Forestry/ Zoology/ Environmental Sciences/ Ecology/ Wildlife Sciences/ Life Sciences as pertinent to the respective positions. A minimum of one year of field research experience (excluding MSc/MTech dissertation) in ecology or biodiversity is essential for all posts. The ability for field taxonomy of plants/ birds/ butterflies is also required. Field research ability and experience will be critical for the implementation of this project and therefore, so these qualities are deemed most important.

5. **Desirable Qualifications:** Experience in field ecological research over multiple years in multiple sites is desirable. Applicants who have qualified CSIR/UGC NET-LS and/or GATE will be preferred.

6. **Duration and Salary:** The employment will be for a period of 12 months, renewable to a maximum of 16 months, based on the candidates' performance. The selected candidates will be paid Rs. 31,000 monthly (consolidated). The travel, accommodation, and food costs during fieldwork will be borne by the project.

7. **Age limit:** Not more than 28 years on the last date of application. Age relaxation will be as per GOI rules. Relaxation in age may be considered in case of exceptionally meritorious candidates.

8. **How to Apply:** Interested candidates are requested to fill out a google form https://forms.gle/g4DvwBNhRm8LoAk3A and upload a detailed CV, along with scanned mark sheets, certificates, and proof of work experience.

9. **Last date and time for receiving applications: 7 February 2023**, till **11 pm**

10. **Interview:** Shortlisted candidates will first be called for an online interaction with the project proponents for initial screening after which the candidates will be further shortlisted for a formal interview. The shortlisted candidates will receive a call letter mentioning the time and date of the interview/interaction via email. The formal interview will be conducted online or on site at IISER Kolkata campus, depending on preference of the candidate. No TA/DA will be provided to the candidate for the interview. The candidates may send an email to tecollab.iiserk@gmail.com if they have any queries.

Terms and Conditions

a) Selected candidates are expected to undertake exhaustive fieldwork for several months at a stretch.
b) The project will commence in February 2023, and the selected candidates are expected to join immediately after selection.
c) All posts are purely temporary and contractual in nature.
d) The number of candidates to be shortlisted will be decided on the basis of the applications received. Mere fulfilment of the eligibility criteria does not guarantee a call for an interview.
e) The appointment of the candidate will be governed by the terms and conditions of the said project of the funding agency.