



IDU MISHMI CULTURAL & LITERARY SOCIETY (IMCLS)

Apex body of Mishmi (Idu) community

Roing - 792110, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh

Registration no: SR/ITA/122 dt. 27/10/1987

Unique identifier of NGO Darpan, NITI Aayog Portal:AR/2018/0218419

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Roing, Dated 30TH August 2026

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COULD YOU GIVE A SENSE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GUIDELINES? WHAT IS THE IDEAL WAY OF CONDUCTING RESEARCH AMONG IDU MIHSMI COMMUNITY?

What is Idu Mishmi Code of Research Ethics (IMCRE)?

1. IMCRE is a research ethics set of community guidelines set up based on collective decision of all Idu Mishmi, which applies to **ALL** researchers and non-researchers those whose work/research falls/is involves Idu cultural knowledge, land, nonhumans, customs/customary practices.
2. IMCRE is applicable in all Idu Mishmi inhabited areas or districts.
3. It is based on certain basic principles such as free prior informed consent, transparency of facts, objectives of research, equity, non-discrimination (including intellectual non-discrimination) among many others.
4. The first edition of IMCRE was launched in 2024 and second edition in 2025.
5. IMCRE is overlooked by Research Ethics Review Board (RERB) members who work as non-salaried community members. RERB works democratically and not in any regimental panchayati Raj manner.
6. All researchers has to apply to IMCLS through email available at IMCLS website, obtain a copy of IMCRE and a form from online in order to seek consent. All applications are reviewed and online discussions are undertaken with RERB members.
7. The objective is – not to ban research but to meaningfully engage with Idu Mishmi community where concerns and priorities of Idu Mishmi communities are address by minimizing discrimination and intellectual dishonesty.
8. Copy of IMCRE has been shared with head of PCCF, district authorities including department of forest officials and other community stakeholders.

Why blacklisting?

1. Blacklisting is only the last resort and a means to enforce IMCRE. Prior written or verbal communication has been made in all cases wherever blacklisting has been done.
2. **Consequence of blacklisting:**
Once blacklisted, the particular researcher who is blacklisted shall not be permitted to carry further research or any form of activities in the nature of data mining related to Idu land,



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knowledge, or nonhumans within Idu Mishmi inhabited area irrespective of any permission sought from the government authorities. Govt authorities have been well informed many times about community issues and concerns.

3. Few researchers have been blacklisted because of few reasons:
 - A. They resorted to discriminatory practices and ventured into community areas despite consent and approval from RERB being pending.
 - B. Failed to attend meeting despite the assurance given to IMCLS and despite prior written communication having been conveyed to attend meeting to address the issues.
 - C. Disrespected established community protocol
 - D. Resorted to intellectual dishonesty. There are cases where few persons affiliated to influential institutions believe that they can do anything if they sought the permission of forest department or government institution or if it suits. In the process the consent seeking processes from IMCLS is disregarded.
4. **What is the legal or administrative status of the IMCRE and the RERB? Has the Arunachal Pradesh government or any district authority formally recognised the RERB's approval as mandatory for research? Is the IMCRE binding? Under what legal authority?**

Researchers apprehensive of IMCRE may often raise similar doubts and questions. But any mindful researcher would agree that Community guidelines, protocols and ethical guidelines are well embedded within the COP decisions of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and every nations part of CBD are bound by it. Even if there is no national law endorsing it, community guidelines need no backing of such formal laws. Simple general principles of accepted norms such as equity, free prior informed consent, transparency, right to privacy are applicable. Even if there are no laws, principles of ethics emphasise that if one has to enter into somebody else premises and ancestral territory anybody cannot do as and when they like. It is unfortunate that in Indian academia and even the so called learned 'professor' are not aware in true sense what research ethics means.

5. Why does IMCLS believe releasing that data could affect land matters?

Any taxonomic classification, notification of protected areas, reserves, sites, policy making does not happen in vacuum. All requires facts backed by data based on research. Releasing data without addressing the concerns of concerned community, without



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understanding the factual, customary and legal landscape and sharing in public domain does the harm rather than doing good. This has happened in the past.

1. Where the harm has already been done such as data shared already by ATREE whether imposing fine as per custom would make sense?
2. Imposing fine may be relevant in case of incident like Dr. Krushnamegh Kunte's where they have breached IMCRE but haven't shared the data yet.
3. All blacklisted individuals and representatives may meet IMCLS office for executive body meeting in person if interested (while blacklisting continues as usual) and make appropriate remedies as per the customs of Idu Mishmi community for the breach of IMCRE. This includes non-inclusion or non-involvement of persons affiliated or related with blacklisted individual.

For further details please visit Arunachal Times news report

**PRESIDENT
IDU MISHMI CULTURAL
& LITERARY SOCIETY**

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