



Madras Naturalists' Society

No. 8, Janaki Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Chennai – 600 018
Phone: 98400 90875. E-mail: madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com
Web: www.blackbuck.org.in

M. Krishnan Memorial Nature Writing Award 2018

The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

Theme

Nature, heal thyself? Perspectives on conservation

Calendar

1 September 2017 – Launch of the Writing Competition

30 November 2017 – Deadline for submissions

31 December 2017 – Ten shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - www.blackbuck.org.in

15 February 2018 – The award winning entry and the next two best entries will be announced on the website – www.blackbuck.org.in

The Theme: Nature, heal thyself? Perspectives on conservation

A fallen tree in the forest, the wild undergrowth in a forgotten part of the village, the silt in the riverbed are all part of the larger plan of nature's cycle that may or may not be known to humans. Often, the ecological processes are so long-running that in the course of several generations one can only experience a part of this. Yet, humans feel a need to 'help' nature along. When conservation efforts are applied to natural habitats are the interventions always in the larger interest of nature? We see examples of nature resisting these efforts but equally also see nature adapting to or even embracing them. Should humans leave it to nature to heal itself when it has been ravaged? Should there be limits to conservation efforts? Based on your personal observation does human intervention for conservation seem necessary?

This is the theme of the M. Krishnan Writing Competition 2018 which wishes to encourage young people from all parts of India to write on nature and wildlife in India.

Participants are required to submit original works **on the given Theme** that have not been published or presented elsewhere. The works should, in the spirit of M. Krishnan's writings, aim to provide a scientifically accurate account that promotes understanding of nature and support for conservation.

Here are suggestions for the form that the work could take in the context of the Theme:

1. A portrait of a particular species in its habitat, focusing on its natural history.
2. An account of an entire habitat, such as a deciduous forest or a protected campus in a city, describing its fauna and flora.
3. An anecdotal narration about a wild creature that is grounded in what is known about it scientifically.
4. An essay on the threats faced by a habitat or ecosystem.

Participants are expected to draw on their personal experiences, to hold the interest of the reader and to share knowledge.

Rules

All work must be submitted by individuals (collaboration is not allowed).

Each participant may submit only one work.

The competition is open to Indian citizens aged between 18 and 30 years as on 30 November 2017.

Submissions must be made together with the official entry form available online.

Submissions must be in English.

The work must be submitted in the .doc format (Open Office and MS Word compatible) or portable document format (PDF). Entries should be in 10 point Times New Roman, 1.5 line space. There should be no text boxes, figures or tables in the document.

The word count of the work should be 2700-3000 words.

The last date for submissions is 30 November 2017.

Submissions must be sent via email as attachments to madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com along with the official entry form.

Details of the participant such as the name and address should be provided in the official entry form only. These details should not be provided in the file containing the work.

The file should be named with the first four (or fewer) letters of the participant's surname, followed by integers representing the participant's date of birth in the date-month-year format. For example, a participant with surname Srinivasan and born on 6 March 1988 should use the name 'srin06031988.doc' or 'srin06031988.pdf' for his or her submission.

Each work must be accompanied by a short summary. Alternatively, an introduction or an extract from the work could be provided. The word count of this summary should not exceed 200 words. Participants should note that the summary is an important part of the submission as it will be used by the jury to make a pre-selection.

If the participant quotes published material or cites a reference, the source should be unambiguously indicated and credited.

The Madras Naturalists' Society reserves the right to publish and to make available to the public the winning submissions.

The decision of the jury is final and is not subject to appeal.

Submissions will be acknowledged by email. Participants are requested not to enquire about the status of their entries. Shortlisted and Winning participants will be informed by email.

Prizes

1. First Prize – Rs.10,000/-, Citation and a Certificate
2. Two Commendable Entries – Honourable Mention and a Certificate.