



# Madras Naturalists' Society

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## M. Krishnan Memorial Nature Writing Award 2017

### The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

### Theme

Nature of Seasons

### Calendar

**1 September 2016** – Launch of the Writing Competition

**30 November 2016** – Deadline for submissions

**31 December 2016** – Ten shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

**15 February 2017** – The award winning entry and the next two best entries will be announced on the website – [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

### The Theme: Nature of Seasons

Some books would have you believe that there are four seasons, of roughly equal duration, in a year. This is indeed so—but only in some parts of the temperate regions of the world. Generally speaking, the seasons of a place depend on its specific location on the globe. The higher latitudes, as is known, experience extreme seasons, with alternating six-month periods of darkness and light. And even the equatorial and tropical regions of the world, supposed to be areas of unrelieved heat, humidity and afternoon showers, have clearly defined seasons. One warm place may have a season of cyclones, to give an example.

Each season at any given location has its own attractions for the naturalist. Each of the seasons of a place brings into focus a particular set of living things. In a place called Christmas Island, there is a certain part of the year that should rightfully be called the crab season—there are so many crabs—red ones, all of the same species—swarming everywhere at that time.

In another place, the arrival of migratory birds may be the highlight of one season. The next season there may be dominated by the plants, most of which seem to burst into bloom

profligately at the same time. This season of flowers may be followed by a season of insects. And so forth. In fact, the naturalist may be able to distinguish a great many seasons in a year.

Such is the nature of seasons.

The M. Krishnan Writing Competition 2017 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 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 some suggestions for the form that a work could take:

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 encouraged to draw on their personal experiences where possible, to hold the interest of the reader and to provide creative solutions to problems faced by wildlife.

## **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 2016.

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 2016.

Submissions must be sent via email as attachments to [madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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. Next Two Best Entries – Honourable Mention and a Certificate.