



# Madras Naturalists' Society

No. 8, Janaki Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Chennai – 600 018  
Phone: 98400 90875. E-mail: [madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com](mailto:madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

## M. Krishnan Memorial Award For Nature Writing 2026

### The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

### Theme

The Realm of Raptors

### Calendar

**1 September 2025** – Launch of the Writing Competition

**30 November 2025** – Deadline for submission

**31 December 2025** – Shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

**15 February 2026** – The award-winning entry and the next two commendable entries will be announced on the website – [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

### Theme: The Realm of Raptors

Raptors, also known as birds of prey, are a fascinating group of birds characterised by their predatory nature and powerful hunting abilities. These carnivores, including eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons, are known for their sharp talons, hooked beaks, and keen eyesight, all adaptations for capturing and consuming their prey.

As apex predators, they play a crucial role in regulating prey populations and their presence in the ecosystem is an important indicator of its environmental health.

Like other species, raptors too are affected by habitat loss, pesticide use, and other sequelae of 'development' and urbanisation. However, these magnificent creatures are also the focus of dedicated conservation efforts aimed at protecting their habitats, mitigating threats, and promoting understanding of their ecological importance.

Participants are invited to submit written work that examines raptors and the realms they straddle. As the Award was instituted to promote writing by young people that conveys the joy of observing nature, your work needs to convey the enthusiasm of the naturalist. It should have your personal observations/experiences where possible, to hold



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the interest of the reader and to provide creative solutions to problems faced by wildlife in general and raptors in particular. Importantly, it needs to be scientifically accurate.

Here are some suggestions for the form that a work could take:

1. A portrait of a particular raptor, focusing on its natural history.
2. An account of a raptor's ecology, e.g., habitat use or adaptation to urban habitats.
3. A description of an adventure involving a raptor.
4. An elucidation of a raptor's cultural association, e.g., depiction in literature and art.
5. An essay on the threats faced by raptors.

Participants are required to submit original works, based on personal observations/experiences, that have not been published or presented elsewhere. The works should, in the spirit of M. Krishnan's writings ([www.mkrishnan.com](http://www.mkrishnan.com)), aim to promote an understanding of nature and support for conservation among lay persons.

## Rules

All works 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 30th November 2025.**

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. Please check the same before submitting.**

**The last date for submission is 30th November 2025.**

Submissions must be sent by email as attachments to [madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com](mailto:madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com) along with the official entry form.



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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 2001 should use the name 'srin06032001.doc' or 'srin06032001.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.15,000/-, Citation and a Certificate.
2. Two Commendable Entries – Honourable Mention and a Certificate.