



Madras Naturalists' Society

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

M. Krishnan Memorial Award For Nature Writing 2023

The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

Theme

Wild Cats Great and Small

Calendar

1 September 2022 – Launch of the Writing Competition

30 November 2022 – Deadline for submission

31 December 2022 – Shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - www.blackbuck.org.in

15 February 2023 – The award winning entry and the next two commendable entries will be announced on the website – www.blackbuck.org.in

The Theme : Wild Cats Great and Small

India is home to a variety of wild cats - from the small rusty-spotted cat to the great bengal tiger. Each of these wild cats is fascinating in its own way. It is all too easy for humans dwelling in cities and towns to be oblivious to the diversity among wild cats. But present they are, in forests, grasslands, marshes, deserts, scrub, agricultural land and even urban settings. M. Krishnan excelled at describing these animals, bringing them to the public attention. His superbly crafted writings described his observations, provided information based on his deep knowledge and entertained.

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 among lay persons. Here are some suggestions for the form that a work could take:

1. A portrait of a particular wild cat, focusing on its natural history.



Madras Naturalists' Society

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

2. An account of an entire wild cat habitat, such as a deciduous forest or a protected campus in a city, describing its fauna and flora.
3. A description of an adventure involving a wild cat.
4. A fictional story about a wild cat that is grounded in what is known about it scientifically.
5. An essay on the threats faced by a wild cat or a set of wild cats.

Participants are encouraged to draw on their personal observations/experiences where possible, to hold the interest of the reader and to provide creative solutions to problems faced by wildlife in general and wild cats in particular.

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 30th November 2022.

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 30 November 2022.

Submissions must be sent via email as attachments to madrasnaturalistssociety@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.



Madras Naturalists' Society

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

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