



Madras Naturalists' Society
1978-2018

8, Janaki Avenue, Abhiramapuram, Chennai – 600 018. Phone: 98400 90875
Email: madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com Website: blackbuck.org.in

M. Krishnan Memorial Nature Writing Award 2019

The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

Theme

Migration: Journeys in the Wild

Calendar

1 September 2018 – Launch of the Writing Competition

30 November 2018 – Deadline for submissions

31 December 2018 – Ten shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - www.blackbuck.org.in

15 February 2019 – The award winning entry and the next two commendable entries will be announced on the website – www.blackbuck.org.in

The Theme: Migration: Journeys in the Wild

The marvel of migration in the natural world has fascinated humans for millennia. While the ways in which we observe, record and explain migration may have changed in the last few decades, there is much that remains unexplained. The phenomenon is observed across species, terrains and even time, as intergenerational migration shows.

When seen through the lens of migration patterns, species gain new respect in our eyes: Where does migration fit into the larger scheme of things in the natural world? What adaptive responses urge them to start on this journey? What navigation cues and aids do they adopt? What resources do they exploit to facilitate their journey? How do the seasons influence their behaviour? Have the effects of climate change been noticed by them? Are there changes in their behaviour that are harbingers of what the future holds for all of us? Close examination of migration can provide a wondrous introduction to the blue planet, its past and its future.



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This is the Theme of the M. Krishnan Writing Competition 2019 which wishes to encourage young people from all parts of India to write on nature and wildlife in India, but not restricted to it.

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 2018.

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.



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The last date for submissions is 30 November 2018.

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 1989 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.