



# 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 2022

### The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

### Theme

The Ocean Home

### Calendar

**1 September 2021** – Launch of the Writing Competition

**30 November 2021** – Deadline for submission

**31 December 2021** – Shortlisted participants will be announced on the website - [www.blackbuck.org.in](http://www.blackbuck.org.in)

**15 February 2022** – 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)

### The Theme: The Ocean Home

It is well known that the Earth's seas cover more than 70 percent of the surface of our planet. These waters have an average depth of more than 3.5 kilometres.

Practically every part of the vast ocean is home to a variety of life forms. Plankton, in enormous numbers, and the animals that depend on them for food, are to be found in the surface waters. Where light reaches the sea floor, there may be coral reefs. The sand of the sea floor is home to fishes, sea urchins, anemones, molluscs and worms. Even the dark abyss of the ocean is home to its own set of living things.

Marine life forms are very often quite distinct in appearance and in life style from their terrestrial counterparts. They stir the fascination of the naturalist.



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Although humans are not adapted to live in the ocean home, they have available to them some means of observing the creatures of the ocean. Studying the edges of the seas is one way of looking at marine life. Cruising on a sea-going vessel is another. Humans can even dive into the ocean home. Diving vessels afford views of the life in the deepest parts of the sea.

The nature-lover's experience of marine life is the Theme of this year's Award. Submissions need to convey a sense of wonder and to be scientifically accurate. They should preferably be based on personal experience (even if it be in an aquarium) and should provide insights.

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 marine species in its natural habitat, focusing on its natural history.
2. An account of a specific marine habitat, such as a coral reef or seagrass meadow.
3. An anecdote as narrated by a marine creature, grounded in what is known about it scientifically.
4. Marine life as seen through the eyes of a diver.

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 2021.

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

Submissions must be in English.



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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 2021.**

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 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.