



# Madras Naturalists' Society

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## M. Krishnan Memorial Nature Writing Award 2014

### The Organiser

Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS)

### Theme

Creatures Great and Small

### Calendar

1 September 2013 – Launch of the Nature Writing Competition

30 November 2013 – Deadline for submissions

31 December 2013 – Ten shortlisted participants will be announced on the Society's website – [blackbuck.org.in](http://blackbuck.org.in)

15 February 2014 – The award winning entry and the next two best entries will be announced on the Society's website – [blackbuck.org.in](http://blackbuck.org.in)

### The Theme : Creatures Great and Small

India is home to a great variety of wild animals. The creatures found in the Subcontinent and the surrounding waters range from mammals to worms, from mighty elephants and whales to tiny arthropods. Each of these animals is fascinating in its own right, leading its unique life. It is all too easy for humans dwelling in cities and towns to be oblivious to the existence of the diversity of creatures in the land. But present they are, these living things, in forests, grasslands, marshes, deserts, scrub, agricultural land and even urban settings. Unfortunately, most of them are being adversely affected by human activities. M. Krishnan excelled at describing these animals, bringing them to the public attention. His superbly crafted writings described his observations, provided information from his deep knowledge and entertained. They created empathy for all things living.

### The Objective : Encourage Nature Writing

The M. Krishnan Nature Writing Competition 2014 wishes to encourage young people from all parts of India to write on the wildlife of 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 among lay persons. Here are some suggestions for the form that a work could take:

1. A portrait of a particular species, 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. A description of an adventure involving a wild animal.
4. A fictional story about a wild creature that is grounded in what is known about it scientifically.
5. An essay on the threats faced by a wild species or a set of species.

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.

## **General**

All work must be submitted by individuals (collaboration is not allowed).

Each participant may submit only one work.

Submissions must be made together with the official Entry Form available on the Society's website – [blackbuck.org.in](http://blackbuck.org.in)

## **Rules**

Submissions must be in English.

The work must be submitted only in the Portable Document Format (PDF). Only widely available and easily readable fonts should be used in the file. Do not embed text boxes, figures and tables in the document.

The word count of the work should not exceed 3000 words.

Submissions will be accepted until 30 November 2013.

This Nature Writing Competition is open to Indian citizens aged between 18 and 30 years as on 30 November 2013.

Submissions must be sent via email as attachments to [madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com](mailto:madrasnaturalistsociety@gmail.com) along with the filled-in official entry form downloadable from the Society's website – [blackbuck.org.in](http://blackbuck.org.in).

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.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 organiser 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 an appeal.

Submissions will be acknowledged by email. Short-listed and winning participants will be informed by email.

Participants are requested not to enquire about the status of their entries.

## **PRIZES**

1. First Prize – Rs.7,500/- and a Certificate of Participation
2. Next Two Best Entries – Honourable Mention and a Certificate of Participation.