

MAHE Announces Winners of National Photo Contest ‘MeghMalhar 2026’

Manipal, September 11, 2026: Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), an Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University, has announced the winners of MAHE National Photo Contest 2026, ‘MeghMalhar’, which invited photography enthusiasts from across the country to capture the fun and fury of rain through evocative images that showcase the beauty, emotions, and environmental significance of the monsoon.

Organised in association with the Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC), Manipal, a constituent unit of MAHE and Udayavani, one of Karnataka’s leading Kannada dailies, the contest attracted entries from photographers and creative enthusiasts across India. The initiative provided a platform for participants to explore the monsoon from diverse perspectives and to document its influence on landscapes, communities, culture, livelihoods, and everyday life.

Selected photographs from the contest will be exhibited on September 17 and 18, 2026, at Dr. TMA Pai Hall, 2nd Floor, Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal, as part of the celebrations marking the 91st birthday of Dr. Ramdas M Pai, Padma Bhushan awardee, Chancellor, MAHE.

The contest witnessed an overwhelming response, attracting 1,138 participants who collectively submitted more than 3,623 photographs across the Open to all and MAHE categories. A notable highlight of this year’s edition was the strong response to the Student Category (Open to All), which attracted 171 entries from students representing universities and educational institutions across 20 states of India, reflecting the contest’s growing national reach among emerging photographers. The MAHE Category (My MAHE My Campus) also witnessed enthusiastic participation, drawing 603 registrations from students, faculty and staff across MAHE campuses, highlighting the university’s vibrant culture of creativity and visual storytelling.

Congratulating the winners, Dr. Sharath K Rao, Vice Chancellor, MAHE said *“The enthusiastic response to this year’s contest, particularly from students representing universities and educational institutions across India, reflects the growing power of photography as a medium for creativity, reflection and social awareness. Through their images, participants have captured not only the beauty and intensity of the monsoon, but also important themes of sustainability, resilience and our relationship with nature.”*

The contest served as a platform for visual storytelling on sustainability and environmental awareness. Through compelling photographs and narratives, participants engaged with key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), drawing attention to themes of water conservation, climate action, biodiversity, sustainable living, and the interconnected relationship between communities and the natural environment.

Internationally acclaimed photographers Mr Tirtha Das Gupta, Ms Anitha Mysore, and Dr Kiran V Acharya formed the eminent jury panel. Here are the results:

MeghMalhar – Open to All Category

First Prize (Rs. 25,000/-): Ganesh Namdeo Memane (Mumbai, Maharashtra)

Second Prize (Rs. 15,000/-): Anirban Pan (Chandrakona, West Bengal)

Third Prize (Rs. 10,000/-): Varadanayaka TP (Bangalore, Karnataka)

Certificates of Merit:

1. Abhishek Basak (Kolkata, West Bengal)
2. Tanmoy Das (Naihati, West Bengal)
3. Sayan Bose (Kolkata, West Bengal)
4. Animesh Maji (Kolaghat, West Bengal)
5. Sangram Govardhane (Nashik, Maharashtra)
6. Shovan Saha (MAHE, Manipal Campus)

Student Recognition Awards – MeghMalhar

First Prize (Rs. 5,000/-): Sharika V (WPP Pre University College, Bengaluru)

Second Prize (Rs. 3,000/-): Aritra Bhattacharya (KPC Medical College & Hospital, Jadavpur, Kolkata)

Third Prize (Rs. 2,000/-): Bilal Shah (MIT, Manipal)

Certificates of Merit:

1. Shiva Prakash (NPR College of Engineering & Technology, Madurai, TN)
2. Arka Chowdhury (IEM, Kolkata)
3. Uzair Mohammed (MAHE, Dubai Campus)
4. Aishani Rao (Manipal Campus)

MAHE Category -My MAHE, My Campus

First Prize (Rs. 5,000/-): Thanishka Veeraboina, Bengaluru Campus

Second Prize (Rs. 3,000/-): Rejwana Jamali, Manipal Campus

Third Prize (Rs. 2,000/-): Anushka Banerjee, Bengaluru Campus

Certificates of Merit:

1. Chetana Sanjai, Bengaluru Campus
2. Preethi Naik, Manipal Campus
3. Kapilmeet Singh, Manipal Campus
4. Harshitha D, Manipal Campus
5. Puneeth NM, Bengaluru Campus

Cash prizes, certificates and awards will be dispatched to the respective recipients, and are expected to reach them within the next couple of weeks. MAHE congratulates all the winners and participants for their creative contributions to the second edition of the contest

About Manipal Academy of Higher Education:

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) is an Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University. MAHE offers over 400 specialisations across the Health Sciences (HS), Management, Law, Humanities & Social Sciences (MLHS), and Technology & Science (T&S) streams through its constituent units at campuses in Manipal, Mangalore, Bengaluru,

Jamshedpur, and Dubai. With a remarkable track record in academics, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and significant contributions to research, MAHE has earned recognition and acclaim both nationally and internationally. In 2020, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, awarded MAHE the prestigious Institution of Eminence status. Currently ranked 3rd in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 rankings, MAHE is the preferred choice for students seeking a transformative learning experience and enriching campus life, as well as for national and multinational corporations seeking top talent.
