

## SHEFALI KHAN AND AAKASH GULZAR: WINNERS OF THE MARAI PHOTO GRANT 2026 ANNOUNCED

The 2026 Marai Photo Grant winners have been announced.

Chaired by Candida Ng, AFP Asia-Pacific photo director, the jury selected four young photographers from South Asia from dozens of candidates. This year's theme was "My reality. Now. Water scarcity!", highlighting one of the defining issues of our time.

The winners of the 5th edition are:

### Women's Category

- Winner: [Shefali Khan](#)
- Finalist: [Bhavi Jariwala](#)



Shefali Kahn



Bhavi Jariwala

### Men's Category

- Winner: [Aakash Gulzar](#)
- Finalist: [Md Sofiquel Islam](#)



Aakash Gulzar



Sofiquel Islam

Congratulations to the winners and finalists. An awards ceremony will be held at AFP's New Delhi office, where each will receive Nikon equipment. The two winners will have the opportunity to develop their projects with guidance from AFP photographers. Their work will also be published by AFP.

This grant honours [Shah Marai, AFP's former chief photographer in Kabul](#), who courageously documented Afghanistan's tragedies and left a lasting mark on the profession. He described the extreme dangers of reporting in his country in a post on [the Correspondent's website](#), which provides a behind-the-scenes look into the news. Shah Marai tragically lost his life in a suicide bombing in Kabul on 30 April 2018 at the age of 41.

Further details are available on the grant's [official website](#).

### About AFP

Agence France-Presse (AFP) is a global news agency that provides reliable, comprehensive, real-time coverage of the stories that shape our daily lives. Employing more than 2,600 staff from 135 different nationalities, AFP is always on the ground where the news happens, producing multimedia content in six languages: French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. Our globally recognised expertise in video, text, photo and datajournalism is rewarded every year with several international prizes.

AFP is at the cutting edge of digital investigation, with dedicated teams for fact-checking and in-depth analysis of online content.

Join us on:



Press Contact: [communication@afp.com](mailto:communication@afp.com)