Alliance Française
Delhi

# 2025 - 26
# Annual Report





# Bienvenue



# TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| President's Communique | 4 |
| Message Du Président | 8 |
| From The Director's Desk | 11 |
| Depuis Le Bureau Du Directeur | 16 |
| Academics | 18 |
| Translation Cell | 36 |
| Flagship Events | 40 |
| Year of Innovation | 50 |
| Dignitary Visits | 52 |
| Culture | 55 |
| French Library | 70 |
| Communications | 77 |
| Administration | 86 |
| Human Resources | 90 |
| Information Technology | 95 |
| Finances | 97 |

# PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE



It is my privilege to present once again, on behalf of the Governing Body, the annual report of Alliance Française de Delhi for the year 2025-2026. I am happy to report that it has been another year of very satisfactory performance.

Let me at the outset remind you that Alliance Française de Delhi came into existence on **June 13, 1956.** This year, therefore, marks the 70th year of our existence. I take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy **70th anniversary**. To mark this occassion we have planned a series of events. The most prominent amongst them is the Grand Ball, which was held this year in Hotel Imperial, New Delhi, at the very same venu where our predecessors held it seven decades ago. The theme for this event was "French as a Life Changer". It brought together our collaborators, alumni, friends, patrons of arts, donors and the diplomatic community. Apart from being an entertaining cultural activity, we used it to raise funds for providing scholarships to six children from underprivileged sections of society to study French for one full year at Alliance Française de Delhi. To identify the beneficiaries, we worked in parternership with three reputed charitable organizations, namely, the Salaam Balak Trust, Tara and Jagriti.

Our primary activity is teaching of the French language. The number of students enrolled with us has remained almost static for the last three years. In fact they have been showing a marginal decline. This is due to several factors such as the limited space available to us for use as classrooms, and stiff competition from cheaper courses being offered online by our competitors. We have also been seeing a decline in demand for corporate

language training. On the positive side we have seen a significant increase in the number of students who are younger in age, namely children and teenagers. Keeping these trends in view, we are taking steps to increase the classes for kids and teenagers. We have also been able to attract more persons to undergo DELF/ DALF certification tests, as well as tests such as TCF (French language proficiency test). At the same time we are continuing our practice of renting 6 to 7 classrooms of the Lycee Francais International de Delhi, during the weekends.

I had pointed out last year that our campus is now more than twenty years old and in need of urgent repairs. During the year we continued to focus on the renovation and repairs of our infrastructure which were started two years ago. I am happy to report that we have successfully implemented several stages of this work, to stop seepages, increase durability of the structure and prevent accidental injuries. It is a challenging task that is often hampered by adverse weather conditions and stoppages due to the restrictions imposed by the government with the aim of controlling pollution. This is a continuing activity and we hope to increase the speed of implementation in the coming years.

Our campus continued to function as a hub of intense cultural activities such as art exihibitions, musical performances, dance shows, theatre, talks, debates, panel discussions, cinemas shows and much more. The month long Francophonie Celebrations included the Francophonie Mela, which was celebrated as usual with great enthusiasm. Our Cine Club screened a number of carefully curated French Films and we continued to encourage independent cinema through our parterniships with Aravali International Film Festival and Indie Talkies. Among the important exhibitions hosted by us this year were Palais d'Or by French artist Thomas Henriot and Spacescapes by renowned painter Sujata Bajaj. The third edition of RISE- Re-Imagining School Education was held in November 2025. It focused on the theme of "The Role of the Arts and Design for Innovation", under the broader theme of "Global Citizenship".

Last year, with support from the French Embassy we started a new project under the banner of Rencontres du Toit du Monde (Meetings on the Rooftop of the Wold). This comprises a series of Documentary Films, Photo Exhibitions, and talks by renowned experts, film makers. monks, archaelogists and researchers, on the culture and way of life in the Himalayan regions such as Ladakh, Bhutan and Tibet. This year under this banner, we hosted a talk and film on pioneering French explorer, Alexendra David Neel and her remarkable journey to Tibet to understand the culture and spirituality of the region. We also hosted a talk by HE Yangsl Kalu Rinpoche on Buddhist philosophy and thought.

For the last two years we were working to formulate a revised Human Resource Policy for our staff. Under the existing system most of the service benefits were enjoyed by a small number of senior teachers. I am happy to report that during the year we sucessfully implemented the revised structure for our teaching staff. Under the new system there will now be six categories of teachers, and they will be entitled to gradually increasing benefits as they move up to the higher cafegories. This will not only be far more transparent and equitable than the earlier system, but will also give them a much clearer

picture of their career path ahead.

We are engaged in the promotion of Indo French cultural relations, and teaching of the French language. We do so with the co operation and advice of the French Embassy and the French Institute in India. I am extremely grateful to His Excellency Mr Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, for his constant encouragement and support. I also wish to thank Mr Gregor Trumel, Counsellor and Director, French Institute in India, and his colleague Emile Jacament, Coordinator of the Alliance Francaise Network in India for their invaluable cooperation and assistance in helping us organise numerous cultural events during the year.

My thanks are also due to my colleagues in the Governing Body, notably the two Vice Presidents, Mrs Zohra Chatterji and Mrs Aude Priya Wacziarg, Mr Sandeep Sapra, Immediate Past President, Mr Surya Bhatia, Treasurer, Mr Harpreet Singh Secretary, Mr Aditya Arya, Joint Secretary and others who have served on varous Committees and thus made possible the day to day running of the Alliance. I am specially thankful to Mr Chisti for his invaluable professional advice and the long hours spent by him in the preparation and execution of our renovation project. Special thanks are also due to the teachers representative, Ms Ragini Mehta, for her positive suggestions and contributions to the discussions related to teaching staff.

The day to day management of our operations were very efficiently led by our Director, Mrs Particia Loison and the Academic Director, Mr Frederic Wolska. It is because of their hard work and devotion that we have been functioning as an efficient, well oiled machine. They are ably supported by a team of dedicated teachers who, by their diligent work have enabled us to show excellent results. They in turn were ably assisted by a devoted management team that looked after the day to day functioning of the Alliance. I am extremely thankful to all of them.

From a small social club created by our founders seventy years ago, we have come a long way. In spite of many stiff challenges, we have managed to continue making steady progress year after year, and are today amongst the top five in the world. Within the Alliance Francaise Network in India, we continue to be viewed as the flagship entity. All this has been made possible by the hard work put in by a dedicated team of voluntary workers who constitute our Governing Body, supported by our two Directors and a large team of teachers and administrative staff. I am confident that with your good wishes, we shall continue to attain even greater heights in the years to come.

On this positive note, I present to you the annual report of the organization for the year 2025-26 for approval.

**J L Sarin**
***President***




GRAND BALL
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J'ai le privilège de vous présenter une nouvelle fois, au nom du Conseil d'administration, le rapport annuel de l'Alliance française de Delhi pour l'année 2025-2026. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que cette année encore, nos résultats ont été très satisfaisants.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous rappeler que l'Alliance française de Delhi a vu le jour le 13 juin 1956. Cette année marque donc notre 70e anniversaire. Je profite de cette occasion pour souhaiter à tous nos membres un très joyeux 70e anniversaire. Pour marquer cet événement, nous avons prévu une série d'événements. Le plus important d'entre eux est le Grand bal qui s'est tenu cette année à l'Hôtel Imperial de New Delhi, dans le même lieu où nos prédécesseurs l'avaient organisé il y a sept décennies. Le thème de cet événement était « Le français, une expérience qui change la vie ». Ce bal a réuni nos collaborateurs, anciens élèves, amis, mécènes, donateurs et la communauté diplomatique. Outre le fait qu'il s'agissait d'une activité culturelle divertissante, nous en avons profité pour collecter des fonds afin d'offrir à six enfants issus de milieux défavorisés la possibilité d'étudier le français pendant toue une année à l'Alliance française de Delhi. Pour sélectionner les bénéficiaires, nous avons travaillé en partenariat avec trois organisations caritatives réputées, à savoir le Salaam Balak Trust, Tara et Jagriti.

Notre activité principale est l'enseignement du français. Le nombre d'inscrits auprès de notre établissement est resté pratiquement le même au cours des trois dernières années. Il a même en fait subi une légère baisse. Cela s'explique par plusieurs facteurs, notamment le manque d'espace disponible pour accueillir des salles de classe et la forte concurrence exercée par les formations en ligne moins chères proposées par nos concurrents. Nous constatons également une baisse de la demande en matière de formation linguistique en entreprise. Cependant, ce qui est positif, c'est que nous avons constaté une augmentation importante du nombre d'étudiants plus jeunes, à savoir des enfants et des adolescents. Compte tenu de cette tendance, nous prenons des mesures pour augmenter le nombre de cours destinés à ces publics. Nous avons également réussi à attirer davantage de candidats aux examens de certification DELF/DALF, ainsi qu'à des examens tels que le TCF (test de connaissance du français). Parallèlement, nous continuons à louer, le week-end, 6 à 7 salles de classe du Lycée Français International de Delhi.

J'avais souligné l'année dernière que notre bâtiment avait désormais plus de vingt ans et nécessitait des réparations urgentes. Au cours de l'année, nous avons continué à nous concentrer sur la rénovation et la remise en état de nos infrastructures, travaux entamés il y a deux ans. J'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que nous avons mené à bien plusieurs phases de ces travaux visant à stopper les infiltrations, à accroître la durabilité de la structure et à prévenir les accidents. Il s'agit d'une tâche difficile, souvent entravée par des conditions météorologiques

défavorables et des interruptions dues aux restrictions imposées par le gouvernement dans le but de lutter contre la pollution, et en cours. Nous espérons pouvoir accélérer le rythme de mise en œuvre dans les années à venir.

Notre campus a continué à servir de pôle d'activités culturelles intenses telles que des expositions d'art, des concerts, des spectacles de danse, des pièces de théâtre, des conférences, des débats, des tables rondes, des projections de films et bien plus encore. La célébration de la francophonie, qui s'st étalée sur un mois, a notamment inclus la foire de la Francophonie, célébrée comme à l'accoutumée avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme. Notre ciné-club a projeté un certain nombre de films français soigneusement sélectionnés et nous avons continué à promouvoir le cinéma indépendant grâce à nos partenariats avec le Festival international du film d'Aravali et Indie Talkies. Parmi les expositions importantes que nous avons accueillies cette année figuraient Palais d'Or de l'artiste français Thomas Henriot et « Spacescapes » de la célèbre artiste-peintre Sujata Bajaj. La troisième édition de RISE – Re-Imagining School Education (Réinventer l'enseignement scolaire) s'est tenue en novembre 2025. Elle était consacrée au thème « Le rôle des arts et du design dans l'innovation » qui s'inscrivait dans le cadre du thème plus large de la « citoyenneté mondiale».

L'année dernière, avec le soutien de l'ambassade de France, nous avons lancé un nouveau projet intitulé « Rencontres du Toit du Monde ». Celui-ci comprend une série de films documentaires, d'expositions de photos et de conférences animées par des experts de renom, des cinéastes, des moines, des archéologues et des chercheurs, sur la culture et le mode de vie dans les régions himalayennes telles que le Ladakh, le Bhoutan et le Tibet. Cette année, dans le cadre de ce projet, nous avons organisé une conférence et la projection d'un film consacrés à l'exploratrice française pionnière Alexandra David-Néel et à son remarquable voyage au Tibet entrepris pour comprendre la culture et la spiritualité de cette région. Nous avons également accueilli une conférence animée par Son Excellence Yangsl Kalu Rinpoché sur la philosophie et la pensée bouddhistes.

Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons travaillé à l'élaboration d'une nouvelle politique des ressources humaines pour notre personnel. Selon le système qui était en vigueur, la plupart des avantages liés à l'ancienneté étaient réservés à un petit nombre d'enseignants chevronnés. Je suis heureux d'annoncer que, au cours de l'année, nous avons mis en place avec succès une nouvelle structure pour notre personnel enseignant. Dans le cadre de ce nouveau système, il y aura désormais six catégories d'enseignants qui auront droit à des avantages progressivement croissants à mesure qu'ils graviront les échelons et changeront de catégorie. Ce système sera non seulement beaucoup plus transparent et équitable que le précédent mais il leur permettra également d'avoir une vision beaucoup plus claire de leur avenir professionnel.

Nous nous consacrons à la promotion des relations culturelles indo-françaises et à l'enseignement du français. Nous menons ces actions en collaboration avec l'ambassade de France et l'Institut français

en Inde qui nous apportent leurs conseils. Je tiens à exprimer ma profonde gratitude à Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France en Inde, M. Thierry Mathou, pour ses encouragements et son soutien constants. Je tiens également à remercier M. Gregor Trumel, conseiller et directeur de l'Institut français en Inde, ainsi que sa collègue Émilie Jacament, coordinatrice des Alliances Françaises en Inde, pour leur précieuse coopération et leur aide qui nous ont permis d'organiser de nombreux événements culturels tout au long de l'année.

Je tiens également à remercier mes collègues du Conseil d'administration, notamment les deux vice-présidentes, Mme Zohra Chatterji et Mme Aude Priya Wacziarg, M. Sandeep Sapra, président sortant, M. Surya Bhatia, trésorier, M. Harpreet Singh, secrétaire, M. Aditya Arya, secrétaire adjoint, ainsi que tous ceux qui ont siégé au sein de divers comités et ont ainsi permis le bon fonctionnement quotidien de l'Alliance. Je souhaite remercier tout particulièrement M. Chisti pour ses précieux conseils professionnels et les nombreuses heures qu'il a consacrées à la préparation et à la mise en œuvre de notre projet de rénovation. Un grand merci également à la représentante du corps enseignant, Mme Ragini Mehta, pour ses suggestions et ses contributions constructives lors des discussions concernant le personnel enseignant.

La gestion quotidienne de nos activités a été assurée avec une grande efficacité par notre Directrice, Mme Patricia Loison, et notre Directeur pédagogique, M. Frédéric Wolska. C'est grâce à leurs efforts soutenus et à leur dévouement que nous avons pu fonctionner comme une machine efficace et bien huilée. Ils sont efficacement secondés par une équipe d'enseignants dévoués qui, par leur travail assidu, nous ont permis d'obtenir d'excellents résultats. Ceux-ci sont à leur tour été aidés par une équipe de direction dévouée qui s'est occupée du fonctionnement quotidien de l'Alliance. Je leur en suis extrêmement reconnaissant.

Depuis ce petit club social créé par nos fondateurs il y a soixante-dix ans, nous avons parcouru un long chemin. Malgré de nombreux défis de taille, nous avons réussi à progresser régulièrement année après année et figurons aujourd'hui parmi les cinq premières Alliances au monde. Au sein du réseau des Alliances françaises en Inde, nous continuons d'être considérés comme l'entité phare. Tout cela a été rendu possible grâce au travail acharné d'une équipe dévouée de bénévoles qui composent notre Conseil d'administration, soutenue par nos deux Directeurs et une importante équipe d'enseignants et de personnel administratif. Je suis convaincu que, grâce à vos bons vœux, nous continuerons à atteindre des sommets encore plus élevés dans les années à venir.

Sur cette note positive, je vous soumets pour approbation le rapport annuel de l'organisation pour l'exercice 2025-2026.

**J L Sarin**
***Président***

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Alliance Française community,

You may already be a member, you might simply love the French language and culture, or perhaps you are just opening this Annual Report waiting at our front desk... Something tells me we will be seeing a lot of you. As soon as you step into our beautifully renovated campus, captivated by the smell of fresh French bread from our new café, you won't be able to leave us...

This year, the immensity of the challenge of leading such an institution faded a bit, and the joy of serving you took the lead.

First of all, of course, we focus on offering the best French classes with the best French teachers you will find in Delhi. In this regard, I would like to pay a special tribute to our HR department & Board members, who have successfully modernized our teachers' status through fruitful social dialogue, while also streamlining our resource management via a new software deployed in recent months. I won't step into my wonderful Academic Director's field, but we do have a news for you:

Emma is coming to town, and we are thrilled she has chosen Delhi as her starting point. She will be your French best friend, your home teacher, and your AF Delhi teammate.

As Director, I am very proud to launch this conversational AI assistant, which will take our French teaching to the next level—embracing new technologies and adapting them to our needs, rather than dreading them. Week by week, month by month, the entire AF network will share Emma's talents with their students. Created by the French company 3 Dots, this tool will also keep you updated on our rich cultural agenda.



If you tell me that too much is happening, that is actually the best compliment for us!

Where to start this year?

What to pick among our cinema programming, our conference on the scientific effects of yoga on the brain in collaboration with the French Institute in India, Yarol Poupaud's guitar melting with the Rajasthani tabla at the beautiful Piano Man, our ceramic birds hanging from our gallery ceiling in our first collaboration with Triveni, or Kalu Rinpoche coming straight from Bhutan to honor our "Meetings on the Top of the World" series created by our French Ambassador.

You will find it all in this year-in-review, curated by our amazing culture team, who have been brainstorming all year long to honor the year of innovation between France and India—a mantra that it taking AF Delhi a step further. What is innovation in education? We believe it will come to life through Emma. And in culture? We chose to promote ancient practices—which sometimes you cannot distinguish from art—through our Paani ki Kahaani exhibition imagined by our inspiring colleagues from AF Jaipur - Alliances Françaises are a network and it is that spirit of collaboration that makes each of us stronger !

Innovation for our institution also meant reaching out to our Indian partners and to our European partners through our EUNIC events. This vibrant energy was felt more than ever when over 2,500 visitors flooded our campus to celebrate French as a shared language during our traditional annual Francophonie Mela.

Innovation also guided the adaptation of our architect-designed building. We worked with its designers, Rajesh Dongre and Stéphane Paumier, rethinking its walls, stairs, and floors to withstand new climate challenges and ensure it stands strong for years to come.

It is also “un état d’esprit”: be bold and make your dream, as small as it may be, come true. Opening a bakery-café, a project we carried forward with our Governing Body, now offers you a brand new restaurant fulfilling everyone’s tastes, from cakes and salads to samosas and coffee. Starting a salsa class brought us an amazing new crowd, thanks to dedicated teachers and our collaboration with the Delhi Salsa Club, featuring a team of amazing young Indian dancers performing on stage at our Vivre à Delhi annual Dance Show and at our Grand Ball edition, celebrated under the banner of our 70th anniversary!

Reaching this age nous oblige, as we say in French. Can we be 70 and still innovative, while still cherishing our fundamentals? We believe so. We carry forward our “French as a Life Changer” program, raising enough funds this year to offer three more grants to brilliant students in partnership with Tara, Jagriti, and Salaam Baalak, with the support of our amazing sponsors. We truly believe Indo-French friendship roots itself in the next generation: through school exchanges, shared culture, and language learning through dance or cooking classes. But we are not only dreamers; we must face reality. Cultural institutions need to be financially inventive. This is also why we were so honored to receive the IFCCI CSR Special Jury Prize for our Grand Ball event.

Moreover, innovation means listening to you, the heart of the Alliance Française. What are your expectations? What are your dreams? How do you see our library in the future, or our terraces? Do you want more sports gear?

I strongly believe that transparency and open dialogue are the heart of a healthy thriving organization. We are proud to count on a community of over 500 members who help us day after day, year after year, to shape the Alliance Française de Delhi into a proud and strong force bringing France and India closer together.

Finally, let us brag a little bit: AF Delhi matters.

We were so thrilled to welcome our honorable guests from France—from the Secretary-General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to Céline Malraux, granddaughter of the monumental French author and statesman André Malraux.

Our visitors see us as a piece of France within the Indian capital, but also as the living expression of the friendship between the two countries.
The cherry on the cake?

This unique bond was vividly highlighted when our students and staff had the immense honour of representing our institution during President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to AIIMS, presenting our new AI language tool and playing the humor card with a decidedly French slogan: “French, for sure!”

A rich program, inspiring members, and a diverse community uniting Francophone, European, and Indian institutions through shared respect and diversity.
And it is evident through a growing media coverage and a thriving digital presence, with over 31,500 of you now following us on Instagram alone.

With my background communication, this means the world to me.
It proves that our work is echoing outwards—it means you see us.
Now, please come in, read, enjoy, and join us!

**Patricia LOISON**
***Director***


AWARDS
Delhi
2026
TIMES
FOOD





Chers tous

Peut-être êtes-vous déjà membre de l'Alliance Française de Delhi, attiré par la langue et la culture françaises, ou peut-être venez-vous d'ouvrir notre rapport annuel installé à la réception de notre institution . Quelque chose me dit que nous allons souvent nous croiser. Dès que vous poserez le pied sur notre campus récemment rénové, siroterez un café à l'ombre de notre manguier, pousserez la porte de notre bibliothèque, vous ne pourrez plus nous quitter…

D'abord pour nos cours de français -les meilleurs!- avec les professeurs les plus experts de Delhi. À ce titre, je salue notre service RH et les membres de notre Conseil d'Administration, qui ont su moderniser le statut de nos enseignants grâce à un dialogue social fructueux, tout en optimisant la gestion de nos ressources via un nouveau logiciel déployé ces derniers mois. Je ne marcherai pas sur les plates-bandes de notre cher directeur académique, mais nous avons une grande nouvelle pour vous : Emma arrive en ville, et nous sommes ravis qu'elle ait choisi Delhi pour se déployer en avant-première.. Elle sera votre meilleure amie française, votre professeure à domicile, et votre coéquipière à l'AF Delhi.

En tant que Directrice, je suis très fière de lancer cet assistant conversationnel fondé sur une IA d'apprentissage qui va faire passer notre enseignement du français au niveau supérieur : il s'agit ici d'embrasser les nouvelles technologies et de les adapter à nos besoins, plutôt que de les redouter. Semaine après semaine, mois après mois, l'ensemble du réseau des AF partagera les talents d'Emma avec ses étudiants.

Créé par l'entreprise française 3 Dots, cet outil vous tiendra également informés de notre riche agenda culturel. Si vous me dites qu'il se passe trop de choses, c'est en fait le plus beau compliment que vous puissiez nous faire !
Que choisir entre notre programmation cinéma, notre conférence sur les effets scientifiques du yoga sur le cerveau en collaboration avec l'Institut Français en Inde, la guitare de Yarol Poupaud se mêlant aux tablas rajasthanis dans le magnifique cadre du Piano Man, nos oiseaux en céramique suspendus au plafond de notre galerie pour notre première collaboration avec le centre artistique Triveni Kala Sangam, ou encore Kalu Rinpoché venu tout droit du Bhoutan pour honorer notre cycle « Rencontres du Toit du Monde » créé par notre Ambassadeur de France ?

Vous retrouverez tout cela dans la rétrospective de l'année concoctée par notre équipe culturelle qui s'est montrée créative tout au long de l'année pour faire vitre l'année de l'innovation entre la France et l'Inde — un véritable mantra qui pousse l'AF Delhi encore plus loin. Qu'est-ce que l'innovation dans l'éducation ? Nous pensons qu'Emma en est une illustration. Et dans la culture ? Nous avons choisi de mettre en lumière des pratiques anciennes — que l'on ne peut parfois distinguer de l'art — à travers notre exposition Paani Ki Kahani, imaginée par l'AF Jaipur - les Alliances Françaises forment en Inde un réseau ultra-créatif et solidaire !

J'ai tenu à ce que l'innovation signifie aussi de nouvelles collaborations avec nos partenaires indiens et européens, notamment à travers nos événements EUNIC que notre Alliance a l'honneur de présider cette année. Il est important que l'AF Delhi existe hors les murs : comme dans le centre commercial DLF qui a accueilli notre concert silencieux Ballad, créant l'événement parmi les boutiques et les restaurants. Cette énergie vibrante a culminé lorsque plus de 2 500 visiteurs ont arpenté notre campus pour célébrer le français en tant que langue en partage lors de notre traditionnelle Francophonie Mela annuelle, portée par la présence de nombreux ambassadeurs francophones que je remercie ici.

L'innovation a également guidé les récents travaux indispensables pour adapter notre bâtiment au changement climatique. Nous avons travaillé avec ses concepteurs, Rajesh Dongre et Stéphane Paumier, pour repenser ses murs, ses escaliers et ses sols afin de résister aux phénomènes météo plus intenses et s'assurer qu'il reste notre navire amiral emblématique pour les années à venir.

L'innovation, c"est aussi un état d'esprit : oser, et faire de son rêve, aussi petit soit-il, une réalité. L'ouverture d'un café-boulangerie, un projet que nous avons porté avec notre Conseil d'Administration, vous offre aujourd'hui un tout nouveau restaurant embaumant le bon pain; lancement d'un cours de salsa qui attiré un public inédit, grâce à notre collaboration avec le Delhi Salsa Club, avec notamment une équipe de jeunes et talentueux danseurs indiens qui s'est produite sur scène lors de notre spectacle de danse annuel Vivre à Delhi et lors de notre édition du Grand Bal, sous le signe de notre 70ème anniversaire !

Atteindre cet âge respectable nous oblige. Peut-on avoir 70 ans et rester innovant, tout en chérissant ses fondamentaux ? Nous en sommes convaincus. C'est pourquoi nous poursuivons notre programme « Le Francais qui change la vie », récoltant suffisamment de fonds cette année pour offrir trois bourses supplémentaires à des étudiants brillants, en partenariat avec Tara, Jagriti et Salaam Baalak, avec le soutien de nos formidables sponsors. Nous croyons profondément que l'amitié franco-indienne se cultive aussi dans la prochaine génération : par les échanges scolaires, la culture partagée, et l'apprentissage de la langue à travers des cours de danse ou de cuisine. Mais nous ne faisons pas que rêver. Par les temps qui courrent, les institutions culturelles se doivent d'être financièrement inventives. C'est aussi pour cela que nous avons été si honorés de recevoir le Prix Spécial du Jury aux RSE Awards de la Chambre de Commerce Franco-Indienne (IFCCI) pour notre programme ancré dans notre Grand Bal.

De plus, l'innovation, c'est aussi vous écouter, vous qui êtes le cœur de l'Alliance Française. Quelles sont vos attentes ? Quels sont vos rêves ? Comment imaginez-vous notre bibliothèque à l'avenir, ou nos terrasses ? Souhaitez-vous davantage d'équipements sportifs ?

Je crois aussi que la transparence et le dialogue constituent le cœur battant d'une organisation en pleine santé. Nous sommes fiers de pouvoir compter sur une communauté de plus de 500 membres qui nous aident jour après jour, année après année, à faire de l'Alliance Française de Delhi ce pont entre la France et l'Inde.

Enfin, permettez-nous de nous réjouir : l'AF Delhi inspire et attire ! Nous avons éte honores par la présence d'invités exceptionnels : de la Secrétaire générale du ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères à Céline Malraux, la petite-fille du monumental écrivain et homme d'État français André Malraux. Nos visiteurs voient en nous un bout de France au cœur de la capitale indienne, mais aussi l'expression vivante de l'amitié entre nos deux pays.
La cerise sur le gâteau ? Ce lien unique a été brillamment mis en lumière lorsque nos étudiants et notre personnel ont eu l'immense honneur de représenter notre institution lors de la visite du Président Emmanuel Macron au centre hospitalier de Delhi AIIMS, en présentant notre nouvel outil linguistique basé sur l'IA et en jouant la carte de l'humour avec un slogan résolument français : « French, for sure ! »

Un programme riche, un Conseil d'Administration que je remercie de sa confiance,des membres actifs, et une communauté diverse qui unit les institutions francophones, européennes et indiennes. Et cela se voit. À travers une couverture médiatique croissante et une présence numérique florissante, avec plus de 31 500 d'entre vous qui nous suivent désormais rien que sur Instagram. Pour la femme de communication que je suis, c'est un cadeau. Cela prouve que notre travail trouve un écho à l'extérieur — cela signifie que vous nous voyez. Maintenant, entrez, lisez, profitez, et rejoignez-nous !

.

**Patricia LOISON**
***Directrice***

# Academics

***From the Academic Director's Desk***

*Alliance Française de Delhi remains firmly committed to promoting the French language through a forward-looking and future-oriented approach. Beyond language instruction, we offer our students a comprehensive pathway for both personal and professional development, built around three complementary pillars: acquiring French language proficiency and obtaining official certification, accessing higher education opportunities in France and the wider Francophone world, and joining an international network that creates academic and professional opportunities.*




*This approach addresses the expectations of an increasingly discerning audience seeking tangible outcomes from their educational investment. Today, proficiency in French represents a significant competitive advantage in the Indian job market, where more than one thousand French and Francophone companies operate. These organisations actively seek professionals capable of thriving in multicultural environments and value the linguistic, intercultural, and professional competencies developed through our programmes.*
*Although the number of new enrolments has declined this year, this trend must be viewed within the broader context of profound changes affecting the Indian education landscape, particularly the progressive implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). This transformation is prompting educational institutions, families, and students alike to gradually adapt their academic and language learning choices.*

*Despite this transitional environment, we continue to observe strong student retention and high progression rates across our programmes, reflecting the confidence placed in the quality of our teaching and the added value of our educational offer in an increasingly internationalised world.*

**Frédéric Wolska**
***Academic Director***




## 1. French Language Courses

### 1.1 Evolution of Enrolments in French Language Courses

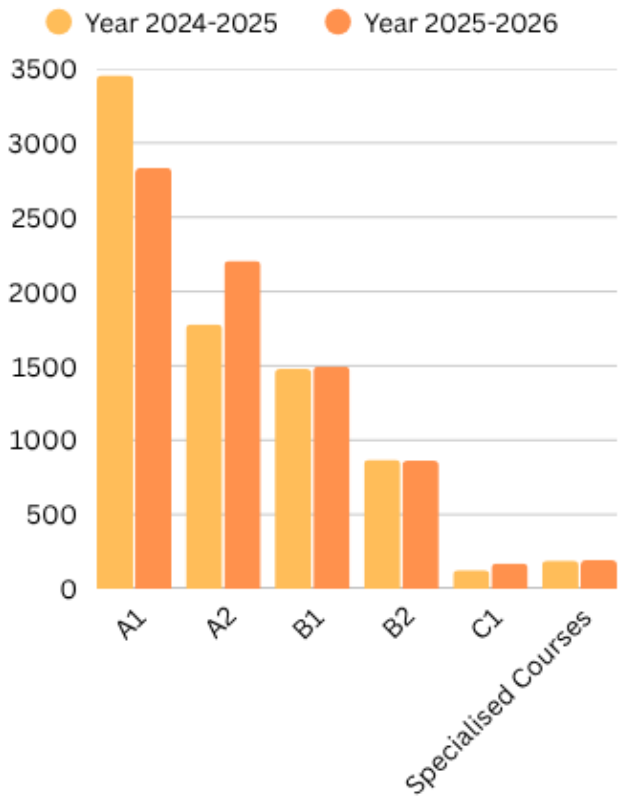
The overall downward trend in enrolments in French language courses appears to be continuing. During the 2025–2026 academic year, total enrolments declined by 2.72%, with 7,845 registrations recorded compared to 8,064 the previous year.

Competition from private language centres has continued to impact enrolments at the beginner level. Many competing providers attract prospective learners by offering shorter programmes at exceptionally low prices. Alliance Française de Delhi, however, remains firmly committed to maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning. Lowering academic requirements would inevitably compromise the quality of our programmes, and the institution cannot align itself with pricing models offered by independent tutors or training centres delivering courses that fall outside internationally recognised educational standards.

The gradual implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in schools following the CBSE curriculum has also contributed to a general decline in interest in foreign language

learning, with a corresponding impact on the demand for French language courses.
From an organisational perspective, the team responsible for welcoming and advising prospective students experienced a period of instability during the past academic year. Despite the sustained commitment of the administrative staff, this situation affected consistent follow-up of prospective learners and may have had an impact on conversion rates.

## REGISTRATIONS




A more detailed analysis of enrolment data reveals that several structural factors account for the overall decline in student numbers, highlighting changes in programme organisation as well as evolving market conditions rather than a loss of learner loyalty or confidence in the quality of our educational offer.

**1. A revised structure for Level A1**

Level A1 is covered by two 54-hour sessions, instead of three previously. The total instructional volume for this level has therefore been reduced from 162 hours to 108 hours, bringing it into line with the recommendations of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and international standards.

These figures demonstrate a strong level of student retention. The attrition rate between Levels A1 and A2 has decreased significantly compared with previous years, and the same trend can be observed between Levels A2 and B1.

Enrolments in Level C1 and specialised courses, particularly DELF examination preparation classes, also recorded modest growth, confirming learners' commitment to pursuing advanced French language proficiency.

**2. Growth in the Kids and Teens segment**

Enrolments in programmes for children and teenagers also continued to increase. Worldwide, this segment represents a key driver of sustainable growth for institutions specialising in French as a Foreign Language.

At Alliance Française de Delhi, enrolments in Kids and Teens programmes increased by 10% during the year and now account for nearly 9% of the student population, reflecting sustained growth over the past three years:

**2023–2024: 491 enrolments; 2024–2025: 620 enrolments; 2025–2026: 681 enrolments**

This positive trend is particularly encouraging and confirms the strategic importance of this segment for the institution's long-term development.






### 3. Corporate training

Demand for corporate language training declined significantly this year, with 85 enrolments, compared with 169 in the previous academic year.

Alliance Française de Delhi nevertheless continues to maintain long-standing partnerships with several loyal corporate clients, including Orange, Thales, and Hindu College. Renewed efforts will be required to revitalise this market segment and secure new partnerships.



*Signing of the MoU with Hindu College*

Conversely, the institution has experienced a growing demand for tailor-made individual training programmes, typically ranging from 20 to 40 hours.

The collaboration with the Lycée Français International de Delhi (LFID) continues successfully. Alliance Française de Delhi delivers two French language courses specifically designed for parents of enrolled students in LFID.

These classes are part of the formal partnership established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which also enables Alliance Française de Delhi to use LFID classrooms for weekend teaching activities, with an average of eight classrooms available each session, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Looking ahead**

Enrolment figures appear to have reached a plateau, which should now be regarded as the sector's new reality. In response, Alliance Française de Delhi continues to seize every opportunity to attract new audiences and has implemented a range of initiatives to support this objective.

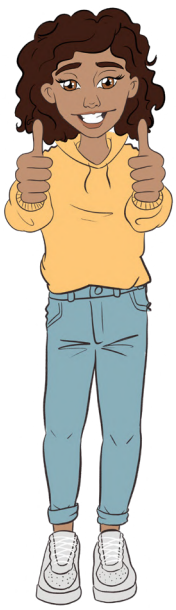
Open Days have been introduced to showcase the full breadth of the institution's activities—including language courses, Campus France services, cultural programming, translation services, and official certifications—while free demonstration classes allow prospective

learners to experience the quality of our pedagogical approach firsthand.

The link between French language learning and cultural engagement has also been strengthened. Teaching staff are systematically encouraged to integrate the cultural programme into classroom activities, highlighting one of Alliance Française de Delhi's greatest competitive advantages in an increasingly crowded language education market.

Thanks to its unique campus environment, Alliance Française de Delhi offers a truly immersive learning experience that distinguishes it from other language institutions.

Particular emphasis has also been placed on promoting thematic language workshops organised by the media library, heritage discovery activities, public reading sessions, and enriching interactions with diplomats, Francophone authors, researchers, French gastronomy professionals, and representatives of public institutions. These initiatives provide learners with authentic opportunities for enhancing their understanding of the French-speaking world.



***During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Alliance Française network in India also introduced an innovative new teaching tool: an AI-powered conversational chatbot developed by the French company Three Dots as part of the India–France Year of Innovation.Designed to complement classroom instruction, this solution enables learners to practise French through exercises, role plays, and simulations outside class time. The chatbot also supports teachers in implementing a flipped classroom approach, allowing classroom sessions to focus more extensively on interaction and communication while conceptual learning takes place independently.***

***The tool will be officially launched in September 2026 and is expected to enhance the attractiveness of our programmes, particularly among younger learners.***

Looking forward, future enrolment growth will depend on the institution's ability to attract new audiences—including children, teenagers, and professionals—through renewed marketing strategies, innovative programmes, and increasingly flexible learning formats. The establishment of a satellite centre in a high-visibility location on the outskirts of Delhi, such as a shopping mall or partner school, also represents a promising avenue for future development.

### 1.2. Change of Course Textbook




As part of its commitment to continuous quality improvement, the Alliance Française network in India introduced a new course textbook during the 2025–2026 academic year, replacing the **Cosmopolite** series, which had been in use for the past four years.

Within the quality assurance framework adopted by Alliance Française de Delhi, teaching materials are regularly renewed to ensure that learners benefit from the latest developments in language pedagogy and contemporary educational practices.

The new textbook, **INSPIRE**, published by **Hachette** FLE, was carefully selected by the academic directors and pedagogical coordinators of the Alliance Française network in India. It offers a structured learning pathway aligned with the pedagogical progression recommended for each CEFR level while providing teachers with sufficient flexibility to adapt teaching materials and classroom activities to the specific needs of their learners.

Students also benefit from an enhanced learning experience through a digitally enriched textbook that provides access to a wide range of complementary online resources via a dedicated application. In addition, the digital modules offer a personalised self-study pathway, enabling learners to consolidate their knowledge independently while receiving guidance from their teachers.

The adoption of these new textbook forms part of a broader strategy aimed at modernising teaching practices and fostering learner autonomy. It reinforces the institution's commitment to innovation and enables Alliance Française de Delhi to offer learning experiences that reflect the latest advances in French language education.

| Academic Year | Number of Individual Students | Annual Change | Number of Enrolments | Annual Change | Teaching Hours Delivered | Annual Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022–2023 | 4,878 | — | 8,170 | — | 681,445 | — |
| 2023–2024 | 4,551 | -6.70% | 8,167 | -0.04% | 679,009 | -0.36% |
| 2024–2025 | 4,524 | -0.59% | 8,064 | -1.26% | 663,765 | -2.24% |
| 2025–2026 | 4,513 | -0.24% | 7,845 | -2.72% | 620,827 | -6.46% |

### 1.3 Scholarship and Sponsorship Policy

Alliance Française de Delhi maintains a scholarship programme based on social criteria, awarding five scholarships each academic session to cover tuition fees for deserving learners.

Firmly convinced that learning French can serve as a catalyst for social mobility and create life-changing opportunities, the institution has, for the past two years, organised an annual fundraising initiative during its Grand Ball. The funds raised enable Alliance Française de Delhi to award six additional annual scholarships to young people from underprivileged backgrounds.

Through partnerships with three non-governmental organisations—**Tara, Jagriti, and Salaam Baalak Trust**—which work closely with disadvantaged communities, Alliance Française de Delhi offers six selected students the opportunity to undertake a full year of French language studies within its institution.

This initiative reflects the Alliance's commitment to making French language education more accessible and to supporting inclusion through education.

**Grand Ball 2026 sponsors:**

- *Goyal Publishers*
- *IFCCI*
- *Soufflet Malt*
- *Akila*
- *Delfingen*
- *Atithi Voyage*
- *Air France*
- *IDFC First Bank*



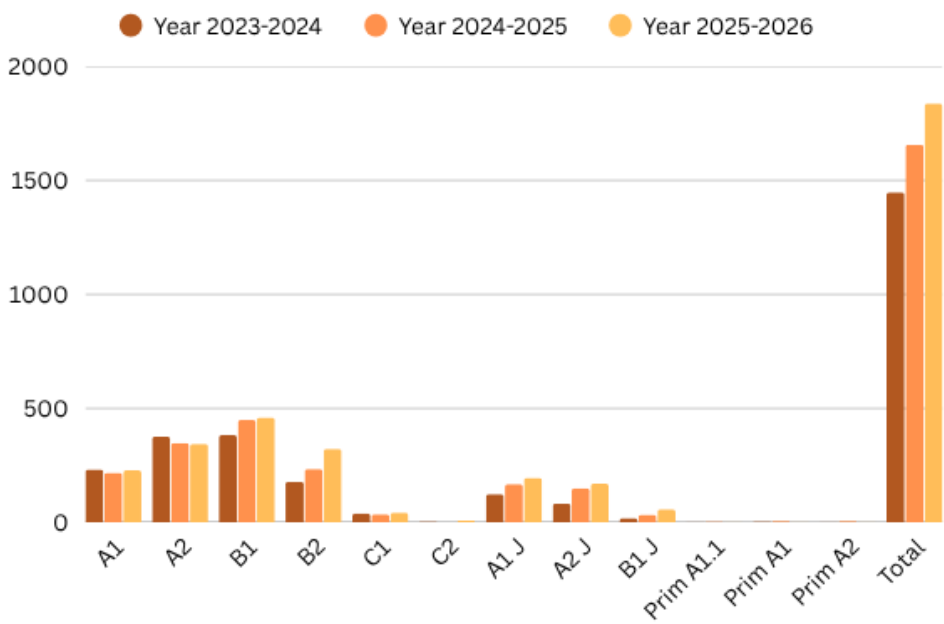
*Grand Ball scholarship students*

## 2. Certifications

### 2.1 DELF and DALF Certifications

The Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF) and the Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF) are official diplomas awarded by the French Ministry of National Education. Aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), these internationally recognised qualifications are valid for life and constitute the official benchmark for certifying proficiency in French.

Depending on the level obtained, DELF and DALF certifications significantly enhance employability in French, Indian, and international organisations where French language skills




| | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **1448** | **1656** | **1837** |

are valued. The DELF B1 diploma satisfies one of the language requirements for French nationality applications, while the DELF B2—and increasingly, the DALF C1—facilitates admission to French, European, and Francophone universities, as well as to many prestigious higher education institutions.

Specialised versions of the examination are also available for younger candidates: DELF Prim, designed for children aged 7 to 11; DELF Junior, intended for adolescents aged 12 to 17.

As the official DELF-DALF examination centre for New Delhi, Alliance Française de Delhi administers examinations at all proficiency levels, from A1 to C2.

## DELF-DALF Registrations

The examination centre recorded an 11% increase in registrations during the 2025–2026 academic year. Candidate numbers have now exceeded those recorded in 2022–2023 and are approaching pre-pandemic levels.

This positive growth reflects the success of the communication strategy developed together with the Alliance Française network in India and the Institut Français in India. Through targeted campaigns, we highlighted the importance of official language certifications for career opportunities and higher education in France, while also encouraging learners to achieve higher levels of French proficiency.





As an accredited examination centre, Alliance Française de Delhi also organises official mock examination sessions, enabling candidates to familiarise themselves with the examination format before registering and to reduce apprehension about the assessment process.

Regular communication campaigns—including live social media sessions, public presentations, sample examination activities, and preparation workshops—provide prospective candidates with practical guidance while also, promoting DELF and DALF as internationally recognised certifications, alongside the TEF and TCF, as one of the official means of demonstrating French language proficiency.

**2.2 TCF – Test de Connaissance du Français**

The Test de Connaissance du Français (TCF) is the official French language proficiency test developed by the French Ministry of National Education. It assesses the general French language skills of candidates whose first language is not French.
TCF is widely used for both academic purposes—including admission to French and Francophone universities, higher education institutions, and internship programmes—and professional or immigration purposes, where official certification of French language proficiency is required.

The test is recognised by numerous French and international authorities, including the Ministry of Immigration, Francisation and Integration of Québec (MIFI), higher education institutions, and accredited training organisations.

At Alliance Française de Delhi, the TCF Canada has become the principal examination offered, reflecting the growing number of candidates seeking to immigrate to Canada. Achieving a B2 level or above enables candidates to obtain valuable Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) points, significantly strengthening their application for permanent residency.

**TCF Canada Registrations**

Demand for the examination has continued to grow substantially. In response, Alliance Française de Delhi doubled the number of examination sessions from January 2026 onwards and increased seating capacity from 16 to 22 candidates per session.

These measures enabled the centre to administer examinations for 257 candidates, representing a 107% increase  increase compared with the previous academic year.

| Test | *2023-2024* | *2024-2025* | *2025-2026* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TCF Canada** | **60** | **124** | **257** |



*DELF/DALF Diploma Award Ceremony*

Despite this expansion, demand continues to exceed the centre's current capacity. To address this sustained growth, Alliance Française de Delhi is actively exploring partnerships to establish an additional off-site examination centre.

**3. Teacher Training**

**3.1 Initial Training of Teachers of French as a Foreign Language (FLE)**

Alliance Française de Delhi continues to play a leading role in the professional development of teachers of French as a Foreign Language through its long-standing partnership with the University of Le Mans (France).

The institution offers the DU FLE (University Diploma in French as a Foreign Language Teaching), a hybrid training programme combining guided online self-study, virtual classes, and three intensive one-week face-to-face sessions each year.
The 2025–2026 cohort comprises 11 participants.

This programme constitutes an essential source of highly qualified teachers trained in contemporary FLE pedagogy. Alliance Française de Delhi identifies high-potential graduates and further supports their professional development through a structured mentoring programme led by experienced senior teachers.

This strategy ensures the continuous renewal of the teaching staff while supporting a proactive approach to workforce planning and skills development.

During the 2025 calendar year, five graduates of the programme joined the teaching team of Alliance Française de Delhi.

### 3.2 Continuing Professional Development of Teachers

Investing in teachers means investing in the quality of student learning.
As every year, the teaching staff benefited from an extensive programme of continuing professional development designed to strengthen pedagogical expertise and keep pace with evolving methodologies in French language education.

Continuous training enables teachers to regularly update their classroom practices, remain informed of emerging pedagogical approaches, and maintain the high standards of teaching that distinguish Alliance Française de Delhi.

In addition to numerous online training opportunities—including webinars and courses organised by partners such as Alliance Française de Paris, France Éducation International, CAVILAM, and leading French language publishers—regular face-to-face professional development sessions were organised throughout the academic year.

In February 2026, a three-day pedagogical seminar brought together the entire teaching team around several key themes:



***• Teaching French for Professional Purposes versus General French: addressing the needs of specialised audiences;***
***• Contemporary developments in the French language: vocabulary and language usage in 2026;***
***• Designing assessment practices that promote learner success;***
***• Using literary texts in the FLE classroom;***
***• Integrating cinema and audiovisual resources into French language teaching.***
***• The seminar also included the dissemination of a training module completed at CAVILAM in France on: Positive Pedagogy and Learner Motivation***

**Two round-table discussions encouraged teachers to reflect collectively on their own professional practices:**
***• Summative assessment and end-of-level testing at Alliance Française de Delhi;***
***• Adapting and implementing the pedagogical progression of the new textbook INSPIRE for Levels A1 and A2.***

The teaching team also completed the training required for DELF-DALF examiner accreditation, including re-accreditation for existing examiners and progression to higher certification levels for others.

Today, all 57 teachers at Alliance Française de Delhi are accredited DELF-DALF examiners, while 4 senior teachers are authorised trainer-examiners responsible for certifying future examiners.

This accreditation process not only guarantees the reliability and integrity of examination marking but also strengthens teachers' expertise in language assessment and deepens their understanding of the competencies expected at each CEFR level.

***Distribution of Accredited Examiners by Level***

| *A1* | *A2* | *B1* | *B2* | *C1* | *C2* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *57* | *57* | *44* | *39* | *20* | *2* |

**3.3 Training and Workshops for the Institut Français in India**

Alliance Française de Delhi continues to strengthen its collaboration with the Institut Français in India (IFI) through its active contribution to the **French for All** teacher training programme (March 2024 – September 2026), a cooperation initiative aimed at enhancing the professional competencies of French language teachers in Indian schools.

As part of this programme,Alliance française de Delhi trainers delivered three weeks of intensive

face-to-face training for a cohort of 60 school teachers. These sessions complemented the distance-learning component coordinated by Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad, providing participants with valuable opportunities to develop their oral communication skills while engaging in workshops dedicated to French culture and intercultural awareness.

This blended approach combines pedagogical innovation with cultural immersion, contributing to the development of confident and well-rounded French language teachers.

Alliance Française de Delhi also plays a significant role in teacher training at the national level through the expertise of Sakshi Tandon, the institution's lead trainer for the Kids and Teens programme. As part of the CPAFP (Certificat du Professor de l'Alliance Française de Paris), the initial teacher training programme coordinated by Alliance Française de Paris, she has been leading for several years a specialised module focusing on the teaching of French as a Foreign Language to young learners.

Furthermore, within the framework of educational cooperation projects conducted with Indian schools, the teacher trainers of Alliance Française de Delhi are regularly called upon to deliver DELF examiner accreditation workshops, enabling French teachers across the country to become certified examiners and assessors for the official DELF examinations.

Through these various initiatives, Alliance Française de Delhi reaffirms its role as a centre of excellence in teacher education and pedagogical innovation, contributing actively to the development and professionalisation of French language teaching throughout India.



*French for All teacher training programme*

**4. Francophonie**

Throughout March 2026, Alliance Française de Delhi celebrated the **Month of Francophonie** through rich and diverse programmes of cultural and educational events, reaffirming its commitment to promoting the French language and the diversity of the French-speaking world.




The highlight of the celebrations was the Francophonie Mela, held on **28 March**, which attracted more than **2,500 visitors** over the course of the day, making it one of the institution's flagship public events.

The morning programme was dedicated to inter-school competitions, providing young learners with a platform to showcase their French language skills and creativity while strengthening the visibility and outreach of the Alliance Française campus among school communities.



Year after year, the event continues to expand, with an increasingly diverse programme and a growing number of exhibitors and activities spread across the campus. Alongside the participation of embassies representing French-speaking countries, countries where French is an official language, and member states of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the redesigned event layout enabled visitors to enjoy an even wider range of experiences, including a convivial food court, dance performances, games, and interactive cultural activities.




The **Model United Nations (MUN)** in French, organised by the teaching team in collaboration with students, once again proved to be one of the most popular events of the programme. It offered participants the opportunity to demonstrate their eloquence and critical thinking while debating major global issues entirely in French, earning widespread recognition from audiences for the exceptional linguistic proficiency and intellectual engagement displayed throughout the discussions.


Just A Minute (JAM)

Several new activities enriched this year's edition and were enthusiastically received by participants. These included **"Just A Minute" (JAM)**, a public speaking competition challenging contestants to speak spontaneously for one minute, a Francophone karaoke session, and the day's most acclaimed attraction: a French-language escape game entirely conceived and facilitated by the teaching team of Alliance Française de Delhi.

Recognising that a single day is not sufficient to celebrate the richness of the French-speaking world, Alliance Française de Delhi devotes the entire month of March to a wide-ranging programme dedicated to Francophonie.

The 2026 edition featured four major highlights:

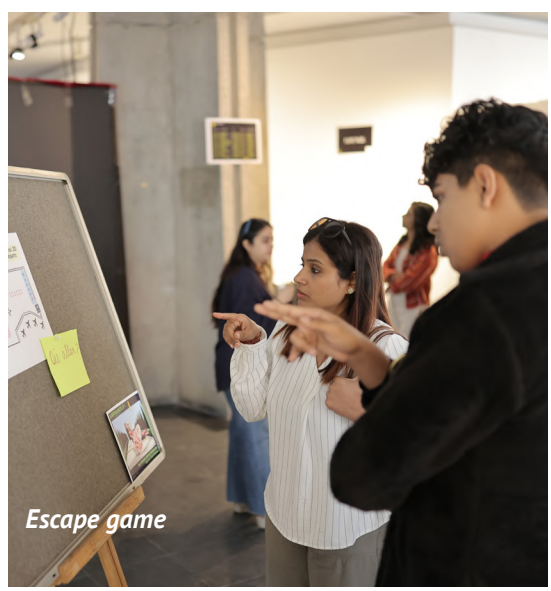
- ***The Grand Dictation Competition, bringing together enthusiasts of the French language and spelling in a friendly yet demanding linguistic challenge***

- ***A literary competition organised in partnership with the Institut Français in India, paying tribute to André Malraux on the occasion of the centenary of his birth***

- ***The second edition of La Fête du court métrage (Short Film Festival) in Delhi, dedicated to promoting short films to a broad audience through three days of screenings, including public sessions as well as special screenings for Alliance Française de Delhi students and pupils from the Lycée Français International de Delhi.***

- ***The Romain Rolland Gallery was also transformed into an immersive French-language escape game, where teams were challenged to identify the perpetrator of a jewellery theft at Charles de Gaulle Airport in under forty minutes. This collaborative and educational experience proved highly popular among learners and successfully combined language practice, cultural discovery, and teamwork.***

Designed for participants at two different proficiency levels, the activity reflected the pedagogical creativity of the teaching team, whose remarkable commitment contributed significantly to the success of the event.


*Escape game*

Through these initiatives, Alliance Française de Delhi continues to position itself as a leading centre for the promotion of the French language and Francophone cultures in India, offering learners and the wider public meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange, creativity, and linguistic immersion beyond the classroom.

# TRANSLATION CELL




*Mr. Manmeet Singh interpreting for a training between National Security Guard (NSG, India) & GIGN French Intervention group (France).*

## Introduction and Annual Performance Overview

- Established in 1989, the Translation & Interpretation Cell has consistently expanded its scope and capabilities, building a distinguished reputation for quality and reliability. Over the decades, it has successfully undertaken a wide array of prestigious assignments spanning translation, interpretation, dubbing, and other language services across diverse sectors. The Cell is supported by a highly skilled team of **10 certified language professionals,** who also serve as teachers at Alliance Française de Delhi. Their expertise, commitment, and professionalism play a vital role in ensuring the smooth and successful delivery of every project.

- During the financial year 2025–26, the Translation & Interpretation Cell continued its upward trajectory, recording another year of strong performance and sustained growth with 17% increment, with revenues surpassing ₹70 lakh. Throughout the year, the Cell successfully executed a diverse portfolio of prestigious translation and interpretation for clients across public and private sectors. The period also witnessed the establishment of several new collaborations with esteemed organizations, including - SUEZ India Pvt. Ltd, Axens, Eradicatus Infectus Private Limited, Ministry of Education, High Court, UNICEF, French Ministry for the Armed Forces, Service de Sécurité Intérieure (SSI) of the Embassy of France, Senate of the French Republic and the Parliament of India.

- The Interpretation Division also continued to strengthen its position as a trusted language partner for governments, diplomatic missions, international organizations, and judicial institutions. During the year, the Division successfully delivered a series of high-profile simultaneous and consecutive interpretation assignments involving senior government officials, diplomats, military personnel, legal experts, and international delegates, further consolidating the Cell's reputation as a premier provider of professional interpretation services in India. Through its commitment to excellence, confidentiality, and professional standards, the Interpretation Division continues to serve as a vital bridge for international cooperation and cross-cultural communication

## Translation Assignments

- A steady rise in the number of Indian students seeking higher education opportunities in France has resulted in a corresponding increase in the demand for administrative translation services. This growth is anticipated to continue, driven by the French government's sustained efforts to internationalize its higher education system and promote France as a preferred destination for global talent.

- A significant translation assignment was successfully completed for Axens, involving the translation of the company's audited financial statements. The project required meticulous handling of complex financial terminology, accounting disclosures, auditors' observations, and regulatory reporting requirements. Our team ensured complete accuracy and consistency throughout the translation process, preserving the integrity of the financial information while adhering to the highest standards of professional and financial translation.

- The Cell also successfully undertook a specialized legal and financial translation assignment for Eradicatus Infectus Private Limited. The project involved the translation of complex legal agreements, corporate records, financial statements, and supporting regulatory documentation. Given the sensitive nature of the material, particular attention was paid to maintaining terminological accuracy, legal validity, and financial precision throughout the translation process.

- Another major financial translation assignment was successfully completed for SUEZ India Pvt. Ltd., involving the translation of the company's audited documents. The project encompassed detailed financial statements, auditor reports, notes to accounts, and supporting corporate disclosures.

- To add another feather to our hat a prestigious translation assignment was undertaken for the Ministry of Education, Government of India, involving the translation of a coffee table book showcasing innovative Indian start-ups under the Bharat Innovates initiative.



*Our Interpreter Mr Prabhjot Singh, interpreting for the French delegation at the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy (PRIDE).*

The publication highlighted the achievements, technological advancements, and entrepreneurial success stories of emerging Indian enterprises across diverse sectors. The translated edition was prepared in connection with the inauguration of the Indian Consulate in Nice, France, by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The project demanded exceptional linguistic quality, cultural sensitivity, and stylistic refinement. The successful completion of this assignment underscored the Cell's expertise in handling high-visibility governmental publications that promote India's innovation ecosystem on the global stage.

## Interpretation Assignments

- One of the most prestigious assignments of the year was the provision of interpretation services for the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) hosted by the High Court in November 2025. The event brought together eminent judges, legal scholars, and judicial administrators from across the world to discuss developments in international commercial jurisprudence. Our interpreters facilitated seamless multilingual communication, ensuring effective participation and exchange of expertise among delegates.

- The Cell was entrusted by UNICEF with interpretation services for a series of bilateral engagements involving high-ranking officials from the Governments of India and Benin. These meetings, held in both New Delhi and Lucknow, focused on developmental cooperation, child welfare initiatives, public health, education, and social protection

programmes. Our interpreter played a crucial role in enabling accurate communication during policy discussions and official consultations.

- Another landmark assignment involved providing interpretation services during the official visit of the French Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans in Bangalore. The engagement, coordinated in collaboration with the French Cabinet Ministry of Arms, required highly specialized interpretation in the domains of defence cooperation, strategic partnerships, military technology, and bilateral relations. The successful execution of this assignment further reinforced the Cell's expertise in handling sensitive defence and diplomatic engagements.

- The Interpretation Division also partnered with Business France during the India AI Summit, facilitating communication between French and Indian stakeholders from the fields of artificial intelligence, innovation, technology, investment, and research. The assignment involved multilingual exchanges among industry leaders, government representatives, entrepreneurs, and academic experts, contributing to productive discussions on emerging technologies and international collaboration.

- In collaboration with the Service de Sécurité Intérieure (SSI) of the Embassy of France, the Cell provided interpretation services for a specialized training programme conducted between India's National Security Guard (NSG) and France's Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale (GIGN). This highly confidential assignment required interpreters with expertise in security, tactical operations, crisis management, and law enforcement terminology. The programme was successfully conducted with complete linguistic accuracy and professional discretion.

- The Cell was also honoured to support the official delegation of the Senate of the French Republic during its visit to New Delhi. Interpretation services were provided for high-level meetings and discussions with Indian governmental and institutional counterparts. The assignment reflected the growing confidence placed in the Cell for facilitating diplomatic dialogue and strengthening bilateral relations between India and France.

- Further cementing its standing as a trusted service provider, the interpretation services were provided for a parliamentary delegation from a French-speaking country during its official visit to the Parliament of India. The delegation participated in a capacity-building and training programme organized by the In-House Training Section of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The assignment involved facilitating discussions on parliamentary procedures, legislative practices, committee systems, administrative functions, and democratic governance. Our interpreters ensured clear and accurate communication throughout the programme, contributing to meaningful knowledge exchange and strengthening institutional cooperation between the participating parliamentary bodies.

# FLAGSHIP EVENTS

## Francophonie celebrations

Each March, Alliance Française de Delhi celebrates the diversity, creativity, and shared values of the Francophone world through its flagship Francophonie Celebrations—a month-long programme dedicated to the French language and the cultures of French-speaking countries.




Throughout the month, audiences discovered the diversity of Francophone storytelling through the Francophonie Film Festival, which presented a curated selection of films from French-speaking countries, offering unique perspectives on contemporary society, history, and culture while strengthening cinematic dialogue across borders.
A highlight of the celebrations was the much-anticipated Francophonie Mela, which once again brought together diplomatic missions representing Francophone countries for a lively day of cultural exchange.

The annual La Fête du Court Métrage (Short Film Festival) continued to champion the art of short filmmaking by presenting a carefully curated programme that introduced audiences to emerging voices and innovative cinematic narratives. Through accessible screenings open to students, families, and cinema enthusiasts, the festival reaffirmed Alliance Française de Delhi's commitment to nurturing appreciation for short-form cinema and expanding access to French and Francophone audiovisual culture.

The celebrations also embraced literature, visual arts, and the performing arts. The exhibition Paani Ki Kahani explored humanity's relationship with water through contemporary artistic expression, while the concert by Nila Pahad blended musical traditions from across India to celebrate water as both a cultural and ecological resource.

The performing arts programme featured a powerful staging of The Father (Le Père), inviting audiences to reflect on memory, identity, and the human experience through contemporary theatre. Complementing these artistic experiences were a range of educational and community-focused activities that encouraged language learning, intercultural dialogue, and active public participation throughout the month.

More than a festival, it remains an annual celebration of linguistic diversity, creativity, and the enduring cultural connections that unite people across continents.




High Commission of
Togo


High Commission of
Togo
TOGO





# Grand Ball

The Grand Ball remains one of Alliance Française de Delhi's most anticipated annual fundraising and cultural events, bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, corporate leaders, patrons of the arts, alumni, and friends of the Alliance in celebration of Indo-French friendship and cultural exchange.

Held on 30 May 2026 at the iconic The Imperial, New Delhi, this year's Grand Ball marked a particularly significant occasion as it formed part of the institution's 70th anniversary celebrations with the theme French as a life changer. The evening brought together elegance, philanthropy, and community in a setting that reflected the enduring spirit of the Alliance. Guests enjoyed an exceptional programme featuring live music, dance, fine dining, and immersive cultural experiences, creating an atmosphere that celebrated both French art de vivre and the vibrant cultural connections between France and India.

More than a social gathering, the Grand Ball continued to serve a meaningful purpose by raising funds in support of Alliance Française de Delhi's educational initiatives, help providing access to French language learning opportunities for underprivileged children. The generosity of donors, partners, sponsors, and guests reaffirmed the community's shared commitment to education and cultural exchange.




Scan the QR to
watch the video


BALL
2026
GRAND








## 70 YEARS OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DELHI

# GRAND BALL

## RISE

RISE – Re-Imagining School Education has established itself as one of Alliance Française de Delhi's most influential educational initiatives, bringing together educators, students, policymakers, researchers, designers, artists, and innovators to reimagine the future of learning. Rooted in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the annual thought exchange continues to explore how education can respond to an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world.

The third edition of RISE, held in November 2025, focused on The Role of the Arts and Design for Innovation under the broader theme of Global Citizenship. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, and interactive learning experiences, the festival explored how creativity, design thinking, and artistic practice can transform education while equipping young people with the skills needed for the future.

Participants engaged with contemporary questions surrounding creativity in education, sustainable development, critical thinking, and the role of culture in shaping responsible global citizens.

A highlight of this year's edition was the unveiling of the official RISE mascot, designed in collaboration with students and faculty from The Design Village (TDV). Symbolising imagination, collaboration, and innovation, the mascot reflected the festival's commitment to placing creativity at the centre of learning.

As one of Alliance Française de Delhi's flagship educational programmes, RISE continues to extend learning beyond the classroom by connecting education with culture, design, technology, and the arts




Liberté
Amour




RISE
REIMAGINING SCHOOL EDUCATION
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP FESTIVAL
BASED ON UN SDG GOALS
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DELHI CAMPUS


pixel

## Rencontres du Toit du Monde

Rencontres du Toit du Monde (Meeting on the Rooftop of the World) has become one of Alliance Française de Delhi's most distinctive flagship initiatives, celebrating the extraordinary cultural, historical, and ecological heritage of the Himalayan region. Conceived as a multidisciplinary platform, the programme brings together scholars, filmmakers, photographers, writers, spiritual leaders, environmentalists, and explorers to foster dialogue around one of the world's most remarkable mountain landscapes.

This year's edition continued that vision through a compelling programme of talks, film screenings, and artistic encounters.




A highlight was **Alexandra David-Néel – A Journey into Sikkim**, an evening celebrating the extraordinary legacy of the pioneering French explorer, writer, and Buddhist scholar. Through insightful presentations and discussions, audiences rediscovered her remarkable journeys across the Himalayas and her enduring contribution to the understanding of Himalayan cultures and spirituality.




The series also welcomed **H.E. Yangsi Kalu Rinpoche**, whose visit offered audiences a rare opportunity to engage with Buddhist philosophy, compassion, and contemporary spiritual thought. The evening was complemented by a screening and exhibition of Echoes of Devotion by acclaimed photographer Max Vadukul, creating a thoughtful dialogue between visual storytelling, spirituality, and lived cultural traditions.






***Through these encounters, Rencontres du Toit du Monde once again demonstrated Alliance Française de Delhi's ability to bring together diverse disciplines and perspectives under a shared commitment to cultural discovery.***

# France–India Year of Innovation 2026

The India–France Year of Innovation 2026 marks a bold new chapter in the global and special strategic partnership between France and India, placing innovation at the heart of the relationship.

The France–India Year of Innovation was reflected across Alliance Française de Delhi's multidisciplinary cultural and educational programming, bringing together art, music, technology, and new approaches to learning.

The visual arts programme featured **Spacescapes**, a solo exhibition by renowned painter Sujata Bajaj, exploring colour, rhythm, and meditative space through expressive abstraction. **Palais d'Or**, by French artist **Thomas Henriot**, brought together craftsmanship, material research, and technology, highlighting new possibilities in textile design and strengthening artistic dialogue between France and India.

The programme also explored innovative forms of audience engagement through **bAlllAd,** an immersive performance that transformed public space into a living stage, inviting audiences to participate in a journey of movement, sound, and storytelling. **Paani Ki Kahani,** presented during the Francophonie celebrations, combined visual art, storytelling, and music to explore humanity's relationship with water, connecting ecological resilience with cultural memory and collective responsibility.

***Innovation also extended to French language education, with the Alliance Française network in India introducing Emma, an AI-powered conversational chatbot developed by French company Three Dots. Designed to complement classroom learning, Emma enables learners to practise French through conversations, exercises, role plays, and simulations beyond classroom hours, while supporting teachers in adopting more interactive and communication-focused teaching approaches***





Spacescapes by Sujata Bajaj



Palais d'Or by Thomas Henriot



bAlllAd

# Dignitary Visits at AFD

## Visit of the President of the French Republic Mr. Emmanuel Macron



A defining moment of the year was the visit of President Emmanuel Macron to AIIMS, where Alliance Française de Delhi was honoured to participate.

A delegation of staff members and French-learning students proudly represented the institution and warmly welcomed the President.

***Highlights***

- Representation of Alliance Française de Delhi at a landmark diplomatic event
- Participation of students and staff in welcoming the President
- Showcase of the enthusiasm and diversity of Delhi's French-learning community
- Recognition of Alliance Française de Delhi within the broader framework of Franco-Indian cooperation



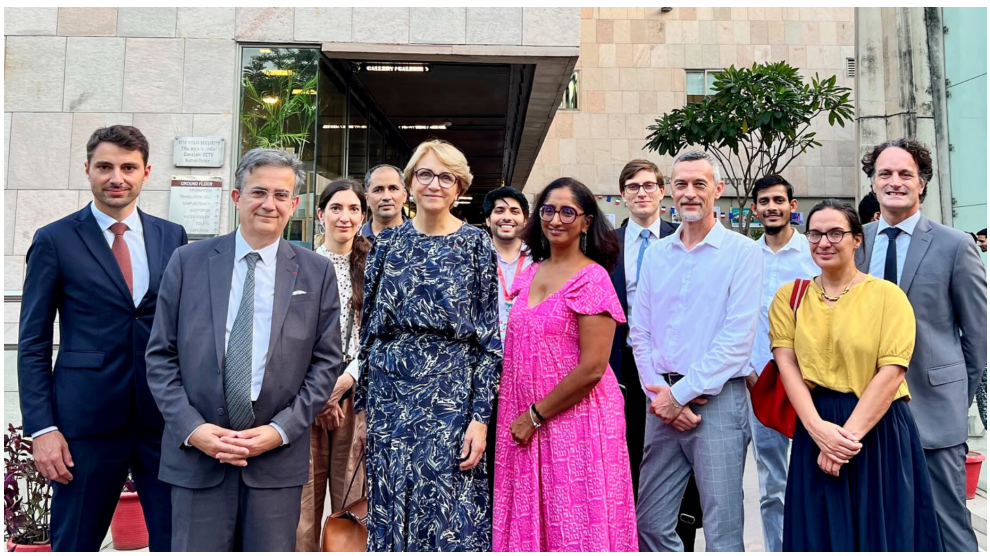
## Visit of Ms. Anne-Marie Descôtes
## Secretary-General, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Alliance Française de Delhi was honoured to welcome Ms. Anne-Marie Descôtes, who met members of our community, visited the institution's various departments, and gained first-hand insight into our educational and cultural initiatives.

***Highlights***

- Interaction with students, faculty, and staff
- Visit to academic, cultural, and library facilities
- Discussions on the role of Alliance Française in promoting French language and culture in India

Her visit further strengthened the close relationship between Alliance Française de Delhi and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.'



***The year 2025–2026 was marked by several high-profile visits from eminent French dignitaries, underscoring the enduring partnership between France and India and reaffirming Alliance Française de Delhi's role as a leading centre for French language, culture, and intellectual exchange.***

## Visit of Ms. Céline Malraux
## Author and granddaughter of André Malraux

Alliance Française de Delhi had the privilege of welcoming Ms. Céline Malraux for an inspiring literary interaction with students in the Library Workshop Area.
Reflecting on the enduring legacy of André Malraux—writer, philosopher, Resistance fighter, and France's first Minister of Culture—she encouraged thoughtful discussions on literature, history, freedom, and fraternity.

***Highlights***

- Interactive conversation with students
- Exploration of André Malraux's intellectual and cultural legacy
- Exchange on literature, translation, and contemporary French thought
- An enriching addition to the institution's cultural programme

Each visit reaffirmed our shared commitment to education, cultural dialogue, and the continued strengthening of the longstanding friendship between France and India.



# CULTURE







*The past year has been one of celebration, innovation, and renewed purpose for the Cultural Department of Alliance Française de Delhi. Marking the institution's 70th anniversary offered us an opportunity not only to reflect on our rich history but also to imagine the future of cultural exchange. From cinema and music to exhibitions, discussions, and interdisciplinary festivals, each initiative was conceived to encourage dialogue, celebrate artistic excellence, and create lasting connections between India, France, and the wider world. It is my pleasure to present the cultural highlights of this milestone year.*

*- Shailja Negi*
*Head of Culture, Alliance Française de Delhi*

# *70 years of*
# *Alliance Française de Delhi*

***Celebrating Seven Decades of Language, Culture and Connection***

For seventy years, Alliance Française de Delhi has served as a vibrant meeting point between India and France—where language opens doors, culture builds bridges, and ideas inspire lasting connections. Since its establishment in 1956, the institution has welcomed generations of students, artists, educators, writers, musicians, filmmakers, and cultural enthusiasts, becoming one of India's leading centres for French language education and Indo-French cultural exchange.

The 2025–2026 season marked a significant milestone as Alliance Française de Delhi celebrated its 70th anniversary with a year-long programme that honoured its rich legacy while looking confidently towards the future.

One of the year's most memorable initiatives was **AFD Unscripted: Alumni Edition**, where former students shared personal stories of how learning French at Alliance Française de Delhi shaped their academic journeys, careers, friendships, and global experiences. Among the featured alumni was **Ravi Saxena**, Founder & CEO of Wonderchef, who shared his personal experience of learning French at Alliance Française de Delhi.



Extending these conversations beyond the stage, the **Human Library** transformed alumni into "living books", inviting visitors to engage in intimate one-on-one discussions about their experiences, aspirations, and professional journeys. This innovative format celebrated storytelling as a tool for learning, empathy, and community building while highlighting the many pathways that begin with learning French.

Music also played an important role in the celebrations. The concert by **Bhaadri & Ayashi,** inspired by the musical traditions of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Assam, beautifully complemented the anniversary programme by exploring themes of memory, belonging, and cultural journeys.

The anniversary year also celebrated Alliance Française de Delhi's spirit of creativity through unique interdisciplinary experiences. The immersive exhibition **De la Terre à l'Âme (From the Soil to the Soul)** invited audiences to reflect on sustainability, heritage, and collective memory through contemporary art inspired by traditional knowledge systems. Meanwhile, **Gourmet Cinema**—presented in collaboration with The Piano Man—offered a distinctive cultural experience where cinema and gastronomy came together through a special screening of **Queen (2013)**, demonstrating how artistic disciplines can intersect to create meaningful shared experiences.

The 70th anniversary was ultimately a celebration not only of the institution's remarkable history but also of the people who have shaped it over seven decades—students, teachers, artists, partners, members, and audiences whose collective contributions continue to define the Alliance Française de Delhi community.






De la Terre à l'Âme




## IDAHOBIT & Pride Month celebrations

Alliance Française de Delhi's annual celebration of **IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia)** and Pride Month reflects the institution's enduring commitment to fostering inclusion, diversity, and respectful dialogue through culture.

The 2026 IDAHOBIT Week presented a thoughtful programme of discussions, performances, and community events that brought together writers, artists, activists, academics, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. A highlight was the panel discussion, **Stories in Transition: Trans Identity in Literature and Graphic Novels** presented with the French Embassy & French Institute in India, which explored the power of storytelling to challenge stereotypes, foster visibility, and deepen public understanding of trans and queer experiences.

In collaboration with the Dwijen Dinanath Arts Foundation, Alliance Française de Delhi also presented **Fear Not – Dispelling Phobia, Fostering Belonging**, a two-day cultural programme featuring films, music, stand-up comedy, and poetry. Through artistic expression and shared experiences, the event celebrated community, encouraged conversations around identity and acceptance, and reinforced the importance of creating inclusive cultural spaces.

The celebration continued into The Pride Month, with a special edition of the AFD Ciné Club dedicated to stories of identity, belonging, love, and self-discovery. A curated series of French and international films—including La Pampa, All the Colours of the World Are Between Black and White, and Le Retour (Homecoming)—invited audiences to engage with

diverse perspectives on relationships, acceptance, and the many ways people experience and express themselves.

By combining dialogue, artistic practice, and community participation, IDAHOBIT and Pride Month have become an important part of Alliance Française de Delhi's cultural calendar.

***Delhi premiere of Sabar Bonda, featuring a Q&A with writer-director Rohan Parashuram Kanawade and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Shaunak Sen.***







## Cinema

Our regular Ciné Club remained a cornerstone of the year's activities, offering audiences carefully curated screenings of French and Francophone films across a wide range of genres.

The year was marked by a particularly strong commitment to independent cinema through our ongoing collaboration with the **Aravali International Film Festival**. Monthly screenings brought acclaimed filmmakers and audiences together through films such as GAIA, Rabia and Olivia, Mirage, Dream Factory, Better Days, Bhav Bhagwan Che, In Silence, Distant, Lost World 2020, and Soft Floating in the Fields of Spheres.

Our partnership with the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH) continued through the **Indie Talkies** series, which presented thought-provoking films including Humans in the Loop,

Feminichi Fathima, and Shape of Momo, exploring themes ranging from technology and artificial intelligence to gender, identity, and cultural transformation.

In partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine and French Embassy, Alliance Française de Delhi presented special screening of Haytarma and Pamfir respectively, the latter accompanied by an interaction with producer Laura Briand. ‘

Alliance Française de Delhi presented the Delhi premiere of **Sabar Bonda**, featuring a thought-provoking Q&A with writer-director Rohan Parashuram Kanawade and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Shaunak Sen. The institution also hosted the exclusive India premiere of Agra, directed by Kanu Behl, followed by a special meet-and-greet with actor Aanchal Goswami, who shared behind-the-scenes insights into the making of the film. Together, these events reinforced AFD’s commitment to championing independent cinema and creating meaningful exchanges between filmmakers, artists, and audiences

The festive season concluded with a Christmas Film Cycle that welcomed families and cinephiles alike through a selection of heartwarming films celebrating imagination, music, and togetherness.

Cinema also played an integral role in several of Alliance Française de Delhi’s flagship festivals. The Francophonie Film Festival showcased an exceptional selection of films from across the Francophone world. The annual La Fête du Court Métrage (Short Film Festival) continued to introduce audiences of all ages to the richness and creativity of short-form filmmaking.

**Music**

A major highlight of the year was the celebration of Fête de la Musique, France’s iconic festival dedicated to the universal language of music. Marking both World Music Day and the institution’s 70th anniversary, Alliance Française de Delhi presented a rich and varied programme that reflected the diversity of contemporary musical expression.

Throughout the year, audiences were introduced to an extraordinary range of musical traditions from across the world. The concert A Night of Classical Music from Vienna brought the timeless works of Mozart, Chopin, Strauss, Paderewski, Różycki, and other great composers to Delhi.

Alliance Française de Delhi presented a unique cine-concert experience featuring René Clair’s 1924 silent film **Paris qui dort**, accompanied by an electrifying live score by French



Yarol Poupaud



KAFMARON



Paris qui dort

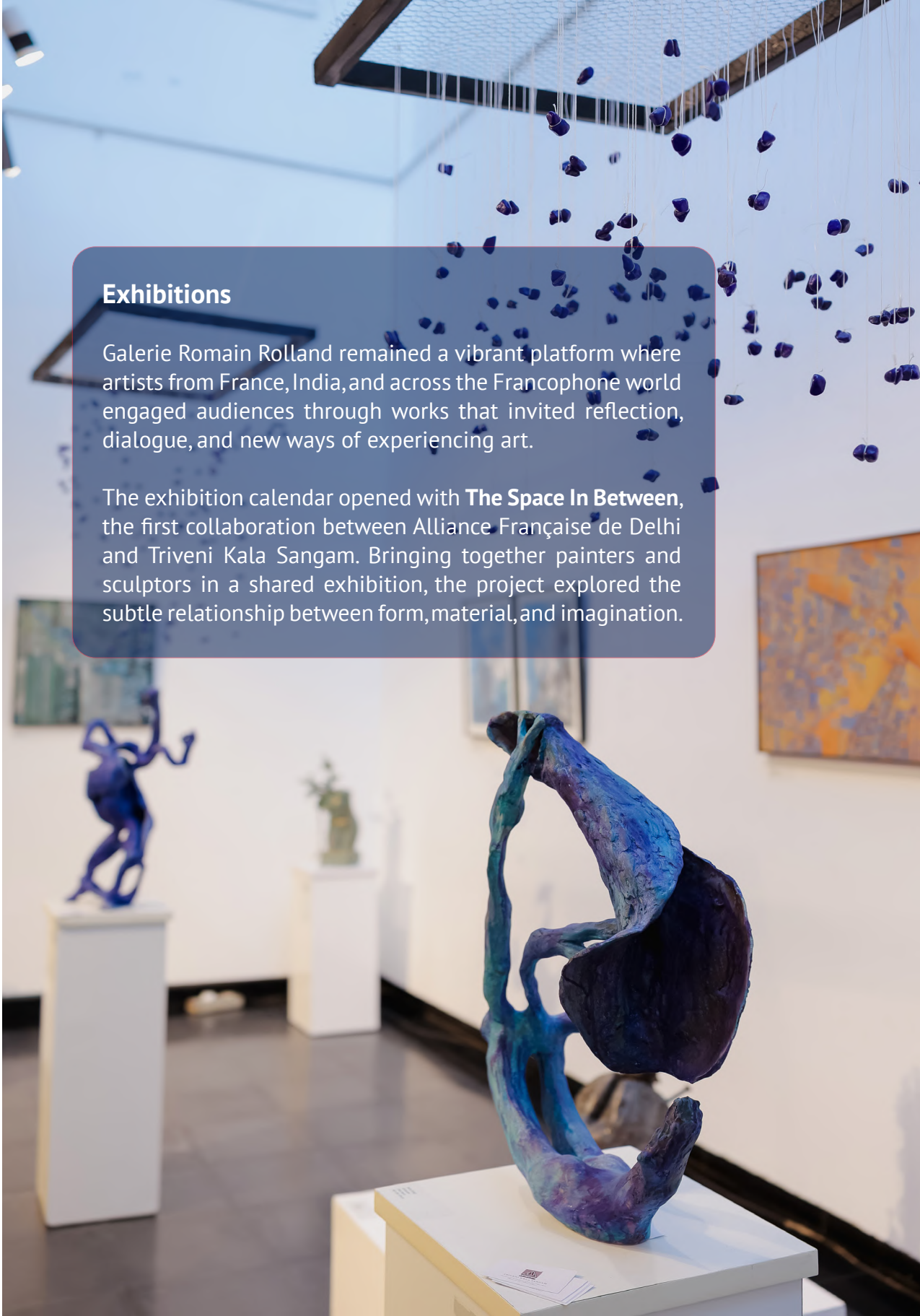
percussionist Stéphane Scharlé on augmented drums. Blending silent cinema with contemporary musical innovation, the performance transformed the classic film into an immersive audiovisual experience.

October witnessed a remarkable cultural exchange through the arrival of **KAFMARON,** the acclaimed ensemble from Réunion Island. Blending the island's rich musical heritage with contemporary influences, the concert offered audiences an immersive journey into the rhythms and traditions of the Indian Ocean, reinforcing Alliance Française de Delhi's commitment to introducing lesser-known Francophone cultures to Indian audiences.

Later in the season, pianist Dimitri Malignan and soprano Elizaveta Agrafenina captivated audiences through **Elegies and Echoes**, an evocative recital celebrating the intimate dialogue between voice and piano across the European classical tradition.

One of the year's most anticipated musical events was the Delhi debut of celebrated French guitarist and composer **Yarol Poupaud**. His electrifying concert at The Piano Man introduced audiences to his distinctive fusion of rock, blues, and funk, while a subsequent collaborative performance with **DHOAD – Gypsies of Rajasthan** at Triveni Kala Sangam created a remarkable musical dialogue between French rock and the rich traditions of Rajasthani folk music.





## Exhibitions

Galerie Romain Rolland remained a vibrant platform where artists from France, India, and across the Francophone world engaged audiences through works that invited reflection, dialogue, and new ways of experiencing art.

The exhibition calendar opened with **The Space In Between**, the first collaboration between Alliance Française de Delhi and Triveni Kala Sangam. Bringing together painters and sculptors in a shared exhibition, the project explored the subtle relationship between form, material, and imagination.

As part of its ongoing commitment to showcasing contemporary Francophone voices, Alliance Française de Delhi welcomed acclaimed artist Ysabelle Gomez from Réunion Island with her solo exhibition **DIG DIG.** The exhibition formed part of a broader celebration of Réunion Island's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

**Home Away from Home (Le geste juste)**, an installation by Mario D'Souza, invited audiences into a deeply personal reflection on migration, belonging, and memory, demonstrating the power of installation art to create intimate encounters between artist and viewer.

The institution further expanded its commitment to public art through **Wall Art India 2026**, welcoming French street artist Kesadi to Delhi at Lady Shri Ram College for Women.



Wall Art Festival 2026



Home Away from Home by Mario D'Souza

## Theatre

Throughout the year, Alliance Française de Delhi continued to champion the performing arts as a powerful medium for cultural exchange, artistic experimentation, and public engagement.

The year's theatre programme celebrated both classical repertoire and contemporary storytelling. **Comédies à deux voix**, performed by the students of Alliance Française de Delhi, paid tribute to some of France's most celebrated playwrights, including Molière, Marivaux, and Samuel Beckett. Through witty dialogues, humour, and timeless reflections on love, power, and the human condition, the production showcased not only the students' linguistic achievements but also the enduring vitality of French theatre.

The institution continued to support innovative international productions through **Songs of Hawkers**, directed by French theatre practitioner Zazie Hayoun. Blending theatre, puppetry, music, dance, and the nineteenth-century French tradition of Grand Guignol, the production offered a vibrant and humorous reflection on the lives of street vendors and the essential role they play in shaping urban communities.



Songs of Hawkers

## EUNIC Cluster

As an active member and President of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Cluster Delhi, Alliance Française de Delhi continued to strengthen cultural cooperation between European cultural institutes and Indian audiences through collaborative programmes that celebrated creativity, diversity, and shared European values.

Working alongside fellow EUNIC members and European diplomatic missions, the Alliance contributed to initiatives that promoted intercultural dialogue while highlighting the richness of Europe's artistic, linguistic, and cultural landscape. Our Director, **Patricia Loison**, currently serves as **President** of the EUNIC India - Delhi Cluster, strengthening collaboration among European cultural institutions and fostering cultural dialogue in India.

**Long Night of Literature**, one of EUNIC's flagship literary events brought together acclaimed authors, translators, actors, and diplomats from across Europe, the evening celebrated the richness of contemporary European literature through live readings of literary works in their original languages alongside English translations. This unique multilingual experience invited audiences to journey across diverse literary traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation for the power of storytelling to transcend borders and connect cultures.



**Long Night of LiteratureS**

Alliance Française de Delhi also played an active role in the celebrations of **Europe Day**, an annual initiative that celebrates the unity, diversity, and shared values of the European Union. Organised in collaboration with the EUNIC Cluster and European embassies, the celebration featured the popular Europe in Motion Bus, which invited participants to travel between Delhi's leading European cultural institutes, including Alliance Française de Delhi. At each stop, visitors experienced a unique programme of exhibitions, performances, workshops, language activities, film screenings, and interactive sessions, offering an immersive journey through the diverse cultures, languages, and artistic traditions of Europe.

Through its continued engagement with the EUNIC Cluster, Alliance Française de Delhi reaffirmed its commitment to cultural diplomacy and international partnership.









Europe Day

## Novembre Numérique

As part of Novembre Numérique (Digital November), Alliance Française de Delhi was transformed into an immersive laboratory of digital creativity with **Fortune Teller,** an interactive installation combining projection mapping and augmented reality. The exhibition invited visitors to engage with responsive Nature Spirits that appeared, moved, and reacted to their presence, each revealing a poetic message inspired by the rhythms of the natural world. As participants explored the space, they uncovered hidden spirits and dreamlike environments, becoming active participants in a living digital narrative. The experience extended beyond the projection through an augmented reality journey, where visitors used their smartphones and tablets to discover virtual spirits concealed within everyday surroundings, creating a unique fusion of digital innovation, storytelling, and artistic expression.











300 +
Cultural Events



# FRENCH LIBRARY




## A Library at the Heart of the Community

During 2025–2026, the Library continued to support the mission of Alliance Française de Delhi by promoting French language learning, reading, digital literacy, and cultural exchange. Through its growing collections, digital resources, educational programmes, and community activities, the Library remained a vibrant learning space for students, educators, and the public.

**Membership and Collections**

The Library recorded steady membership growth and continued to expand its collection to meet the needs of learners of all ages and proficiency levels.

### Key Statistics 2025 - 26

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered Members | 7,558 |
| Active Borrowers | 4,688 |
| Total Collection | 13880 volumes |
| Books Borrowed | 5,379 |

The collection includes French language resources, textbooks, literature, children's books, graphic novels, reference materials, and professional development resources.

**Updated Collection**

| | |
|---|---|
| Albums | 576 |
| (BD)Adult Comics | 1298 |
| (BD Jeunesse) Children Comics | 496 |
| (Documents Jeunesse) Children books | 332 |
| (Documents Adulte) Adult Books | 4417 |
| (Inde & Francophonie) India & Francophonie | 913 |
| Games (Jeux), LGBTQ, Mangas | 158 |
| (Livre) FLE & Pedagogy books | 1417 |
| (Pocie) Poem & Theatre | 375 |
| Jeunesse pocies/Romans/ Revues | 3398 |

**Total 13380**



**Explore French Books**

**Discover New Worlds**

**Number of Borrowings in 2025-2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Albums | 394 |
| BD adulte | 325 |
| BD jeunesse | 634 |
| Doc. adulte | 447 |
| Doc. jeunesse | 121 |
| Francophonie | 74 |
| Inde | 105 |
| Jeux | 46 |
| LGBTQ | 27 |
| Livres FLE | 1232 |
| Livres pédagogie | 203 |
| Mangas | 32 |
| Poésie | 39 |
| Revues | 546 |
| Romans adulte | 694 |
| Romans jeunesse | 537 |
| Romans policiers | 17 |
| Théâtre | 31 |

**Total 5504**

## Digital Resources and Services

The Alliance Française de Delhi remains the leading institution in India for Culturethèque users. Regular orientation sessions encouraged members to make full use of the platform, which offers e-books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, comics, music, and online learning resources.



Library users also had access to:

- Eight public computers
- One OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) terminal
- France 24 and TV5MONDE Asie
- PlayStation 4 gaming corner
- Digital event information screen

**Freehold Locker System**

The freehold locker system, introduced last year, continued to provide a secure and convenient service for library visitors.

**Monthly Book Displays**

AFD Library organises themed book displays throughout the year, encouraging readers to discover new authors, genres, and cultural topics linked to international events and seasonal celebrations.

## Collaboration

AFD Library strengthened collaboration with the Academic Department, the Cultural and Communication Department and IFI to organise successful initiatives, including Défi Inter Alliances, Plume d'Or, Novembre Numérique, and other cultural programmes.

***Library X Academics***

The Library worked closely with the Academic Department by providing a range of services and activities that enhanced the learning experience, including:

- *Conducting bilingual library orientation sessions during the Open Day to familiarise new members with the library's resources, services, and facilities.*
- *Organising guided library tours and visits for Débutant classes and school students.*
- *Facilitating reading and writing workshops to strengthen language and literacy skills.*
- *Conducting interactive cultural and educational games and activities to promote engagement with the French language and culture.*
- *Delivering Culturethèque training sessions to help learners access and make effective use of the digital library's digital resources.*

Curating and conducting a variety of specialised workshops by our Librarian, Mrs Mridula, during 2025–26, including:

- *Creative Pop-up Art Workshop*
- *Paint Like Monet Workshop*
- *Specialised French Cultural Quiz Workshop for management students and Haryana school-teachers.*
- *Bastille Day Kahoot! Quiz for Alliance Française students, making language learning engaging through an interactive digital quiz format.*

These initiatives complemented classroom learning, fostered creativity and cultural awareness, promoted independent reading and research, and encouraged greater engagement with the library's collections and services.





*Library X Culture*

**Novembre Numérique 2025**
As part of the international French digital festival, the Library organised:

- AI Fortune Teller presentation by Julie Stéphane
- Digital workshops for schools, students, adults, and the public
- A digital exhibition in the gallery
- PMF book club sessions in the library.

The programme promoted digital creativity and emerging technologies.



*Workshop by Julie Stéphane Chheng*

**Nuit de la Lecture 2026**
Celebrated over two days under the theme "Cities and Countryside," the event featured literary readings, visual presentations, and discussions adapted to different French language levels by Ms Sharbani.



## Competitions and Skill Building

### Défi Inter Alliances 2026

**Delhi Winners**
***Nishika Talwar – First Place***
***Aditya Rampal – Second Place***
***Riya Mandal – Third Place***

Nishika Talwar also became the National Winner for the second consecutive year.

**Plume d'Or 2026**
The local selection was held on 18 March 2026.

**Delhi Winners**
***Shefali Grover – First Place***
***Mohit Kumar Sinha – Second Place***
***Priyanka Rajput – Third Place***

International results will be announced in the next reporting period.

## Workshops and Community Engagement

The Library continued to offer activities beyond the classroom through:

- Twice-weekly French conversation workshops led by Ms. Sharbani
- Twice-monthly Read Out Loud and Creative Writing sessions conducted by French volunteer Mrs Laurence Renard.



It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Laurence, whose unwavering dedication and invaluable support to our library and its learners over the past five years have left a lasting legacy. Her commitment, kindness, and enthusiasm have made a profound difference, and her contributions will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.

On 24 June 2026, we held our final Read Aloud Workshop with Laurence, marking the end of an inspiring journey.

These sessions offer learners an enriching environment to develop their communication skills and immerse themselves in the richness of French culture.

**Poetry Reading & Conversation with Vandana Kumar**

On 23 April 2026, the Library organized a Poetry Reading & Conversation with author and poet Ms. Vandana Kumar, curated by Mrs. Mridula, Librarian. The event also celebrated the launch of the French edition of her award-winning poetry collection, Mannequin de notre époque. The session featured poetry readings and an engaging discussion on literature, translation, and creative writing, providing an enriching cultural experience for participants.

# Communications

Over the past year, the Communication Team has played a key role in strengthening and amplifying the brand image of Alliance Française de Delhi. By working closely with the Cultural, Academic, Library and other departments, the team ensured that the right message reached the right audience at the right time across all communication channels.

Our communication strategy focused on increasing visibility, fostering community engagement, and highlighting the diverse activities taking place at Alliance Française de Delhi throughout its landmark 70th anniversary year. Through consistent storytelling, impactful visual content, strategic social media campaigns, press outreach, and digital marketing, we strengthened our connection with both existing and new audiences.




One of the year's major achievements was the significant organic media coverage generated for our programmes. Numerous cultural events, exhibitions, festivals, educational initiatives, and institutional milestones were featured across leading print and digital media, further reinforcing Alliance Française de Delhi's position as one of India's leading centres for French language and culture.

This year, we expanded our digital communication ecosystem by launching the Alliance Française de Delhi **WhatsApp Channel**. The platform serves as a direct communication channel for sharing updates on cultural events, French language courses, examinations, workshops, and institutional announcements. The initiative has enabled us to reach audiences more effectively with timely information while increasing participation across programmes.

To further broaden our reach, we introduced collaborations with content creators and influencers. Through mutually beneficial barter partnerships, influencers created and shared content featuring Alliance Française de Delhi with their audiences via collaborative posts and reels. This strategy allowed us to connect with new audience segments, increase brand visibility, and generate authentic engagement without additional marketing expenditure.

The team also executed a series of successful Meta advertising campaigns, supporting the promotion of French language courses. These campaigns significantly enhanced the reach of our communication efforts and helped attract new students

A major focus this year was making our social media platforms more dynamic and community-driven. We actively involved students in creating reels and digital content, bringing authentic experiences and fresh perspectives to our channels. Alongside informational content, we experimented with engaging and entertaining video formats, including humorous and trend-

based reels, making our social media presence more relatable, lively, and interactive. This content strategy resulted in stronger audience engagement and helped foster a more vibrant online community around Alliance Française de Delhi.

***Follower count as of June 2026:***

**Instagram: 31.5K followers**
**LinkedIn: 12.3 K followers**
**Facebook: 7.07K followers**
**YouTube: 3.75K subscribers**
**X (formerly Twitter): 2,673 followers**

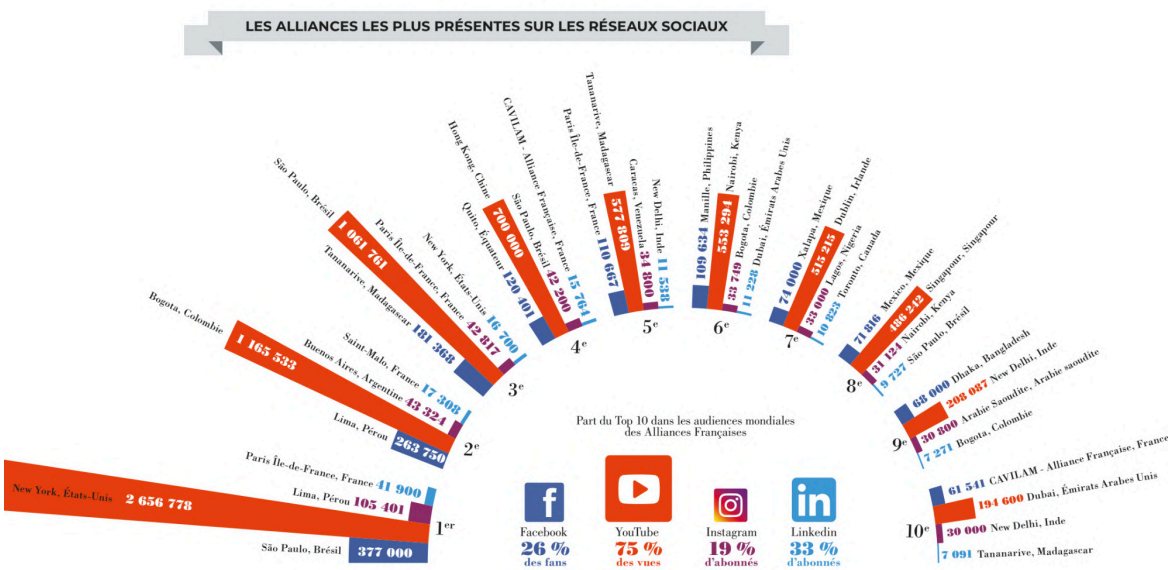
These growing digital communities reflect the increasing engagement with Alliance Française de Delhi's programmes and demonstrate the effectiveness of our integrated communication strategy. Through continued innovation, collaboration, and audience-focused storytelling, the Communication Team remains committed to enhancing the institution's visibility and expanding its cultural impact in the years ahead.

**5th globally on LinkedIn**

**9th globally on YouTube**

**10th globally on Instagram**

***According to the 2025 Journal des Indicateurs published by the Fondation des Alliances Françaises, Alliance Française de Delhi ranks among the top 10 Alliances Françaises worldwide for social media presence, highlighting its strong digital reach and engagement.***



# AFD IN MEDIA

Pic: Ajay Kumar Gautam, Hair: Abhishek, Makeup: Nishita

# 'Diwali is as serious in India as Christmas is in France'



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, DELHI, DIRECTOR PATRICIA LOISON (R) AND ACADEMIC DIRECTOR FREDERIC WOLSKA

"I've never worn an Indian sari or any other Indian traditional attire. But I've always been drawn to vibrant colours – that must be my Indian genes. I have so many *chunnis*," says Patricia Loison

"I have a few Indian ethnic clothes. I have a *sherwani*, I have some *kurtas* and *shawls*. The *sherwani* looks very nice with my height, and I even wear it for weddings in other countries. I wore it for a wedding and I was glowing," says Frederic Wolska

## Videshi diwali

Niharika Lal

This weekend, the Alliance Française in Delhi is hosting its annual Diwali party – a celebration that the directors say takes weeks of meticulous preparation. "It's a massive preparation," they tell us. "There are Excel sheets, brainstorming sessions about food, décor, and lights." The directors say they give everyone carte blanche to plan the festival.

Ahead of this year's celebrations at the institute, we spoke to Director Patricia Loison and Academic Director Frederic Wolska about what this festival means to them.

### 'I'M A DIWALI BOY'

The first time Frederic arrived in Delhi was in 2008, on the day of Diwali. "I was on a very short mission for one year. I arrived on the day of Diwali. There were crackers everywhere. I was like, 'Oh, everybody's celebrating my arrival!'" he exclaims. Wolska rejoined the institute in 2023. "Again, I arrived in the month of October, just a day before Diwali. Can you imagine? So, I think I'm really close to Diwali."

Patricia teases him: "You're a Diwali boy."

Frederic laughs and chimes in, "Yes, I'm a Diwali boy. It's always a nice time for us because it's full of light, especially at night. So it's a kind of joyful impression."

### 'NOT BEING WITH YOUR FAMILY ON DIWALI IS LIKE CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS BY YOURSELF'

Patricia's first Diwali in India was quite a memorable one. "My first impression was, it's like Christmas because it's very similar. The lights, the decorations – the Europeans and the French go as crazy as the Indians when it comes to Christmas. And I understood Diwali is as serious as Christmas here," she notes.

She reflects, "In France, these kinds of celebrations that bring the family together have always been very important in my childhood."

Patricia adds that the connection between Indian and French traditions goes deeper than decoration or food. "I think India and France have this in common – really strong family ties and spending time with family during these festivals."

The sense of togetherness a festival brings can make the distance from home feel even greater. Patricia shares, "I felt quite lonely because my colleagues who are coming from abroad, like me, they also anticipate it. And if you don't have your family here, or don't know an Indian family, then it's like being by yourself on Christmas in France. It's sad."

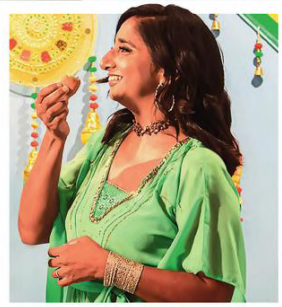
She recalls, "I had just joined in October. There were celebrations all around, but still, I felt left out a little bit – with all these lights that I could see, but they were not really for me. But I still lit a few candles in my apartment because even if you don't have this culture, light is a universal symbol – of warmth, of guidance."



Frederic says, "Diwali is always a nice time for us because it's full of light, especially at night"

### 'We have an Excel sheet of gifts'

So how do these French directors decide what to gift the staff for Diwali? Patricia admits, "We have an Excel sheet of gifts, and we get samples. Then we choose." Frederic explains, "In the last few years, they were symbolic gifts. For example, last year we had some nice decorative pots to use in the family kitchen. And of course, we'll have small gifts too – more candles or dry fruits. But it's more like a gift to share. That's the spirit of Diwali – to share."



Patricia says, "In France, these kinds of celebrations that bring the family together have always been very important in my childhood"

### 'For one month, it's all about the Diwali party'

The Diwali party at Alliance Française is no small affair. "It's a big preparation," quips Frederic. "It's the biggest thing of the year for our team! I would like them to be as involved in other events as they are for Diwali," adds Patricia.

Frederic nods, "For one month, all we talk about is – 'When is the Diwali party?' 'What are we doing for the party?' 'What gifts are we preparing?' 'What food are we going to offer?' It's a big discussion. Of course, we are involved, but we also let the team decide because it's an Indian festival."

Patricia shares that their board members also join the party. Giving us the details, she adds, "The party happens on the terrace at Alliance Française. Like Christmas or a wedding, the preparation is very important – we sit together and discuss what we want to eat, what kind of lights we'll have, what food we'll pick. We have a technical team that gets totally excited about the decoration. We give them carte blanche, as we say in French – a blank page – to do whatever they want!"

*Times of India*

# A global fest of flavours, music and multilingual spirit

Pics: Ajay Kumar Gautam

Celebrating cultures from across the world, Francophonie Mela 2026 took over Alliance Française de Delhi last week

SNAPSHOTS



Handmade decorative bottle art from Republic of Guinea



>> An indigenous African mask from Ivory Coast, traditionally used in cultural rituals and ceremonies

Lively lineup of music, dance and theatre performances also took place






A handcrafted African cloth doll from Cameroon, featuring traditional fabrics and designs




Patricia Loison with Gregor Trumel






<< A traditional Romanian folk costume, showcasing intricate embroidery and cultural heritage, was displayed at the event



Visitors explored embassy stalls and cultural booths featuring interactive games and gifts

*Times of India*

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND A GRAND BALL



The event at The Imperial ballroom was a tribute to history and a celebration of the cultural relationship between India and France

# CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ALLIANCE Française de Delhi marked the start of its 70th anniversary celebrations with the revival of its historic Grand Ball on May 30 at The Imperial, New Delhi — the same venue that hosted the Grand Ball in 1956. The evening brought together diplomats, cultural leaders, alumni, partners, and members of the Indo-French community to celebrate seven decades of cultural exchange, language learning and artistic dialogue between India and France.

Distinguished guests included Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India; Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India; Oleksandr Polishchuk, Ambassador of Ukraine to India; and Sena Latif, Ambassador of Romania to India.

The event was both a tribute to history and a celebration of the enduring cultural relationship between India and France. The Grand Ball, now the flagship annual gala of Alliance Française de Delhi, offered guests an evening of ballroom dancing, music, fine dining, and cultural exchange inspired by French elegance and tradition.

### Contributing to a cause

Beyond the celebrations, the evening highlighted a strong social commitment. Proceeds from the Grand Ball directly support French-language education for underprivileged children from partner NGOs through the initiative "French as a Life Changer."

> We want to demonstrate that French truly can be a life-changer.
>
> Patricia Loison, Director, Alliance Française de Delhi

Created to provide one-year French-language scholarships to young students from partner NGOs, the initiative uses culture and community engagement to create meaningful educational opportunities. In 2025, six students from Main Tendue — an umbrella organisation representing six NGOs — were awarded scholarships for free French-language education.

The initiative has also received recognition, winning the Jury Special Award at the IFCCI CSR Conclave & Awards 2025, reflecting the impact made possible through the support of sponsors, partners, and contributors.

"The challenging beginnings of my journey and the extraordinary opportunity to build a career on French public television showed me how language can transform lives. Through this initiative, we want to create similar opportunities for young learners and demonstrate that French truly can be a life-changer," said Patricia Loison, Director, Alliance Française de Delhi.



French Ambassador Thierry Mathou and his wife Cécile Mathou

### The beginnings

Alliance Française de Delhi, established in 1956 under the umbrella of Fondation Alliance Française with the support of the Embassy of France in India and the French Institute in India, proudly celebrates 70 years of fostering cultural exchange, French language learning, and artistic dialogue in India. For seven decades, the institution has built bridges between France and India through education and culture.

As part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, Alliance Française de Delhi has curated a month-long programme of events celebrating seven decades of Indo-French cultural exchange, language learning, and artistic dialogue.

### SOME OF THE KEY EVENTS PLANNED THROUGHOUT JUNE INCLUDE

- **June 4** – bAllAd by Bertrand Devendeville at Social Saket: An immersive public-space performance that transforms the city into a stage through music, movement, and collective experience.
- **June 12** – Alumni Meet: A special gathering to honour generations of prestigious alumni who have shaped and contributed to the institution's journey over the decades.
- **June 14** – Gourmet Indo-French Cinema Experience at The Piano Man.

*The New Indian Express*

*Times of India*




# People expect strong films from India: French producer Laura

Niharika Lal

I think there is a kind of new wave in Indian cinema, and the result is *All We Imagine As Light* winning at the Cannes Film Festival," says French producer Laura Briand, who recently attended a creative producing lab organised by Doc Producing South, a South Asian documentary collective.

"A lot of people are now expecting strong films from India. I noticed a wave of great documentaries emerging. It's not the first time that India has long produced great cinema, but this is a new generation of filmmakers," observes the filmmaker.




During her visit to Delhi, Briand held a screening of her film *Pamfir*, a Ukrainian drama about sacrifice, fatherhood, and the cost of survival in a lawless borderland

**'THE ART, NOT THE MONEY, KEEPS ME DRIVEN FOR FILMMAKING'**

During her visit to Delhi, Briand held a screening of her film *Pamfir* at Alliance Française. "There are different reactions to the same film in different cultures," she shares, adding that she doesn't believe in "a universal audience."

At the post-screening discussion, an attendee asked her why she chose producing when there is no money in it. Briand replied that she is motivated by the desire to tell important stories. "The system (in France) is such that I don't invest my personal money. I gather all the financing from outside. I put in my work, and I expect – like the other producers – to be paid for that work within the budget. If the film makes more money, that's a plus. But with films like this, money is not what drives you. It's the art, and what you want to say through the film."



<< Patricia Loison, Director of Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD)




**Satyajit Ray's films had such strong writing & imagination. From the current generation, I've of course seen *All We Imagine As Light*, Shaunak Sen's *All That Breathes*, and the documentaries screened at Doc Producing South**

*The New Indian Express*

ADITHI REENA AJITH

# LOVE UNHURRIED

After making history as the first Marathi film to premiere at the January 2025 Sundance Film Festival, Rohan Parashuram Kanawade's *Sabar Bonda* had its first screening at Alliance Française de Delhi, where the writer-director shared insights about his tender queer love story set in rural Maharashtra. The film's theatre release is on September 19.



(L-R) Suraaj Suman and Bhushan Manoj in a still from *Sabar Bonda*

ROHAN Parashuram Kanawade's *Sabar Bonda* (Cactus Pear), much like its title, is a thorny-sweet tale of love between two young men in rural Maharashtra, set against the backdrop of loss and mourning. The film, also the first Marathi film to premiere at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize Dramatic—had its first private screening in Delhi NCR at Alliance Française de Delhi recently, for a select gathering, ahead of its theatrical release on September 19.

In the film, Anand (Bhushan Manoj) and his mother (Jayshri Jagtap) are back in their ancestral village from Mumbai, for a 10-day mourning period after his father's death. Back home, the 30-year-old faces relentless questions about marriage and his future, while reconnecting with his estranged, still unmarried childhood friend Balya (Suraaj Suman). Together, they navigate grief, memories, and the pressures of expectations.

Part imaginary, part autobiographical, Kanawade's debut feature is, in many ways, a recounting of his father's demise in 2016, while navigating the pressures of questions about marriage and the future, much like Anand. "I was frustrated and seeking escape...I thought, what if I had a friend in this village? I could have just sneaked out with him and avoided the pressure," Kanawade shared about the beginnings of the film during a post-screening conversation with filmmaker Shaunak Sen.

In the film, Kanawade recreates the mourning rituals with a barrage of rules—from avoiding slippers or black shirts to not cutting hair—as a tender journey for his protagonists. "We usually associate this time with sadness and emptiness, but here love blossoms during a grieving period," he explains. Using silence, the background hum of wind and natural soundscapes, and wide-angle fixed frames, he recreates the slowness and simplicity of village life.

**Telling queer stories**

Kanawade has always been telling queer stories. Before *Sabar Bonda*, he made the Marathi short film *U Ushacha* (2019), a rural love story between two women, and another short, *Sundar* (2016).

*Sabar Bonda* is understated in its portrayal of romance between queer men, eschewing the performative markers of queerness or dwelling on the idea of acceptance at home. Its romance and portrayal of desire is subtle—in the way Balya runs his hands through Anand's hair, in the way they hold hands, the hugs they share under a tree in the barren land while grazing goats, or Anand curiously watching Balya wash his hair with the shampoo he brought from the city. Kanawade cast local theatre actors Manoj and Suman, childhood friends, guiding his first-time film actors to give natural performances.

"When you make stories about queer people, it is mostly situated in the cities," says Kanawade. He does not force the queerness on viewers. "By



(L-R) Filmmaker Shaunak Sen in conversation with writer-director Rohan Parashuram Kanawade

The Morning Standard | LEISURE
12 NEW DELHI THURSDAY 18.12.2025
FROM THE PAST Built In Memories


(Left) French guitarist Yarol Poupaud performing at The Piano Man


From an earlier performance with DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan

French guitarist Yarol Poupaud made his Delhi debut this week, bringing to the stage material he has developed with Rajasthani folk musicians. He talks to *TMS* about life on the road, his band that defined French rock music, and why he will always be a performer.

# PLAYING IT BY EAR

ADITHI REENA AJITH

FRENCH musician Yarol Poupaud has spent years moving between worlds — from underground clubs to sold-out stadiums, performing funk-rock anthems and live improvisations. His work has spanned landmark albums with his band FFF, solo projects, and years on stadium stages alongside rock-and-roll legend Johnny Hallyday.

This week, the French guitarist and composer brought his music to the city for the first time, presenting two contrasting performances: a stripped-back trio set with bandmates Victor Méchanick on bass and Cyprien Loreau on drums, foregrounding his love for live, unfiltered music; and a collaborative performance with Rajasthani folk musician Rahis Bharti and his band DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan.

Having played in India for the first time two years ago — at the Shilpgram festival in Rajasthan's Udaipur and at a few shows in Jaipur with Bharti and his band — Delhi had not been a stop for Poupaud, till now.

Bharti, a seventh-generation musician from Rajasthan, has been representing folk traditions for over 25 years with his band. For him, the collaboration creates a bridge between cultures — rock and folk. The two met four years ago and collaborated for the first time at the Confolens Folklore Festival, one of France's oldest folk festivals.

"At the end of the show we decided that we should do more music together," says Bharti. The duo met again this summer at Poupaud's studio, where they produced and composed new music set to be released this month. "It's a mix of rock — guitar, drums, bass, and the magical Rajasthani percussion and singing," Poupaud adds. The Delhi performance will be the first time Indian audiences hear this material live.

**The guitar hero**

Poupaud's relationship with music began early. At eight, before he even owned a guitar, he would strum a tennis racket in front of the mirror. He taught himself the guitar at 12, fuelled by his love for the evergreen rockers of the '50s and '60s — Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, and the Beatles. "I can't read music," he says unapologetically. "I just learned by ear."

A multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, bass, and drums, it is the guitar that remains most deeply physical and intuitive for him. "It connects with your body, your soul," he says. "It's sexy, in a way."

In the late '80s, Poupaud joined FFF (Fédération Française de Fonck), formed with musicians Marco Prince and Nicolas Baby — a band that went on to define French funk-rock in the 1990s. With members bringing African, Afro-Caribbean, rock, and funk influences, FFF was fusion before fusion became fashionable. In 1991, they released their first album, *Blast Culture*, and later in 1993, their album *Free for Fever* all of which became touchstones of the French funk-rock movement.

After unofficially splitting in 2001, the band reunited briefly in 2007 and again in 2013. In 2023, FFF reformed with Poupaud, Prince and drummer Krichou Monthieux, released their latest album *U Scream*. Looking back, Poupaud recalls the 1990s as a golden era for live music. "It was before mobile phones," he says. "People really went to shows, enjoyed the moment, and bought records. You owned your CD or LP. It was a great time for music."

**Days with Hallyday**

Beyond his band work, Poupaud also collaborated closely with French rock-and-roll legend Johnny Hallyday, who revolutionised rock n' roll music in France. Having met Hallyday on the set of his 2006 film *Jean-Philippe*, Poupaud became his official guitarist and music director from 2011 until Hallyday's passing in 2017.

What Poupaud remembers most from those years is the discipline Hallyday instilled in him. "Every show was like the first one and the last one," he says. "He always thought about tomorrow. He never relied on the past."

Despite the scale of those productions, Poupaud remains grounded. One week, he would play Stade de France for 80,000 people; the next, a club gig for 200. "That's the reality of this life," he says. "Loading the van, driving, playing in a small venue. You have to keep your feet on the ground."






**Love for live music**

In an era of algorithm-friendly music, Poupaud admits he feels fortunate to have started when he did. "Music today is like a food buffet," he says. "You have everything, and you get lost."

For him, no technology can replace the vigour of live performance — the mistakes, broken strings, going out of tune, jarring microphones, and sheer unpredictability. "These are things that are part of a rock concert that AI cannot reproduce," he says. "They can reproduce the good stuff. But the bad stuff — that's the core of our job."

Having worn many hats — guitarist, songwriter, producer, director — Poupaud remains, at heart, a performer. "I want to keep performing live," he says. "Every night is different. Every audience is different. I never play the same show twice. If I had to keep only one thing, it would be to perform live."

*Yarol Poupaud x Rahis Bharti with DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan will perform on December 19, 6 pm, at Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House*



*The Morning Standard*

*Times of India*

Pics: Ranjit Kumar

# French artist paints a mural of voices and empowerment at LSR

Sara Siddiqui

Surrounded by vibrant flowers blooming across the Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR) campus, a new mural was taking shape as part of the fifth edition of the Wall Art Festival's Delhi chapter. Artist Olivier Poizat, aka Kesadi, flew in from France for the festival and painted *The Nightingale and the Grocery Shop*. He spent four days on campus, connecting with students while working on the mural alongside volunteers from Delhi Street Art. Between brushstrokes, Kesadi shared, "Some students came to paint alongside me to help create the mural – it was amazing. The inspiration came from the fruit and vegetable stands I saw during my trip, as well as the birds in this park. My experience in Delhi went very well."


Olivier Poizat aka Kesadi painting *The Nightingale and the Grocery Shop*

**'THE IDEA IS TO CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF THE MUNDANE'**

Led by Alliance Française in collaboration with the Embassy of France and the Institut Français, the festival is being celebrated across 15 cities. Shailja Negi, Cultural Head of Alliance Française Delhi and the mural's conceptualiser, said, "On International Women's Day, I wanted to celebrate Sarojini Naidu and Annie Ernaux, who have inspired generations of young women to find meaning in their lived experiences. The idea is to celebrate the beauty of the mundane – life as it is – and explore words and social perceptions through the voices of two agents of change."

**'LSR STANDS FOR EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE ARTS'**

Acting Principal Prof Kanika Ahuja noted the importance of art on campus and said, "The mural reflects how we see LSR – not just as a space to be beautified, but one with symbolism. The idea of a conversation between Sarojini Naidu and Annie Ernaux aligns with what we are trying to represent here – empowerment through the arts. It's a modest attempt by the college to mark the 2026 Year of Innovation between India and France."


The nightingale, symbolic of Sarojini Naidu, is placed above the grocery store – a reference to the everyday spaces central to Annie Ernaux's writing. Through this placement, the mural suggests that poetry does not descend from distant, elevated realms but rises from the lived, unremarkable beauty around us. The bird does not dominate the structure; it emerges from it


Prof Kanika Ahuja

**The mural reflects how we see LSR – not just as a space to be beautified, but one with symbolism. The idea of a conversation between Sarojini Naidu and Annie Ernaux on the mural aligns with what we are trying to represent here – empowerment through the arts** – Prof Kanika Ahuja, acting Principal of LSR

istan Times



# Yarol & Rahis Bharti

French rock guitarist Yarol Poupaud will share the stage with Rahis Bharti, the celebrated artistic director of the globally acclaimed DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan. The concert promises an encounter between electric French rock and the timeless folk traditions of Rajasthan — a vibrant fusion where fiery guitar riffs meet soulful desert rhythms. Known as one of France's biggest rock icons, Yarol brings unmatched energy, powerful music, and a magnetic stage presence, while Rahis's ensemble is celebrated for its soulful rhythms, hypnotic vocals, and captivating stage presence.
**Where:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Mandi House
**When**: December 19
**Timing**: 6pm onwards

***Hindustan Times***

# French rock & roll meets Rajasthan's folk traditions

Pics: Lokesh Kashyap



French rock icon Yarol Poupaud and Victor Mechanick

Have you ever wondered what French rock and roll would sound like in collaboration with the folk tunes of Rajasthan? Last Friday, the unlikely collaboration came to life as French rock guitarist Yarol Poupaud and Rahis Bharti, along with the DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan, came together for a landmark concert that celebrated cross-cultural dialogue through music. The event was organised by the official Indo-French cultural centre in Delhi, Alliance Française de Delhi, and held at Triveni Kala Sangam.

Known as one of France's most iconic rock musicians, Yarol Poupaud – former guitarist and musical director for Johnny Hallyday – captivated the audience with his fiery guitar riffs and raw musical intensity. Talking about his experience, Poupad said, "It's been an incredible experience to have the chance to play in Delhi for the first time. The vibe was amazing!" TNN



(L-R) Frederic Wolska, Academic Director, Alliance Française de Delhi, Olivia Dar and Patricia Loison, Director, Alliance Française de Delhi



A Rajasthani folk dancer at the event

**It's been an incredible experience to have the chance to play in Delhi... I didn't expect that level of energy from the audience – the vibe was amazing! it was a dream come true. We look forward to coming back for more concerts across India** – Yarol Poupaud



DHOAD Gypsies of Rajasthan and Rahis Bharti

***Times of India***



Pics: Ranjit Kumar

# A grand ball marks 70 years of Alliance Française de Delhi

Riya Sharma

As they say, dancing is always a good idea. That spirit filled the evening as Alliance Française de Delhi hosted its Grand Ball 2026, marking 70 years since its founding in 1956. The celebration returned to The Imperial Hotel, venue of the centre's first Grand Ball, and brought together members of the diplomatic community dressed in shades of red, gold and black.

Patricia Loison, Director of Alliance Française de Delhi, opened the Ball with a performance, setting the tone for a night of music and dance

**'70 YEARS AGO, THE FIRST BALL OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE TOOK PLACE EXACTLY HERE'**

**Patricia Loison**, Director of Alliance Française de Delhi, reflected on the significance of the evening. "Seventy years ago, the first ball of Alliance Française took place exactly here. So if you see a ghost, don't be shy – it's a nice ghost," she joked. About the centre's mission, she added, "We come together, we dance together, but at the end of the day, six young people who had never envisioned studying French became part of Alliance Française.

Through 'French as a Life Changer', we were able to fund one year of French language studies for six brilliant underprivileged students this past year."

Inviting French Ambassador **Thierry Mathou** to the stage, Patricia said, "When I had the opportunity to come here, part of my mission was to create something dazzling. The gentleman who inspired me to work on this idea has been a constant source of support, and I hope you all have a dazzling evening. Please welcome the Ambassador of France."

With the speeches over, the evening quickly shifted into celebration mode.

> It is about giving back to society, rooted in the belief that higher education is for everyone and that French is not just a language but a shared story
> – Patricia Loison

Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador

A choreographer led the *Macarena* before guests took to the floor. (Above) Augistina Flores, wife of the EU Ambassador, joined in, while (below) Oleksandr Polishchuk, Ukrainian ambassador, shared a dance with wife Kateryna Bila

Thierry Mathou, French Ambassador

> Alliance Française is the French window in Delhi. Thank you for reviving the Grand Ball tradition that began 70 years ago
> – Thierry Mathou, French ambassador

Frédéric Wolska, Academic Director, Alliance Française de Delhi

JL Sarin, President, Alliance Française de Delhi Board

Kazem Samandari, Executive Chairman of a patisserie

*Times of India*

Pics: Ranjit Kumar

# For this French artiste, the audience became the show

**No stage. No seats. No setlist. At Alliance Française, a crowd wearing wireless headphones became part of Balllad, a roaming performance by French artiste Bertrand Devendeville**



Alliance Française de Delhi director Patricia Loison along with other participants at the event

## I was excited to return to India: Devendeville

Speaking about India, artiste Bertrand Devendeville, who created Balllad, said, "My first visit to India sparked a deep curiosity about the country and its diversity. I was excited to return and discover the unique energy of each city. Public space is where people naturally come together, and with Balllad, I hoped to create moments where the boundaries between artiste, audience, and passer-by disappeared."



## 'Bringing people together through the universal language of music'

Addressing the event, French ambassador Thierry Mathou said, "Since 1982, Fête de la Musique has brought people together through a celebration of music that is both popular and universal. This June, it resonated across fifteen Indian cities, highlighting the vitality and richness of the French contemporary music scene while creating new connections with audiences and artistes across India."



Created by French artiste (left) Bertrand Devendeville, Balllad combined live music, storytelling, beatboxing and audience participation in a roaming performance. As the act moved, spectators were gradually drawn into the performance, joining the artiste and becoming part of the show

As part of Fête de la Musique 2026, French performance company Balllad travelled across 15 Indian cities, turning everyday public spaces into immersive musical playgrounds





*Times of India/Delhi Times*

## Indulge Express

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Art

# Alliance Française de Delhi explores ecology, heritage, and living traditions through a new exhibition

*Named De la Terre à l'Âme (From Soil to Soul), this exhibition at Alliance Francaise de Delhi is home to interactive installations, shared memories, and more*



Glimpses from De la Terre à l'Âme (From Soil to Soul)

Subhadrika Sen

Updated on: 29 Jun 2026, 11:36 am · 3 min read

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This unique exhibition displays the often overlooked traditions from the soil and presents them in a manner that is contemporary, juxtaposing shared memories, modern dialogues and interactive foundations. Curated by Shailja G. Negi from Alliance Francaise de Delhi, it is home to installations that are rooted to the soil and speak about community-led practices, explorations of landscapes and their traditions through everyday materials, crafts and practices. The exhibition is also part of the 70th anniversary celebration of the institution.

## Outlook

Outlook

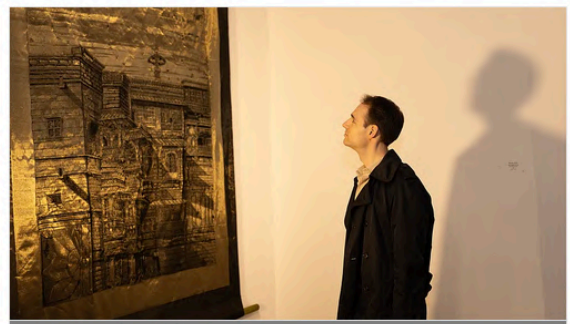
SINESS MONEY TRAVELLER EATS RESPAWN LUXE

# Palais d'Or: A 'Golden' Exhibition Celebrates India, France And Shared Artistic Legacies

*Palais d'Or, a solo exhibition by French artist Thomas Henriot, featured paintings of Indian monuments whose ornate display of innovation is a sight to witness.*

Siddhant Vashistha

Published at: 2 March 2026 4:13 pm



Palais d'Or Exhibition Photo: Siddhant Vashistha

SUMMARY OF THIS ARTICLE

- *Palais d'Or*, a solo exhibition by French contemporary artist Thomas Henriot, was on display at Alliance Française de Delhi.
- The exhibition, showcased between February 20 to 28, was part of the French-Indian Year of Innovation 2026.
- It displayed works done in one of the most unique styles—as tapestries of great Indian monuments such as the Ghats of Varanasi, to the stepwells (*baolis*) of Rajasthan.

Alliance Française de Delhi opened *Palais d'Or* (Golden palaces), a solo exhibition by French contemporary artist Thomas Henriot, as part of the French-Indian Year of Innovation 2026. The exhibition, showcased between February 20 to 28, displayed works done in one of the most unique styles—as tapestries of great Indian monuments such as the Ghats of Varanasi, to the stepwells (*baolis*) of Rajasthan. Henriot's paintings were essentially transformed into monumental gold-thread tapestries in France using an advanced Jacquard weaving technique developed by Les Soieries Brochier. Henriot painted the Indian monuments on site during his visits.

## The New Indian Express




**TOUCHING UP**

French artist Kesadi adds final touches to a mural at Wall Art India 2026, the Delhi chapter, at Lady Shri Ram College on Tuesday | PARVEEN NEGI

# ADMINISTRATION




## Building for the Future

Throughout 2025–2026, the Administration Department continued its commitment to enhancing the Alliance Française de Delhi campus through a comprehensive programme of infrastructure upgrades, preventive maintenance, and facility improvements.

The year's initiatives focused on strengthening the safety, functionality, sustainability, and aesthetic appeal of the campus, ensuring that students, members, staff, and visitors continue to enjoy a modern, welcoming, and well-maintained environment.

**Key Infrastructure Highlights**

**Campus Renovation & Modernisation**

A series of major renovation works were undertaken across the campus to improve accessibility, durability, and the overall visitor experience.

**Highlights**

- Upgraded staircase landings with improved flooring, enhanced glazing, and weather protection.
- Modernised auditorium entrances to improve accessibility, circulation, and protection from rainwater.
- Revitalised eastern setback area with upgraded flooring and improved landscape finishing.
- Restored and enhanced architectural stonework to preserve the heritage character of the campus.

**Terrace & Outdoor Spaces**

Significant improvements were carried out across the terrace areas to enhance safety, durability, and long-term structural performance.

Key initiatives included:

- Comprehensive waterproofing of terrace surfaces.
- Installation of durable natural stone flooring.
- Removal of ageing landscape elements to reduce structural load.
- Creation of safer and more usable outdoor spaces for institutional activities.

These improvements will substantially reduce future maintenance requirements while extending the life of the building.

**Gallery & Building Maintenance**

Preventive maintenance remained a priority throughout the year to preserve the campus infrastructure.

**Major works included:**

- Waterproofing and maintenance of the Art Gallery and adjoining terrace.
- Upgrades to conference room glazing to prevent water ingress.
- Conservation of existing architectural stone elements.

These interventions have strengthened the long-term durability of the building while preserving its architectural integrity.





## Enhancing Campus Experience



**A New Café Experience**

Recognising the importance of quality campus amenities, Alliance Française de Delhi introduced a new café partner during the year.

The transition has significantly enhanced the dining experience for students, staff, members, and visitors through:

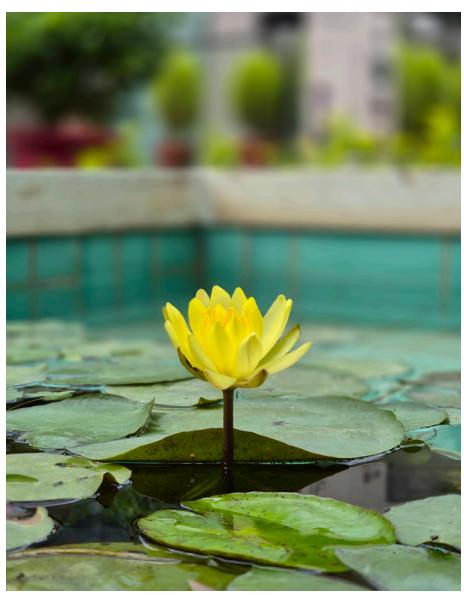
- A wider and healthier food selection
- Freshly prepared meals and beverages
- Improved customer service
- Faster service delivery
- A more vibrant and welcoming café environment

Every improvement undertaken during the year reflects the continued commitment and efforts of our **Governing Body members** to providing a safe, sustainable, and inspiring environment for learning, cultural engagement, and community interaction.

By investing in infrastructure today, Alliance Française de Delhi is ensuring that its campus remains a modern, resilient, and welcoming institution for generations to come.

**Minor Renovations & Infrastructure Improvements**

**Revitalization of the Lotus Pond**



One of this year's key landscape enhancement projects was the comprehensive restoration of the Lotus Pond, preserving one of the campus's most distinctive features while improving its long-term durability.

**Key works undertaken:**

- Complete cleaning and refurbishment of the existing pond structure.
- Structural restoration to improve stability and longevity.
- Application of a high-performance waterproofing system to prevent future water leakage.

- Replacement and sealing of tiled surfaces using premium-quality materials.
- Surface finishing and polishing to enhance durability and visual appeal.
- Restoration of the surrounding landscape, creating a more attractive and welcoming outdoor environment.

**Conference Room Glazing Improvements**

To enhance the functionality and comfort of the Conference Room, remedial measures were implemented to eliminate water seepage during the monsoon season.

**Key improvements:**

- Strengthened vulnerable glazing junctions.
- Installed stainless steel flashing for improved weather protection.
- Applied high-quality sealants to prevent rainwater ingress.
- Improved the reliability and usability of the Conference Room for meetings, conferences, and official events.

**Structural Masonry Restoration**

As part of our ongoing building conservation programme, structural restoration works were carried out near Classroom 107 to preserve the integrity of the campus architecture.

**Key works undertaken:**

- Careful dismantling and restoration of the existing sandstone masonry.
- Reinforcement of the structure using corrosion-resistant stainless steel supports.
- Resealing of masonry joints to protect against environmental damage.
- Preservation of the building's original architectural character while enhancing long-term structural stability.

**Greening the Campus**

To create a more welcoming and sustainable environment, several landscaping and beautification initiatives were undertaken across the campus during the year.

**Key initiatives:**

- Added a wide variety of new plants, flowering shrubs, and seasonal flowers across the campus.
- Enhanced landscaped areas to create greener, more vibrant, and visually appealing surroundings.
- Improved the ambience of outdoor spaces for students, staff, members, and visitors.

These initiatives have contributed to making the Alliance Française de Delhi campus a more attractive, refreshing, and enjoyable space for the entire community.

# Human Resources and Policy Implementation at AFD

***The 2025–2026 academic year marked an important period of growth, transformation, and consolidation for the Human Resources function at Alliance Française de Delhi. Throughout the year, our focus remained on fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment, strengthening organisational processes, enhancing transparency, and creating opportunities for professional development for all members of our community.***

Through various initiatives, ranging from human resource reforms and digital transformation to team-building activities and staff representation, Alliance Française de Delhi continued its commitment to placing people at the centre of its development strategy.
"An institution grows not only through its achievements, but through the people who bring its mission to life every day. At Alliance Française de Delhi, we remain committed to fostering a professional, inclusive, and supportive environment where every member of our community can learn, contribute, and thrive together."

**Farewell to Colleagues**

The year also marked the departure of several valued colleagues who concluded their professional journey with Alliance Française de Delhi. Their dedication, expertise, and contributions have left a meaningful impact on the institution and its community.

- Bhavya ARORA
- Alex JOHN
- MR DUGGAL
- Somya DEVRANI
- Mukta GADAG
- Mukta Mani KAUL
- Padma NATRAJAN
- Priyanshu

On behalf of the entire organisation, we extend our sincere gratitude for their commitment and service. We wish them every success and fulfilment in their future professional and personal endeavours. Their contributions will remain an integral part of Alliance Française de Delhi's continued growth and development.




**Welcoming New Team Members**

As we bid farewell to some colleagues, we were equally pleased to welcome new members to the Alliance Française de Delhi family.

- Kharell MISAKABO BOMPAKA – Faculty Member
- Ashi GOEL – Faculty Member
- Srinidhi SRINATHAN – Faculty Member
- Sanchit SALUJA – Faculty Member
- Simran SACHDEVA – Course Counsellor
- Shashima PAL – Head of Accounts
- Diya GOEL – Communication/Culture Assistant

Each new colleague brings valuable skills, fresh perspectives, and renewed energy to our teams. Through structured onboarding and integration into various departments, our new joiners have quickly become part of the institution's collaborative culture.

We look forward to supporting their professional journey and witnessing their contribution to the continued success of Alliance Française de Delhi.

**Human Resources Reforms for Teaching Staff**

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the implementation of a revised framework for teaching staff aimed at providing greater organisational stability, transparency, and professional growth opportunities.

Following extensive discussions and consultations, a more structured categorisation framework was established to create a clear and equitable progression pathway for teachers. The objective of this reform was to ensure that professional development, experience, qualifications, and performance are recognised through a transparent system that offers fair opportunities for advancement within the institution from category 1 to category 6. This system will define different structures of teaching possibilities at Alliance.

These reforms contribute to creating a stable professional environment while reinforcing Alliance Française de Delhi's commitment to recognising talent, encouraging excellence, and supporting long-term career development for its teaching community.

**Teachers' Representative Election**

Election Date: 28 May 2026
Number of Candidates: 3
Teaching Categories Represented: Permanent Category,
Categories 1–2 & 6, Categories 3–5

Elected Teachers' Representative: **Ms. Pallavi Brara**

As part of Alliance Française de Delhi's commitment to participatory governance and staff representation, the election of the Teachers' Representative was successfully conducted on 28 May 2026.

Following the completion of the voting process, Ms. Pallavi Brara was elected as the Teachers' Representative. In this role, she will represent the teaching faculty before the Governing Board and serve as an important link between teachers and the Governing Body members & Directors.

**Digital Transformation: Biometric Attendance and HRMS Implementation**

In line with the institution's commitment to operational excellence and digitalisation, Alliance Française de Delhi successfully implemented a biometric attendance system alongside a comprehensive Human Resource Management System (HRMS).

These initiatives represent a significant step forward in modernising HR processes, improving attendance management, streamlining leave and administrative requests, and enhancing overall efficiency and transparency.

The introduction of these digital tools has enabled AFD employees to access information more effectively while ensuring greater accuracy, accountability, and consistency across HR operations.

**Team Building and Professional Development**

Alliance Française de Delhi remains committed to fostering professional excellence, collaboration, and employee well-being. As part of this commitment, a three-day Teachers' Training Programme was organised from 24 to 26 February 2026, providing faculty members with an opportunity to enhance their pedagogical skills, exchange best practices, and engage in meaningful professional discussions.



The programme concluded with an off-site Team Building Lunch held on 26 February 2026 at Jhankar Banquets, New Delhi, bringing together the teaching faculty with the Director and the Academic Director. The event was organised to recognise the dedication and contributions of the teaching staff while strengthening team spirit and collaboration.

A series of interactive team-building activities and games, organised by the management, encouraged communication, teamwork, and engagement among participants. Conducted in a warm and convivial atmosphere, the event provided an opportunity for colleagues to connect beyond their daily responsibilities and celebrate their collective achievements.
Through such initiatives, Alliance Française de Delhi continues to promote professional development while fostering a positive, collaborative, and supportive work culture.
Looking Ahead

As Alliance Française de Delhi continues to evolve, the Human Resources Department remains committed to strengthening organisational practices, supporting employee well-being, promoting professional development, and fostering an environment where every member of the community can contribute meaningfully to our shared mission.

**The achievements of 2025–2026 reflect our collective efforts and provide a strong foundation for continued growth, innovation, and excellence in the years ahead.**

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**1. Executive Summary & Department Overview**

The Information Technology Department continues to provide secure, reliable, and efficient technology services to support the academic, administrative, examination, and cultural activities of Alliance Française de Delhi.

During the year 2025–26, the department focused on infrastructure modernization, digital service enhancement, robust cybersecurity, and operational efficiency. The IT team worked closely across all departments to ensure uninterrupted day-to-day operations and to facilitate the smooth execution of student registrations, DELF-DALF/TCF examinations, online payments, and institutional events.

**2. Infrastructure Modernization & New Implementations**

To advance the institution's digital transformation strategy, the department successfully executed several key upgrades and new technology deployments this year:

- **Computing & Presentation Upgrades:** Replaced aging desktop computers with latest-generation systems. Modernized classrooms by replacing legacy projectors with interactive touch-panel displays integrated with OPS computers.

- **Resource Expansion:** Expanded the institutional laptop inventory to seven rental units to support examinations, training sessions, and events more effectively.

- **Storage & Network Enhancement:** Expanded Windows Server storage capacity by 6 TB to accommodate growing data requirements and upgraded internet bandwidth to 200 Mbps to handle expanding digital operations.

- **Power Continuity:** Replaced and upgraded core UPS units to strengthen power protection and ensure business continuity.

- **HRM System Deployment:** Implemented a new Human Resource Management (HRM) system to streamline HR operations, improve data management, and introduce employee self-service capabilities.

**3. Cybersecurity, Data Protection & Physical Security**

The department successfully mitigated rising cybersecurity threats and infrastructure aging through proactive management and enhanced security protocols:

- **Digital Defence:** Maintained regular software updates, security patch management, firewall monitoring, and access control administration to safeguard institutional data.

- **Disaster Recovery:** Enforced routine, structured backup and recovery procedures to minimize security risks and guarantee business continuity.

- **Physical Security:** Enhanced facility protection for critical technology assets through the deployment of biometric authentication systems, including biometric scanners and access-control locks.

**4. User Support & Digital Services**

- **Technical Support:** Provided comprehensive, responsive hardware/software troubleshooting, account management, email support, and classroom/printer assistance to staff, faculty, and students, maintaining high system availability.

- **Website Management:** Managed and updated the official website with real-time information regarding courses, examinations, cultural events, and recruitment.

- **AI-Assisted Content Creation:** Responsibly integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (including ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc) to accelerate the development of website content, other institutional communications, recruitment notices, course offerings, and examination schedules. All AI-generated output was paired with human review to ensure quality assurance.

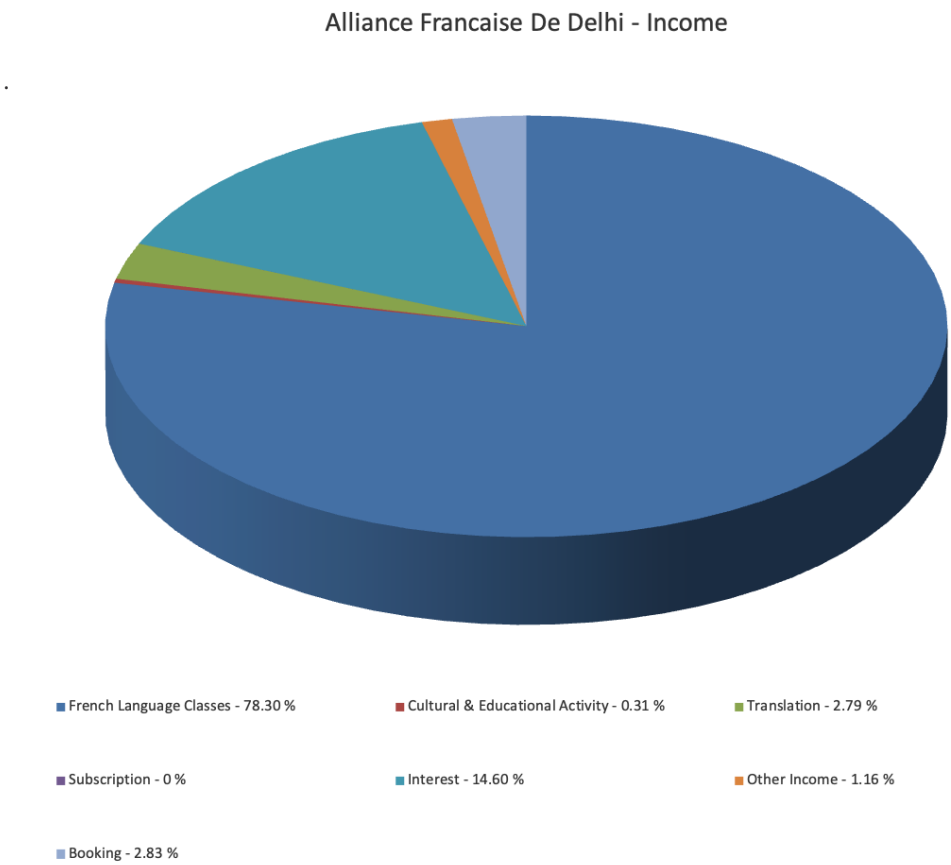
# FINANCES

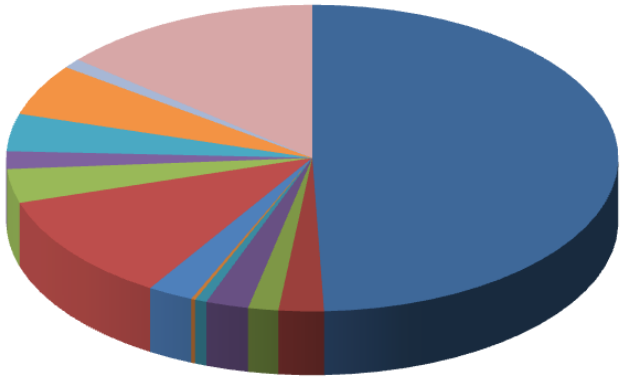
During the financial year 2025–26, the institution continued to build on its steady progress, with healthy growth across its income streams. The increase in revenue was driven in particular by higher enrolments in our French language courses, reflecting the trust and confidence of our students in the quality of our teaching, the dedication of our faculty and the relevance of our programmes.

The continued growth in academic income reinforces our position as a leading institution for French language education in the region and reflects both our institutional resilience and the growing demand for our educational and cultural offerings.

Alongside this growth, we continued to strengthen our infrastructure. A significant portion of expenditure was directed towards the repair and maintenance of our building, with particular attention to enhancing resilience to climate-related challenges. These investments are aimed at ensuring the safety and comfort of our students, staff and members, while contributing to a more sustainable and future-ready institution.

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Salaries & Social Benefits - 49.39 %
Repair & Maintenance - 2.38 %
Depreciation - 1.60 %
Translation Expenses - 2.26 %
Statutory Expenses - 0.62 %
Printing & Stationery - 0.22 %
Watch & Ward Expenses - 2.41 %
Cultural & Educational Activities - 11.38 %
Electricity/Telephone Expenses - 3.58 %
Staff Welfare - 1.86 %
Bonus - 3.95 %
Other Operating Expenses - 5.44] %

## INCOME:

25-26

| S.No. | Particulars | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | French Language Classes - 78.30 % | 16,90,73,918 |
| 2 | Cultural & Educational Activity - 0.31 % | 6,65,523 |
| 3 | Translation - 2.79 % | 60,26,593 |
| 4 | Subscription - 0 % | 3,939 |
| 5 | Interest - 14.60 % | 3,15,24,520 |
| 6 | Other Income - 1.16 % | 25,11,723 |
| 7 | Booking - 2.83 % | 61,18,499 |

## EXPENSES:

| S.No. | Particulars | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Salaries & Social Benefits - 49.39 % | 7,66,85,245 |
| 2 | Repair & Maintenance - 2.38 % | 36,94,533 |
| 3 | Depreciation - 1.60 % | 24,83,552 |
| 4 | Translation Expenses - 2.26 % | 35,04,924 |
| 5 | Statutory Expenses - 0.62 % | 9,61,645 |
| 6 | Printing & Stationery - 0.22 % | 3,46,749 |
| 7 | Watch & Ward Expenses - 2.41 % | 37,44,143 |
| 8 | Cultural & Educational Activities - 11.38 % | 1,76,72,978 |
| 9 | Electricity/Telephone Expenses - 3.58 % | 55,55,732 |
| 10 | Staff Welfare - 1.86 % | 28,87,271 |
| 11 | Bonus - 3.95 % | 61,30,112 |
| 12 | Other Operating Expenses - 5.44] % | 84,44,510 |
| 13 | Legal & Professional Fees - 1.00 % | 15,56,500 |
| 14 | Professional Educationist Expenses ( Teachers ) - 13.91 % | 2,16,06,138 |

# GOVERNING BODY



J.L. Sarin
President



Aude Priya Wacziarg
Vice-President



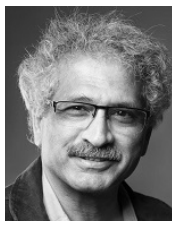
Zohra Chatterji
Vice-President



Surya Bhatia
Treasurer



Harpreet Singh
Secretary



Aditya Arya
Joint Secretary



Sandeep Sapra
Member



M. Chishti
Member



Amita Mishra
Member



Manisha Sondhi
Member



Vaishali Gupta
Member



Bhai Chand Patel
Member



Patricia Loison
Ex-Officio Member



Frédéric Wolska
Ex-Officio Member

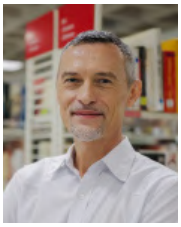


Ragini Mehta
Permanent Teacher /
Teachers' Representative

# ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Patricia Loison
Director



Frédéric Wolska
Academic Director



Rita Suri
Executive Assistant
to Director



Arshad S. Rahmani
Manager
Administration



Shailja Gusain
Head of Culture



Tuba
Cultural Coordinator



Ravneet Kaur
Academic
Coordinator



Komal Malhotra
Assistant to
Academic Director



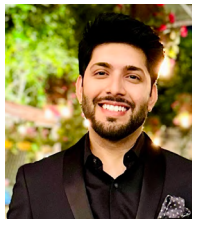
Devika A S
Head of Communication



Diya Goel
Communication Assistant



Prasoon P. Sachdeva
Senior Translation &
Interpretation Coordinator



Girish Akoliya
HR Coordinator



M.R. Duggal
Manager
Accounts



Avinna C. Das
Assistant Manager
Accounts



Neha Kanouj
Senior Cashier



Kanchan Kapoor
Senior Cashier

# ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Sharbani Roy
Senior Librarian



Mridula Khanduri
Librarian



Priyanshu Saini
Junior Librarian



Shreya Singh
Course Counsellor



Russell Nagarajan
Senior IT Administrator



Munish Vasudeva
Senior IT Administrator



Shailesh Arora
Audio Visual In Charge



Suman Saurabh
Technician



Saurav Kumar
Technician



Gopal Singh
Support Staff



Ravi Shankar
Office Assistant



Jayant Kumar
Office Assistant

# ACADEMIC TEAM



Chetan Lalchandani
Permanent Teacher



Amita Chaudhari
Permanent Teacher



Ashmi Kumar
Permanent Teacher



Ishani Dutta
Permanent Teacher



Ragini Mehta
Permanent Teacher



Ritu Gupta
Permanent Teacher



Sharda Mishra
Permanent Teacher



Snigdha B.
Permanent Teacher



S. Somasundaram
Permanent Teacher



Prerna B. Duggal
Permanent Teacher



Pallavi Brara
Permanent Teacher



Sakshi Tandon
Permanent Teacher



Anubhuti Arora
Permanent Teacher



Benjamin Bruneau
Associate Teacher



Manisha Sharma
Associate Teacher



Gunjan Gupta
Associate Teacher



Neeta Khemka
Associate Teacher



Harini Venkateish
Associate Teacher



Nargis Ali
Associate Teacher



Aditi Das
Associate Teacher



Nathalie Mitra
Associate Teacher



Monica Singh
Associate Teacher



Prabhjot Singh
Associate Teacher



Subhashini B.
Associate Teacher



Tulika Anand
Associate Teacher



Veronika Kapoor
Associate Teacher



Vibha Chopra
Associate Teacher



Jeanne Subtil
Associate Teacher



Neilu K. Makhija
Associate Teacher



Shireen Khanna
Adhoc Teacher



Shraddha Aggarwal
Adhoc Teacher



Krithika S
Adhoc Teacher



Andita Rao
Adhoc Teacher



Shubhra Gupta
Adhoc Teacher



Rohini Rangachari
Adhoc Teacher



Rachna Sachdev
Adhoc Teacher



Anupam Garg
Adhoc Teacher



Tejas Kulkarni
Adhoc Teacher



Anuj Sharma
Adhoc Teacher



Prachi Chawla
Adhoc Teacher



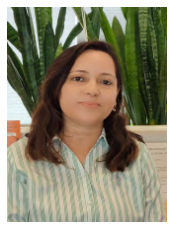
Prabhat Dixit
Adhoc Teacher



Divya Sachdev
Trainee Teacher



Neha Purohit
Trainee Teacher



Ritu Upreti
Trainee Teacher



A V Sushma
Trainee Teacher



Deepakshi Garg
Trainee Teacher



Vanita Raguvanshi
Trainee Teacher



Jeevashree Banerjee
Trainee Teacher



Neha Rana
Trainee Teacher



Ridhima Satija
Trainee Teacher



Mamta Mankal
Trainee Teacher



Amandra Bhatt
Trainee Teacher



Kharell Bompaka
Trainee Teacher



Srinidhi Sritharan
Trainee Teacher



Sanchit Saluja
Trainee Teacher



Ashi Goel
Trainee Teacher

## SUPPORTING STAFF









Madhu Kumar
Fireman



Rahul
Night Technician



Francis Kujur
Photocopier

# Notes










***Glimpses from 2025 - 26***


CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DELHI
GRAND BALL
2026


अनारदाना
COMMONS



# Alliance Française de Delhi
## *Since 1956*

The Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD) began with a shared passion for the French language and culture

It was registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in June 1956. Its inaugural Governing Body was established under the leadership of Mr. B.V. Keskar, alongside 12 other dedicated members.

**Governance and Structure**

It operates as a non profit registered society, grounded in a spirit of community and voluntary service. It is governed by an elected Governing Body whose members offer their valuable time, strategic leadership, and professional expertise to guide the institution's mission

**Our Vision**

To serve as the premier educational and cultural hub in New Delhi, fostering a vibrant, continuous dialogue between India and the Francophone world. We are dedicated to promoting the French language, celebrating cross-cultural artistic expressions, and building lasting bridges of friendship, intellectual exchange, and mutual understanding.



Alliance Française
*Delhi*

Alliance Française de Delhi
72, KK Birla Lane, Lodi Estate,
New Delhi - 110003
Tel. 011 43500 201 / 202 / 203

***Scan to get in touch with us***

website: afdelhi.org

***Design: Devika A S***


af
AllianceFrançaise
Delhi