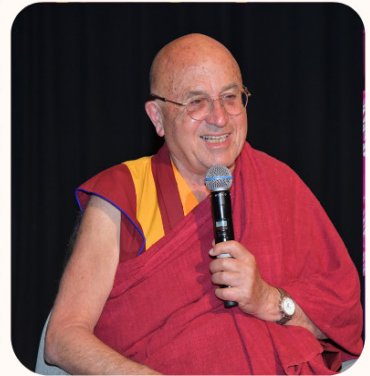




Alliance Française
Delhi

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 25



*Your window to French
language and culture !*



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It is my privilege to present to you, on behalf of the Governing Body, the annual report of Alliance Française de Delhi for the year 2024-2025. I am happy to report that it has been one more year of very satisfactory performance.

Our primary activity is teaching of the French language. During the year the number of students enrolled with us, remained at almost the same level as in the last two years. This is due to the limited space available to us for use as classrooms, and stiff competition from cheaper courses being offered online. Nevertheless we saw 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. At the same time we are continuing our practice of renting 5 to 7 classrooms of the Lycee Francais International de Delhi, during the weekends. We are also making use of the classrooms made available to us by TDV (The Design Village) NOIDA. We are planning to introduce a course tailored for students of design with the aim of attracting more students from TDV.

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 last year. The main aim was to stop seepages, increase durability of the structure and prevent accidental injuries. The pavements around the campus were relaid and the glass box above the art gallery underwent extensive renovations.

Unfortunately the progress was hampered by adverse weather conditions and several stoppages due to the restrictions on construction activities, imposed by the government with the aim of controlling pollution. It is still a work in progress and will continue in the next financial year.

When Mrs Patricia LOISON joined as our Director last year, she brought with her a vast and varied experience and a lot of energy. This enabled us to improve not only the numbers but also the quality of our cultural events namely, art exhibitions, musical performances, dance shows, theatre, talks, debates, panel discussions, cinemas shows and much more. One of the highlights was the screening of the film “All We Imagine As Light” which had won the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. The Director, Payal KAPADIA's presence ensured that the auditorium was completely full. An event that saw a massive turnout was the singing contest to honour the legendary French-Armenian singer Charles AZNAVOUR. Another important event was the exhibition of the works of the reputed French printmaker and lithographer Henri LANDIER. We continued to work in collaboration with EUNIC, which brings together European cultural entities in India, and our Director, Mrs Patricia is currently the Vice President of this network in Delhi.

With support from the French Embassy we started a new project under the banner of Rencontres du Toit du Monde (Meeting on the Rooftop of the World). This was a series of talks, screening of Documentary Films, Photo Exhibitions, and talks by renowned experts, film makers, monks, archaeologists and researchers, on the culture and way of life in the Himalayan regions such as Ladakh, Bhutan and Tibet.

In July 2024, the AFD Campus was transformed into a fan zone for the 2024 Paris Olympics, with facilities to play various sports on the campus and watch the live telecast of the Olympics on a giant screen.

As in the past, annual events such as Fete de la Musique and Francophonie Mela were celebrated with great fanfare. The fifteenth Annual Exhibition of Design By Design was held on 1st February 2025 and the annual award was given to Ms Jaya JAITLEY in recognition of her contribution to the promotion of Indian crafts. The second edition of RISE- Re-Imagining School Education was held in November 2024, with the theme of “Global Citizenship in an AI World”.

Considerable progress was made in the project started last year, to formulate a comprehensive Human Resource Policy for equitable and transparent management of all categories of staff. The issues are complex and we are making steady progress in resolving them after discussing them with legal experts and the concerned members of staff. We hope to complete this exercise very soon.

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 Grégor 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 various Committees and thus made possible the day to day running of the Alliance. I am specially thankful to Mr CHISHTI for his invaluable professional advice and the long hours spent by him in the preparation and execution of the renovation project. Special thanks are also due to Mr SAPRA, for his valuable advice in tax related matters and 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 new Director, Mrs Patricia LOISON and the Academic Director, Mr Frédéric WOLSKA. It is because of their hard work and devotion that we are 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.

The outbreak of the Covid epidemic four years ago and the subsequent lockdown had a very adverse effect on our operations. I am happy to inform you that our operations are now back to the pre-Covid levels. In spite of stiff competition and the limited space available for classrooms, we have succeeded in ensuring that our financial position remains healthy. Within the Alliance Francaise Network in India, we continue to be viewed as the flagship entity. At the global level, we continue to be ranked among the best in the world. The challenges before us may be many and varied, but with our dedicated team and strong support system, we are confident of overcoming them and shaping a brighter future.

On this positive note, I present to you the annual report of the organization for the year 2024-25 for approval.

J L SARIN
President

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter, au nom du Conseil d'administration, le rapport annuel de l'Alliance française de Delhi pour l'année 2024-2025 et le plaisir de vous annoncer que les résultats ont été, une nouvelle fois, très satisfaisants.

Notre activité principale est l'enseignement du français. Durant l'année, le nombre d'inscriptions a été sensiblement le même qu'au cours de ces deux dernières années. Cela s'explique par l'espace limité dont nous disposons pouvant servir de salles de classe et la forte concurrence offrant des cours moins chers en ligne. Nous avons cependant vu une hausse importante du nombre d'apprenants plus jeunes, à savoir les enfants et les adolescents. Au vu de cette tendance, nous avons décidé d'augmenter le nombre de cours qui leur étaient offerts. En même temps, nous continuons à louer 5 à 7 salles de classe au Lycée Français International de Delhi pendant les week-ends. Nous utilisons également les salles de classe mises à notre disposition à TDV (The Design Village) à Noida. Nous projetons de proposer un cours adapté aux étudiants en design en vue d'en attirer plus de TDV.

J'avais souligné l'année dernière que notre campus avait maintenant plus de vingt ans et qu'il nécessitait des réparations urgentes. Au cours de l'année, nous avons continué à nous concentrer sur les rénovations et les réparations, commencées l'année dernière, des structures. L'objectif principal était d'arrêter les infiltrations d'eau, d'accroître la pérennité du bâtiment et de prévenir les accidents. Les pavés autour du campus ont été refaits et la structure en verre au-dessus de la galerie d'art a subi d'importantes rénovations. Malheureusement, l'avancée des travaux a été freinée par de mauvaises conditions météorologiques et divers arrêts du fait des restrictions sur les travaux de construction imposées par le gouvernement afin de contrôler le niveau de pollution. Les travaux n'étant donc pas terminés, ils se poursuivront durant la prochaine année fiscale.

Lorsque Mme Patricia LOISON nous a rejoints l'année dernière en qualité de Directrice, elle a apporté avec elle son expérience des journalisme et de la communication ainsi que sa grande énergie. Cela nous a permis non seulement d'augmenter le nombre des événements culturels tels qu'expositions d'art, concerts, spectacles de danse, pièces de théâtre, discussions, débats, tables rondes, séances de cinéma, et bien d'autres encore, mais également d'en améliorer la qualité. L'un des moments forts a été la projection du film « All We Imagine As

Light » qui a reçu le prestigieux Grand Prix au Festival de Cannes. Grâce à la présence de la réalisatrice, Payal KAPADIA, l'auditorium était bondé. L'autre événement à avoir attiré la foule a été le concours de chant en l'honneur du légendaire chanteur franco-arménien Charles AZNAVOUR. Enfin, un autre événement à souligner a été l'exposition des œuvres du célèbre graveur et lithographe français, Henri LANDIER. Nous avons continué à collaborer avec EUNIC, qui rassemble les entités culturelles européennes en Inde, et notre Directrice, Mme LOISON, est actuellement la Vice-présidente de ce réseau à Delhi.

Avec le soutien de l'ambassade de France, nous avons lancé un nouveau projet sous l'égide de Rencontres du Toit du Monde. Il s'est agi d'une série de discussions, de projections de documentaires, d'expositions de photos et de discussions avec des experts renommés, des réalisateurs, des moines, des archéologues ainsi que des chercheurs sur le thème de la culture et du mode de vie dans les régions himalayennes telles que le Ladakh, le Bhoutan et le Tibet.

En juillet 2024, le campus de l'AFD s'est transformé en un espace réservé aux fans à l'occasion des Jeux olympiques de Paris 2024 et il était possible de regarder leur retransmission en direct sur écran géant ainsi que de pratiquer divers sports.

Comme par le passé, les événements annuels tels que la Fête de la musique et la Foire de la francophonie ont été célébrés en grande pompe. La quinzième exposition annuelle de Design by Design s'est tenue le 1 février 2025 et le prix annuel a été décerné à Mme Jaya JAITLEY en reconnaissance de sa contribution à la promotion de l'artisanat indien. La deuxième édition de RISE-Réimaginer l'éducation scolaire a pris place en novembre 2024 et son thème était « la citoyenneté mondiale dans un monde de l'intelligence artificielle. »

De considérables progrès ont été faits dans le projet commencé l'année dernière concernant la formulation d'une Politique de ressources humaines exhaustive pour une gestion équitable et transparente de toutes les catégories de personnel. Les points à considérer étaient complexes mais nous avançons progressivement en termes de leur résolution après en avoir discuté avec des experts juridiques et les membres du personnel concernés. Nous espérons pouvoir clore ce chapitre très bientôt.

Nos activités sont la promotion des relations culturelles franco-indiennes et l'enseignement du français. Nous les exerçons en coopération avec l'ambassade de France et l'Institut français en Inde. Je suis extrêmement reconnaissant envers Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de France en Inde, M. Thierry MATHOU, de ses encouragements et son soutien constants. Je souhaiterais également remercier M. Grégor TRUMEL, Conseiller et Directeur de l'Institut français en Inde, ainsi que son collègue M. Émile JACAMENT, Coordinateur du Réseau des Alliances françaises en Inde, pour leur coopération et leur aide inestimables lors de l'organisation de nombreux

événements culturels au cours de l'année.

Je tiens également à remercier mes collègues au sein du Conseil d'administration, en particulier les deux Vice-présidentes, Mmes Zohra CHATTERJI et Aude Priya WACZIARG, M. Sandeep SAPRA, président sortant, M. Surya BHATIA, Trésorier, M. Harpreet SINGH, Secrétaire, M. Aditya ARYA, Co-secrétaire, et tous ceux qui ont siégé dans divers Comités et ont ainsi rendu possible la gestion quotidienne de l'Alliance. Je suis particulièrement reconnaissant envers M. CHISTI pour ses précieux conseils professionnels et les longues heures qu'il a passées à préparer et exécuter le projet portant sur les rénovations. Je remercie aussi tout spécialement M. SAPRA pour ses conseils judicieux en matière fiscale et la représentante des professeurs, Mme Ragini MEHTA, pour ses suggestions et ses contributions positives lors des discussions les concernant.

La gestion quotidienne de nos activités a été extrêmement bien assurée par notre nouvelle Directrice, Mme Patricia LOISON, et le Directeur pédagogique, M. Frédéric WOLSKA. Ils sont dûment aidés dans cette tâche par une équipe de professeurs dévoués qui, de par leur travail assidu, nous ont permis d'obtenir d'excellents résultats. Ces professeurs ont eux-mêmes bénéficié du soutien d'une équipe administrative zélée qui s'occupe du fonctionnement quotidien de l'Alliance. Pour cela, je les en remercie tous profondément.

L'apparition de l'épidémie de Covid il y a quatre ans ainsi que le confinement qui a suivi ont eu des effets négatifs sur nos activités. J'ai le plaisir de vous informer qu'elles ont retrouvé leur niveau d'avant la pandémie. En dépit de la forte concurrence et de l'espace limité dont nous disposons pour des salles de classe, nous avons réussi à assurer que notre situation financière reste saine. Au sein du Réseau des Alliances françaises en Inde, nous sommes considérés comme l'entité phare. Au niveau mondial, nous continuons à être l'une des meilleures Alliances. Les défis qui se présentent à nous peuvent être nombreux et variés, mais grâce à notre équipe dévouée et à notre solide système de soutien, nous sommes confiants de pouvoir les surmonter et de bâtir un avenir encore plus prometteur.

Sur cette note positive, je vous présente le rapport annuel de l'Alliance française de Delhi pour l'année 2024-25 pour approbation.

J L Sarin
Président



What a year! What a first year!

So my first word must be “thank you”: to my adopted country and my home country for entrusting me with the leadership of this flagship of the Alliances Françaises, the world’s number one in terms of number of hours of courses sold (800 Alliances worldwide—can you feel the pressure), to the Governing Body members and my President for their welcome and guidance, to my fantastic deputy, to the France team and the Institut Français, and to my entire team.

Building and hosting a television show—my professional background—and building a cultural program for a major institution require similar qualities: high standards, curiosity, creativity/originality and responsiveness.

Thanks to the French Ambassador in India, our offerings were enriched this year (2024/25) with the creation of the Rencontres sur le Toit du Monde (Meeting on the Rooftop of the World), promoting French research expertise on the Himalayan regions—history, languages, architecture, and civilization.

It was a huge success, in both content and form: fascinating guests, our M.L. Bhartia Auditorium packed to the brim, with a big screen set up on the terrace

for Matthieu Ricard, the writer, photographer, Buddhist monk, and official interpreter of the Dalai Lama. We'll be keeping up the momentum this year.

The Alliance Française de Delhi showed an even greater appetite for celebrating Francophonie this year: a full month of events in March, including cinema, plays performed by our students, a giant dictation, and a humorous one-man show on learning French. The highlight was the return of the **Grand Bal de l'AF Delhi**, created by our founding fathers in 1956. French glamour, yes, but for a cause: raising funds to offer a year of French classes to underprivileged youth, thanks to Tara and Main Tendue. We believe that a new skill, like learning French, can be a game-changer in someone's life. A huge thank you to our sponsors* (companies and Individuals) who made it possible for us to welcome 5 young people this year (2025/26).

Keep following us on our social networks; we'll be sharing updates soon.

Thanks to the work of my predecessor, we continue to be a cinematic reference to the extent that the Indian winner of the Cannes Grand Jury Prize, Payal Kapadia, chose us for the first screening of **All We Imagine As Light**. It was both an honor and a recognition of the quality of our cultural offerings.

This year, we will face a new challenge and celebrate start of a new decade.

2026 will mark the **Year of Innovation** between France and India. At AF Delhi, we are already brainstorming a cultural and educational program that embodies innovation. This means not only embracing new technologies but also turning to ancient knowledge to protect our resources, creating inclusive learning opportunities, opening up our campus more widely through welcoming everyone for a dance class or a crêpe-making workshop etc. We will be continuing our collaboration with an innovative partner like The Design Village, whom we congratulate for creating the logo for this special year.

It's about reinventing ourselves while remaining true to our long history. And we'll have to keep up the pace:

- The Month of Francophonie
- Before that, Novembre Numérique (Digital November)
- In June, Fête de la Musique (Music Day)
- Our anniversary: On June 30, 2026 the Alliance Française de Delhi will celebrate – with you! – its 70th birthday!

70 years of excellent French education, 70 years of Franco-Indian friendship, 70 years of artistic creation—from our gallery to our auditorium to our media library overflowing with books and educational resources. We will blow out the candles together with our community and our alumni under the chandeliers of the 70th Anniversary Ball.

On one hand, the Alliance tirelessly builds the Franco-Indian bridge between our two countries and on the other hand, behind the scenes, it's also a builder.

With our Governing Body Members, we are committed to maintaining the integrity of our iconic campus. It has been put to the test, particularly by increasingly severe episodes of rainfall. We must finance the work needed to adapt to climate change. We must also build the architecture of our organization. The COVID crisis was a test of human resources management, one that our teams passed with flying colors.

However, the crisis also raised questions and led to a reflection on how we organize our work. As our President has written, we are currently working on a plan, through open dialogue and with a clear direction, to overhaul the status of our teachers, and we hope this will be followed by a similar review for our administrative teams.

This reflection extends to teaching itself. How do we learn French today? Can we do without a digital presence? Without an Alliance Française de Delhi that's accessible from our pockets, on our phones?

This is also the virtue of the France–India Year of Innovation: reflecting on who we are, and what we want to become.

The mission of the Alliance Française de Delhi is two fold: to provide an excellent—and innovative—French education, and to showcase French culture in a way that resonates with its Indian counterpart.

So what is our culture today?

The Louvre? Yes, but not only: What about the incredible collections of the Musée du Quai Branly and Monet's gardens? Go to Normandy!

Eventually, one should also dream amidst Eva Jospin's monumental works of silk or cardboard.

Artists are the trailblazers in this field: they are pioneers and creators. We are eager to wait to share with you the breathtaking Indian ink lines of Thomas Henriot and his collaboration with Soeries Brochier in Lyon. The company designed a dedicated technology to embroider

these designs as tapestries in black and gold thread. When industry contributes to artistic creation, isn't that a form of innovation?

What about you? What do you think? How can we bring together education, culture, and innovation?

Share your ideas here or at the Alliance Française de Delhi. (Please see QR code at the end)

See you soon on campus,

**EDF Renewables India, Goyal, L'Opéra, Akila, Cerulean, IDFC First Bank*

Patricia LOISON
Director

Quelle année ! Et quelle première année !

Mon premier mot sera donc merci : à mon pays d'adoption et mon pays tout court qui m'accorde sa confiance pour prendre la tête de ce navire-amiral des Alliances Française 1ère au monde en nombre d'heures de cours vendus (800 Alliances dans le monde, vous sentez la pression), au Conseil d'Administration et à mon président pour son accueil et ses conseils, à mon formidable adjoint, à la team France et à l'Institut Français et à toute mon équipe.

Construire une émission de télévision et la porter - mon expérience professionnelle- et construire un programme culturel d'une grande institution requiert des qualités similaires : exigence, curiosité, inventivité, réactivité.

Grâce à l'Ambassadeur de France en Inde, notre offre s'est enrichie cette année 2024/25 de la création des Rencontres sur le Toit du Monde, promouvant l'expertise de la recherche française - histoire, langues, architecture, civilisation- sur les régions himalayennes.

Un grand succès sur le fond et la forme : des invités passionnants, un auditorium M L Barthia plein comme un œuf, et prolongé sur la terrasse avec un grand écran pour Matthieu Ricard, écrivain, photographe, moine bouddhiste et traducteur du Dalai Lama.

Nous continuerons sur notre lancée cette année.

L'Alliance Française de Delhi fit montre d'un plus grand appétit encore cette année pour célébrer la Francophonie : un mois entier, en mars, d'événements, de cinéma, de théâtre porté par nos élèves, de dictée géante, de seul en scène humoristique sur l'apprentissage du français. Point d'orgue : le retour du Grand Bal de l'AF Delhi, créé par nos pères fondateurs en 1956. Du glamour français, oui mais pour une cause : lever des fonds pour offrir une année de français à des jeunes défavorisés grâce à Tara et Main Tendue. Parce que nous croyons qu'une nouvelle compétence comme l'acquisition du français peut changer la donne dans une vie. Un immense merci à nos sponsors * qui nous permettent d'accueillir 6 jeunes pour cette année 2025/26.

Continuez de nous suivre sur nos réseaux : nous vous donnerons des nouvelles .

Grâce au travail de mon prédécesseur, nous continuons de demeurer une référence en matière de cinéma au point que la lauréate indienne du grand prix du jury à Cannes Payal Kapadia nous choisit pour la première projection de All We Imagine As Light. Un honneur et une reconnaissance de la qualité de notre offre culturelle.

Cette année nous

devrons relever un défi et célébrer une nouvelle décennie.

2026 s'ouvrira sur la célébration de l'Année de l'Innovation entre la France et l'Inde : nous planchons à l'AF Delhi sur une proposition culturelle et éducative qui rime avec innovation. Être en phase avec les nouvelles technologies bien sûr, mais pas seulement.

Se tourner vers des savoirs anciens pour protéger nos ressources, créer des apprentissages inclusifs, ouvrir davantage notre campus pour accueillir tous et toutes autour d'un cours de danse ou d'une recette de crêpe, poursuivre notre collaboration avec un partenaire innovant comme Le Design Village que nous félicitons pour sa création du logo de cette année spéciale. Se réinventer pour continuer de s'inscrire dans notre longue histoire.

Et nous devons garder le rythme :

-Mois de la Francophonie

-Avant cela Novembre Numérique,

-En juin la Fête de la Musique

-Notre anniversaire : le 30 juin, l'Alliance Française de Delhi célébrera -avec vous !- ses 70 ans !

70 ans d'un enseignement d'excellence du français, 70 ans d'amitié franco-indienne, 70 ans de création artistique de notre galerie à notre auditorium en passant par notre médiathèque regorgeant de livres et de ressources pédagogiques...

Nous soufflerons nos bougies ensemble, avec notre communauté, nos anciens élèves et sous les lustres du Bal des 70 ans.

L'Alliance côté scène construit inlassablement le pont franco-indien entre nos deux pays.

Côté coulisses, c'est aussi une bâtisseuse.

Avec notre conseil d'administration, nous nous engageons à maintenir l'intégrité de notre campus iconique. Il est mis à rude épreuve notamment par des épisodes de pluie plus violents. Il faut financer ces travaux pour nous adapter au changement climatique.

Construire aussi l'architecture de notre structure : le covid fut aussi une épreuve de gestion des ressources humaines que les équipes remportèrent haut la main.

Cependant cette crise généra des questions, une réflexion sur l'organisation du travail. Comme l'écrivait notre président, nous concevons dans le dialogue et avec un cap une refonte du statut des enseignants, suivie nous l'espérons par une même réflexion sur nos équipes administratives.

La réflexion se prolonge sur l'enseignement. Comment apprendre le français aujourd'hui ? Peut-on se passer d'une incarnation digitale ? D'une Alliance Française de Delhi accessible depuis notre poche, sur nos portables ?

C'est aussi la vertu de l'année de l'innovation entre la France et l'Inde : réfléchir à qui nous sommes, et ce que nous voulons devenir.

La mission de l'Alliance Française de Delhi est double : délivrer un enseignement du français d'excellence - et innovant- & faire rayonner la culture française en écho avec son alter ego indien.

Qu'est-ce notre culture aujourd'hui ?
Le Louvre ?

Mais aussi les incroyables collections du Musée du Quai Branly et les jardins de Monet ? Courez en Normandie !

Et rêver revenez au cœur des monumentaux de soie ou de carton d'Eva Jospin.

Les artistes marchent en éclaireur sur ce terrain : précurseurs, créateurs. Nous avons hâte de partager avec vous le trait d'encre de chine hypnotique de Thomas Henriot et sa collaboration avec les Soieries Brochier à Lyon. L'entreprise a conçu une technologie dédiée pour broder ces dessins en tapisserie noir et fils d'or. Quand l'industrie participe à la création artistique, n'est-ce pas innovant ?

Et vous? Qu'en pensez-vous ? Comment conjuguer éducation, culture et innovation? Partagez vos idées ici ou à l'Alliance Française de Delhi (Veuillez voir le code QR à la fin). A bientôt sur notre campus

**EDF Renewables India, Goyal, L'Opéra, Akila, Cerulean, IDFC First Bank*

Patricia LOISON
Directrice

Glimpses from the journey of our director, Patricia Loison

The MORNING STANDARD

LEISURE

12 NEW DELHI

FRIDAY 09.05.2025

FROM THE PAST
One Last Time

On this day in 1502, the fourth and final voyage of navigator Christopher Columbus, known for his European exploration, commenced his sail from Spain, hoping to find a passage to Asia

PARAMITA GHOSH

WITH the party under way, Patricia Loison began to waltz. And as was proper, one of the first dances of the director of Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD) was with Thierry Mathou, the French Ambassador to India. Both were in French colours—blue, white, and red; in her off-shoulder dress, Loison moved gracefully under the chandelier before Pichwai paintings. A pièce montée cake installation at the other end of the ballroom, a violinist in all black, a poster of earlier versions of cultural evenings in Delhi, plates of macaroons with honey and goat cheese plus other savouries by L'Opera on little tables beside the bar—all played their part in evoking the '50s 'French Ball' that Loison had re-visited into Delhi a few weeks ago, just as summer grew in the city.

White heat bleaches the glass windows, as it were, but the office of Loison, the first Indian-origin director of Alliance Française de Delhi, whom we meet a few days later, is cool. The books, files, bulletin boards with stickies of things to do, and indoor plants set against office furniture give the room a busy look, but the arrangement all seems aimed at aiding work. At her workplace, Loison has imposed the order of a French garden. The start of her story of life was anything but.

"There are a few boxes that I open with caution and only now and then," she says. "If I were to see a certain kind of movie or read a book. Otherwise, they stay quite closed." In 2019, Loison wrote a book *Je cherche encore ton nom* (I am still Looking for your Name), published by Fayard, in which she wrote: "I could have grown up on these Delhi sidewalks begging, mirroring the fates of those little girls..."

Shishu Bhavan to Paris

"People usually begin their books with, 'When I was born', mine starts with the sentence, 'When I arrived'. I was five months old when I landed in my parents' arms at the airport from Delhi," says Loison. Two years later, she would herself be

Patricia Loison in her office at Alliance Française de Delhi

PHOTO: PARKEN NEGI



PATRICIA'S CHOICE

Patricia Loison was adopted from Delhi. The first director of Indian-origin of the Alliance Française, she talks of growing up French and the challenge of having a past with some pieces missing.

at the airport to receive her brother, who was from Lebanon, along with her parents Gisèle and Christian Loison, a young middle-class couple. Gisèle had gynaecological problems; there was "no Angeline Jolie side" to the desire for adoption from diverse cultures. Loison was adopted from the Mother Teresa Foundation, Delhi.

Loison and her brother Franck's upbringing was naturally a French one. "In France at that time, India was not a big presence. France knew Arabs because of colonialism, so I didn't face that problem. I didn't look Arab. Skin was never an is-

sus at school. We felt and grew up French. For my parents, we could have been orange with green hair, and it wouldn't have mattered. They thought so highly of us, we walked on water," says Loison, her eyes lighting up. She also studied at the Lille School of Journalism, one of Europe's most prestigious journalism school, in France.

In her twenties, however, she had a meltdown when a chance remark by a friend's mother that she "looked Indian" led to a storm of grief, and it hit her hard; adoption meant that she had been abandoned. It hit her again when she gave birth to

her first child. "I could not hold back some extreme feelings after Luna's birth, when my parents joined us at the clinic to meet their first grandchild. I felt my biological mother talked through me re-living the separation that happened 30 years ago when I was handed to my adoptive mum. I could not stand her holding the baby... I had a voice inside my head whispering awful things, and it was a turning point in deciding to dig in more on adoption and its consequences."

Facing It

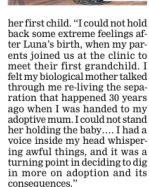
Loison tells this story with the



With the French Ambassador Thierry Mathou



With her family after being awarded Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres medal



Parents receiving the first photo



People usually begin their books with, 'When I was born', mine starts with the sentence, 'When I arrived'. I was five months old when I landed in my parents' arms at the airport from Delhi.

Patricia Loison, director, AFD

openness of someone who has told the story before. Writing the book also made her look at her biological mother's decision closely, obsessively, repeatedly. It was also the chance to tell her story, her way. "It is said if a chick is made to leave the mother, some die and some survive. So, it is with a human child. Whether you blend or cling, it's a decision you make. You make your new family yours. Whether family or the mother you came from, whatever happened before, you can't have that. You can't have both..."

When she was in her 30s, Gisèle gave her her case file. "I am told she breastfed me," Loison says softly. Each detail has added to her mental picture of

as they come. In 2023, she was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres medal with her parents proudly accompanying her to the award ceremony. "India actually makes me realise how French I am," she says, with a laugh. She was still doing her TV anchoring when she was offered the job to helm AFD. "My profile and my life were seen as good things here," she says.

Loison is a conservative when it comes to language. *Emily in Paris* is a great ambassador for France "but she speaks very bad French"—not a role model for AFD students, she says jokingly. Spellings are for Loison milestones of history. With her, you do not meet with only stories.

"The trend now may be to simplify language, but I don't like it. For example, forest is forêt in French. The accent on top signifies that in the Middle Ages this sign was an S. If you remove the accent for simplification, you have erased a whole part of history," she says. Are the students at AFD listening? "Indians have a talent for languages. The aim and business model at AFD is the study of the French language in a French bubble—see movies, bring in artists, students participate in song contests—know the culture." Under her watch, the Delhi premiere of *All We Imagine as Light*, the 2024 Cannes Grand Prix winner and an Indo-French co-production film by Payal Kapadia, was screened at the AFD.

Loison is now preparing for the India-France Year of Innovation 2028, a partnership between France and India, endorsed at the highest level between the two heads of state and French Ambassador Thierry Mathou. A new app for learning French is also an option being thought of. "People think innovation is limited to robots and AI. We need to think of education," she says. "A French language certificate on the resume is a differentiator in the job market. There are more than 1,000 French companies in India. It's an asset to have if you can talk to the guys in the factory in Hindi and connect with your co-workers in Europe in French. Education is the big game," she says.

At the helm

Returning to Delhi as director, AFD, may seem like coming full circle, but Loison is a French

The New Indian Express / The Morning Standard



BEST RESTOBAR LUXURIOUS NIGHTOUT - ARTS ROOM: Patricia Loison, Director of Alliance Française, Delhi, awards Randee Bajaj, Navneet Randhawa Bajaj, Parth Saxena, Arjun Sethi and Karanvir Sandhu

Patricia Loison at the Times of India Food and Night life awards

Academics

From the Academic Director's Desk

“The Alliance Française de Delhi continues to pursue its objectives with undiminished vigor and conviction, going beyond merely teaching French as a language, to making it a genuine lever of opportunity. We support our learners through what we call the three-stage rocket, by taking them along a structured and ambitious path comprising French courses, studies in France and Francophone countries, and finally integration into an international network offering visibility, influence, and employability.



We note that today, learning French provides our students an immediate return on investment in their professional careers. There are more than a thousand French or Francophone companies, located in India, offering a wide range of career opportunities for our students. This fast-expanding professional network recognizes and values the linguistic and intercultural skills that our institution imparts.

While this year's registration figures have shown a slight decline in the number of new enrollments, the loyalty and commitment of our learners have remained unwavering. This reflects a genuine confidence in the quality of our teaching and underlines the continued relevance of our course offerings in addressing the demands of a globalized job market.”

Frédéric Wolska
Academic Director



1. French Classes

1.1 Evolution of registrations for French Language courses

While interest in French surged post-2021, possibly driven by a post-COVID recovery, student retention and outreach have weakened thereafter. The number of different students peaked in 2022–2023 at 4,878, but then declined steadily over the next two years. From 2022–2023 to 2023–2024, there was a 6.7% drop, and a slight decrease of 0.59% going into 2024–2025 with 4524 different students. Registrations rose significantly from 2021–2022 (7,452) to 2022–2023 (8,170). The following years saw marginal decreases: -0.03% and then -1.26%. The stability in the number of registrations suggests loyal repeat enrolments, even as the number of distinct students declined.

The total volume of teaching hours remained high, indicating that those who did enroll likely committed to substantial learning hours.

Registrations seem to have plateaued, setting what may now be considered the new baseline. Looking ahead, future growth in enrollments will depend on expanding to new audiences (young and very young learners, as well as professionals), renewed marketing strategies, and developing innovative and flexible formats to maintain the momentum. The opening of



annexes in the suburbs of Delhi also represents a promising avenue for growth. AFD has introduced 'Open House Days' to showcase and promote the complete range of its services including the campus, cultural activities, translations and certifications, while the free



demo classes have effectively helped in highlighting our pedagogical expertise. The demand for corporate courses has remained stable at 600 group hours per year. We have continued our contracts with several companies such as Orange, AXA, the French Embassy, etc. and have also acquired new clients including UNESCO, VFS and Dassault.

AFD has also been receiving an increasing number of requests for individual classes averaging 400 hours annually over the past two academic years.

Classes for children and teenagers continue to show a strong potential for growth. This segment currently represents 8% of our learners and has seen a sharp rise in enrollments over three years (+39% in 2023 with 377 registrations; 491 students registered in 2024 and 620 registrations in 2025). The number of children and teenager students, representing a significant market potential for our establishment, has grown by 30% this year (2023-24: 491 Kids & Teens registrations; compared to 2022-23: 377 registrations). This segment therefore, needs to be further developed.

“As parents, we appreciate the balance between serious learning and fun activities. Our son is picking up French quickly and enjoying the process.”

Mother of Priansh (Kids Class A2.2)




AFD has taken advantage of every opportunity to welcome and engage these new learners. In summer 2024, initiatives such as a one-week Summer Camp and a Family Brunch at the cafeteria were organized. Workshops were also offered in English on Art Appreciation for the benefit of parents during weekend classes, thereby providing a holistic, family-oriented experience.

Through our collaboration with the Lycée International de Delhi (LFID) we were able to introduce French classes for the parents of enrolled children. These classes are part of a partnership agreement formalized by an MOU, which allows AFD the use of LFID classrooms for weekend courses. To full fill the demand for weekend classes, in addition to the 14 classrooms available on the campus, AFD is using 8 classrooms from 7.30 to 6pm at the LFID on weekends.

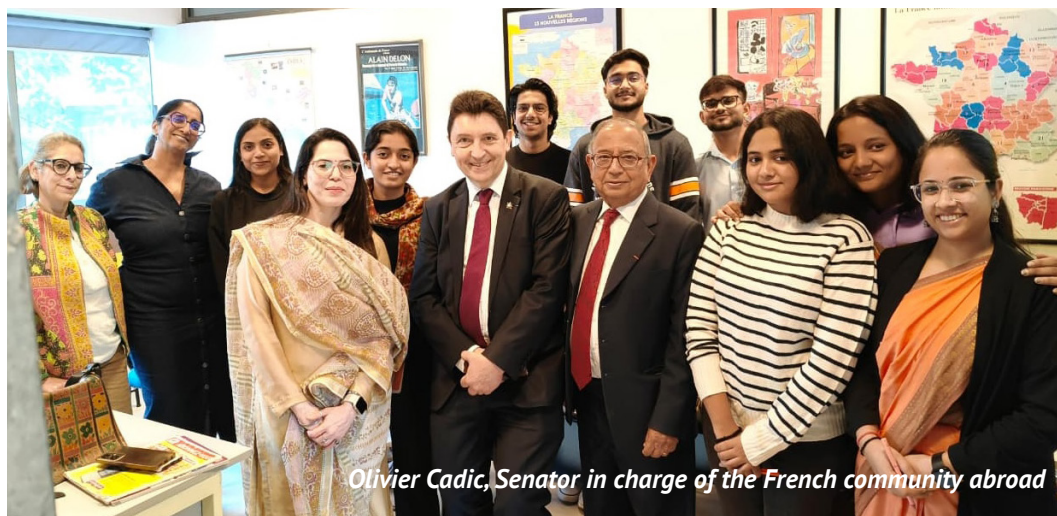
We have also continued to strengthen the link between French language learning and the cultural programming opportunities offered at the AFD. At the beginning of every session, newly registered students have the opportunity of meeting the Directors at the “Meet the Directors” programs where they are introduced to the full range services that they can avail of, with special emphasis on cultural programming—an element that sets the AFD apart in Delhi’s competitive French teaching landscape. Teachers are actively encouraged to include cultural activities on an ongoing basis in classroom activities. This year, initiatives such as Novembre Numérique (Digital November) and the Écrire en français exhibition were warmly received by both students and teachers alike.

In addition, special attention has been paid to the promotion of workshops including the media library’s thematic language workshops and Art-Philosophy workshops, as well as opportunities for students to engage with distinguished guests. Some such visits included the delegations of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Sciences Po Paris, French Senators, etc. These initiatives aim to offer a “complete experience” to our students, while providing them genuine platforms for exchange with high-level professionals.



“I love the vibrant campus atmosphere—it feels welcoming and full of energy. Every time I walk in, it feels like stepping into a little piece of France in Delhi.”

Tushar (A1.2 class)



	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Progression from one year to another (%)	2024-2025	Progression from one year to another (%)
No. of different students	4671	4878	4551	-6.7%	4524	-0.59%
No. of registrations	7452	8170	8167	-0.03%	8064	-1.26%
No. of hours sold	620 470	681 445.3	679 009	-0.35%	663 765.99	-2.24%

1.2 Activities at the Noida extension center

The AFD is continuing its collaboration with The Design Village. In addition to developing French classes for the school's students, the Alliance Française hopes, through this partnership, to open up the possibility for a new audience based in Noida and the surrounding area to join our French courses. Language courses are open to external audiences, and a dedicated communication strategy has been created for the same.

The Alliance Française regularly relocates its cultural programs (e.g. Novembre Numérique, screenings, and concerts) to create momentum around French culture. TDV also curates and hosts monthly French film screenings on the campus, encouraging students to explore visual narratives, cultural identities, and contemporary social themes through cinema.

The Design Village teams also contribute to promoting this expansion of our institution by engaging their students through targeted communication campaigns.

General French courses are struggling to attract the expected audience. We are also considering offering French for specific purposes at TDV, such as “French for Design” or “French for Fashion.”



2. Certifications

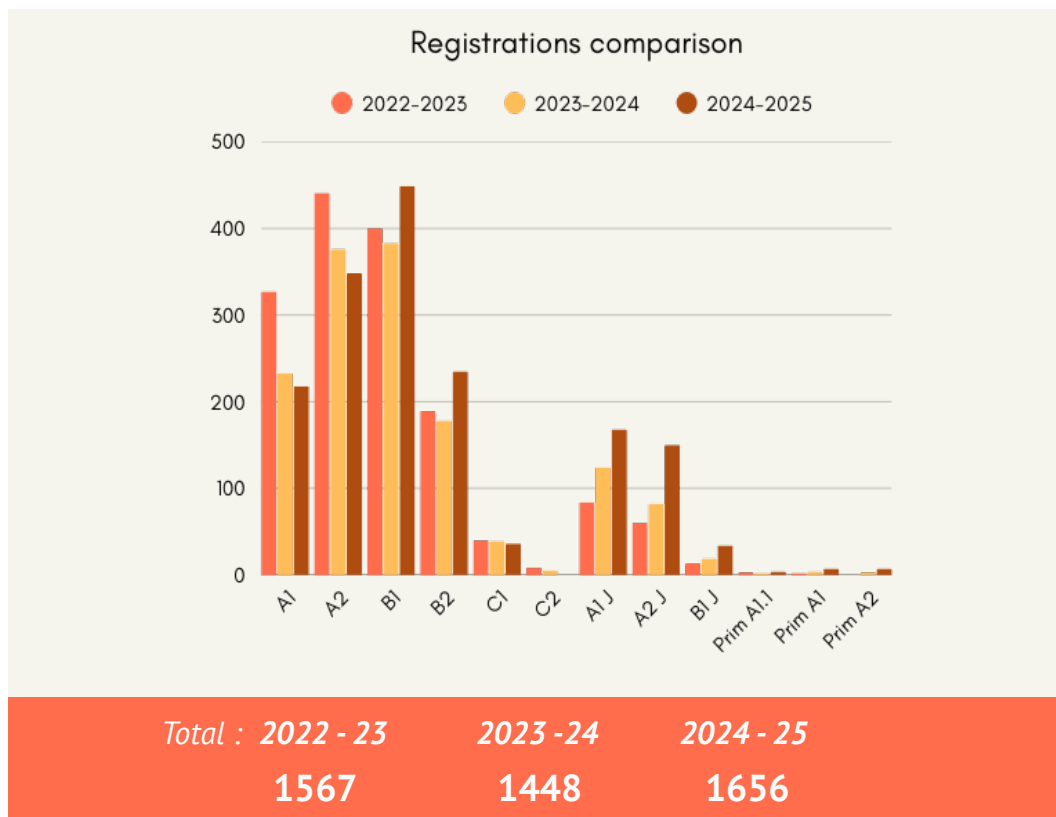
2.1 DELF and DALF certifications

The Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) and the Diplôme approfondi en langue française (DALF) are official diplomas issued by the French Ministry of National Education. Aligned with the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), they are recognized worldwide and are valid for life. Depending on the level, the DELF can strengthen a CV and facilitate employment in French, Indian and International companies where French is the spoken language or regularly used in professional interactions. DELF B1 enables eligibility for French nationality. DELF B2, and increasingly DALF C1, open the doors to French, European, or French-speaking universities, as well as many prestigious schools.

DELF Prim and DELF Junior versions cater respectively for very young learners (7 to 11 years) and youth (12-17 years).

Alliance Française de Delhi is the official **DELF-DALF** certification center in New Delhi and offers all levels (A1- A2 - B1- B2 - C1- C2).





After a slight decline in 2023–2024, registrations for examinations have again gone up this year. We have registered an increase of 14% this year, surpassing the numbers for 2022–2023.

We credit this success to the joint action plan carried out with the AF network in India and our partner, the Institut Français in India. Mock training sessions have helped demystify the exams, while communication campaigns emphasized the benefits of certifications, especially in terms of professional advancement and higher education opportunities in France. These efforts also helped to underscore the added value of higher-level certifications, and appear to have been effective.

2.3 TCF – Test de connaissance du français

The TCF is the language proficiency test of the French Ministry of National Education. It assesses the French language skills of non-native speakers who seek to assess their French proficiency for academic (students, future students, interns, etc.), professional (employees or future employees, etc.) or personal reasons.

It is officially recognized by numerous French and international authorities, including the Ministry of Immigration, Francisation, and Integration of Quebec (MIFI), university administrations, and training centers.

AFD offers the TCF Canada version.

Registrations comparison			
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
TCF Canada	81	60	124
TCF IRN (French nationality)	-	1	-

After a decline in 2023 attributed to political tensions between Canada and India, potentially impacting Canadian immigration, AFD is proud of the 50% increase in registrations this year. The academic team managed to accommodate more candidates for each session, effectively doubling registrations. We are currently studying the opportunity to open a bigger TCF exam room in partnership with LFID.

3. Training

3.1 Initial Training of FLE Teachers

AFD continues its partnership with the University of Le Mans, offering DU-FLE (University Diploma of French as a Foreign Language) accredited training. The 2024-2025 cohort comprises 14 participants.

This one-year hybrid training program, combining both online and face-to-face sessions, provides a pool of teachers well-trained in the methods of teaching French as a Foreign Language. AFD identifies candidates with potential and strengthens their training through mentoring provided by our senior teachers. This system ensures the ongoing renewal of AFD's teaching staff, aligning with proactive job and skills management.

To maintain a high level of training, the training content was revised and particular attention was paid to the evaluation of the participants. Since 90% of the training and evaluation are conducted online, there were potential risks of AI-related fraud in the evaluation system. Evaluation procedures were thus adapted to safeguard the quality of the evaluation process.

3.2 In-Service Training of AFD Teachers

AFD places strong emphasis on teacher training. Apart from short online training sessions, including webinars and online courses organized by our French partners such as the Alliance Française de Paris, France Education Internationale, and CAVILAM, in-person training sessions are also organized regularly throughout the year.

In February 2024, a three-day teaching seminar brought together all the academic staff. The following topics were covered:

- **Using BEN Q interactive touchscreens**
- **Teaching young learners**
- **Exploring the use of AI in teaching French as a Foreign Language**

Dissemination of training acquired at the Institut de Touraine in France:

- **Integrating creative and fun activities through games and new media**
- **Andragogy, managing heterogeneity within a group**
- **A round table discussion on Evaluation Practices at the AFD**
- **A round table discussion on Argumentation – B1/B2 Oral and Written Production Program**
- **The art and techniques of Subtitling (for the translation cell)**
- **Special workshop for kids/teens courses: Creating a database of teaching materials**

All the teachers also received the necessary training and, in some cases, retraining, for accreditation for DELF and DALF examination grading.

3.3 Training and Workshops for IFI

The Institut Français regularly calls on our team of AFD teacher trainers to run training sessions for French teachers in schools.

As part of the annual Regional University held in May 2024, AFD trainers provided two 15-hour modules on “Large group pedagogy and differentiated pedagogy” and “Optimizing the use of the textbook in class”.

Our trainers also took part in the in-service training program for French teachers in schools through an online training course on “the integration of pedagogical sequences for preparing learners for the DELF Junior”



In March 2024, AFD was awarded a tender under the French for All project which focuses on the professional development of French teachers in school. As part of this project, AFD will deliver two training modules in 2025: Assessment and Preparation of learners for DELF A2. Sakshi Tandon, our teacher-trainer for courses for kids and teens, also conducts sessions for the initial training program for teachers of the Alliance Française network coordinated by the Alliance Française de Paris. She organizes a training module on the specificities of teaching French as a foreign language to young learners as part of the CPAFP (Certificate of Teaching of the Alliance Française de Paris)

Additionally, AFD also welcomes in its regular French courses, a dozen French teachers from Delhi schools. These teachers receive funding from the IFI to enhance their language skills and prepare for the DELF exams.

4. Celebrating Francophonie

As every year, the month of March provides an opportunity to organize an array of events dedicated to celebrating Francophonie Week.

On March 20 – International Francophonie Day, AFD hosted a tightly packed program. Since, one day alone is not sufficient to bring together all the lovers of the French language, AFD is extending the celebrations to a whole month dedicated to this international focus on French language.

This year, AFD has proposed 3 new events:

A giant dictation contest, in partnership with **La Dictée pour Tous**. Since 2013, this national championship of large-scale dictations has been encouraged and sponsored by personalities drawn from the world of letters, artists and sportspersons. Traditionally organized in iconic venues in France such as the Château de Versailles, Paris Book Fair, and it has been organized for the very first time in Delhi!

The **Short Film Festival**, a free annual event, designed to make short films better known to the widest possible audience. AFD offered 3 days of free screenings open to all, along with special sessions for AFD students and LFID students.

During the annual **Francophonie Mela** held on March 22 with over 1,500 participants, the Romain Rolland Gallery was transformed into a beach where visitors could enjoy a seaside setting complete with beach volleyball, a mocktail bar, and enchanting French coastal scenery.





Students participation in Francophonie Mela 2025

TRANSLATION CELL

Around 1200 clients were provided with administrative translations!

- The Translation & Interpretation Cell was established in 1989 and since then it has grown steadily, earning a strong reputation for excellence. Over the years, it has successfully executed numerous high-profile projects across a wide range of domains, including translation, interpretation, and dubbing. The Cell is supported by a dedicated team of 15 certified professionals, each playing a vital role in their respective areas of expertise.
- In the financial year 2024–25, the Translation & Interpretation Cell experienced notable growth, with revenues exceeding Rs.60 lakh in the second consecutive year and total earnings reaching Rs.51,45,146. The Cell successfully completed several high-profile translation, interpretation, and dubbing assignments during this period. Noteworthy new collaborations included organizations such as Axalys France, International Institute For Environment And Development, Kzn Amafa And Research Institute, Puraroma Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., This Is It Studio, Sampan Media Pvt. Ltd., Sahore Entourage, Strangebee.
- The growing number of Indian students pursuing higher education in France has led to a significant rise in the volume of administrative translations required. This upward trend is expected to persist, driven by the French government's continued efforts to promote its higher education sector to international students.
- Prestigious assignments for the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo were successfully completed. These included the legal translation of three key agreements between the D.R. Congo and the Republic of Indonesia for the promotion and protection of investments, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the D.R. Congo and the Government of India focused on cooperation in geology, mineral resources, and energy.

“The entire translation process was very smooth and hassle-free. The team was responsive and professional throughout. I’m very satisfied with the service provided by Alliance Française de Delhi.”

-Akansha Choudhary



Alliance Française interpreters Andita Rao and Prabhjot Singh Khurana provided simultaneous interpretation at the LIFE-AR event held in Bhutan in July 2024, supporting discussions on climate resilience and locally led adaptation.

- Our translation team carried out a detailed legal and administrative translation project for the French government, involving official documents critical to public administration and legal compliance for an Indian organization “This Is It Studio”. This assignment required an expert grasp of both legal terminology and the structure of French bureaucratic systems. Each document was translated with precision to ensure consistency with French legal standards and administrative protocols, enabling smooth processing and official recognition by the relevant authorities. The project highlighted our capability to handle sensitive governmental material with the highest level of accuracy and confidentiality.
- In addition, our team successfully completed and delivered a flawless translation of a highly complex legal judgment, which was required by the French authorities. The document involved intricate legal terminology and nuanced interpretations, demanding both linguistic precision and a deep understanding of comparative legal systems. Our

meticulous approach ensured that the translated judgment retained its original intent and legal clarity, meeting the exacting standards of the French legal framework and facilitating its official use without the need for further clarification or revision.

- A significant number of complex financial documents were meticulously translated and delivered with a high degree of precision for Suez Projects Pvt. Ltd.. Each translation was handled with utmost attention to detail, ensuring accuracy in terminology, numerical data, and regulatory language. The project demonstrated our team's deep understanding of financial systems and our commitment to maintaining the integrity of sensitive financial information throughout the translation process.
- The Cell provided comprehensive legal and financial translation services for SAHORE ENTOURAGE - a project that involved translating complex contractual agreements, regulatory documents, and detailed financial reports. This assignment required a high level of accuracy, as well as a deep understanding of both legal and financial terminology in a bilingual context. Our team ensured that all translated materials were not only linguistically precise but also aligned with the relevant legal frameworks and financial conventions. The successful execution of this project reinforced our reputation for handling high-stakes, specialized translations with confidentiality and professional excellence.
- This year, two new professional translators – Neilu KHANNA & Vanita RAGHUVANSHI were on boarded, strengthening our existing team and expanding our linguistic capacity. Their addition brings fresh expertise in specialized domains such as legal, technical, and financial translation, enhancing the overall versatility and responsiveness of the team. These new members were carefully selected for their proven experience, subject-matter knowledge, and commitment to quality, ensuring that we continue to meet growing client demands while maintaining the high standards of accuracy and professionalism that define our services.

“I had a very smooth and professional experience throughout the document verification and translation process. The Zoom verification was well-organized and efficient, and the communication was always clear and prompt. I appreciate the timely delivery of the translated documents and the overall support provided. I would definitely recommend this service to others needing official document translation and verification.”

-Dr. Arjun K.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

Francophonie celebrations



This year, the Francophonie festivities spanned the entire month of March, offering a rich tapestry of cultural events that celebrated the diversity of Francophone cultures.

The celebrations commenced with the Francophonie Film Festival, running from March 3rd to March 28th. This festival showcased a curated selection of films from various Francophone countries, providing audiences with a cinematic journey through the Francophone world.

From 19th to 21st March 2025, the La Fête du court métrage (Short Film Festival) took place, focusing on the theme “La Famille”. This event aimed to make short films more accessible and appreciated by a broader audience.

The Francophonie Mela on 22nd March 2025 was a highlight, transforming the Alliance Française de Delhi campus into a vibrant hub of cultural exchange. Over 20 stalls represented various Francophone countries, offering insights into their cultures and cuisines. The event featured musical and theatrical performances, art exhibitions, and interactive activities, attracting a diverse crowd eager to immerse themselves in Francophone cultures.



Stand Up by *Sebastian Marx*



Olympe Ramakrishna
Women of Urban India

A notable addition this year was the **Dictée Pour Tous** on 23rd March 2025, led by M. Abdellah Boudour, ll the way from Paris. This engaging dictation event promoted literacy and brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the French language.

The celebrations also included performances by Franco-American stand-up comedian **Sebastian Marx** on 25th and 26th March 2025, in English & French, who captivated audiences with his humorous take on French culture and language.

An exhibition titled **“Women of Urban India”** by Franco-Indian artist Olympe Ramakrishna was showcased from 8th to 18th March 2025. This series of portraits explored the complexities of modern Indian women, capturing the duality of modernity and heritage through vibrant artistic expressions.

Furthermore, the **“Écrire en Français”** exhibition, a collaboration with the French Institute and Alliance Française in Paris, featured 37 writers from around the world who chose to write in French, highlighting the unifying power of the language.





Johary Ravaloson
Écrire en Français



*“Presenting *Écrire en Français* was a rewarding experience. The exhibition celebrated 37 global writers who chose French as their language of expression. Guiding student walkthroughs offered a unique opportunity to reflect on how language connects cultures and identities”.*

Tuba Ali
Culture Coordinator

The month-long celebrations concluded with various educational and cultural activities, reinforcing the spirit of Francophonie and its emphasis on linguistic and cultural diversity.

Design x Design

Design x Design, also known as D x D, continued its tradition of showcasing design through a multidimensional lens. This year, two cornerstone events defined the initiative's ongoing commitment to highlighting innovation and creativity within the design world.

Design X Design: 15th Annual Exhibition and Award held on 1st February 2025 at Alliance Française de Delhi, the 15th edition of the Design X Design: Twenty Under Thirty-Five exhibition showcased the philosophies, working methods, and aspirations of twenty emerging designers under the age of thirty-five. This annual initiative fosters cross-disciplinary dialogue and nurtures greater appreciation of contemporary design practices within civil society.

The evening also featured the Design X Design Award 2025, which was presented to Ms. Jaya Jaitly in recognition of her remarkable contributions to the promotion of traditional Indian crafts. Her pioneering efforts through Gurjari and the Dastkari Haat Samiti have empowered craftspeople by facilitating direct access to urban markets and creating public platforms for craft outreach across India.

Through these events, Design x Design reaffirmed its role as a platform that nurtures emerging talent, stimulates dialogue, and broadens public engagement with design in India.





Rencontres du Toit du Monde

In 2024, Alliance Française de Delhi deepened its engagement with Himalayan cultures and philosophies through a series of immersive events under the banner of Rencontres du Toit du Monde (Meeting on the Rooftop of the World).

The journey began in 2024 with a special Ladakh Night, featuring a powerful documentary screening by acclaimed Ladakhi filmmaker Stanzin Dorjai Gya, and an insightful presentation by French Archaeologist Dr. Quentin Devers on Ladakh's rich historical and cultural heritage. Later that year, the second edition of Rencontres du Toit du Monde brought a talk and presentation by Nicolas Tournadre (Professor Emeritus, AMU, and member of the Institut Universitaire de France) followed by a movie screening of Songs of the Water Spirits by Nicolo Bongiorno, an internationally acclaimed film, translated into six languages and has won twenty international awards.

The series culminated in February 2025 with a deeply inspiring encounter with Matthieu Ricard, celebrated Buddhist monk, humanitarian, and photographer. Through a meditative talk accompanied by his stunning images of Himalayan life, Ricard invited audiences to reflect on the harmony between nature, compassion, and inner peace.

The fourth edition featured the screening of *Agent of Happiness*, a documentary by Arun Bhattarai and Dorottya Zurbó. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the filmmaker, offering audiences a poignant exploration of Bhutan's pursuit of national happiness through the lens of its people. This cinematic journey through Bhutan's unique quest to measure joy offered audiences an intimate insight into the daily lives and desires of the Bhutanese people.

Rencontres du Toit du Monde was conceived under the vision of Dr. Thierry Mathou, the French Ambassador to India.



RISE- Re- Imagining School Education

In November 2024, Alliance Française de Delhi, in collaboration with One Teacher One Scientist, hosted the second edition of RISE – Re-Imagining School Education, a two-day Thought Exchange Festival aimed at rethinking education through the lens of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. This edition was themed “Global Citizenship in an AI World” and focused on how artificial intelligence is reshaping learning, creativity, and ethical responsibility in education. **The event was inaugurated by French Ambassador to India Dr. Thierry Mathou, UN Resident Coordinator in India, Mr. Shombi Sharp, and Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, former Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India,** marking a significant moment of international cooperation in education and cultural diplomacy.

We were also honoured to host a soulful piano recital by Paris based Kim Barbier, whose performance marked the inauguration of RISE 2024. Inspired by iconic musicians like Jordi Savall and Vincent Ségal, Kimya Ensemble combined refined musical exploration with improvisational flair, resulting into an enchanting performance. A special guest, Rishab Prasanna, an accomplished bansuri player, joined Kimya Ensemble to explore and create an authentic fusion of musical cultures.

RISE 2024 brought together educators, students, parents, and thought leaders from across India and abroad for a series of dynamic discussions, cultural performances, and interactive learning experiences. Expert-led talks explored pressing topics such as AI-driven education, ethics in learning, bridging the digital divide, cyber safety, and inclusivity in school environments. The festival featured an immersive learning environment with experiential workshops on robotics, AR/VR, 3D printing, photography, storytelling, and coding, giving children and educators a hands-on opportunity to explore the future of education.

A Model United Nations session was also conducted in French by AFD teachers emphasised the global perspective of education and diplomacy, while competitions such as SDG-themed poster-making, talent showcases, and a treasure hunt engaged participants in creative expression tied to sustainable goals. RISE 2024 not only addressed the evolving needs of learners in a fast-changing world but also reaffirmed Alliance Française de Delhi’s commitment to fostering innovation, inclusion, and cross-cultural dialogue in the education sector.



Grand Ball

The Grand Ball of the Alliance Française de Delhi made its dazzling return on April 4, 2025, at the elegant Bikaner House in New Delhi. Inspired by the timeless glamour of the 1950s, the evening seamlessly blended classic sophistication with a modern twist, offering guests an

The Ball was more than just a glamorous night—it served a noble cause. Organized to support French language education for underprivileged children, the event aimed to raise funds for children from Main Tendue and Tara. The initiative underscored the life-changing power of language learning and inclusive education.

Guests arrived in vibrant Francophonie colours, embracing the evening's "Rock the Ball" dress code. The night was infused with the spirit of Francophonie, celebrating cultural ties between India and France through ballroom dancing, live music, and gourmet dining that delighted all the senses.

The event was also a tribute to history, a beloved tradition that happened on 1st March, 1956 at Hotel Imperial was revived by our Director, Ms. Patricia Loison, when the founders of AF Delhi—Indians deeply passionate about French culture—organized grand balls modelled after those in Paris. Rediscovered through archival research, this legacy was brought back to life to honour the shared artistic, linguistic, and cultural heritage of both nations.

The Ball was a resounding success—celebratory, impactful, and heartfelt—marking not just a return, but a renewal of a cherished tradition for a powerful cause.

The Grand Ball was inaugurated by H.E. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France in India, Mr. J.L. Sarin, President of the Governing Board of Alliance Française de Delhi and Ms. Patricia Loison, the Director of Alliance Française de Delhi, underscoring the evening's spirit of international camaraderie and cultural solidarity. The event was graced by Ambassadors and dignitaries from various embassies and organisations, fashion



Dignitary Visits at AFD

The year 2024–25 was marked by several high-level visits that underscored the importance of our institution as a key player in Indo-French cultural and educational collaboration. We had the honour of welcoming esteemed representatives from the French government and Senate to our premises. These visits provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the diversity of our programs, the vibrancy of our community, and the strength of our bilateral ties.

We were privileged to host:

1. **Mr. Olivier CADIC, Senator in charge of the French community abroad**
2. **Mr. Julien STEIMER, Director General of Administration, Foreign Ministry**
3. **Mr. Dominique ANTOINE, Senior Advisor to the Court of Auditors**
4. **Ms. Anne GRILLO, Director General for Global Affairs at Ministry of External Affairs, France**
5. **Ms. Samantha CAZEBONNE, Senator**
6. **Mr. Luis Vassy, Director of Sciences Po Paris**

Each of these dignitaries visited us on separate occasions during the year. Their visits included comprehensive tours of our departments, where they observed our work in action and gained insight into the pedagogical, artistic, and administrative dimensions of our institution.

These distinguished guests took time to interact with our faculty, administrative staff, and students. Their interactions were filled with curiosity, encouragement, and thoughtful exchange. The exchanges were both warm and insightful, reflecting a shared commitment to promoting cultural diplomacy, education, and mutual understanding between France and India.

Their presence served as a source of encouragement and inspiration for our team, reaffirming our efforts in fostering intercultural dialogue and academic excellence.



Cultural Activities

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As we stepped into a new year, our vision for the Culture Department at Alliance Française de Delhi was to create a space where cultural appreciation, dialogue, and collaboration between India and France could thrive. Our goal was to foster meaningful engagement through partnerships, immersive experiences, and vibrant artistic expression.

Looking back, we are proud to say that the past year has been a truly enriching journey. We hosted a wide array of events—a complete month dedicated to Francophonie celebration, hosted Rencontres du Toit du Monde (Meeting on the Rooftop of the World), Europe day celebration & Grand Ball—that celebrated diversity and creativity in all its forms. Each initiative was a step towards building a more inclusive and inspired cultural community.

It has been deeply rewarding to witness the enthusiasm and participation of our audiences and partners. Looking forward to continuing this journey of cultural exploration and connection in collaboration with our partners in India, French Embassy and AF network in India, in the year ahead.

Shailja GUSAIN

Head of Culture, Alliance Française de Delhi





Cinema

Movies and the cinema experience have long played a vital role in both language learning and cultural appreciation. This year, Alliance Française de Delhi made strides forward by initiating the weekly Ciné Club, where a varied selection of films ranging from science fiction to comedy, biopics to fantasy, and documentaries to dramas were screened.

Additionally, Alliance Française de Delhi celebrated its annual festival the Francophonie Mela which included Francophonie Movie Screenings, showcasing movies from diverse Francophone countries including Guinea, Quebec, Romania, Tunisia, Egypt and France with the presence of various dignitaries, celebrating the richness of the French language and culture.

Independent Cinema

In 2024, Alliance Française de Delhi further strengthened its identity as a vibrant hub for world cinema by curating a series of thoughtful, diverse, and socially relevant film screenings.

We were thrilled to host the Delhi premiere of **All We Imagine as Light** by celebrated filmmaker **Payal KAPADIA**, presented by The Indian Express as part of the Express Film Club. Ms. KAPADIA made history as the first Indian filmmaker to win the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, and her presence made the screening truly memorable.

We continued our partnership with the **Aravali International Film Festival**, which celebrated the power of storytelling through films like *Beyond*, *Olympic Dream*, *Maidan*, and *Chidiakhana*. These screenings highlighted themes of resilience, aspiration, and the human spirit, bringing together audiences from different walks of life to reflect on shared experiences.

As part of **Indie Talkies**, in collaboration with the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), we explored the dynamic landscape of Indian independent cinema through critically acclaimed films such as *Cities of Sleep*, *Survey City*, and *Aavasavyuham*. These thought-provoking films opened up conversations around urban life, ecological disruption, and marginalized narratives.

A number of impactful embassy collaborations enriched our cinematic programming. The South African High Commission brought **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom** to our screens. Additionally, we joined hands with the Embassies of Lithuania and Ukraine for the screening

of **Mariupolis 2**, a harrowing yet essential documentary that shed light on the human cost of conflict.

To mark IDAHOBIT Day on May 15, 2025, we screened “Oneness,” directed by Priyakanta LAISHRAM. The event included a discussion and Q&A session with the filmmaker and other panellists on the theme “The power of community”.

Through these diverse film events, Alliance Française de Delhi continued to promote cultural dialogue, artistic excellence, and critical thinking. By spotlighting a wide range of cinematic voices—from grassroots filmmakers to international auteurs—we reaffirmed our commitment to nurturing an inclusive and engaging cinematic culture.



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*Delhi premiere
of **All We Imagine as Light**
by **Payal KAPADIA**, who
made history as the first
Indian filmmaker to win
the prestigious Grand
Prix at the Cannes Film
Festival.*

Music

In 2024, Alliance Française de Delhi resonated with melodies from around the globe, reaffirming music's power to transcend borders and bring people together.

The **Kimya Ensemble** captivated audiences with a unique soundscape that blended classical and contemporary influences from Europe, the Middle East, and India—an immersive musical journey that left listeners spellbound.

In a moving tribute to a global music icon, we celebrated **Charles AZNAVOUR**—the legendary French-Armenian singer—through a concert and singing contest, held in collaboration with the Embassy of France and the Embassy of Armenia. The event brought together amateur performers and seasoned musicians to honor Aznavour's timeless legacy.

Our collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) brought the **Violons TZIGANES** to Delhi, enchanting the audience with traditional Gypsy violin music that evoked deep cultural roots and raw emotion.

On June 18, 2025, AFD partnered with the French Institute in India to host Soul Tropical by David Walters as part of **Fête de la Musique**. The evening featured a vibrant concert at The Piano Man, Eldeco Centre, offering a fusion of Afro-Caribbean rhythms, soul, funk, and electronic grooves. David Walters's performance transported the audience to sun soaked soundscapes, celebrating his Caribbean heritage and underscoring the unifying power of music. To conclude the Fête de la Musique celebrations, AFD collaborated with Gatecrash and French Institute in India, to organise an Indo-French concert empowering young music professionals to celebrate the universal language of music.





David Walters concert



Celebrating Charles Aznavour



Violons Tziganes

Dance

This year, Alliance Française de Delhi brought to the stage a bold and unforgettable contemporary dance experience with the performance of *To Da Bone*. In collaboration with the French Institute in India and KNMA, *To Da Bone* was presented by (La)Horde—a French dance collective currently at the helm of Ballet National de Marseille. This electrifying performance in December 2024 showcased the raw energy of Jumpstyle, a street dance that originated from electronic music subcultures across Europe. Through a cast of young dancers sourced via YouTube, the performance explored themes of youth identity, resistance, and the power of digital mobilization. Far more than just choreography, *To Da Bone* pulsed with urgency, capturing the rebellion and community spirit of an entire generation.

By spotlighting dance that merges street culture with high-concept art, Alliance Française de Delhi once again affirmed its commitment to presenting cutting-edge, socially resonant performances that push the boundaries of form and provoke meaningful reflection.

To Da Bone by (La)Horde—a French dance collective currently at the helm of Ballet National de Marseille.





Exhibitions

Throughout 2024 and beginning of 2025, Alliance Française de Delhi reaffirmed its role as a cultural catalyst by curating a vibrant selection of exhibitions that celebrated emotional expression, digital innovation, philosophical reflection, and Indo-French artistic exchange.

The year began with **Douce France**, a visually rich tribute to France through the works of master printmaker **Henri LANDIER**. Spanning six decades of his career, the exhibition showcased lithographs and paintings that offered an intimate glimpse into French landscapes, faces, and rural life. Curated in collaboration with the French Embassy in India and hosted across several Indian cities, the exhibition celebrated not just an artist's journey, but the enduring beauty of French heritage seen through Landier's poetic eye.

Emotional Abstractions, by French artist **Lorraine THIRIA**, offered an introspective journey into the language of emotions through abstraction. Inspired by the forces of nature, classical music, and the mysteries of the unconscious, Thiria's bold colour palettes and expressive brushstrokes allowed viewers to interpret deeply personal emotional states, transcending the barriers of language and geography.

Bringing an Indian philosophical lens to the gallery space, *Shunyata* by poet-diplomat Abhay K. invited audiences to contemplate the concept of 'emptiness'—not as void, but as presence and potential. Drawing from Buddhist thought and cosmic symbolism, the paintings in this exhibition served as meditative portals into silence, space, and the mysteries of the universe.

In February 2025, among the standout experiences was **URAMADO: The Awakening of the Tanukis**—an Augmented Reality exhibition that transformed the AFD campus into a magical forest of hidden spirits. Created by Julie Stephen CHENG and Thomas PONS, the immersive experience blended Japanese folklore with cutting-edge AR, encouraging participants to physically engage with the space and reflect on environmental and personal awakening.

Scripted Dialogues – A Calligraphic Conversation, an evocative exhibition held from June 3 to 8, 2025, showcasing the transcultural beauty of written form. This creative experimentation—underscore Alliance Française de Delhi’s ongoing mission: to serve as a bridge between cultures, a space for artistic experimentation, and a platform where traditional practices meet new technologies in meaningful dialogue.

These diverse exhibitions—spanning printmaking, abstraction, philosophical art, and digital experimentation—underscore Alliance Française de Delhi’s ongoing mission: to serve as a bridge between cultures, a space for artistic experimentation, and a platform where traditional practices meet new technologies in meaningful dialogue.

“I do feel art is a beautiful, meaningful medium for a long-lasting friendship, besides presenting an opportunity to know different cultures, especially calligraphy.”

**Qamar DAGAR,
Nari Shakti Awardee
Indian Calligrapher**



Talks/Discussions

Celebrating literary heritage, a rich academic discussion unfolded around Rabindranath TAGORE, featuring scholars Dr. Guillaume BRIDET and Dr. Kanchana MUKHOPADHYAY, who explored Tagore's continued relevance in a globalized world.

The organization also spotlighted Québécois culture through a conversation on contemporary Quebec comic books, and welcomed renowned French authors for in-depth conversations—Philippe CLAUDEL, known for his literary and cinematic contributions, and David FOENKINOS, whose works traverse the intimate and the universal with poetic sensitivity.

Adding a unique scientific perspective, the Alliance hosted a talk with Dr. Brigitte GODARD, a flight surgeon and expert in aerospace medicine, offering a fascinating look into the human body's adaptation to extreme environments.

Through this diverse range of events, Alliance Française de Delhi continued to nurture cross-cultural understanding, blending arts, literature, science, and social issues into enriching public dialogues.





*Wolfed Down by
Laurie CANNAC*

Theatre

In 2024 and this year, Alliance Française de Delhi brought audiences a dynamic selection of theatrical performances that spanned the humorous, the haunting, and the deeply human—each offering a distinct glimpse into the richness of French performing arts.

A standout of the season was **“Wolfed Down”** by acclaimed puppeteer Laurie CANNAC. This inventive solo performance fused object theatre, shadow play, and masks to reimagine familiar fairy tales through a feminist lens. Infused with biting humor, visual poetry, and poignant symbolism, the show challenged traditional narratives and gave voice to themes of power, rebellion, and transformation.

Adding a vibrant dose of wit and wordplay, **Comédies à deux voix** presented by Patrick Beck showcased two sharp and rhythmic theatrical dialogues. Through clever exchanges and shifting dynamics between the characters, the performance highlighted the humor, complexity, and musicality of the French language—drawing laughter and reflection in equal measure.

The season culminated in the evocative “Derrière le voile / Behind the Veil”, a French-

language play that explored identity, exile, and self-perception. With poetic dialogue and emotional intensity, the production invited audiences to reflect on the visible and invisible veils we all carry, and how they shape our understanding of self and society.

Through these performances, Alliance Française de Delhi continued to reaffirm its commitment to presenting theatre that entertains, challenges, and connects across borders and languages.



EUNIC Cluster

EUNIC India, part of the EU National Institutes for Culture network, fosters cultural exchange and cooperation between Europe and India. It brings together European cultural institutes in India to promote European culture, encourage language learning, and implement joint cultural projects.

Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD) continued its active engagement within the EUNIC Cluster framework, contributing to initiatives that promote cultural exchange and collaboration among European institutions. The year 2025 is an important year for the organisation as the Director, Ms. Patricia LOISON is elected to be the new Vice-President of the Cluster.

A significant highlight during this period was the Long Night of Literatures, held on September 27, 2024, at the Instituto Cervantes in New Delhi. This annual literary event brought together

authors from 12 European countries, offering attendees a unique opportunity to engage with diverse literary voices through live readings and interactive sessions.

Additionally, on September 19, 2024, AFD hosted the Restoration Toolbox book launch at its M.L. Bhartia Auditorium. This event marked the culmination of the Restoration Toolbox project, an open-source digital platform designed to empower citizens and communities in the conservation of their heritage buildings. The publication encapsulates the discussions and findings from the project, featuring contributions from esteemed experts and collaborators.

On May 9, 2025, Alliance Française de Delhi took part in the Europe Day 2025 celebrations, a day curated as a vibrant cultural journey across multiple venues in Delhi, inviting the public to explore Europe through stories, food, cinema, and art. At the Alliance Française de Delhi, the day began with a warm breakfast of croissant, churros and coffee bringing flavours from France & Spain to the AFD cafeteria, followed by a rich discussion on how culinary traditions



reflect cultural identities across Europe. The event concluded with a screening of short films from Denmark and Lithuania, each exploring the relationship between food and culture.

The celebrations continued across various venues: a short film on Amrita Sher-Gil with a quiz and lunch at the Liszt Institute, an art exhibition and workshop led by Ukrainian artist Olga Syrovatko at Travancore Palace, and concluded with an evening of music at the Austrian Cultural Forum, featuring films from Portugal, a Mozart choir, Italian opera, and a violin performance by Polish artist Tomasz Pająk.

Through these diverse and collaborative events, Europe Day 2025 brought together communities across Delhi to celebrate the beauty of “unity in diversity,” while highlighting the cultural bridges between Europe and India. Under the directorship of Ms. Loison, AFD’s continued involvement in these initiatives reinforced its commitment to fostering intercultural dialogue, literary exchange, and the promotion of European values through artistic collaboration.

Collaborations

Alliance Française de Delhi continued to strengthen cultural exchange through a series of impactful collaborations.

Alliance Française de Delhi continued its strong engagement with cinema through key collaborations and festivals. In partnership with the **Aravali International Film Festival**, monthly screenings were hosted at the auditorium, featuring thought-provoking independent films and interactive Q&A sessions with filmmakers. The collaboration culminated in the Aravali Annual Film Festival, which included award presentations and filmmaker masterclasses.

In April 2025, the Galerie Romain Rolland hosted the highly anticipated Shantanu Bose: Maison de Bose exhibition. Known for his avant-garde vision, Bose presented a vibrant crossover of fashion, scenography, and performance art. The exhibition reimaged fashion as theatre, exploring personal identity and cultural expression through a multidisciplinary lens.

French Institute in India

Since 2017, the French Institute in Paris and the French cultural network around the world have organized Digital November, the international festival of French digital culture. **Novembre Numérique** 2024 was celebrated at Alliance Française de Delhi from 14th to 30th November, showcasing a rich blend of digital art, technology, and innovation. The program featured Looki Look, an interactive augmented reality exhibition by French artist Aurélien Jeanney, and Francophonie in All Its Forms, a sound and AR mural highlighting the diversity of the Francophone world. The festival also included immersive Virtual Reality experiences, offering audiences a unique way to engage with global art, culture, and heritage.

In May 2025, AFD joined hands with the French Institute in India to organise Festival of Ideas—an initiative on ocean conservation. The theme **“We Are the Ocean”**, held from May 3 to 25, featured immersive exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, and panel discussions. Highlighted were powerful multimedia installations like Tidal Echoes, Floating Cities, and The Plankton Ballet, alongside documentaries such as Bigger Than Us, Becoming Cousteau, and The Turtle Walker. The collaboration united environmentalists, artists, and the public to advocate for marine ecosystems and sustainable futures. The library team also designed and hosted nine original workshops over the course of the festival, inviting students from local schools to create and learn. Activities such as Pop Art with stencils, eco-comic strips, and storytelling sessions encouraged participants to reflect on the environment through the French language.





FRENCH LIBRARY

French Library: A Year of Growth, Engagement, and Innovation

This report highlights key milestones, new initiatives, and collaborations that have shaped our trajectory, reinforcing our continued commitment to promoting French language, culture, and education within a diverse and growing community.

With a daily footfall of 100–150 visitors, the library remains a vibrant cultural hub, serving as a place for exploration, learning, and dialogue. Our focus continues to be on improving both digital accessibility and physical infrastructure, ensuring that members benefit from modern facilities and an inclusive, welcoming environment.

Highlights and Innovations (2024–2025)

Introduction of Freehold Lockers

A new 60-unit freehold locker system was introduced outside the library, greatly appreciated by visitors for its convenience and efficiency. Initiated under our Director Ms. Loison's leadership, this self-service facility has become an integral part of the visitor experience.

Team Transition

We bid farewell to Ms. Aayushi Saklani after nearly six years of dedicated service, and welcomed Ms. Priyanshu Saini as Junior Librarian. Her energy and fresh perspective have already brought renewed vitality to the team.

Curated Cultural Displays

We organized thematic displays in sync with major events, including a dedicated LGBTQ+ literature display for Pride Month. These initiatives deepen engagement and foster inclusivity.

Enhanced Departmental Synergy

Our ongoing coordination with departments such as IFI, Culture & Communication, and the Academic team—especially through weekly meetings with the Director—has yielded impactful collaborations, including:

- **Défi Inter-Alliances**
- **Read-Aloud Contest**
- **Novembre Numérique**
- **URAMADO AR Exhibition & Workshop**
- **Coordination for DELF/TCF Exams**

Membership and Collections: Stronger than Ever

This year saw a marked increase in library membership, with **7,212 registered members**, of which **4,688 actively borrowed materials**—demonstrating robust engagement and sustained interest in our offerings.

Our collection now stands at **13,880 volumes**, covering a wide spectrum of interests and levels—from beginner textbooks and graphic novels to literary classics and contemporary works. Particular emphasis has been placed on expanding language-learning resources to support AFD’s pedagogical goals.

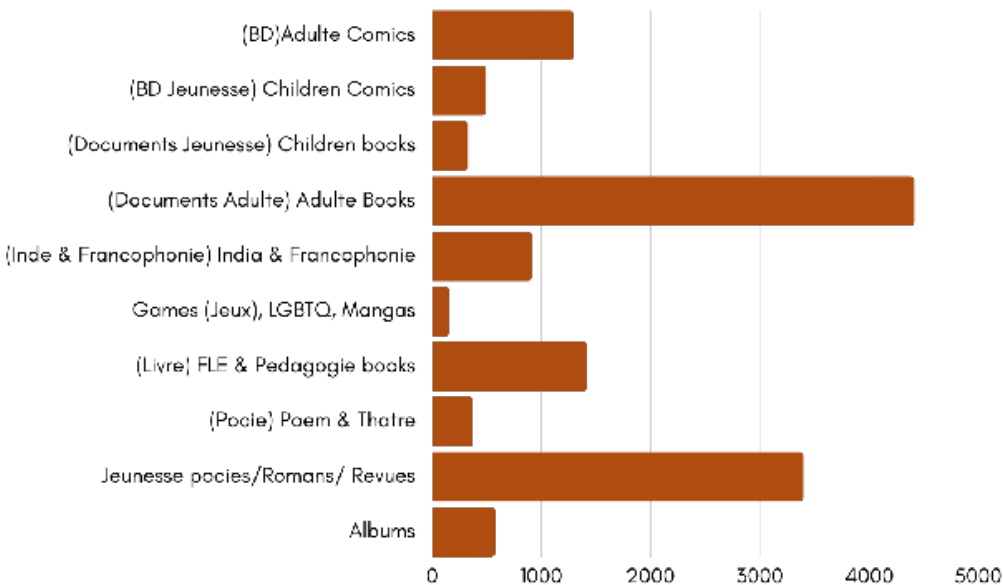
Key Statistics 2024–2025

Number of Total registered members	7212
Number of Active members	4688
Number of books (collection)	13880
Number of borrowings	11684
Number of Public computers	8+1(OPAC)
Number of Television screen	2 TV channels (France24, TV5 Asie) +1 PS4 + 1 for Events Information screen

Inventory Audit & Reorganization

A comprehensive audit was undertaken by the library team (Sharbani, Mridula, Priyanshu, and Baleshwar), including weeding outdated materials and optimizing shelf space.
New Features Introduced:

Updated Collection Data (Jan 2025)



Total: 13380

The library at Alliance Française de Delhi is a vibrant, intellectually stimulating space filled with French literature, films, and learning materials—a true haven for language enthusiasts. The librarians are courteous, resourceful, and passionate, making it more than just a study space, but a gateway to the Francophone world.

– Palak Rathore, Neha Gupta, Akshay Pratap Singh Chouhan, Shripal Rathore



Lending Insights: Books Borrowed (2024–2025)

Albums	845
BD adulte	554
BD jeunesse	1017
Doc. adulte	894
Doc. jeunesse	278
Francophonie	92
Inde	176
Jeux	84
LGBTQ	74
Livres FLE	3097
Livres pédagogie	403
Mangas	92
Poésie	49
Revue	995
Romans adulte	1581
Romans jeunesse	1352
Romans policiers	43
Théâtre	58
Total	11684

“Free Book Service” shelves at the Front Desk and Café

To ensure that books continue to inspire even after their time in the library collection has ended, we have launched a “Free Book Service” initiative. The books are thoughtfully selected and made available on designated shelves at the Front Desk and in the Café area for the students and visitors.

Digital Outreach: Culturethèque in Focus

Culturethèque remains a cornerstone of our digital engagement strategy. Open to all library members, the platform provides free access to thousands of resources: e-books, press, children’s media, audiobooks, training modules, and more.

AF Delhi boasts the highest Culturethèque user base in India, a testament to its relevance among students and language learners. With a redesigned interface and regular orientation sessions, we ensure users derive maximum value from this resource.

Strengthening Academic Engagement

The year 2024–2025 has been marked by growing partnerships with local schools and universities, positioning the French Library as a key resource for language and cultural immersion.

One of the most encouraging trends has been the rise in institutional memberships, particularly among schools. Each visit is thoughtfully curated to provide a comprehensive introduction to our resources, services, and thematic programming. In a typical month, we hosted 2–3 academic group visits, each one tailored to the level and needs of the participants. These visits usually included:

- **A library tour and orientation in French or bilingual mode**
- **Film screenings aligned with French language levels**
- **Interactive games and activities**
- **Access to Culturethèque and its digital tools**

These sessions created a memorable first contact with the library for many young learners and served as an effective bridge between classroom learning and cultural experience.

Innovative Programming: Blending Culture, Language, and Technology

The French Library continues to evolve as a space that not only offers books and media but also facilitates immersive experiences. Over the past year, we have successfully integrated digital culture and interdisciplinary learning into our programming, attracting diverse audiences and encouraging creative engagement.

Novembre Numérique 2024

Our celebration of this global French digital festival stood out for its depth and diversity. We presented:

- **The Looki-Look exhibition**
- **The AR Fresque of Francophonie, showcasing augmented poetry and oral traditions**
- **The launch of a new AI & AR learning section, introducing members to emerging tools in language and arts education**
-

Students and teachers participated in guided tours and reflective activities that invited them to engage with content through digital storytelling. The program reinforced the idea that language learning today extends far beyond the printed page.



Nuit de la Lecture (January 2025)

Aligned with the national theme of Heritage, this year's Nuit de la Lecture unfolded as an evening of quiet reflection and shared stories. The library hosted two candlelit reading sessions, creating a nostalgic and immersive ambiance that brought literature to life. With over 20 members and guests in attendance, the event fostered a strong sense of community and connection.



'We are grateful to the library for being a sanctuary for our French studies. The librarians are always kind and supportive, and the resources available are excellent. The calm environment and rich collection of materials have played a key role in helping us improve our language skills and broaden our understanding of French language and culture'

By Diya, Deependra & Ritik

Exhibitions as Learning Journeys

The past year saw a number of major art-tech exhibitions and related activities hosted at the library and Alliance premises. These exhibitions not only brought in large audiences but also enabled a deeper interaction between art, literature, and digital innovation.

URAMADO AR Exhibition (February 2025)

Created by artist Julie Stephen Chang, this project was supported by the Institut Français and transformed the campus into a wonderland of animated Tanukis. Through augmented reality, users could uncover messages and mini-quests, engaging both children and adults in reflective treasure hunts.

We organized over six interactive sessions, including two led by the artist herself. The exhibition effectively brought families into the library space and stimulated curiosity among our youngest visitors.





Seasonal Highlights: Summer Camps and Open Days

The Summer Camp 2025, organized in collaboration with the Academic Department, saw record participation with registrations doubling from the previous year. A diverse mix of sessions was designed to make French learning enjoyable and interactive:

The camp helped us build long-term relationships with families who are now regular visitors to the library. In addition, we hosted two Open Days—in December and May—which were aimed at promoting French culture and library services to the wider public. Activities included guided tours, demo French classes, access to Culturethèque, and engaging word games. These events allowed us to interact with new audiences and build visibility beyond our regular user base.

Building Skills through Competitions

Competitions play a critical role in motivating learners and celebrating their progress. This year, we hosted and supported a range of contests at local and national levels, encouraging participation across all age groups and proficiency levels.

Read Aloud Contest (May 2025)

The local finals of our Read Aloud Competition were held on May 6, 2025, drawing around 40 enthusiastic participants who showcased their reading skills both on stage and virtually via Zoom. The event highlighted the expressive power of spoken French and the confidence of our learners across all levels.

The winners in each proficiency category were:

- **Level A – Varsha Sehrawat**
- **Level B – Diya Baweja**
- **Level C – Rainy Kaur Kohli**

These talented students were selected to represent Delhi at the national level. Prior to the finals, they underwent intensive online training with French professionals, further honing their pronunciation and delivery. Their performances were a testament to their hard work and passion for the French language.

Défi Inter-Alliances

The fifth edition of the DÉFI Inter-Alliances local competition was conducted in a hybrid format, bringing together 36 enthusiastic participants—15 competing onsite and 21 joining virtually through the Kahoot app.

The Delhi round concluded with the announcement of winners on April 26, 2025:

- **Kanika Batra – 1st Place**
- **Nishika Talwar – 2nd Place**
- **Janit Batra – 3rd Place**

We are especially proud to share that at the national finals held on May 16, 2025, **Nishika Talwar** represented Alliance Française de Delhi and clinched the national winner's title, showcasing excellence and dedication.

To celebrate their success, a special award ceremony was organized on Bastille Day in our Auditorium, where the winners were felicitated in the presence of the AF Delhi community—making the occasion even more memorable.



Plume d'Or

La Plume d'Or is a prestigious international French-language writing competition, organized by the association Défense de la Langue Française, and open to students from Alliances Françaises across the globe. Held each year during the Semaine de la Francophonie in March, the competition celebrates linguistic excellence and cultural expression. Traditionally, the top prize includes a coveted trip to Paris for the winning candidate.

We are proud to share that in the 2025 edition of La Plume d'Or, our student Sheikh Farhan Amin achieved an outstanding feat by ranking 14th globally—a remarkable accomplishment and a moment of pride for Alliance Française de Delhi.





Workshops, Volunteers, and Community Learning

Weekly and monthly workshops continued to play a central role in enriching the library's educational environment. These sessions offered a relaxed yet structured platform for learners to practice oral skills, play games, and build cultural knowledge.

- Oral workshops by Sharbani (twice a week) focused on conversational skills using real-life themes and multimedia.
- Board game sessions curated by Priyanshu blended fun with vocabulary building and strategy.
- The support of dedicated volunteers continues to enhance our capacity. We are particularly grateful to Mrs. Laurence Renard, who has been volunteering for five years, leading:
 - A monthly Read Aloud session
 - A Creative Writing workshop in French (held the second Friday of each month)

Their regularity and quality have built loyal participation and added immense value to our offerings.

The Balade Hexagonale series, conducted every Tuesday by Mariana and Julie, remains a key part of our cultural program, offering insights into the regions of France through art, geography, and history. These sessions are closely integrated with our resource displays and newsletter features.

The 2024–2025 academic year has seen the French Library emerge not only as a resource centre but as a vibrant ecosystem of learning, experimentation, and community engagement. Through digital integration, cross-department collaboration, and an unwavering focus on learner-centered programming, we have expanded our reach and relevance.

Communications

Over the past year, the Communications Department of Alliance Française de Delhi has been instrumental in shaping the institution's public image and reinforcing its reputation as a vibrant cultural and linguistic hub in the capital. Through a combination of digital innovation, compelling content creation, strengthened media relations, and audience-centric messaging, the team has worked consistently to broaden AFD's visibility across local, national, and international platforms.

Social Media & Digital Outreach

In today's digital-first world, maintaining a dynamic and engaging online presence is vital for any cultural institution. The AFD Communications team has embraced this challenge by implementing a well-defined social media strategy that emphasizes consistency, creativity, and relevance.

This year, we placed particular emphasis on short-form videos, reels, event highlights, and interactive stories, which allowed us to not only reach a wider audience but also to reflect the vibrancy and diversity of our events, courses, and community initiatives. Content was curated with a deep understanding of audience preferences, current trends, and platform algorithms, resulting in sustained and organic growth across all major platforms.

Follower count as on June 2025:

- **Instagram: 25,800 followers**
- **LinkedIn: 9,332 followers**
- **Facebook: 6,800 followers**
- **YouTube: 3,563 subscribers**

In addition, our monthly newsletter, distributed to over 9,000 subscribers, has become a reliable source of information and engagement for our students, alumni, partners, and the general public. Each edition features updates on upcoming cultural events, new courses, community partnerships, interviews with artists, and highlights from recent happenings at AFD. The consistently high open and click-through rates are a testament to the value our readers place on this content.

Media & Press Relations

In tandem with our digital efforts, we have also intensified our focus on traditional media outreach. This year marked a notable increase in media coverage for AFD events, exhibitions, language programs, and collaborative initiatives with embassies, cultural insti-

tutions, and NGOs. Our proactive press relations strategy involved timely press releases, curated press kits, and personalized journalist outreach, ensuring that each major event received the visibility it deserved.

As a result, Alliance Française de Delhi was featured in several leading print and digital publications, including Hindustan Times, The Times of India, and The Indian Express, among others. These appearances helped position AFD as a thought leader in the cultural and educational sphere, and further cemented its role as a key contributor to Delhi's multicultural ecosystem.

We also fostered stronger relationships with freelance writers, arts journalists, and cultural correspondents, who increasingly see AFD as a reliable source of high-quality content, programming, and insight. The press response to our major annual events—such as Francophonie Month, Bastille Day, and our flagship exhibitions—has been particularly encouraging.

AFD IN MEDIA



Grand Ball | Times of India



Of filmmaking & friendships: Payal's film screened in Delhi

One of the things that I keep saying is, sometimes your family lets you down, but friendship is a very open relationship. Friendship can go beyond the limitations of your immediate identity and perhaps create a new kind of bond
— Payal Kapadia, filmmaker



Niharika Lal

Earlier this week, the Alliance Française de Delhi invited Payal Kapadia, winner of the Grand Prix at Cannes, for a screening and discussion of her film *All We Imagine As Light*. The film, a French co-production, was one of the four films shortlisted by France's Oscar committee as the country's official submission for the Academy Awards' Best International Feature Film category (France finally selected Emília Pérez).

At the discussion, Payal spoke about the journey of making the film, her generous team and actors, and the joy she finds in filmmaking. She spoke highly of Kiran Rao's work and avoided giving a direct answer to questions about the *Laapataa Ladies* vs *All We Imagine As Light* debate for India's official Oscars submission. When asked if the film would continue its Oscar journey Payal shared that it will be released in the US next week, and after seeing the audience's response, the team will decide on the next step.



Patricia Loison, Director, Alliance Française de Delhi

'I ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE A FILM ABOUT INTER-GENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP'

All We Imagine as Light follows the story of three women working in Mumbai. Payal said that she always wanted to make a film about inter-generational friendship. "One of the things that I keep saying is, sometimes your family lets you

down, but friendship is a very open relationship. Friendship can go beyond the limitations of your immediate identity and perhaps create a new kind of bond. Everything else in our lives is so codified – mother, father – so much weightage is put on these relationships. But friendship is open and that's nice."

"The three protagonists in the film work at a hospital. Payal shared that she has spent a lot of time in hospitals since she was a student at FTII – as her father suffers from dementia – and it became an interesting space for her. "I realised that the people I was talking to the most were the nurses. That time I was writing my diploma film, and when you are making a diploma film, everything is interesting. Everything is anyway interesting when you are a filmmaker, but when you are

in the student filmmaking zone, everything becomes cinematic. That, for me, is also the joy of being a filmmaker. Whenever I got the chance to talk, I'd chat with the nurses after their shift was over; I made friends with some of them – I'm still friends with them."

'The French funding system is well-structured; it makes the process a little less lonely'

Talking about the funding process, Payal shared that it was her producer, Thomas Hakim, who introduced her to the French system. "It's really well-structured. As an independent filmmaker one can feel very lost, and this makes the process less lonely. You can also apply for some residencies, like under a residency in Paris, I got to be with other filmmakers from around the world, and that also makes you feel motivated to work."

Payal, you've stayed for eight months in Paris, so you are a Parisian already... I understand you like working with France and we are delighted about that. You've entered the league of great international filmmakers

— Grégor Trumel, Counsellor for Education, Science & Culture and Director of the French Institute in India

Patricia Loison: It makes me happy that I can contribute to the growing relationship between France and India

Updated: Sep 26, 2024, 20:55 IST

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Alliance Française de Delhi recently announced Patricia Loison as its new Director, who was born in New Delhi and raised in France



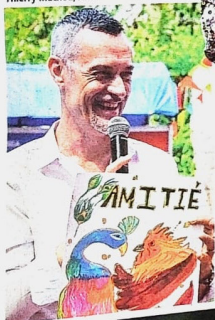
Patricia Loison

Alliance Française de Delhi recently announced Patricia Loison as its new Director. Born in New Delhi and raised in France, Patricia spoke to us in an interview about her upbringing and her vision for the institute. Indian filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** charted history by becoming the first Indian filmmaker to win the **CannesGrand Prix** award for 'All We Imagine as Light'.

A colourful French flair



Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France

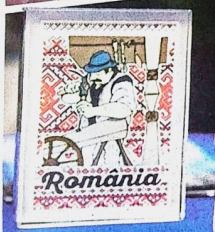


The event was organised by Alliance Française de Delhi. (Above) Patricia Loison, Director and (left) Frederic Wolska, Academic Director of the institute

Bringing together Francophone cultures and traditions from around the world, Delhi celebrated the vibrant spirit of the French language with a day-long event



Francophone culture refers to the cultural aspects and traditions associated with French-speaking communities and countries worldwide



The event featured traditional crafts, authentic delicacies from across the Francophone world and exciting activities for participants



Noted puppeteer Laurie Cannac looks to return to India

THE GLOBALLY CELEBRATED FRENCH ARTIST TELLS *PATRIOT* SHE COULDN'T SEE MUCH OF INDIA DURING HER DEBUT PERFORMANCE AT ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DELHI. SHE IS EAGERLY AWAITING HER RETURN TO THE COUNTRY TO EXPLORE IT AND COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

IDREES BUKHTIYAR
@patriot_delhi

RENOWNED FRENCH puppeteer Laurie Cannac, who recently debuted in India with her one-woman theatrical show *Wolfed Down* at the ML Bhatia Auditorium, Alliance Française de Delhi, shared her excitement about the performance and her hope to return for future projects.

In an interview with *Patriot*, Cannac praised the warm reception she received and expressed a desire to explore the country further during her next visit. "I greatly appreciate the audience's warmth, spontaneity, and openness. The team at Alliance Française de Delhi has been incredibly welcoming. I am extremely happy to perform here," Cannac said. However, due to a hectic schedule with rehearsals and ongoing projects in France, she was unable to explore much of India this time.

Despite the limited time, Cannac has aspirations to return to India not only to experience more of the country but also to engage with local artists. She hopes to participate in artistic exchanges and potentially conduct workshops.

"One of my dreams is to perform my upcoming show *Invisible Stories* in India. This show features the Sundarbans and has an international theme," she shared.

Cannac's *Wolfed Down* performance, inspired by the well-known tale *Little Red Riding Hood*, centres on a young girl's personal evolution, from the joy of freedom to its dangers.

"It is about her transformation from child to adult, but the audience can relate this transformation to many personal evolutions in adult life as well. That is why this show is for adults as much as for children," Cannac explained.

Her unique storytelling and puppetry style have earned her international acclaim, with *Wolfed Down* being performed in over 15 countries.

"The reception has been wonderful. Since this show, like all my shows, is based on a tale, it resonates internationally. Most ancient tales are about humanity, transcending cultural differences and uniting us at our core," she reflected.

A specialist in body puppetry, Cannac incorporates the use of her entire body to manipulate mostly life-sized human puppets. "This style is very open and offers a lot of opportunities to create new forms of puppets, which I enjoy. I also love the physical energy on stage, which is something I am very fond of," she said.

Cannac's journey with puppetry began during her school years through a workshop with a puppeteer from Philippe Genty's team. "I began practicing puppetry in my theatre school and later started performing small shows on the streets," she recounted.



She has performed this show in more than 15 countries around the world

Her work gained recognition over time, and she began to perform at festivals and theatres. After a decade in the field, she collaborated on three shows with puppetry master Ika Schönbach, from whom she learned extensively.

Adapting her performances based on audience energy and cultural context is a hallmark of Cannac's creative process. She explained that if a show is developed in a new cultural context, it can alter the entire creative process. However, when performing an existing show, she generally refrains from making significant changes

unless there are cultural taboos to consider. "I always try to connect with the audience, so the performance will vary slightly depending on their energy and mood," she said.

Cannac also emphasised the importance of setup and preparation before each performance, typically requiring at least one day for rehearsal. "We ask for 15 different spotlights. The sound is very simple," she added.

Ultimately, Cannac hopes that her audience leaves her shows with a personal and unique experience. "I hope they experience joy and perhaps a little fright. The meaning of the show is different for each person, as I layer my performances with various meanings. Depending on their age, life experiences, and even their mood on the day of the show, the audience will take away something unique. My wish is that everyone leaves having experienced the show they needed," she said.

Reflecting on her time in India, Cannac found the local audience to be passionate and generous, and looks forward to returning for future performances and deeper cultural immersion.

For more such stories, log on to www.thepatriot.in

Get in touch with us at editor@thepatriot.in



Sebastian Marx, a Franco-Jewish artiste from New York, recently performed his first bilingual stand-up in Delhi. He discusses adapting jokes across cultures, his encounter with India, and his preferred language for writing punchlines.

Yorker (in Paris) and 'On est bien là' (We're Good Here). His performance is witty, blending punchlines and wordplay on the French language, culture, parenthetical, and daily life in France.

French vs American audience

Stand-up culture in the US and France is quite different. "In the US, comedy shows are primarily in dedicated comedy clubs, while in France, they're often in theatres," he explains. However, with the rise of comedy clubs in Paris, the culture is evolving. Audience interaction is another key contrast. "Americans are more willing to participate. If a comedian asks a question, 10 people will answer. In France, you have to work to get a response."

Comedy is deeply tied to language and culture. "Some jokes fail simply because the audience doesn't share the same cultural context," Marx explains. For example, he jokes about his French with smoking a lot. "In English, the joke works because the stereotype is that French people smoke. But in France, they don't think they smoke a lot—they think Americans do because of Marlboro ads and cowboy imagery."

Despite his fluency, English remains his comfort zone. "In English, I can go on stage with just a vague idea and figure it out as I go. In French, I still need to write everything out," he explains. Marx relies on his wife to refine his material. "I need a funny French person's help," he laughs. "She corrects my script from a linguistic perspective."

Performing in India

His debut show in Delhi drew a diverse crowd. "Performing as an American living in France, in French, to a mix

of French expats and Indian students, finding common ground was 'tricky,' he admits.

Marx adapts his comedy by finding universal experiences that resonate with diverse audiences. "I knew that talking about India was important because, no matter who's in the audience—French expats, Indian students, or me as an American—we're all here. We all experience the same things, like people honking on the streets," he explains. That some of his jokes rely on specific French cultural refer-

ences, Marx emphasises that failure, and it's the 21st. "Visiting new countries is a personal tradition for Marx. 'India has been on my list for a long time, and I'm thrilled to finally be here.'"

Discussing red flags in comedy, Marx emphasises that failure is essential. "If a comedian says, 'I've never bombed,' that's a red flag. No one is great all the time. Even the best comedians have off nights."

On political correctness, he acknowledges the fine balance comedians must navigate. "Some comedians want to be politically correct, while others take the extreme opposite approach, saying, 'I don't care about what anybody says.' I think both are dangerous," Marx admits. He struggles with the balance between pushing boundaries and offending audiences, but that's not his style. "I like it when they're a little surprised but still laughing. That's the sweet spot."

India is extremely modern yet deeply rooted in the past

You cross one street, and you're in the 19th century, then another, and it's the 21st.

Sebastian Marx, Franco-American comedian

ences, "I might talk about certain shops in France or how you buy train tickets there. Even if an Indian student learning French understands the language, they might not get the reference. That's the tricky part—stand-up isn't just about words, it's about shared experiences."

For his performance in India, Marx arrived with cinematic expectations. "I was expecting Old Delhi, with goats on the street," he laughs. "But India is everything and its contrary—extremely modern yet deeply rooted in the past. It spans three centuries at once. You cross one street, and you're in



Sebastian Marx, Franco-American comedian

ADITHI REENA AJITH

B EING funny is tough, but being funny in a different country is even tougher—something Franco-American comedian Sebastian Marx has mastered. "Comedy is already hard, but starting from scratch in another country and performing in a different language? That's a whole other challenge," he jokes speaking to TMS at an event organised by the Alliance Française in Delhi.

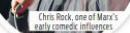
Born and raised in the US, Marx was immersed in stand-up—a staple of American culture. "I watched a lot of comedians, like Jerry Seinfeld and Chris Rock on TV growing

up," he recalls. He began performing at 17 at a New York comedy club, and also took stand-up classes in Manhattan that ignited his passion. After falling in love with a French woman, he moved to France in 2006.

France and career

Marx moved to France with no intention of continuing his stand-up career. "I thought I'd have to stop because I didn't speak the language—you kind of need that for stand-up comedy. But as my French improved, I started missing the stage. I thought, why not give it a shot in France?" He began with one-man shows and appeared on the fifth season of Jamel Comedy Club, a show instru-

mental in popularising stand-up comedy in the country. "It was my first real filmed set, and I was extremely nervous," he recalls. "But it was a great experience, even though the pressure was intense, knowing millions would watch." Over the years, he has performed across various countries in both French and English, expanding his career beyond France and the US. Marx is best known for 'Un New-Yorkais à Paris' (A New



Chris Rock, one of Marx's early comedy influences

I'M THE REALISTIC ANSWER TO EMILY IN PARIS.

Sebastian Marx, the Franco-American stand-up comic on his India debut and leaving Delhi in splits

Henna Rakheja

henna.rakheja@pntv.com

When Emily came to Paris, she already had a job and lived in a part of Paris that's very posh. I came to Paris with nothing, no job, and not speaking the language," says comedian Sebastian Marx, who is an American living in France. He's currently visiting India for the first time ever and recently performed at Alliance Française in Delhi.

"Parisians are like, 'We want to see Emily go to the bad neighbourhoods of Paris and see how she reacts because she only goes to the nice ones and never orders a baguette wrong or gets mugged,'" shares the 45-year-old whose Insta fans vouch for his accurate comical dissection of cultures and languages, especially the French. He, on the other hand, remains surprised at how, within India, one can witness various kinds of English accents. "People think and react to the fact that our Englishes are not the same English. Even I thought we spoke the same language, but not at all! I've had lots of

Indian people. You guys speak English, and I speak English, but it's not the same English! Like the hotel people here don't understand when I say my room number is 2033. I say three-zero-three, and they don't get it. Even the Indian interns with me Indianise his English to make them understand the room number (smiles)," he adds.

Beyond the accent, he's still excited to revisit the country and jests, "Please call me back. I promise I will Indianise my English if I need to."



Kunal Kamra

I had never heard of this comedian (Kunal Kamra), but I know that the comedy club where he made the joke about a politician was brought down... That's the irony: the reaction of people raised his popularity, and now I want to... he said.

I'm not surprised Donald Trump needed a translator to understand Indian English... I don't think he's the brightest guy. But then we also have so many different kinds of English

Guy to guard the ATM machine!

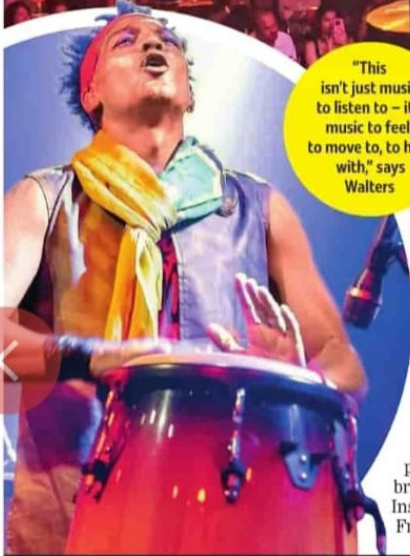
When in India, how can a westerner not be amused by the eccentricities of its culture? Feeding off on the same, Marx narrated an incident to the audience: "I was going to an ATM in Delhi, to take out the money, and it had a booth, and there was someone inside. So the guy sitting in front of the booth, who acted like the traffic controller of who can and cannot go to the

ATM, saw me entering and said, 'Wait, you have to wait there, you know.' I first thought he wanted a tip, but then I realised this man's job was to man an ATM machine! Then, when my turn came, I realised there was no cash, so I told him about it, and he was like, 'Yeah, I know.' So, I didn't get why he or the guy before me didn't stop and inform me earlier?"

Delhi grooves to Afro-Caribbean rhythms



"This isn't just music to listen to – it's music to feel, to move to, to heal with," says Walters



French-Caribbean artist **David Walters** brought his vibrant blend of Afro-Caribbean rhythms, soul, funk, and global grooves to Delhi recently, creating an evening full of warmth and energy. The performance was part of a global music celebration, presented by the French Institute in India and Alliance Française de Delhi.

TNN



Frederic Wolska, Academic Director of Alliance Française de Delhi; Emilie Jacament, Advisor for the Alliance Française Network in India, for French Institute in India; Patricia Loison, Director of Alliance Française de Delhi

David Walters concert | Times of India

The Sunday Guardian

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FRANCOPHONE MELA 2025: CELEBRATING LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND DIVERSITY



MURTAZA ALI KHAN

Delhi recently vibrated with the rich tapestry of Francophone culture at the Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD) successfully hosted its highly anticipated Francophone Mela 2025 and a series of related events. The celebration, elaborately designed and curated, exceeded expectations, drawing a diverse crowd into a world of film, literature, art, and performance.

Patricia Loison, Director of Alliance Française de Delhi, expressed her delight at the event's overwhelming success. "We wanted to make the Francophone celebrations big and fun, which was definitely achieved at the Mela," Loison recounted. "The Belgians came, the Sais were there, and the vibrant displays of food and culture from African countries, like Côte d'Ivoire, who took two

table atmosphere."

The Mela transformed the AFD campus into a bustling marketplace, showcasing the diversity of Francophone nations. With over 20 stalls, the event offered a sensory feast, complemented by the energetic 'AFD Got Talent' performances, where students displayed their dance and singing skills. The poster competition, where students showcased their cultural exchange, further enriched the cultural exchange.

The transformation of the art gallery into a literary beach, proved to be a popular retreat. Visitors relaxed with French books, immersed in the sounds of the South of France, and even enjoyed a spirited volleyball game. "We wanted to make Francophone fun, and the literary beach was a bit," Loison noted. "It attracted both seasoned enthusiasts and new readers."

The Francophone Film Festival and Short Film Festival had captivated cinephiles, offering a window into the diverse cinematic landscapes of Francophone countries. "The main idea was to share the culture and dreams of other Francophone nations," Loison explained. "The focus on independent cinema, show



Patricia Loison

looked, resonated deeply with our audience." The Short Film Festival, curated by Deputy Director Frederic Wolska, drew families and young French learners. A highlight of the celebrations was the 'Ecris en Français' (Writing in French) exhibition, a collaboration with the French Institute and Alliance Française in Paris. "The exhibition, featuring 37 writers

chose to write in French, was a powerful testament to the unifying force of the language," Loison said. The performances by the Franco-American stand-up comedian Sebastian Marx living in Paris added a unique comedic dimension to the event. "A hilarious take on French culture and language resonated particularly well with our French-learning audience," Loison

added. "La Dictée pour Tous (Dictation for All) proved to be a surprising success, transforming the traditional French dictation into a fun, engaging experience. "The event brought a fresh perspective to classic exercises," Loison remarked. "My PhD in 190 Seconds" presentations, showcasing French research, highlighted the intellectual depth of Francophone culture.

The Francophone celebrations were also significant. The Alliance Française library, in collaboration with Indian schools, provided valuable cultural and linguistic resources. "The engagement of Indian schools, particularly through the poster competition and poetry performances, was a key element of the Mela success," Loison emphasized.

tionship between the Alliance Française and the French Institute was evident throughout the celebrations. "The synergy between our institutions, guided by our shared vision, was crucial to the event's success," Loison affirmed. Loison also talked about an earlier exhibition, "Portraits on giant silk saris," by a French artist living in Mangalore, which focused on women's stories, left a lasting impression. "The powerful portraits and accompanying stories resonated deeply with visitors," Loison reflected. She further highlighted the Ambassador Mathews involvement in inspiring cultural events, such as the Charles Aznavour concert

of the World-series, among others. "The ambassadors' passion and vision has played a significant role in shaping our programming," Loison acknowledged. Loison concluded by emphasizing the inclusive nature of Francophonie, highlighting its presence in diverse cultures. "The Mela success underscored the unifying power of the French language, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds," she said. "It was a beautiful coming together." The Francophone Mela 2025, and its associated events, left a lasting impression, celebrating culture, language, and diversity, and fostering a deeper appreciation for

18 Guardian 20

THE SUNDAY GUARDIAN 20: SUPPLEMENT TO THE SUNDAY GUARDIAN | 15 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2024 | NEW DELHI

MISSIONS TO KEEP ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DELHI SHINING: PATRICIA LOISON



MURTAZA ALI KHAN

In a significant step towards strengthening cultural diplomacy between India and France, Patricia Loison, an accomplished journalist and media personality, has taken over as the Director of Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD). In an engaging conversation with The Sunday Guardian, she talks about her personal journey to India while sharing her plans and the vision at large for shaping the future of AFD. "India is a key strategic partner for France, and this position is very significant to me," Loison begins, visibly excited about her new role. "My mission is to ensure that Alliance Française de Delhi continues to shine bright, be a point of reference, and maintain its ambitions."

Loison's vision is rooted in balancing the historical legacy of the Alliance

Française with the evolving needs of its students and the cultural community. "2025 will be the year of innovation between India and France, and that's our horizon — our goal. We need to balance our strong, historical roots as an institution while adapting to modern needs."

Founded in the heart of India's capital, Alliance Française de Delhi holds a special place in the cultural and intellectual history of the city. Over the years, it has evolved into a premier institution for French language learning, cultural change, and artistic collaboration. As Loison reflects on its rich heritage, she emphasizes the importance of maintaining the core values that have made AFD a keen interest in continuing AFD's modern, expressive approach. "The way French is taught has changed, and we need to acknowledge that. I want you to be proud of our heritage, inspired by

the founders, but also modern and responsive to our students' needs." Patricia Loison's connection to India is personal and profound. Born in Delhi in 1971, Patricia's early life began in Shishi Bhawan, a childhood home run by Missionaries of Charity. Adopted in July by a young French couple, Gisèle and Christian Loison, she grew up in the Parisian suburbs with her brother, also adopted, from Lebanon. The family, deeply bonded, recently faced the heartbreaking loss of their father at 80. Heartbroken, she felt it was a sign from the sky to come back to her home country.

Patricia is married to Gregory, a French man from Brittany, and they have two daughters, Luna, 22, in finishing her master's in communication and politics, while Violette, 19, is heading to University College London to study politics and international relations.

Patricia and Gregory have a pretty large family living in Normandy, Brittany and the French Alps, with whom they are really close. "Family gatherings are very precious to us. Long lunches and 'petanque' tournaments have always been at the heart of our reunions," Loison shares, smiling. Patricia Loison's journey into journalism began early, driven by her curiosity about the world. She started her career at L'CI, a news channel of the private broadcaster TF1, covering international news and political events. Her career took her from European gatherings and American elections to hot spots like Gaza and Russia. In 2008, she created her own international news channel, interviewing global



leaders and intellectuals. By 2009, she shifted to a travel show that focused on the world's cultures and how respect, curiosity, and communication could bond people across boundaries. She traveled to South America, Africa, and Asia, discovering the world another way, filming across planes, boats, and even elephants. In 2011, Patricia was chosen to anchor France's flagship nightly news program Soir 3, with an average of one million viewers tuning in. Later, she and her

family relocated to Japan, where Patricia used the opportunity to fulfill a dream — writing a book about her adoption journey, which was published by Fayard and received critical acclaim. Her writing led her back to India in 2022, when she was invited by the French Embassy to participate in Bonjour India, a cultural change. She first set foot at Alliance Française de Delhi during a screening of a Bertrand Tavernier movie. "I never imagined I would one day return to lead this institution," she recalls.

Patricia's relationship with India has evolved over time. She first returned to Delhi as part of the French President Nicolas Sarkozy's delegation, walking down memory lane and hearing testimonies about her adoption. She visited again as a face for NGO Plan International, working with impoverished children. Her third trip, for Bonjour India, solidified her growing connection to her birth place and the people she encountered. Now, as the new director of Alliance Française de Delhi, Patricia's journey has come full circle. "I have put my journalism career on hold to take on this role," she reveals, acknowledging the emotional and professional significance of reconnecting with her roots. "I am eager to learn and honored by the confidence expressed by the French Ambassador and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Patricia's dedication to fostering Indo-French cultural ties has been recognized throughout her career. She has been awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres and the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite.

The latter was awarded to her by David Martinson, the French Ambassador to South Africa, in a touching ceremony attended by her family.

Her understanding of international relations has deepened through her career, making her an ideal candidate for this new role. Patricia was even invited to the state dinner at the Louvre during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris last summer. As Patricia Loison embarks on this new chapter, her journey from Delhi to Paris and back again is a testament to her commitment to building bridges between cultures. Her tenure at Alliance Française de Delhi promises to be one of renewal, growth, and deeper engagement with the global community. With a passion for exploring the world and a deep connection to her roots, Loison's leadership will be key to shaping the future of AFD. As she steps into this role, the future of the institution looks bright — driven by her vision to honor its legacy while pushing it toward new horizons.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Department of Alliance Française de Delhi plays a vital role in shaping and sustaining the physical and operational foundation of the institution. Our core objective is to ensure that the campus remains safe, functional, inclusive, and welcoming for all who enter—be it students, staff, faculty, artists, or visitors.

Over the past year, the department has continued to build on its commitment to efficiency, sustainability, and community well-being. From executing major infrastructural improvements to reinforcing our green initiatives, and from enhancing hygiene standards to supporting cultural and academic activities, our efforts are aligned with the broader mission of AFD: to foster an environment where language, learning, culture, and community can flourish together.

This report highlights the key achievements, developments, and ongoing efforts undertaken by the Administration Department during the year 2024–2025. Each initiative reflects our focus on responsiveness, resilience, and responsibility—ensuring that our campus continues to be a dynamic and supportive space for all with the support of our “Building and Cafeteria Committee”.

Infrastructure and Renovation

Over the past year, the Administration Department undertook significant renovation and refurbishment initiative aimed at improving the infrastructure of the Alliance. In light of the growing impact of climate change and increasingly erratic weather patterns, our building has experienced related challenges such as waterlogging and seepage in several areas. These issues are being addressed through a systematic and phased approach, with the goal of enhancing the condition of the premises and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Cleanliness and Facilities Maintenance

With over 6,000 students walking through our doors each year, maintaining a clean, hygienic, and welcoming environment remains one of our top priorities. The Housekeeping team plays a critical role in upholding these standards, working diligently across all areas of the campus to ensure that cleanliness is never compromised.

To enhance the overall atmosphere—particularly in high-traffic areas such as the washrooms—we introduced indoor plants to naturally reduce odours and create a fresher, more inviting environment.

However, due to the ageing infrastructure and general wear and tear over time, maintaining these facilities continued to present challenges.

Recognizing this, we made the important decision to upgrade and renovate the washrooms, aiming to provide a significantly improved experience in terms of hygiene, comfort, and functionality for students, staff, and visitors alike.

Sustainability and Green Initiatives

Alliance Française de Delhi remains committed to preserving its status as a nature-friendly campus. Nestled beside one of Delhi's most beautiful parks, the campus is home to numerous trees and green spaces that we continue to nurture with care. Seasonal flowers and new plantings have been introduced across the premises, enhancing both the visual appeal and environmental quality of our surroundings. These green efforts contribute to a peaceful, eco-conscious atmosphere that reflects our values and connects our community with nature.

Paws, Purrs, and Positivity

Amidst many changes on campus, one of the most joyful has been the arrival of Cheese and Naan, our affectionate and curious kittens. More than just playful companions, their presence has come to symbolize wellness and emotional comfort at Alliance. It is well known that animals, especially pets, can offer therapeutic benefits, helping to ease stress and foster a sense of calm and connection—something especially meaningful in a busy educational environment. Cheese and Naan have quickly become beloved figures among students and staff alike, often spotted lounging peacefully or curiously exploring their surroundings. We encourage everyone to treat them with warmth and care, as they are now a cherished part of our AFD family and contribute positively to the atmosphere of the campus.



Cheese and Naan

Climate Responsiveness and Air Conditioning

In response to rising global temperatures and the growing need for sustainable solutions, the Administration Department has taken proactive steps to optimize climate control within the campus. As part of our commitment to energy conservation and occupant comfort, we have standardized and fixed the temperature settings of all air conditioning systems across the building. This decision was made after careful evaluation, keeping in mind the environmental impact of excessive cooling, the principles of energy efficiency, and the well-being of our users.

By maintaining a balanced, eco-friendly temperature, we aim to reduce energy consumption while ensuring a comfortable indoor atmosphere for students, staff, and visitors—even during Delhi's increasingly extreme summers. These measures are part of our broader efforts to align the institution's operations with sustainable practices and climate responsibility.

Cultural Spaces and Support

The Administration Department plays a crucial role in facilitating and maintaining the cultural infrastructure of Alliance Française de Delhi. At the heart of our campus is a versatile auditorium with a seating capacity of 112, which continues to serve as a vibrant venue for a variety of events. Throughout the year, the space has hosted theatre performances, book launches, film screenings, debates, school visits, and numerous other cultural engagements—offering a dynamic platform for both emerging and established artists from India and abroad. In order to further increase comfort for our audiences, we have also introduced specially designed fibre-filled cushions for the seats in the auditorium, ensuring a more pleasant experience during events and performances.

Adjacent to the auditorium is our beautifully curated art gallery, a dedicated space for showcasing diverse artistic expressions. It remains a key destination for cultural exploration and a hub for creativity, dialogue, and international exchange. At the same time, the Administration Department continues to invest in the upgradation of the auditorium's technical facilities, regularly improving the sound system, lighting, and other stage equipment to ensure a high-quality experience for both performers and audiences. To further enhance operational efficiency, we have also introduced a specially designed high chair (3.5 feet in height) in the projection room, allowing smoother control of projections, subtitles, and related technical aspects during events. These efforts ensure that both the auditorium and the gallery remain well-maintained, technically equipped, and welcoming spaces for artists, audiences, and collaborators alike.

This year has been one of both progress and reflection. From physical upgrades to community engagement, the Administration Department has remained focused on enhancing the experience of all

who walk through our doors. Our work—often behind the scenes—ensures that the Alliance remains a safe, inspiring, and well-functioning space for learning, creativity, and connection. These achievements are made possible with the dedicated efforts of our technical team—Mr. Shailesh, Mr. Suman Saurabh, and Mr. Saurabh Kumar— who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every performance, screening, and cultural programme runs seamlessly.



Human Resources and Policy Implementation at AFD

At AFD, we don't just work together – we grow, learn, and create a culture rooted in mutual respect, safety, and collaboration."

Implementation of POSH and POCSO Policies

In our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe, inclusive, and respectful work environment, Alliance Française de Delhi has strengthened the implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. We have constituted a six-member Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) to address any workplace concerns regarding sexual harassment. To ensure visibility and accessibility, informative posters displaying the ICC members' contact information have been placed near key areas such as the pantry, washrooms, and corridors.

Comprehensive workshops were conducted for all AFD staff—including administration, teaching faculty, housekeeping, and security personnel—focusing on the key elements of the POSH policy and the expected code of conduct. Additionally, the ICC members received specialised training aimed at enhancing their legal understanding, case-handling abilities, and awareness of the procedures for preparing and submitting the annual POSH report.

Human Resources

Farewell to Outgoing Director

Parting ways is never easy, and bidding farewell to our former Director, **Mr. Stéphane AMALIR**, was especially moving. His tenure was marked by several significant accomplishments, including the successful launch event for the Paris Olympics 2024, which remains a proud highlight for AFD.



Welcoming Our New Director

September 2024 marked a momentous occasion with the arrival of our new Director, Mrs. Patricia LOISON, along with Grégor TRUMEL and Emilie JACAMENT. A welcome lunch was graciously hosted by the Ambassador of the Embassy of France, attended by both the administrative and teaching teams of AFD, signifying a warm beginning to a new chapter.

Farewell to Colleagues

This year, we also said goodbye to a number of esteemed colleagues who moved on from AFD due to personal reasons. Each one has made a lasting impact through their dedication and contributions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for their future paths:

Ms. Tavishi Kakwani

Ms. Kahani Gayatri Sapra

Ms. Madhurima Sanyal

Ms. Noopur Goel

Ms. Ayushi Saklani

Ms. Mitushi Khurana

Ms. Karuna Chopra

Mr. Kishen Singh

Welcoming New Joiners

Welcoming new talent into the AFD family has been a fulfilling and energizing experience. In 2024–25, several key positions were filled by committed professionals, who are already adding immense value to our organisation:

Mr. Girish Akoliya – HR Coordinator

Mr. Saurabh Kumar – Technician

Mr. Alex John – Course Counsellor

Ms. Bhavya Arora – Course Counsellor

Ms. Shreya Singh – Course Counsellor

Ms. Palak Arora – Course Counsellor

Ms. Shailja Gusain – Head of Culture

Ms. Tuba Ali – Culture Coordinator

Ms. Priyanshu Saini – Librarian

Training and Team-Building Initiatives

Recognising the importance of continuous development and team synergy, we organised a Conflict Management training program tailored for our Front Desk Officers, Academic team, and Library staff. The session focused on enhancing interpersonal skills, handling challenges, and fostering a collaborative work culture.

To further nurture team spirit, we hosted a Team-Building Lunch at Lodhi Garden exclusively for our Administrative and Teaching staff. This outdoor gathering served as a relaxing space to bond, share, and recharge as a team.

In addition, we held a Staff Appreciation Ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate the individual performances of our administrative personnel. This initiative highlighted the commitment and contributions of each team member and reaffirmed the organisation's dedication to recognising excellence in the workplace.



Team-Building Lunch at Lodhi Garden



POSH Workshop



Staff Appreciation Ceremony

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Department of Alliance Française de Delhi has made notable progress during the 2024–2025 fiscal year, playing a vital role in advancing the organization’s strategic goals. Through enhanced infrastructure, strengthened cybersecurity measures, and improved operational efficiency, the department has focused on delivering reliable, innovative, and scalable solutions to support AFD’s mission of growth and excellence.

Key Achievements

1. In-House Website and Mail Server Management

One of the department’s cornerstone achievements has been the successful transition to self-managed hosting for AFD’s website and email services. This initiative has empowered the organization with:

- Complete control over server configurations, maintenance, and content updates
- Greater data autonomy and security
- Swift troubleshooting and issue resolution
- 99.9% service uptime
- Noticeable cost reductions through the elimination of external hosting fees

2. Deployment of Self-Hosted Digital Services

To ensure greater control over internal communications and data, the department deployed and currently maintains:

- A centralized File Server for internal document storage and sharing
- A Bulk Mailing Server using phpList for efficient mass communications
- An Online Survey Server powered by LimeSurvey for gathering user feedback

By leveraging open-source tools like Zentyal, these services offer cost-efficiency, privacy assurance, and independence from third-party vendors.

3. System Upgrades & Infrastructure Modernization

In anticipation of the end of Windows 10 support (October 2025), the IT team has initiated a proactive, phased replacement of outdated computers across the institution.

This modernization plan ensures:

- Enhanced user performance and productivity
- Strengthened device security
- Compatibility with future operating systems and applications
- A scalable and sustainable hardware ecosystem

4. Unified Student and Library ID Card System

A key operational improvement has been the integration of the Student ID and Library Card into a single, multifunctional identification system. This consolidation has:

- Minimized duplication in administrative workflows
- Reduced physical card production and distribution costs
- Streamlined students' on boarding process
- Improved internal tracking and efficiency

5. Advanced Cybersecurity Framework

With a growing emphasis on digital security, the department has adopted several robust measures, including:

- Implementation of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Periodic vulnerability scans and audits
- Enforced VPN protocols for remote access
- Regular cybersecurity awareness training for staff

These collective efforts have significantly mitigated risk and strengthened AFD's defence against cyber threats.

6. Helpdesk Optimization and User Support Enhancements

By optimizing internal IT support operations, the department has:

- Reduced average helpdesk ticket resolution time
- Improved response and follow-up practices
- Elevated user satisfaction levels among staff, faculty, and students
- Minimized recurring technical issues through proactive maintenance and user education

Website Performance Metrics (FY 2024–2025)

AFD's online presence has continued to grow, as demonstrated by strong website engagement statistics as follows:

Annual Active Users: 335,000

Average Engagement Time: 5 minutes 39 seconds

Annual New Users: 354,000

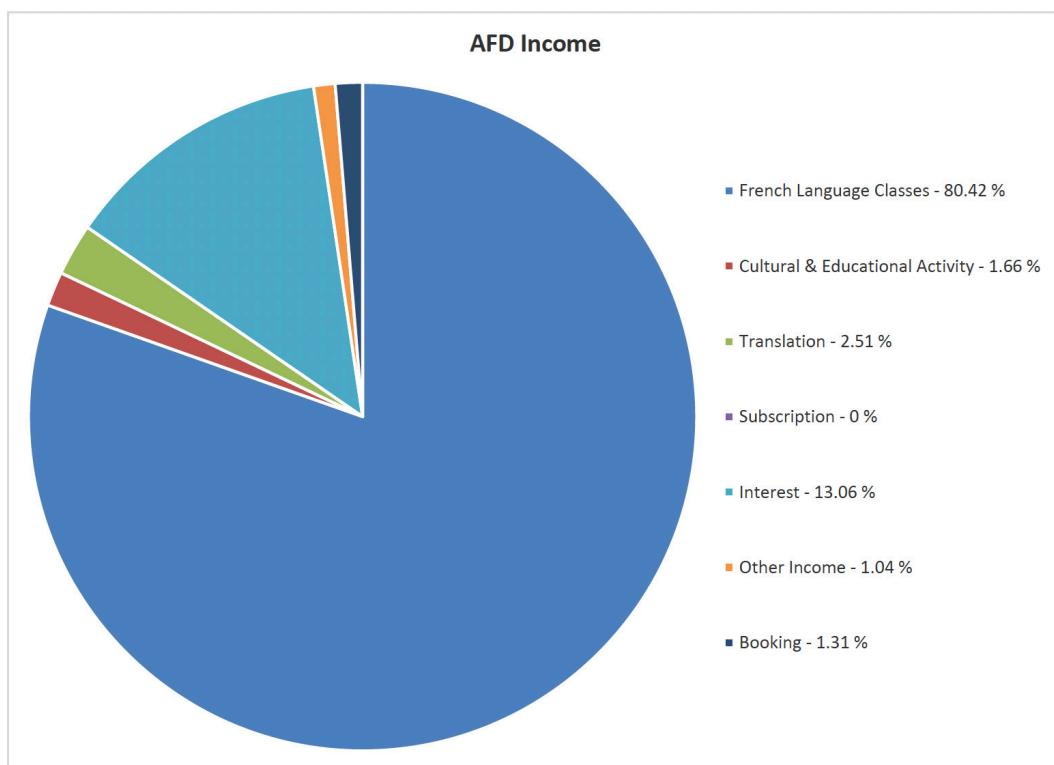
Average Daily Visitors: ~900

These metrics underscore the effectiveness of the revamped website infrastructure and the relevance of its content to a growing audience.

FINANCES

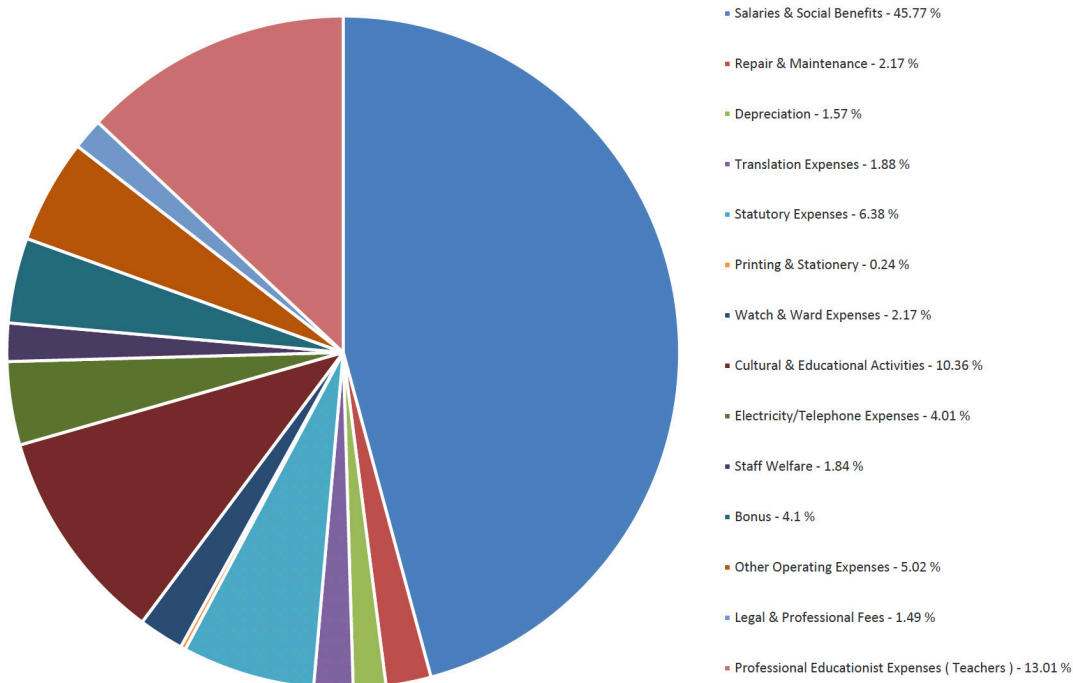
During the financial year 2024–25, we continued to build on the steady progress. Our income streams have remained strong, with healthy growth across several categories. The increase in revenue has been driven in particular by higher enrollments in our French language classes. This growth highlights the trust and confidence our students place in us. This is a direct reflection of the quality of our teaching, the dedication of our faculty, and the relevance of our programs. The steady rise in academic income also underlines our reputation as a leading institution for French language education in the region. Overall, the upward trend in revenues compared to the previous year is a clear indicator of both our institutional resilience and the growing demand for our educational and cultural offerings.

AFD: INCOME



AFD: EXPENSES

AFD Expenditure



INCOME:

S.No.	Particulars	Amount
1	French Language Classes - 80.42 %	16,45,82,648.06
2	Cultural & Educational Activity - 1.66 %	34,00,679.98
3	Translation - 2.51 %	51,42,337.00
4	Subscription - 0 %	2,626.00
5	Interest - 13.06 %	2,67,31,121.01
6	Other Income - 1.04 %	21,26,356.00
7	Booking - 1.31 %	26,87,401.00

EXPENSES:

S.No.	Particulars	Amount
1	Salaries & Social Benefits - 45.77 %	7,50,06,103
2	Repair & Maintenance - 2.17 %	35,50,939
3	Depreciation - 1.57 %	25,64,872
4	Translation Expenses - 1.88 %	30,81,596
5	Statutory Expenses - 6.38 %	1,04,43,477
6	Printing & Stationery - 0.24 %	3,94,449
7	Watch & Ward Expenses - 2.17 %	35,61,707
8	Cultural & Educational Activities - 10.36 %	1,69,70,017
9	Electricity/Telephone Expenses - 4.01 %	65,60,866
10	Staff Welfare - 1.84 %	30,07,325
11	Bonus - 4.1 %	67,08,313
12	Other Operating Expenses - 5.02 %	81,98,844
13	Legal & Professional Fees - 1.49 %	24,37,217
14	Professional Educationist Expenses (Teachers) - 13.01 %	2,13,06,403

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



M.R. Duggal
Manager
Accounts



Avinna C. Das
Assistant Manager
Accounts



Neha Kanouj
Senior Cashier



Kanchan Kapoor
Senior Cashier



Devika A S
Head of Communication



Praseon P. Sachdeva
Senior Translation &
Interpretation Coordinator



Girish Akoliya
HR Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Tavishi Kakwani
Course Counsellor



Alex John
Course Counsellor



Bhavya Arora
Course Counsellor



Sharbani Roy
Senior Librarian



Mridula Khanduri
Librarian



Priyanshu Saini
Junior Librarian



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



Mukta M. Kaul
Permanent Teacher



Padma Natarajan
Permanent Teacher



Ragini Mehta
Permanent Teacher



Ritu Gupta
Permanent Teacher



Sharda Mishra
Permanent Teacher



Snigdha B.
Permanent Teacher



S. Somasundaram
Permanent Teacher



Perna B. Duggal
Permanent Teacher



Pallavi Brara
Permanent Teacher



Sakshi Tandon
Permanent Teacher



Anubhuti Arora
Permanent Teacher



Soniyaa Tuli
Associate Teacher



Benjamin Bruneau
Associate Teacher



Manisha Sharma
Associate Teacher



Gunjan Gupta
Associate Teacher



Neeta Khemka
Associate Teacher



Harini Venkateish
Associate Teacher



Jayashri Sridharan
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



Mukta Gadag
Adhoc 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



Saumya Devrani
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











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