



2025

To new beginnings!



2025 is going to be our year! After a fairly rollercoaster-ish 2024, we are pinning our hopes on this new beginning, and it feels like the year is already in full swing, and it's only February!

This newsletter is a tiny tribute to the jam packed last quarter of the last year.

Whether you were part of our events, took a class, or just stopped by to see what's happening, we hope you found something memorable to enjoy.

Thank you for being a part of our community this year. Take a look at some of our highlights, and let's keep the spirits high as we go into 2025.



Novembre Numérique

AURÉLIEN JEANNEY / MAISON TANGIBLE / UDAIPUR

What better way than to kick off the **Novembre Numérique** or the **Digital November festival** than to play with **augmented reality illustrations**?

Aurélien Jeanney did us the honor of unveiling his **Looki Look** project for the first time in India.

A series of a dozen square panels, populated by amusing characters and graphic forms. In each of these panels, Aurélien Jeanney invites us to enter a colorful, imaginary universe: first a **cinema set** from the early 20th century, then the **Paris catacombs**, in the middle of an imaginary **pool party**, but also a Hindu **temple** and the **flower markets** of Mumbai - traces of his last visit to the Alliance Française network in 2023!

#MAISON TANGIBLE



Thanks to the **Maison Tangible** mobile application, **Third Space** regulars and students from **VCD** design college and **Mount Litera Zee School** were able to take part in a treasure hunt inside these moving tableaux.



After a few software demonstrations and warm exchanges, spectators emerged inspired and amazed by the magic of the virtual.

Shoutout to **Alliance Française Ahmedabad**, **Alliance Française Pune** and **Alliance Française Bengale** for making this edition of the Novembre Numérique possible!



For the 4th edition of the **Wall Art Festival**, organised by the French Institute in India, in collaboration with the network of Alliances Françaises in India, muralist from **Reunion Island**, SEPT, travelled all the way to Jodhpur, for an ambitious project.

Bringing the colours and shapes of the **Réunion Island** to the blue city of **Jodhpur**, marine aquatic imagery was brought to life amidst the arid Thar landscape.

An imagination that gave form and colour to the walls of the cancer ward of the **JIET hospital** in the city. A marathon project that was completed in under 3 days, this wall stands testimony to the beautiful possibilities of the **Wall Art Festival**.



Jodhpur was the last stop of this 3-city tour - alongwith **Goa** and **Pondicherry**.

Thanks to the support of the **French Institute in India** and the **Embassy of France in India**, three other artists have brought incredible art to the streets of India. We can't wait for the next edition!



Kindness Meal

EAT BETTER, EAT LOCAL

The aim of this Food Culture Playdate was to **develop a deeper respect for culinary heritage** but also to **learn how to really play a role in preserving Rajasthan's unique food legacy.**

Students spent the first day exploring the biodiversity and discovering lost foods at **Kishan Bagh Sand Dune Park, Jaipur.**

At the end, some of them made presentations about what they discovered and created. You can find an **amazing binder book co-designed and curated** by the participants and on display at the library of AFJ.

Neatly compiled, complete with a glossary and index, this binder book is a ready reference of **traditional family recipes**, stories about Rajasthan's **native food**, a dictionary of **innovative pickles**, and **samples of foraged plants and seeds** displayed in this little cabinet of curiosities.





STORY TELLING

Udaipur Tales

Reviving the traditional art of storytelling in a new, engaging format, **the Udaipur Tales** is a **platform for storytellers, musicians, authors, and artists worldwide to celebrate the spoken word**. This year, a rather special inclusion was writer **Laurence Hugues from France**. Laurence, a resident under the prestigious **Villa Swagatam**, is working at the Eklavya Foundation in Bhopal.

Laurence brought to life her narration for children, about lost birds and their lost paths, focusing on migration crisis and biodiversity loss. While she is known as a writer for children and young readers, Laurence is also an environmentalist and video poet.



Bookaroo Festival with Laurence Hugues

Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival is an annual coming together of children's authors, storytellers and young readers in Jaipur.

This year, writer **Laurence Hugues**, all the way from **France**, landed in the city for a rather special session with her young audiences.

Armed with a creative writing workshop designed for curious minds, Laurence let loose the limits of imagination with her young readers turned writers.

The premise was simple: the story of a girl who couldn't laugh. Through words, children designed the images, this **photo-story booklet** was as creative as one could imagine.

With a whole lot of laughter, and rolling around, mischief and drawing, the day was well spent.



*In the face of **climate change**'s impact on biodiversity, I aim to craft stories and fables that explore human relationships with non-human species. India's diverse **landscapes** and cultures offer fertile ground for examining these themes from **indigenous forest** interactions to urban **wildlife conflicts**, illuminating our universal bond with animals and plants and inspiring **new narratives**.*



Gratte Ciel

Amber Fort



On **October 10th**, the **Subhat Niwas courtyard at Jaigarh Fort** underwent a remarkable transformation, becoming an aerial playground through the performance of the **French company Gratte Ciel**.

The audience experienced a captivating **aerial dance**, with performers synchronizing their movements with the winds **atop 6-meter-high poles**.

This artistic presentation, created by **Stéphane Girard and Camille Beaumier**, featured an enchanting 42-minute performance, enhanced by a combination of **live and electronic musical compositions**.

The artistic company - that also performed for the **Paris Olympics 2024** - was touring in Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Pune, concluding in Pondicherry on October 26. **The Ambassador of France in India, Thierry Mathou**, emphasized this show's role in strengthening cultural links between France and India.



Performers from French circus and dance company Gratte Ciel, met with a group of young artists from **Indian Women Impact NGO** and **Vinyasa Earth**, met at the idyllic setting of the Vinyasa Centre, amidst nature, under thatched bamboo and hay roofs, with dappled sunlight for company.

A truly magical exploration of the body, mind and soul - with music and movement, the **workshop** was an exploration of *echo* and *reflection*, the key elements of the show ROZEO, a dance led by one performer, in perfectly coordinated movements that reflect the steps as if in a mirror. While one performer gives way to the next, the movements change and evolve.

A big shoutout to Vinyasa Earth for being the most generous hosts for this workshop and to our talented students of Indian Women Impact who danced with such ease and fluidity!







PERFORMANCE

Antichambre



Powered by the **French Embassy in India, Alliance Française and the French Institute**, the **Antichambre** show has been presented nationwide in cities like Kochi, Pune, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bhopal. The show's first representation in India has been a success, since no language barrier is to be crossed in music and drawings.

Composed of the artists **Romain Bermond and Jean-Baptiste Maillet**, the duo called **Stereoptik** presented a mesmerizing show at the **Rajasthan International Center in Jaipur**. Through simple materials and profound creativity, they brought the audience into a journey, highlighting the power of observation and the transformative beauty of simplicity.



Blending **live animation, visual poetry and music**, Stereoptik tells the story of a student who, while stuck in his room working hard on his thesis, finds a picture of himself as a kid. This discovery leads him to a reconnection with the world around him and a profound desire to explore and observe.

Hosted at the brilliant new cultural venue in Jaipur, The **Rajasthan International Centre**, the sprawling auditorium offered the perfect setting for this experimental video performance.



WORKSHOP

Antichambre



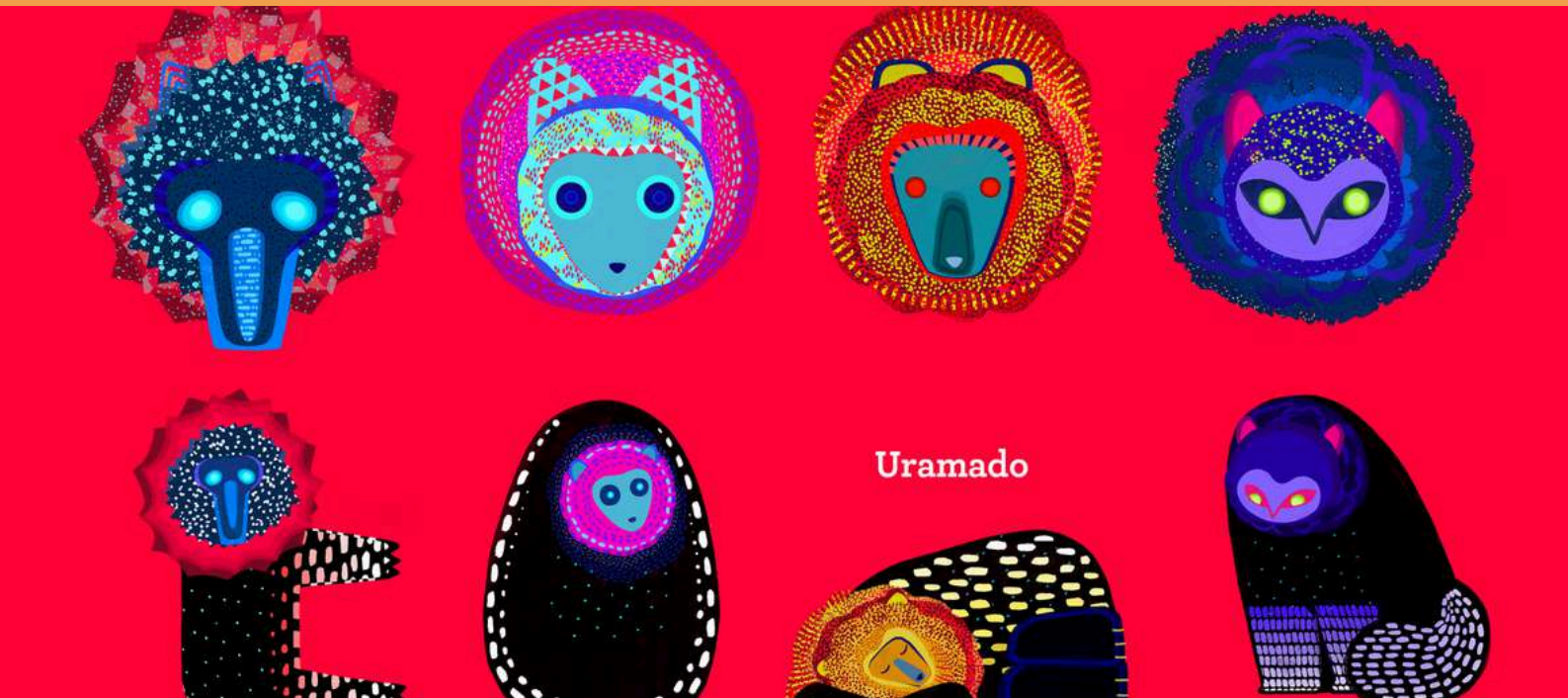
At the heart of Stereoptik's video art, is the magic of **light and darkness**.

This is exactly the idea that was brought to life in the workshop, where students expressed their creativity through reimagining a night landscape, with two simple tools - **black paper and white paint**.

Artists **Romain Bermond** and **Jean-Baptiste Maillet**, the duo known as **Stereoptik** hosted a workshop at the St.Mary's Convent School in Jaipur.

With students in the age group of 11-13 years, the artists worked on a simple project. A shadow art work using brush paint and stencil techniques.





JULIE STEPHEN CHHENG

Uramado - Rise of the Tanukis



Uramado is a treasure hunt in **augmented reality** by **French artist Julie Stephen Chheng**. It tells the story of **Tanukis** which are **spirits of the forest waking up in the city**. Animals are placed in different places of the exhibit area, outside and inside, more or less hidden.

The participants, using the **application** on their phones, launch themselves into this **treasure hunt**. As the images are discovered one by one, the spirits come to life, bewildered, and ask questions to the participant.

Led ahead by the replies chosen, the participant will discover at the end that they themselves are spirits, and they get to leave this hunt with their very own Uramado mask.

Uramado invites the audience to **question our own reality in a poetic and playful way**, this hunt in augmented reality was an incredible experience for audiences - young and old, in the city.





ARCHITECTURE

Paul Mathieu

Paul Matthieu is a **designer** marked by his international inspirations. Through his many visits to Udaipur over the past twenty years, he has come to know numerous craftspeople, artists and other cultural players on the Rajasthan scene.

In his work, we find a taste for the **interplay of materials and light, both in the furniture he creates and in the renovation of a traditional haveli in Udaipur.**

Inspired by jaali, colored stained glass and materials, he wished to involve himself into the aesthetics and history of his neighbouring areas, by using the same colors and color palettes, while creating a truly contemporary and warm place.



At **Thirdspace**, he shared his work, inspirations and projects with **VCD** design college students. With the students looking towards a creative professional future, Paul Mathieu was able to show them his artistic path and the wealth of perspectives that interculturality brings.



PAUL MATHIEU'S DESIGNS ARE LIKE THE MAN HIMSELF – UNIQUE WITH DEPTH AND STYLE.

From one-of-kind bespoke commissions to award-winning collections, a signature dialogue between space and form, stillness and motion is revealed through exquisite craftsmanship and fluid, sculptural forms.



CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

NEW DELHI

Indo- French Kawad



Kawad, the traditional craft of storytelling in Rajasthan found a new identity at the Embassy of France in India on the occasion of **World Craft Day**.

Commissioned by **HE Mr. Thierry Mathou**, ambassador of France to India, the Indo-French Kawad, is a testimony to the friendship and collaboration between the two countries. Designed by **Dr. Toolika Gupta**, director, Indian Institute of Crafts and Design and President, Alliance Francaise Jaipur, and executed and illustrated by celebrated Kawad artist **Dwarika Prasad**, the piece is unique in every sense of the term - for example, traditionally it is the images of gods and goddesses, and mythological characters whose stories are typically narrated by the storyteller, replaced here with an image of iconic landmarks from India and France, the world **leaders of our two nations**, or even wine and cheese, and of course the **logo of the Alliances Françaises in India!**



The unveiling of the Kawad was followed by a talk delivered by **Dr. Nina Sabnani**, scholar of the Kawads, moderated by Dr. Toolika Gupta.



CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

NEW DELHI

Indo- French Kawad



Speaking on the occasion **HE Mr. Thierry Mathou** remarked, "*honored to unveil this unique Kawad on Indo-French ties created by the skilled artisans of Rajasthan whom I was glad to host on World Crafts Day*

I thank Dr. Nina Sabnani and Dr. Toolika Gupta, for their brilliant talk on this collaborative effort, a hallmark of our artistic exchanges and innovation."



If you want to know more about Kawads, look no further than this incredible 13-minute film, available on YouTube.

Directed and animated by **Nina Sabnani**, this is a perfect watch for all Kawad curious souls.

Baat Wohi Hain (It's the same story)

**PRACHI SHARMA**

I underwent two trainings in 2024.
Approches de l'image dans la classe de FLE"
(*Approaches to Images in the French as a Foreign Language Classroom*)

Jeune Public: Sensibilisation et approfondissement des connaissances des enseignants (*Young Audiences: Raising Awareness and Deepening Teacher Knowledge*)

I learned how images can spark creativity, encourage critical thinking, and help students connect with the language in meaningful ways, beyond the pages of a textbook.

I underwent an intensive two week training program at Touraine, France.

A real immersion in the teaching of French as a foreign language (FLE).

This program explored themes such as integrating innovation into FLE teaching *understanding contemporary French society and creating, teaching and assessing in the age of artificial intelligence.*

Hosted by a French family, I was able to discover daily life and local traditions, apart from visiting iconic sites such as the Abbey of Mont Saint-Michel, the Château de Chenonceau and the Château d'Amboise.

GAURAV SONI

These trainings are offered by the **French Institute in India** in collaboration with the **Institut Français Paris** and the **network of Alliances Françaises in India** and aim for continuous development and skill building of our team.



JOURNÉE FLE

Prayatna Educational Society



Prayatna Education Society, an NGO based in India, dedicated to the advancement of French language education, **collaborated with Alliance Française Jaipur** to present **a training program titled Journée FLE**, specifically designed for French school teachers from Jaipur and the surrounding regions.

This workshop emphasized **practical classroom teaching**, utilizing a variety of games and activities to enhance teaching methodologies.

Alliance Française de Jaipur conducted a brief session aimed at equipping teachers with strategies to motivate students to appear for the DELF examination and to enroll in classes offered at AF Jaipur.



AJMER

PARTNER FOCUS

2024-25

SOPHIA COLLEGE

We're thrilled to announce our exciting new partnership with **Sophia Girls' College** in Ajmer.

As part of this two-year contract, AF Jaipur will also be organizing DELF exams at their beautiful campus.

This collaboration means students from Ajmer and nearby areas can now take the DELF exams closer to home, sparing them the hassle of long commutes.

A big thank you to the team at Sophia College for their invaluable support in helping us organize the last two sessions seamlessly!

We hope this initiative will make a positive impact on the students' lives and contribute to their academic success!

The calendar for the DELF sessions in 2025 is now available on our website !

[Click here to have a look.](#)



JAIPUR

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER



The annual Christmas get-together on the Alliance Francaise Jaipur lawns was, as usual an evening to remember!

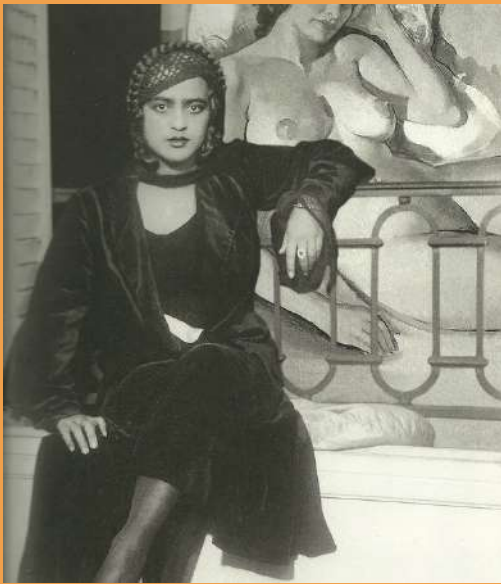
With a delicious **potluck**, complete with desi raab, a local millet based drink, tons of snacks and a few glasses of mulled wine sneaked in, the evening was a perfect setting for a **crackling bonfire** and a **cinema under the stars**.



CINEMA



Amrita Sher-Gil



Amrita Sher-Gil, an artist whose work is widely known and celebrated, but whose private life remains veiled and mysterious, was a woman whose life was often in turmoil and her death shrouded in untold secrets.

French director Patrick Cazals' cinematic tribute to Sher-Gil, shot across Shimla, Paris and Delhi, delves into the artist's extraordinary journey, blending her rather personal letters and stories with her legendary art.

Alliance Francaise Jaipur is honored to collaborate with the **City Palace Jaipur** and the **Maharaja Sawai Mansingh II Museum**, in whose prestigious photography and painting gallery the screening was hosted.



NEW ELECTIONS AND BOARD

2025 - 2026



Ushering in a new term and a new year, Alliance Francaise Jaipur elected its executive council for 2025-2026.

Dr. Toolika Gupta's presidency was unanimously supported, for the second term running!

Vice President, **Dr. Deepak Sharma** from Udaipur was elected by a show of hands

Treasurer **Rakshat Hooja** was elected unopposed by a show of hands.

Secretary Showdown: A high-energy duel (metaphorically speaking) between **Indrajit Bose** and **Dipali Khandelwal** ended with the second round of water being served to cool the tension.

Indrajit was onboarded as Secretary and Dipali as Joint Secretary to the council.



LIBRARY

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE MEDIATHEQUE

A book lover's paradise



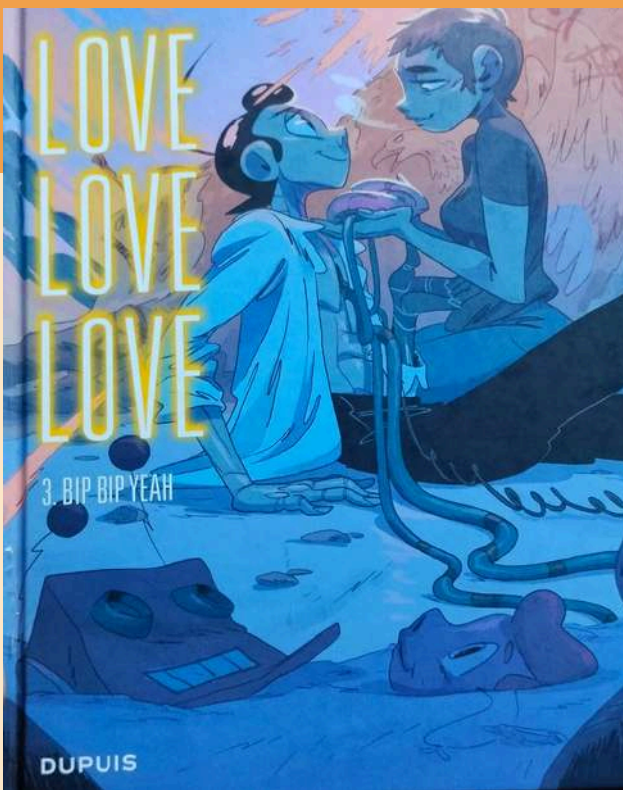
Attention fellow book lovers !

On the occasion of the annual Diwali potluck and festivities, amidst members and teachers of AF Jaipur, Dr. Toolika Gupta, President, officially **inaugurated our brand-new library.**

Get your **membership now** and come discover this cosy space packed with tons of amazing stories, books, films, music and AI games.



AFJ RECOMMENDS



LOVE LOVE LOVE

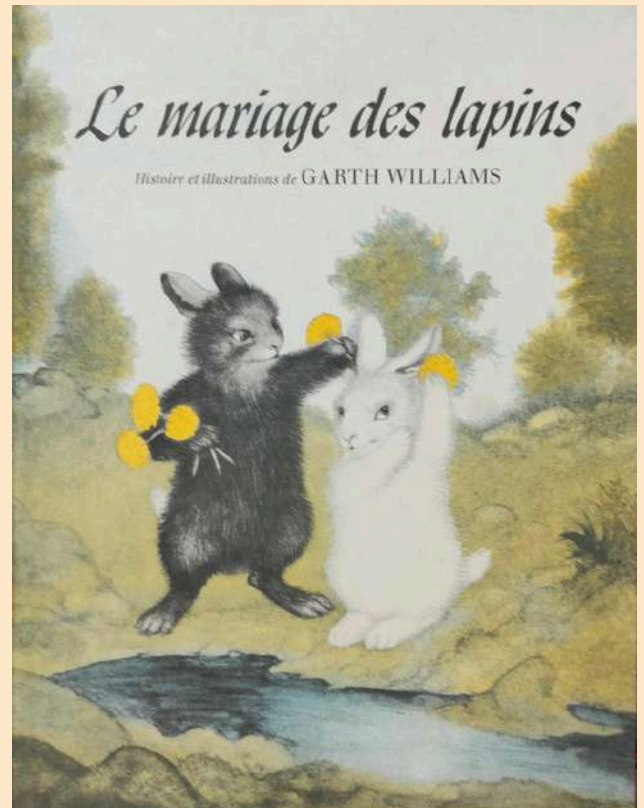
ANDRÈS GARRIDO

Love Love Love by Andrès Garrido Martin is a fascinating novel with amazing graphics that grab your attention. The story is about the love between a human, Elle, and a robot, Karel. It shows how strong their connection is, with Elle being ready to do anything for Karel.

The book is very relatable to today's world, where we are surrounded by technology and AI. It reflects how humans and machines are becoming closer, making it a great read for people of all ages, especially the younger generation."

LE MARIAGE DES LAPINS

"Le Mariage des Lapins is a heartwarming tale of two rabbits . one black and one white who fall in love and celebrate their union with the entire forest.



Beyond the surface of a simple love story, the narrative beautifully symbolizes the acceptance and harmony between different races, represented by the black and white rabbits.

The stunning illustrations by Garth Williams, who captures the essence of the tale with breathtaking visuals , making it an absolute delight for readers, especially children.

Highly recommended for young readers, as it subtly conveys profound values like love, acceptance, and unity while enchanting them with its charming storyline and illustrations."



Playlists & Podcasts

LA GAÏTÉ LYRIQUE

La Gaîté Lyrique : As a part of Novembre Numérique 2024, we are exploring here a renowned center for digital and immersive arts in Paris called La Gaîté Lyrique. This place celebrates the fusion of global cultures through digital storytelling, emphasizing the transformative power of technology in enhancing and diversifying artistic expression. This podcast is hosted by Agnès Guéguen.

JOYEUX NOËL

Through this podcast, Héloïse Nio describes the French traditions in celebrating Christmas, such as the family dinner, the Père Noël figure, present gifting...

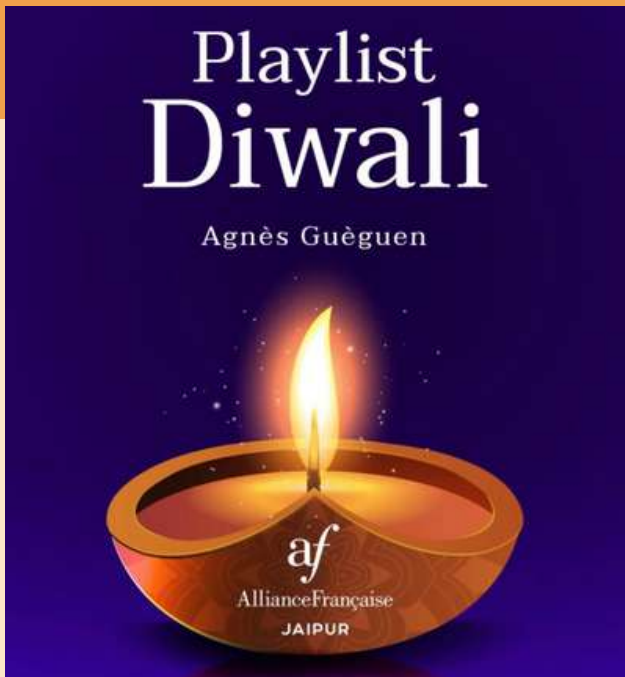


all of that accompanied with some nice Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST



Gayatri prepared a very nice playlist to celebrate Christmas. She chose ancient and recent songs that will bring you back to the late December vibes.



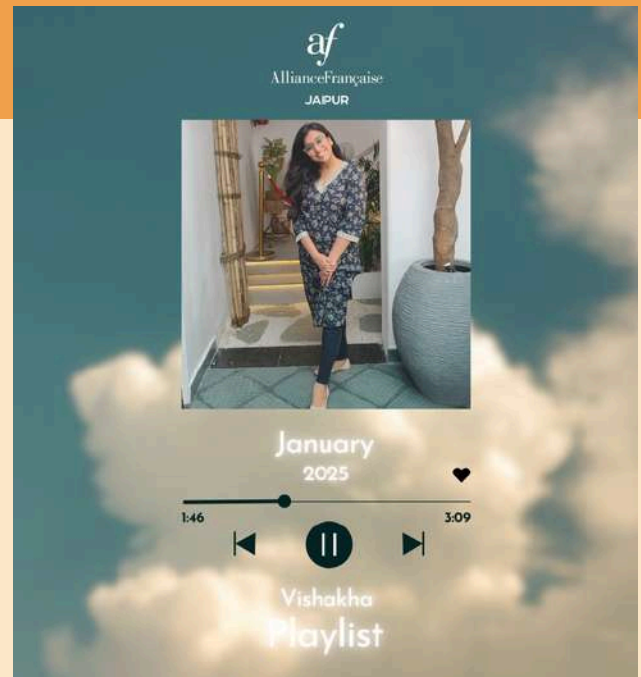
Playlists

DIWALI

Agnès prepared a playlist condensing her french favourite songs. The perfect way to learning new vocabulary and sounds through beautiful melodies.

LE LOUVRE

This month, in your exclusive monthly podcast, Léa Marie, professor at the Alliance Française in Jaipur and collaborator at the Louvre Museum in Paris invites you on an extraordinary journey into the world's most iconic museum. Stroll through history as you encounter some of the greatest masterpieces ever created. From timeless paintings to breathtaking sculptures, immerse yourself in an artistic voyage like no other. Experience the magic of the Louvre from anywhere, right from your favorite Spotify account. Let each masterpiece come to life through the power of sound.



Vishakha has curated the very first playlist of the year 2025! A perfect blend of French classics and the latest hits from the contemporary music scene, this selection is a journey through the richness of French sounds. As a professor at the Alliance Française in Jaipur, Vishakha brings her passion



AFJ SPORT



As part of the generous support by the **French Institute in India** and **Decathlon**, Alliance Française Jaipur premises now has a dedicated sports area.

Unwind with a match of badminton, table tennis, or challenge your friends to a game of darts, pick your sport!



WE ARE HIRING

French Language Teachers

Level B2 Minimum
Send CV and Motivation Letter :

courses.udaipur@afindia.org

Join the AFJ family

APPLY TO BE A TEACHER OF
FRENCH

- Level B2 Minimum
- Send CV And Cover Letter

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