

NEWSLETTER

Year in Review


Feature of the year



The French Institute in India and the Alliance Française Jaipur are pleased to announce the signing of an **agreement** with the **Government of Rajasthan**. Formalized in the presence of the **Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Education, Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa**; the **Commissioner of College Education, Dr. Om Prakash Bairwa**; and the **Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Kuldeep Ranka**.



This collaboration marks a significant step in **introducing French language education across government colleges in 16 districts of Rajasthan**. In line with the mission of the French cultural network promoting linguistic diversity, fostering intercultural dialogue, and strengthening Indo-French cooperation, the initiative will include both French-led and locally adapted training programmes. **More than 150 teachers** will be trained through a combination of French pedagogical expertise and locally contextualised capacity-building modules. Thousands of students will thus receive the opportunity to learn French, enhancing their academic profile and improving their prospects in an increasingly global and competitive job market.



On December 1st, 2025, over 500 members of the audience gathered at the main auditorium of the Rajasthan International Centre for a special international cultural performance: Reflet, the acclaimed creation of French choreographer and freestyle slalom/skating champion Xuan Le.

REFLET
A CONTEMPORARY
DANCE PERFORMANCE
BY XUAN LE AND
SHIH-YA PENG

Presented by the Embassy of France in India, the French Institute in India, and Alliance Française Jaipur, and produced by Aaron Fernandes Entertainment, the show brought together **contemporary dance, hip-hop, roller skating, and immersive light visuals** in a poetic, high-energy exploration of balance and movement. **Xuan Le and dancer Shih-ya Peng** captivated the audience with a luminous, meditative duet set to Jules Evrard's atmospheric soundscape, transforming the stage into a space of reflection and quiet wonder, followed by an engaging interaction with the artists that offered a rare glimpse into the creative process behind this celebrated work.





PHAD BACHAAN

On the evening of **June 21st**, Fête de la Musique and the night of the summer solstice, **Thorr Collective**, led by researcher **Mimansha Charan**, cultural anthropologist **Ayla Joncheere** and curated by **Yashashvi Rathore**, hosted a **Phad Bachaan**, an ancient ritual performance that brings to life the epic of Pabuji, a 14th-century folk-deity revered across Western Rajasthan.

In this specially curated, condensed presentation, Bablu and Sitaram, accompanied by their mother, Sohini's evocative narration traced a few key episodes from the larger epic. As the sun marked its longest descent, a spell of ancestral memory, devotion, and artistic inheritance filled the evening, set against the backdrop of the majestic Durbar Hall of the **Diggi Palace**. The event was a collaboration between **Jaipur Virasat Foundation** and **Thorr Collective**, supported by the **Alliance Française Jaipur**.



The event created a space for audiences to experience the narrative depth and performative vitality of Rajasthan's oral-visual tradition. The evening was documented by photographer Vipin Jangir, whose images preserve the atmosphere of this special gathering.

About Phad

Phad is a **centuries-old ritualistic scroll painting tradition from Rajasthan**, revered by nomadic and semi-nomadic communities for its role in worship, storytelling, and shared cultural identity. These long textile scrolls depict the epics of local warrior-deities such as **Devnarayanji, Pabuji, and Ramdevji**, and are brought to life through all-night performances of song, dance, and narration by **Bhopa and Bhopi performers**. Rooted deeply in community devotion, ancestral memory, and oral tradition, the practice reflects a rich cultural ecosystem where artisans, performers, and devotees are bound together through ritual, costume, offerings, and collective belief. As rural societies evolve, Phad has also adapted—emerging as a significant example of sustainable and experiential tourism.

About Thorr Collective

Thorr is a **Jodhpur-based** collective of socially engaged, creative professionals, researchers, artists, and writers committed to **vernacular knowledge, communities, and landscapes**. Rooted in collaboration and co-creation, we create inclusive knowledge through dialogue, reciprocal exchange, and cross-community interaction, bridging academia and the public.



FETE DE LA MUSIQUE

"Sometimes the optics matter - it's not often that you see three incredible women on stage performing in spaces that haven't always been accessible to them. Then the rest is all magic." These words from an audience member perfectly captured the spirit of the evening and we couldn't agree more.

DAVID WALTERS

As part of the World Music Day celebrations, Alliance Française Jaipur, in collaboration with Jaipur Virasat Foundation and with the support of the French Institute in India, hosted a landmark concert at the historic Diggi Palace. The event featured **French Afro - Caribbean artist David Walters**, known for his magnetic blend of electronic, folk, and Caribbean rhythms, in a unique showcase of cross-cultural collaboration.

Joining him on stage were three remarkable Indian musicians - **Dr Shiva Vyas on Sitar, Dr Priya Tiwari on Tabla, and Mamta Sapera on Morchang** in a performance that was both experimental and deeply rooted in tradition.

With over 600 people in attendance, the concert marked one of the most successful celebrations of collaborative music Jaipur has seen in recent years. Set against the royal backdrop of Diggi Palace, the evening unfolded as a powerful dialogue between **Afro-Caribbean soundscapes and Indian classical music**, led by women artists whose voices brought depth and resonance to the performance. It was more than a concert - it was a celebration of cultural connection, artistic freedom, and the universal language of music.

This event was presented by **Alliance Française Jaipur**, in partnership with **Jaipur Virasat Foundation** and **Diggi Palace**, as part of our month-long celebrations of World Music and coordinated by independent researcher and cultural practitioner Supriya. The evening showcased not just global artistry but also the power of inclusive cultural spaces and collaborative creativity.





TURN-A -PAGE WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday, Alliance Française Jaipur opens its doors to learners of French for **Turn-a-Page Wednesday**, a lively **read-aloud session** hosted as part of our library events. Together, we **explore beginner-friendly books—reading aloud, laughing through the tricky pronunciations, and discovering the joy of French in a warm, relaxed setting.**

This welcoming space of easy reading and open sharing helps learners build confidence, improve pronunciation, and express themselves in public without fear or hesitation. Whether you're just starting out or revisiting the basics, **Turn-a-Page Wednesday** offers a delightful mid-week boost to your French journey. Join us for stories, bloopers and a lot of fun as we learn—one page at a time!

WENCH FILM FESTIVAL

This year, **Halloween** got a wildly imaginative twist at Alliance Française Jaipur with **two special screenings** from the Wench Film Festival, **India's premier horror, sci-fi, and fantasy film festival**. The 15-minute short **Spoor** directed by **Sunita Soliar & Statten Roeg** — in which a woman caring for her ailing mother is haunted by a disturbing, mysterious growth — and the feature-length **Kitty Kelly Ki Diwali** by **Vivek Shah**, a dark and chaotic tale of secrets, sedatives, and forbidden love during Diwali night, took the audience into a tense, eerie, and exhilarating experience that left them buzzing long after the credits rolled.

Wench Film Festival, **led by Sapna Moti Bhavnani**, is a boundary-pushing platform that highlights underrepresented voices, especially women, BIWOC, LGBTQ+ and non-binary creators in genre cinema. By bringing Wench to Jaipur, **Alliance Française Jaipur** celebrated the bold, the strange, and the fearless — stories that challenge norms and celebrate the bizarre in the best way.



RAJASTHAN FILM COLLECTIVE

This year, Alliance Française Jaipur teamed up with the Rajasthan Film Collective to curate a **powerful series of film screenings that center on deeply rooted local stories, the environment, and human resilience.** This collaboration not only brought audiences thoughtful and emotional journeys into the heart of cinematic stories, but also showcases a blend of emerging indie voices and masters of cinema, creating a vibrant, landscape of storytelling and artistic exploration.

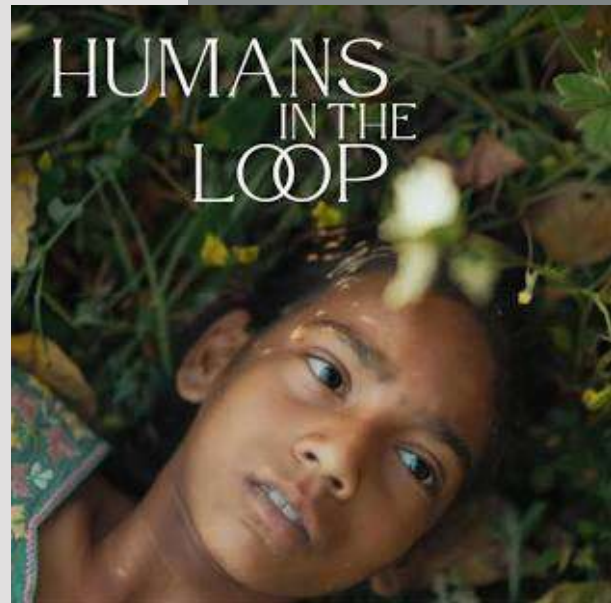
Keeper of the Last Herd

The documentary follows a young man's fierce dedication to preserving blackbuck antelope herds across Rajasthan's dunes. It's a lyrical, heartfelt exploration of tradition, wildlife conservation, and a fragile ecosystem **directed by Nirmal Verma**, Roundglass Sustain, who was also present for a discussion with the audience.

Humans in the Loop

A philosophical and futuristic film that questions what it means to be human in an age of artificial intelligence. The Jaipur premiere at Alliance Française, where **director Aranya Sahay** interacted virtually with the audience, invited them to reflect on ethics, identity, and how technology blurs the line between man and machine._

A series of films was also showcased as a memory of resistance : **A Plate of Sardines by Omar Amiralay, A Fidai Film by Kamal Aljafari, The Flowers Stand Silently Witnessing by Theo Panagopoulos, and Direct Recruitment by Amar Kumar.** The screenings took place every Sunday at the Alliance Française, Jaipur.



KASHIDA PHOOL

Kashida Phool, presented as part of the first edition of the **Jaipur Dance Conclave**, brought to the stage an **evocative folk-theatrical performance** by **Rakesh and Chaina Meena**, **cross-dancers from the Meena community of Dausa**. The piece explored the past, present, and future of Rajasthan's disappearing tradition of cross-dancing – an art form that has long challenged social binaries with grace, courage, and unapologetic expression.



As the performers transformed on stage through the intimate act of undressing and redressing, the audience witnessed a profound narrative of identity, fluidity, community, and inheritance. Through their own voices, **Rakesh and Chaina** shared what it means to become cross-dancers in contemporary Rajasthan where art becomes both resistance and remembrance.

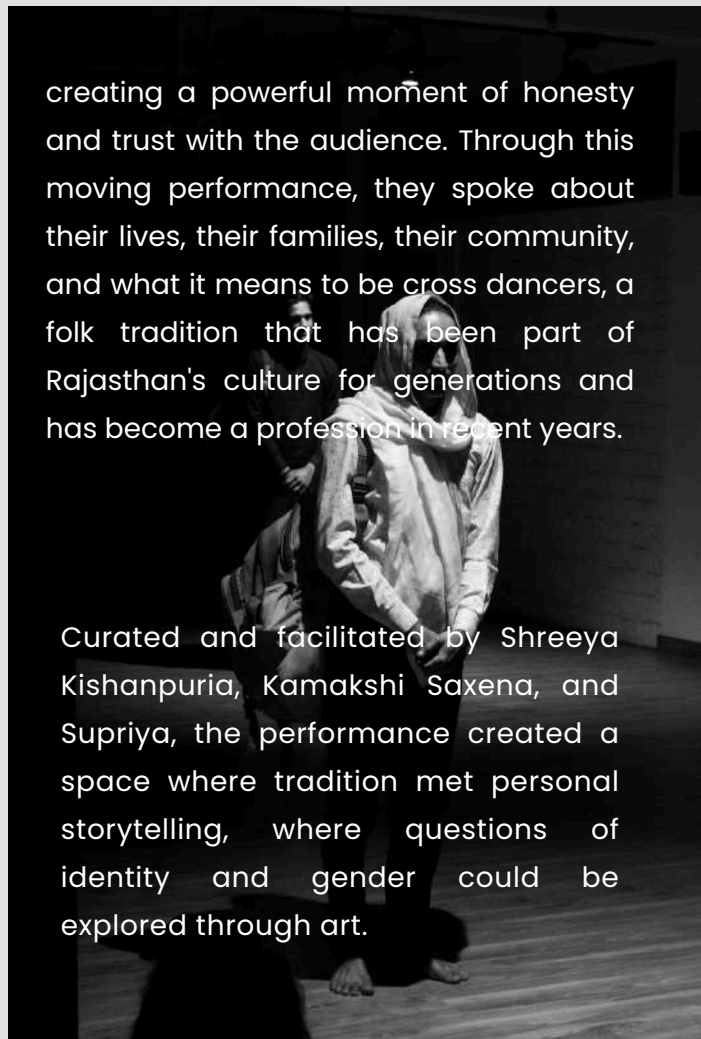
About Kashida Phool

Journeying with the **Cross Dancers of Rajasthan** offered audiences at the Jaipur Dance Conclave an intimate look into a beautiful tradition from rural Rajasthan. Performed by **Chaina and Rakesh Meena**, **the piece shared their personal stories as cross dancers from the Meena community**. Two male bodies transformed into female dancers through the vulnerable act of undressing and dressing on stage,

creating a powerful moment of honesty and trust with the audience. Through this moving performance, they spoke about their lives, their families, their community, and what it means to be cross dancers, a folk tradition that has been part of Rajasthan's culture for generations and has become a profession in recent years.

The performance took place **on 22nd November at the Rajasthan International Center**. **Alliance Française** was delighted to support this work alongside **Jaipur Virasat Foundation, Arya Niwas Hospitality, and Maah Space**, helping to bring this touching performance to Jaipur, where heritage and contemporary expression continue to find common ground.

Curated and facilitated by Shreeya Kishanpuria, Kamakshi Saxena, and Supriya, the performance created a space where tradition met personal storytelling, where questions of identity and gender could be explored through art.





BODY MOVEMENT WORKSHOP WITH XUAN LE AND SHIH-YA PENG

As part of Reflet's India tour, performers **Shih-ya Peng** and **Xuan Le** led an exclusive **contemporary dance workshop on 30 November at the House of Hidden Treasures, Narayan Niwas**. The session seamlessly blended movement, rhythm, and improvisation, drawing inspiration from Reflet's unique fusion of dance and roller-skating. Participants - dancers, both professional and amateurs, experienced rhythm and movement like never before, with an opportunity to explore balance, fluidity, and spatial awareness under Shih-ya's intuitive guidance. Students from two NGOs: **Indian Women Impact and Namaste Soliarity alongwith Birla Balika Vidyapeeth School Pilani**, participated in the workshop.



FORTUNE TELLER

AN AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCE CREATED BY JULIE STEPHEN CHHENG

As part of the French Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of France in India's Digital November festival, **Alliance Française Jaipur** was pleased to present **Fortune Teller** - an immersive, interactive projection in augmented reality **created by French artist Julie Stephen Chheng**.

The show transports viewers into a magical world where *spirits of nature* emerge – a surreal fusion of animation, projection, and augmented reality. The spirits follow one another until a viewer interacts, triggering dreamlike encounters that deliver personal, poetic messages, almost like a prediction.

Augmented reality elements reveal spirits incarnated in objects throughout the space - some **visible**, some **hidden**, and some **waiting to speak**, as audiences animate the eyes of these creations illustrated across the panels. The experience was complemented by **creative workshops** that blended traditional crafts with digital technology, adding a **tangible, participatory dimension to the immersive universe**. In this universe, participants created their own versions of the Japanese wishing boxes or the **Daruma**.

This singular, one of a kind digital experience was hosted in collaboration with the **Rajasthan International Centre** – offering audiences a rare and enchanting fusion of art, technology, and storytelling.



JULIE STEPGHEN CHHENG

Having graduated from **Arts Décoratifs de Paris**, Julie Stephen Chheng works across **books, design, and scenography, both on paper and digitally**. Through her studio Volumique, she has created numerous books and apps, including *Poèmes en Pièces*, *Les Aventures d'un Village*, *Labyrinthe*, *Moving Cards*, *Le Petit Train Postal*, and *La Pluie à Midi*. In 2016, she received the Digital Arts Laureate at Villa Kujoyama in Kyoto. In 2017, she presented **Uramado** at the Museum of Hunting and Nature and *Pliés Coupés Décalés* at the Montreuil Children's Book Fair.



She has designed windows for Maison Hermès in Tokyo and Shanghai and exhibited *Uramado AR*, an enhanced reality experience shown worldwide. **Her latest work includes Fortune Teller and Landscapes in Construction, blending traditional and digital practices.** Her work explores our relationship with nature, combining playful, combinatorial narration that invites audiences to immerse themselves in both tangible and virtual universes.

BOMBAY EXPERIENCE

A MIX OF FRENCH JAZZ, CARNATIC MUSIC AND URBAN RAP

Bombay Experience by **Alexandre Herer** is a groundbreaking musical project that fuses **jazz, Indian classical rhythm, and Indian hip-hop, featuring collaborations with artists like B.C. Manjunath (mridangam & konnakol) and Manmeet Kaur (vocals/rap).**

Rooted in meticulous **Carnatic rhythmic patterns of BC Manjunath** and **Alexandre Herer's** jazz sensibilities, the music creates an organic dialogue between traditions, while **Manmeet Kaur's** socially aware lyrics explore themes of everyday life, resilience, and human contradictions. Layered with Rhodes, synths, saxophones, bass, and percussion, the performance balances rich textures with rhythmic complexity. The ensemble is supported by **Gael Petrina** on bass and **Pierre Mangeard** on drums.

Emerging from Herer's encounters with Mumbai's rap scene, masterclasses, and residencies, Bombay Experience transcends cultural boundaries, offering listeners an immersive, globally resonant experience that is both familiar and refreshingly new. The project came to Jaipur on 12 December, presented by Gatecrash and **Alliance Française Jaipur, in collaboration with Rajasthan International Centre.**





REVIVING ODYSSEY IN RAJASTHAN

Collaborating with Alliance Française Jaipur, **French playwright and director Sophie d'Orgeval** and **musician-composer Damien Jacobée** of **Compagnie La Rigole** have embarked on a unique artistic journey in Rajasthan. **Supported by the University of Rajasthan's Department of European Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies**, they are exploring the realities of women's lives in the region for their new project, **an Indian reimagining of the Odyssey told from its central female perspective**. In this retelling, Penelope becomes Kavita ("poem" in Hindi).

With the invaluable assistance of **Prof. Rajendra Singh Khangarot**, the founder of Sawai Man Singh International School, the artists spent five days in **Jobner**, where they met and interviewed women from various backgrounds. During this time, they shared moments of daily life and listened to powerful, personal stories from the women and their families.



TRAINING IN FRANCE: RENEWING THE DEBATE OF IDEAS

The **Debate of Ideas** programme of the Institut Français is designed as a key instrument of **cultural and intellectual diplomacy**. Its mission is to **foster a global “diplomacy of ideas and knowledge,”** by supporting initiatives that bring together thinkers, creatives, academics, and civil society through events such as the annual Nuit des Idées (“Night of Ideas”) and ongoing cycles of public debates.

Through these initiatives, the Institut Français aims to **strengthen cross-cultural dialogue, encourage the international circulation of ideas from the social sciences and humanities, and reinforce the role of debate and knowledge-sharing as engines of social and civic engagement.**

In 2025, under the banner **Renewing the Debate of Ideas**, the Institut français, in collaboration with **literary festival of Allez Savoir hosted by EHESS, Marseille**, reinvigorates this commitment by mobilizing a new wave of events in cultural and academic hubs such as Paris and Marseille.

This joint initiative seeks to reimagine public debate – **not as a closed, elite exchange, but as an accessible, inclusive, and multidisciplinary dialogue.** By combining the institutional reach and resources of the Institut Français with the research-based and socially engaged ethos of Allez Savoir / EHESS, the project aspires to bring fresh voices (especially younger scholars, emerging intellectuals, and representatives of civil society) into the conversation, ensure



gender balance and ecological awareness in programming, and create spaces where scholarly reflection meets public interest. **Sanjana SARKAR, Director, Alliance Française Jaipur** was selected to participate in this training last September in Paris and Marseille.

JAIPUR DANCE CONCLAVE

The Jaipur Dance Conclave 2025, a one of a kind celebration of Indian dance in Rajasthan, brought the country's finest classical, folk, and contemporary performers to the historic city.

Curated by **Amrita Lahiri and Manjot Chawla**, the festival opened with a dynamic Odissi curtain-raiser by **Sharmila Biswas** and unfolded over two vibrant days of performances, seminars, and workshops at the Rajasthan International Centre.

Featuring legends like **Padmashri Madhavi Mudgal and Padmashri Leela Samson** alongside outstanding young artists **Gauri Diwakar and Divya Warriar**, the conclave also highlighted **local folk traditions, including a unique Meena community presentation**. With opportunities to watch, learn, and engage—ranging from expert talks to children's storytelling workshops—the conclave created a rich cultural confluence for art lovers, newcomers, and international visitors alike, supported by Artspots, Rajasthan International Centre, and the Government of Rajasthan with partner organisations.





ÉCOLE DU LOUVRE

INTERNERS IN RAJASTHAN

In September, **Audrey De Moura and Cléo Hugues**, both Master's students at the **École du Louvre**, completed a **two-month internship** at the **City Palace Museum in Udaipur**. Working within the curatorial team, they contributed to **archiving, mediation, and museology**. Their stay forms part of the **second edition of the collaboration launched in 2022**.



At the same time, **Clara and Luc**, also Master's students from the **École du Louvre**, joined the **City Palace Museum in Jaipur** for an internship focused on **conservation and collections management**. Their immersion alongside the museum's curatorial staff provided valuable hands-on experience. This year marks the **third edition of the partnership with the Alliance Française de Jaipur**.





L'ORDRE NATIONAL DU MÉRITE: DR. TOOLIKA GUPTA

Dr. Toolika Gupta, President Alliance Française Jaipur and Director, IICD Jaipur received the **L'Ordre National du Mérite**, a prestigious French medal that **recognises her contributions to the fields of art, crafts, and design** as the Director of the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design. The award also honoured her role as President of the Alliance Française in Jaipur and acknowledged her efforts in establishing this new Alliance in India.




**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN INDE**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

PEDAGOGY



FRENCH CLASSES AT AFJ

A1.1

ADULT - EVENING COMMODOAL

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



08 JAN TO 10 MAR 2026
15 WEEKS

04.30 PM - 06.00 PM
MON-TUE-THRU-FRI

TO REGISTER, SCAN THIS QR
CODE



A1.1

ADULT - MORNING COMMODOAL

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



14 FEB TO 09 MAY 2026
15 WEEKS

10.00 AM - 01.00 PM
SAT - SUN

TO REGISTER, SCAN THIS QR
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A1.2

ADULT - MORNING COMMODOAL

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



30 JAN TO 10 APRIL 2026
11 WEEKS

11.00 AM - 12.30 AM
MON-TUE-THURS-FRI

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A2.1

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



05 FEB TO 17 APRIL 2026
8 WEEKS

10.00 AM - 11.30 AM
MON-TUE-THRU-FRI

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CODE



A2.2

ADULT - EVENING COMMODOAL

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



15 DEC TO 05 MAR 2026
08 WEEKS

5.30 PM - 07.00 PM
MON-TUE-THRU-FRI

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B1.2

ADULT - MORNING ONLINE

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



06 JAN TO 06 APRIL 2026
12 WEEKS

09.30 AM - 11.00 AM
MON-TUE-THRU-FRI

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C1.1

ADULT - EVENING ONLINE

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



12 FEB TO 05 AUG 2026
29 WEEKS

04.15 PM - 06.15 PM
MON-FRI

TO REGISTER, SCAN THIS QR
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C1.2

ADULT - EVENING ONLINE

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REGISTRATIONS OPEN



12 FEB TO 05 AUG 2026
29 WEEKS

04.15 PM - 06.15 PM
MON-FRI

TO REGISTER, SCAN THIS QR
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FRENCH CLASSES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

This year, we were also delighted to resume our French classes with our long-standing partners, **Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Birla Public School, and Indian Institute of Crafts and Design**. While we welcomed new groups of students from each campus, the enthusiasm and curiosity remain as strong as ever.

We are also thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the **newest member of our partner family, Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery**. We look forward to building meaningful learning experiences together.



FRANÇAIS SOCIAL

FRENCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

The Français Social or French for Social Change Programme was launched after Alliance Française Jaipur won the Prix du Français Social, awarded by **Alliance Française du Touquet** and the **Fondation des Alliances Françaises** in Paris. This recognition has enabled AFJ to provide French language training up to the A2 level to 15 young, talented individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, in collaboration with the NGO Indian Women Impact. The programme aims to empower these learners with linguistic and cultural skills, opening pathways to higher education opportunities in France while also strengthening their prospects for meaningful careers in India. **The programme was conceptualised by Girija Nathawat, director of learning at AFJ.**





DELFL SESSIONS

DELFL Tout Public

SEPTEMBER - AJMER

In September 2025, we held our 3rd DELFL session at **Sophia Girls' College, Ajmer**, welcoming 25 enthusiastic candidates. We remain deeply grateful to our wonderful partners in Ajmer for their seamless coordination and their ever-present smiles.



DELFL Junior

DECEMBER - UDAIPUR

AF Udaipur reached an important milestone with the organisation of its first DELFL AI examination at **Maharana Mewar Public School**. Twenty candidates were assessed in the presence of **Girija Nathawat, Pedagogical Director at AF Jaipur** and **Noël Elogan, Pedagogical Manager at AF Udaipur annexe**. The session stood out for its hybrid format for the individual oral test, combining on-site evaluation with remote support from Jaipur.



UPSKILLING AT AFJ



ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

This year, in the spirit of continuous learning and professional growth, AFJ introduced **English language classes for staff members**. Designed as a **50-hour training module**, the program, delivered by **teacher Alpana Jain**, focuses on **building practical, everyday conversational skills to support greater confidence and fluency in the workplace**.

We are proud to see our team embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and we look forward to celebrating their progress in the months ahead.

FORMATION DE PROFESSEURS DES ALLIANCES FRANÇAISES D'INDE CAVILAM - 2025

The French Embassy in India and the Alliance Française network launched their 2025 edition of a **two-week intensive training program in France for 15 teachers of the Alliance Française India network**, designed to strengthen pedagogical skills.

Hosted by **CAVILAM - Alliance Française in Vichy**, the program offered a combination of **teacher training, linguistic advancement, and cultural immersion**, with a focus this year on project-based learning for teenagers (creation of escape games), understanding contemporary French society, and integrating positive pedagogy in the classroom.

This training was attended by Surbhi Jain, course coordinator at Alliance Française Jaipur.





SUSTAINABLE GIFTING AT AFJ

At Alliance Française Jaipur, sustainable gifting is an integral part of our commitment to community engagement and responsible practices. For our New Year and Diwali gifts, we collaborated with our colleague **Alpana Jain, whose Merumi Art Era creates beautifully handcrafted diaries featuring hand-drawn and embroidered designs**, thoughtfully customised with the names of each recipient. In the same spirit, our partner NGO Indian Women Impact **designed our Diwali greeting cards, hand-painted using the cyanotype technique**. Through these meaningful collaborations, AFJ celebrates local talent, promotes sustainability, and ensures that every gift carries a story of creativity, care, and community.

JOURNÉES DES PROFESSEURS 2025

The **annual AF Jaipur teachers' meeting** brought together a motivated team for **two days of collaboration, training, and shared ideas**.

Highlights included **innovative projects, professional achievements, engaging teaching strategies, and constructive feedback to enhance learning**.

The sessions strengthened team cohesion and reaffirmed AF Jaipur's commitment to quality, creativity, and community impact.



FORMATION INITIALE

The formation initiale is a 22-hour online training composed of nine modules on FLE pedagogy. It includes a final test, continuous assessment, and 21 hours of classroom observation with practical tasks. **Successful completion is required to qualify for a part-time teaching position at Alliance Française Jaipur.**

The professional training for teachers of French as a Foreign Language (FLE) was offered by the Alliance Française of Jaipur and the Udaipur annex over a two-week period. It was an honour to be able to participate in this training program. The teachers guided us through practical exercises and explained relevant parts of french language pedagogy. These sessions allowed me to connect the theoretical and practical aspects of teaching, which I believe is essential to understand.

RUCHA S.



INTERNSHIPS AT AFJ

A big thank you to our dearest Intern, Capucine, who spent three wonderful months with us at AFJ. During her time here, she contributed greatly to communication and design with creativity, dedication, and professionalism.

We're grateful for her energy and ideas, and we wish her every success in what comes next!





Centre TEF

AF Jaipur is now an accredited TEF examination center in Rajasthan.

The TEF (Test d'Évaluation de Français) is an international exam that assesses your proficiency in the French language. It is officially recognized by the French Ministry of Education, Immigration, and Citizenship authorities for academic, professional, and immigration purposes.

Stay tuned for the exam dates for the coming year!



GIRIJA HABILITATION

We are delighted to share that our colleague, Girija Nathawat, Course Director at AF Jaipur, is now officially qualified to serve as an examiner for DALF C1 and C2.

Bravo et félicitations, Girija !

With this achievement, AF Jaipur will begin conducting DALF examinations starting in 2026.

Stay tuned for more updates!



UPCOMING





LAURENCE HUGHES IN JAIPUR

Alliance Française Jaipur is thrilled to welcome Laurence Hugues to Jaipur in **January 2026** for a special residency. Renowned for her evocative writing and video-poetry, **Laurence explores our relationship with nature and non-human life**, weaving lyrical storytelling with documentary insight. During her stay, she will lead workshops in poetry and creative writing in French, offering students and emerging writers a rare opportunity to engage directly with her creative process.

Laurence will be in residency at the **Sawai Mansingh International School in Jobner**, where first generation learners from difficult backgrounds are receiving world- class education.

In addition, Laurence will facilitate a **Kamishibai storytelling** training for médiathécaires, sharing her experience with this Japanese technique that blends narrative, visuals, and multilingual expression. Her visit aligns with the Kamishibai Plurilingue International Competition, promoting creative multilingual storytelling, and promises to inspire both students and educators alike through her unique, immersive approach to words, images, and imagination.

RENÉE

The REnée programme by Alliance Française Jaipur is an initiative designed to bridge the **growing gap in qualified French teachers across Rajasthan while creating meaningful livelihood opportunities for young women**. Through a highly subsidised 220-hour training programme covering levels A1 and A2, REnée equips motivated graduates with language skills, pedagogy, and classroom experience, preparing them to teach in schools and educational institutions, especially in smaller towns. Beyond education, the programme fosters confidence, dignity, and financial independence—enabling women to balance home and career and become role models for the next generation. By connecting trained candidates with partner schools and supporting long-term professional growth, REnnée is shaping not just teachers, but empowered change-makers for the future.



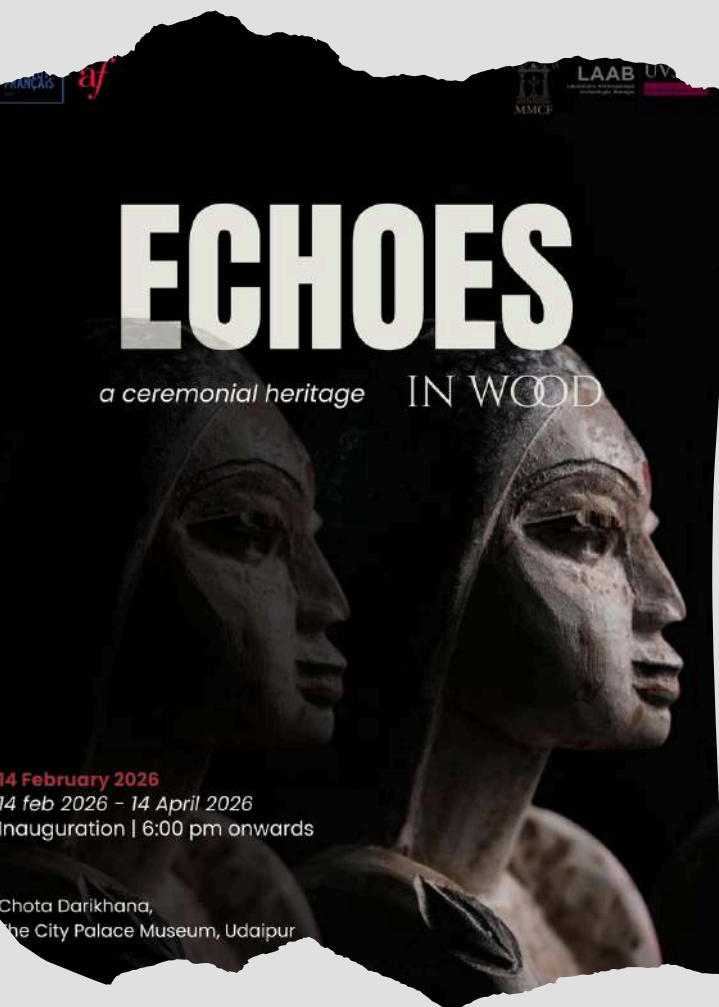


FOOD CULTURE YATRA

Last week, The Kindness Meal hosted a soft launch of the Food Culture Yatra at the National Crafts Museum, offering a first glimpse into a year-long national journey set to begin in January 2026. The launch was attended by Emilie Jacament, Coordinatrice des Alliances Françaises en Inde; Dr. Toolika Gupta, President, Alliance Française Jaipur; Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles; environmentalist Prem Parivartan; and Dipali Khandelwal, Founder, The Kindness Meal, among others. **As part of the soft launch, a pop-up museum featuring stories and artworks from the project was curated and presented at the National Crafts Museum from 13–21 December in New Delhi.**

Developed in collaboration with the Embassy of France in India, Institut Français India, and Alliance Française Jaipur, the project marks the beginning of a long-term, collective exploration of India's culinary heritage, its continuities, transformations, and the stories held in the simple act of eating.

The Food Culture Yatra will travel across five regions (Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, and Assam) to document India's disappearing food cultures: how traditional knowledge survives within families and communities, how it adapts to changing lifestyles and technologies, and where it is slowly fading from everyday rituals. Over the course of the year, the project will host a series of public events, discussions, workshops, and immersive experiences that invite wider participation and dialogue.



ECHOES IN WOOD – FEB 2026

We are delighted to present **Echoes in Wood**, a unique ceremonial objects exhibition opening on February 14 and on show until April 14 at the City Palace Museum, Udaipur. Showcasing sacred wooden and metal ceremonial objects from Benin, Africa—presented in India for the first time—the exhibition reveals striking echoes in form, structure, and symbolism with Indian ceremonial traditions. **Organised in collaboration with the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation and the City Palace Museum, Udaipur**, and curated with the expertise of renowned anthropologist and researcher **Dr. Philippe Charlier**, this landmark showcase invites visitors to experience a powerful cross-cultural dialogue that celebrates shared spiritual and artistic heritage across continents.

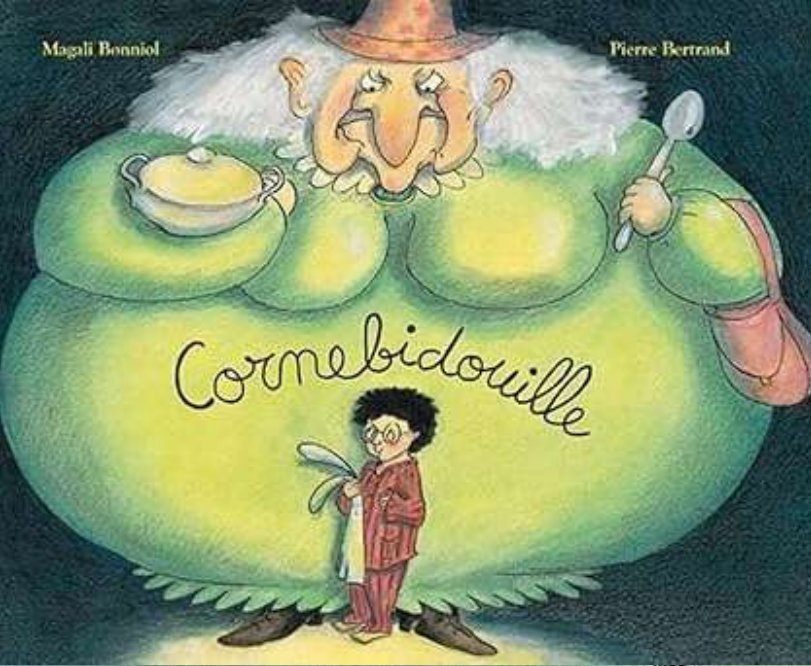
WALL ART FESTIVAL- FEB 2026

We're excited to announce that the vibrant and socially engaged artist **Deymko**—renowned for her dynamic work that champions women's visibility and emancipation in public spaces—will be coming to Ajmer and Jaipur in February 2026 as part of the Wall Art Festival. A key figure in the street art collective Meufs ki osent, she uses bold visual language to bring messages of empowerment to urban walls and spark meaningful dialogue about gender and community. In collaboration with the **Ajmer Municipal Corporation and Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti**—an NGO using football to empower young women and combat child marriage—her festival murals will celebrate resilience, aspiration, and the power of sports and art to transform lives..



RECOMMENDATIONS





COUP DE CŒUR

Alliance Française Jaipur is excited to launch a new series of events and activities centred around our library

One of the highlights : each month, one class will have the opportunity to choose a book from the library and recommend it to other classes at the same level.

This time, Vishakha's A2.1 class tells us about the book they selected and why they think their fellow francophiles should read it too.



Bonjour! I am **Himanshu Singh** I am the student of the alliance Française jaipur and i am currently enrolled in A2 level. I have just finished reading "Cornebidouille," a fun and imaginative story, Pierre , a brave and clever boy who refuses to eat his soup which makes him to meet a terrifying witch named Cornebidouille. It's very entertaining and the pictures make the story more alive by giving an important message to face our fears and learn to do the right thing.



Bonjour, Je m'appelle **Ananya** , j'ai 19 ans et je suis au niveau A2 .J'ai beaucoup aimé Cornebidouille .C'est une histoire très amusante. C'est l'histoire d'un petit garçon, Pierre, qui refuse de manger sa soupe. Un soir, une sorcière vient pour lui faire peur. Le livre est très facile à lire et les illustrations sont très jolies. Après avoir lu ce livre , je me suis rendu compte que parfois, ce qui nous fait peur est peut être drôle ou nous apprendre quelque chose. J'ai aussi appris être courageuse. Je conseille ce livre à ceux qui veulent améliorer leur français.



Hi I am **Shiv Jarwal** , I am studying A2 level in Alliance française de Jaipur. Cornebidouille is an imaginative story that teaches courage and independence. It is very simple and easy to understand. I really like the plot and storyline because the words are rhythmic and repetitive, which makes learning French fun and playful for beginners. That's why I would recommend giving it a read.



Je te laisserai des mots

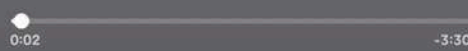
Patrick Watson



Switch to video

à perte de vue

Pomme



Switch to video

Djadja

Aya Nakamura



Notes in French, moods in motion.

A small sonic offering from Alliance Française Jaipur, a playlist of French songs to linger with, wander through, and let play in the background curated specially for you.

[**Link to Spotify Playlist**](#)

Podcast for Avignon Festival by Léa Marie

Podcast recommendation :

A French-language podcast exploring culture, art, and everyday life.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

What a year it has been! While the world went crazy in every possible way, at AFJ we tried our best to keep things a little bit sane, a tiny bit cheerful, and dynamic. With over 15 different cultural events, several interesting new projects, socially relevant endeavours, and partnerships that meant so much to us, we were able to chart another meaningful year for ourselves. This was possible thanks to our partners, our supporters, and our community of members, teachers, and students. With support from the French Institute in India, the Embassy of France in India, the board led by the very best Dr. Toolika Gupta, and above all,



the team of AFJ - Girija, Head of Learning; Surbhi, Coordinator of Courses; Jaya at the reception; and Rajendra, Hema, Sanjay, Sonu, Kulbhan, and Mahesh, who ran the office so seamlessly and worked so hard behind the scenes so we could continue to work uninterrupted and in peace.

This year gave us the strength to think big, to reach higher, to expand and explore. In spite of setbacks, which are but a part of life, we could continue to do what we do because of each one of you, and we are so thankful for that. We hope to continue the collaborations, the partnerships, and the friendships that we have built over the years – those little supports that mean so much to us and keep us running. Let us grow together, take everyone along the way to newer heights, keep each other sane and at peace, and hope to make the world a little less crazy and a lot more bearable. We know you have our backs, and trust us, we are here for you!

**WE
ARE
HIRING**


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