

La Plume

January - March 2022

Quarterly magazine
of Alliance Française,
Chandigarh



How do French people celebrate

#Epiphany

#Candlemas

#Saint Valentine's Day

#Carnival



To explore the rich and vibrant culture of France, let us get connected with the festivals celebrated during winters in France.

Christmas, of course, is the biggest and most famous festival which is celebrated with lots of enthusiasm and joy in France, and many other countries including India as well.

But there are other festivities also celebrated during winters in France which are not be forgotten. Let's explore more about them.



Nice carnival is the biggest French carnival. It is organized along two weeks and three week-ends. Pictures: Nice carnival 2020, Fashion King



6th January

Epiphany... Or the chances of going under the table and wearing a crown

In the tradition, the sixth January symbolizes the coming of the Three Wise Men. Nowadays French families enjoy the epiphany cake (la galette des Rois). All the celebration is surrounded by rituals. Then if you want to celebrate Epiphany, you will have to follow the following steps:

- Cook an epiphany cake. You have the choice between several variants of cake. The most famous is 'la galette à la frangipane'. The main ingredient is an almond cream which makes it so tasty! But you can also cook for example 'la galette comtoise'. It is a variant made with choux pastry and it is recommended to add orange blossom water.
- Before baking the cake, add a lucky charm somewhere in it.
- As soon the cake is baked, you can share it with your relatives. But for being impartial, the youngest guest goes under the table and designs which slice is to whom. You also need a crown to offer the winner guest: the one who finds the charm becomes the King or the Queen!

2nd February

'Chandeleur' and the Crêpe party

Again we are going to talk about food... Candlemas (la chandeleur) is an old celebration, at the early beginning pagan, and it has always been associated with crêpes according different legends.

It is celebrated the second of February, and it gives an other opportunity for French people to talk about food! Many families have a crêpe machine, which enables each person to bake its own crêpe with the desired ingredients (sweet and sour).



14th February

Saint Valentine's Day: divided opinions



Here again, many legends are associated with the event. But Saint Valentine's Day is an international celebration nowadays.

Every French business jumps at the chance to offer a special product or decorate its store. On the one hand, some French play the game and goes to the restaurant. On the other hand, other French do not want to celebrate Saint Valentine's Day anymore... Because as they say, they do not need to have one special day to celebrate love...

1st March

Carnival:
confetti and fritters
as much as you want



Carnival is also known as 'mardi gras', which means fatty Tuesday. Indeed, it was known as the last day before a fast period, and people used to eat a lot of fat ingredients that day.

Today it is still a very appreciated day by French who dress up, wear masks, dance and listen to music. Decorated floats parade through the streets and throw confetti. And of course we did not lose the culinary tradition because carnival is still an opportunity to enjoy a pastry: a fritter. There are different variants of the fritter, depending of regional particularities, but in every French region it is possible to find them throughout the whole month.

French Expression

you could use to make your
Valentine's Day more special



Un coup de foudre

Translates literally to 'a bolt of lightning'. The expression means love at first sight.

Avoir des papillons dans le ventre

Translates literally to 'to have butterflies in the stomach'. The expression describes the way you feel when you fall in love.

Vivre d'amour et d'eau fraîche

Live on love alone. Translates literally to 'to live with love and fresh water'. The expression means to be content with very little (indeed only with water and love...) !

Learn French with us!
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Spring Session 2022
March-May



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What's up at Alliance Française de Chandigarh?

Team: Bienvenue Lucie et Margot!

Two French natives joined Alliance Française de Chandigarh for a one-year civic service. They will take part in different activities of Alliance Française network.

Margot, which path led you with us in Chandigarh today?

Hi ! I'm Margot, I'm 22 and I'm here to learn how to become a French teacher. I did artistic studies in Belgium for three years, at the ESA St-Luc in Liège to learn comic art, illustration and a little bit of 2D animation. But instead of submitting a story of mine to an editor, I decided to post my artworks only on internet for personal reasons. So I needed a new professional project and French teacher in foreign countries was the idea which came over and over again in my mind !

What will you do at Alliance Française de Chandigarh?

Well, after my comic art studies, I would like to introduce some comic pages in French lessons or even creating some with the students ! I'm also thinking about using drawings to help students to learn French.



Tell me in a few words what are the biggest differences between Chandigarh and your French city.

I come from Normandy's campaign so there are so much differences that I won't be able to talk about everything here. But the biggest ones are the weather (so hot!), the food (hot too for different reasons...) and the way people are driving their car, it really surprised me when I came here. But now, I'm used to it !

What were your first impressions on the city?

Honestly, I love to be here. And that's something important for me because I never felt really good in all the cities where I lived, that's the first time that I feel like I'm in the right place. That's a colorful and beautiful city with a lot of shops, gardens and really kind people, I have everything I need here !



Marais Vernier observatory in Margot's region



Lucie, how did you join Alliance Française de Chandigarh?

I have always tried to create a bridge between my passions and my professional life. On the one hand I chose to specialize in the cultural field. Therefore I worked in different French cities in various cultural contexts. On the other hand I have always wanted to travel, and since I studied at University I enjoyed my free time to discover new cities and countries. I knew the network of Alliances Françaises for a while, and it was quite obvious for me to join it after my studies because it is a great opportunity to experiment expatriation with a working adventure.

What are your missions in the Alliance?

I have various missions... actually I like having the possibility to work on different projects at the same time. I communicate about our activities through all our medias, and I develop new ways to do it. As an example, Margot and I have the project to develop the Alliance YouTube channel with teaching and cultural content. I work in collaboration with the cultural coordinator too, and finally I will soon start workshops with the library and I am really excited about it.

What were your first impressions on the city?

I was surprised because Chandigarh did not fit with the idea or the images I had in mind about India. I appreciate the city because it is lively and it challenges me but I easily found my landmarks. Now I am really curious to discover other Indian cities to get a wider idea of what is India, even if I became aware of the immensity and heterogeneity of the country.

Tell me in a few words what are the biggest differences between Chandigarh and your French city.

I come from Besançon, in Franche-Comté, which is a green region with many parks. It is also a city known for its architectural heritage so it is another similarity with Chandigarh but it is more difficult to highlight the differences because there are numerous. I would say the food first, and the access to it (I still have to be familiar with sector markets). I also feel disconnected with France because usually in Besançon, I would have gone to the Christmas market and I would have felt the year-end celebrations coming. Here even if the weather became (a bit) colder, nothing reminds me Christmas (except a tiny christmas tree in plastic sold on the market).



Christmas market in Besançon

Flash-back

Professional training in Alliance Française de Chandigarh

Beginning of Decembre, Alliances Françaises in India network gathered in Chandigarh for a professional training about communication.

Directors with their cultural or communication coordinator came in the city for several days.

It was a great time to think about new possibilities for our network and to introduce the beauty of Chandigarh to the new arrivals.



Pictures: Maison Pierre Jeanneret, Capitol Complex & Open Hand Monument



Pictures: training session ; Ophenlie Belin (director) and Mac Sarin (President) ;
group picture



New ideas

YouTube Chanel

YouTube is one project Margot and Lucie will develop, but it is also a national project: it has been one of the main themes during a network meeting organized at Chandigarh. All Alliances Françaises in India talked about the possibilities offered by YouTube during a professional training during several days... Then keep an eye on our activities to be informed!

Podcast



Kaizen is a project initiated by our French professors. It is a podcast created by some students of the Alliance. It is in tune with our time and it is freely available on Spotify.



With native

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ALL LEVELS



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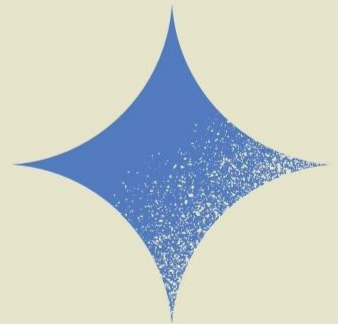
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PRESENT

BONJOUR INDIA 2022



4th edition festival



CITY FOR ALL ?

CITY FOR ALL

CHANDIGARH 7 - 13 February 2022



City for all is a cultural event offered across India as a part of Bonjour India festival.

From the 7th February, a pin-up city map will travel across six Chandigarh neighborhoods. The aim is to give the inhabitants the possibility to dialogue about their public space and their usage within the city. The maps will be then displayed in an exhibition during the following week-end (12th - 13th February).

The project, proposed by Social Design Collab (Swati Janu) in collaboration with an urban anthropologist (Chris Blache, Genre et Ville) will also collaborate with local partners in every city it reaches.





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French recipe

Les crêpes bretonnes d'Annaëlle

Anaëlle is a French native from Brittany. She will soon join Alliance Française de Chandigarh as a French teacher.

Today, she offers us her Candlemas recipe: crêpes! However she does not make crêpes only for this festivity, and particularly because crêpes are a French speciality from Brittany.

Ingredients

250 g wheat flour

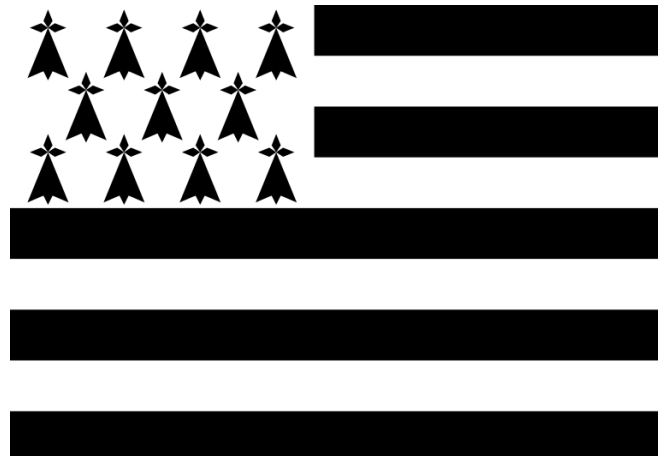
30 g sugar

1 sachet of vanilla sugar

5 g salt

3 eggs

400 mL milk



Brittany flag

Method



Pour all the solid ingredients (wheat, sugar and salt)
in a mixing bowl.

Then add the same weight of liquids (eggs and milk).
Only at this time, mix vigourously the whole with a whisk.

It enables to avoid lumps.

Finally, add the remaining milk to get a liquid crêpe batter.

Let the batter stand for one hour.

Bake it on a pan or a billig: a thick circular cast iron plate
used in Breton cuisine.

Add the garnish you want.

Bon appétit !

CHARPAK LAB SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Call for applications

The Embassy of France in India is inviting applications for **Charpak Lab Scholarship 2022**. This program is designed for Indian students enrolled in an Indian institution at the Bachelor's or Master's degree level, planning to undertake a training/research project at a French laboratory or university during their academic break (between May and July).

BENEFITS

The scholarship will be awarded for a duration of **2 months between May and July 2022**. The scholarship covers the following benefits:

- monthly stipend of 700 euros
- student visa and Etudes en France fee waiver

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

- be an Indian national residing in India at the time of application
- not be more than 30 years old at the time of application
- be currently enrolled in an Indian institution of higher learning at Bachelor's/Master's level
- be in possession of an admission/acceptance letter from a French laboratory or institution where the research internship/project will be carried out.
- the duration of the research internship/project must not be less than 1 month and should not exceed 2 months. If the duration exceeds 2 months, the awardee will have to cover the expenses by themselves.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The awardees will be selected on the basis of academic excellence as well as the consistence and quality of the statement of purpose. There is no CGPA/ Percentage cut off for the scholarship. Knowledge of French language is an asset but it is not mandatory.

For information on application procedure, please visit <https://www.inde.campusfrance.org/charpak-lab-scholarship> or write to scholarship.france@ifindia.in

DEADLINE: Monday, 14th February 2022 (23:59 IST)

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Rendez vous en
2022



*Alliance française de Chandigarh will remain closed from
25th December 2021 to 2nd January 2022*



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