

La Plume

April - June 2022

Quarterly magazine
of Alliance Française,
Chandigarh



af

Alliance Française

Chandigarh

Festivities in France...

From spring to summer

1st May - La fête du muguet

Every 1st May in France, it is customary to offer a lily of the valley.

Why is this flower (by the way a toxic flower) traditionally given as a gift on that day?

During the 16th Century, the Day of Love did not happen on the 14th Feb but the 1st May, related to the renewal of life in the course of the spring season. The French King Charles IX received a lily of the valley, and then he decided to give this flower a specific status. Nowadays the lily of the valley is still associated with 1st May in France.



1st May - La fête du muguet 1st May in France is also the Labour Day... but this celebration is related to another historical tradition ; coming in the 19th Century from the USA!



21st June - La fête de la musique

Fête de la musique, or World Music Day is celebrated every 21st June.

Do you know the origin of this festivity?



In 1976, Joël Cohen, an American artist working for a French radio offered a music programmation to celebrate the beginning of summer during the night of the 21st June (summer solstice).

In 1981, a musical festivity for youth is organized to celebrate the president's election. A free and outside concert gathered thousands of people. And in 1982, the French Minister of Culture offers the first edition of «fête de la musique», today known worldwide as the Music World Day.



Tourism

The best places to visit in France during spring season

La Baie de Somme

Where? La Baie de Somme (Picardy)

What for? Enjoy wild and peaceful spaces, discover a unique flora and fauna

For whom? Couples, families, alone, nature lovers

As a natural reserve, it is a perfect site to visit in spring. You can enjoy the sea air while observing seals and many species of birds.



Ville de Grasse, world's capital of perfume

Since the 17th Century, the city is considered as the world's capital of perfume. Several festivals are celebrated in the course of the year, but the spring season is especially popular. In May, the city offers Exporose, an international festival dedicated to roses.

Historically, the perfume tradition of Grasse dates back to the Middle Age. In the context of a trade activity and the importance of tanning in the city, the smell of leather became a problem for which perfume was a solution. Gradually, the perfume industry replaced the leather's one in Grasse.



South-East of France, Provence

Where? Arles, Avignon, Camargue

What for? Sunbathing, relaxing and being amazed by the landscapes

For whom? Couples, families, friends, nature, art & history lovers

In the region of Provence, Arles and Avignon are two cities you can visit both for their historical heritage and their natural sites. They inspired many painters, such as Van Gogh and they are nowadays privileged destinations for contemporary artists. Moreover, you can either discover the Roman Empire or walk through the Popes' history. It is also the perfect region to go up and down the country lanes, looking for lavender's fields (from June). Camargue is a natural region located south of Arles. It is a wetland with an area of over 930 km², wide beaches, and a wonderful fauna (Camargue horses, greater flamingo, Camargue cattle...)



French Expression

With birds & flowers



Faire l'autruche

Bury your head in the sand.

Quand j'ai mentionné le risque d'incendie, il a fait l'autruche.

Un roman à l'eau de rose

A romance novel.

L'histoire d'amour était émouvante dans ce roman à l'eau de rose.

Être le pigeon

Be fooled.

Il a vidé toutes ses économies dans cette arnaque, c'était un pigeon parfait pour les arnaqueurs.

Learn French with us!
Alliance Française Chandigarh

Summer Session

June August 2022



Enrollment 100% online

>>> www.chandigarh.afindia.org

What's up at Alliance Francaise de Chandigarh?

Today, we meet Avtansh, a former student of Alliance Française de Chandigarh, now living in Paris.

Could you introduce yourself? How your journey led you to France?

My name is Avtansh Behal, and I have recently completed my Masters in European Affairs from Sciences Po, Paris. I first moved to France in 2015, to start my undergraduate studies in the port of Le Havre in Normandy, before moving to Paris in 2018, where I am currently based.

AF Chandigarh has been a major catalyst in leading me to France. I was a student here as a teenager, and my best memories have certainly been of interacting with other students as well as the staff at exhibitions or other events, or simply over lunch or tea in the cafeteria. As I was finishing my schooling, I interacted a lot with older students leaving for France to pursue their higher studies. Their experiences encouraged me to consider France as a potential destination more seriously, and I ended up being accepted into Sciences Po's undergraduate track in 2015.

What is your best memory of a cultural shock in France ?

Probably not a 'cultural' shock, but it is definitely amusing how much the French bureaucracy relies on La Poste. It is not uncommon for administrative services to have good websites and increasingly clear instructions, but then ask for documents to be sent in by the post instead of an upload space online. As one would expect, delays or losses of photocopies are also inevitable in this regard. It is certainly unusual in Western Europe, given bureaucrcies in Germany or the UK are much smoother in this regard. That said, things have improved masively since the first wave of COVID, with more services going fully digital. As they say, every cloud has a silver lining.

Did you find a good place to eat Indian food?

Most restaurants in the Gare du Nord area serve decent Indian food, spanning both North and South Indian fare, at very reasonable prices compared to the rest of Paris. It's also a great locality to find Indian convenience stores for desi ingredients.



could you describe an ordinary day in Paris ?

An ordinary day would definitely start with the 9 am rush hour on the metro, with people going to university or work. It really captures the hum of activity in the city, while illustrating how Paris is not too dissimilar to other global metro cities like New York, London or even New Delhi, increasingly.

Around the afternoon, it is not uncommon to see the streets teeming with people going to the nearest café/boulangerie/restaurant for lunch. As elsewhere in France, Paris has managed to protect the idea of socialising around lunch to an extent, and it's usually a good occasion to spend time with colleagues, let off steam, and prepare for the second half of the day.

Towards the evenings, one might head to bars, afterworks, or simply a walk on the banks of the Seine. Some people might attend cooking, dance or other workshops in the evening. However, it is becoming

increasingly rare, with most white-collar workers ending their workday late with the advent of digital meetings and work across time zones.

The weekend is most definitely dedicated to socialising, with people thronging exhibitions, operas or whatever has happened to arrive in Paris most recently. Apart from that, most people tend to see friends in bars or throw house parties, using the occasion of a football or rugby game to inject further colour to the proceedings. The cycle resets on Sunday evening, and everyone gears up for the week ahead, again.

Flash-back

Semaine de la francophonie

Several activities have been organized to discover French speaking countries with natives:

> Mauritius > Morocco > France > Canada

Participants also tested their writing level in French through a dictée ; played games and tried their luck at pétanque!

Here are a few souvenirs photos of this week...





Semaine de la francophonie 2022



New ideas

LinkedIn

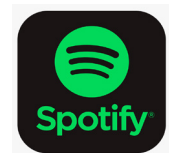


Alliance Française de Chandigarh is now on LinkedIn!

On this page, you can find job opportunities, and coming soon articles about the working life.

>>> LinkedIn @Alliance Française Chandigarh

Spotify



Alliance Française de Chandigarh is now on Spotify!

Whether you want to party or you are ready to sleep, in a bad mood or a good one, you may find what you are looking for in our playlists.

All playlists are exclusively composed of French songs. Do not hesitate to share with us your favourite artists to complete the playlists.

>>> Spotify @Alliance Française Chandigarh

YouTube



Take a look at our YouTube channel to discover Lucie's expatriation stories or if you want to meet our Director Ophélie Belin.

Other projects will soon complete the channel.

>>> YouTube @Alliance Française Chandigarh

Bonjour India 2022

4th edition of the festival



France and India enjoy a substantive partnership at the core of which lie its people-to-people relations, nurtured for decades through collaborations and exchanges. One of its manifestations is the regular rendezvous between our two countries, Bonjour India. This artistic, cultural, educational and social initiative is an Indo-French moment put together by the French cooperation network in India mainly comprising of the Embassy of France and its cultural service, Institut Français en Inde, the Alliance Française network and the Consulates of France.

Bonjour India in its fourth edition in 2022 celebrates 75 years of India's Independence and 75 years of the establishment of Indo-French diplomatic relations.

The festival will narrate the shared history of the two countries, through photography, science and letters. It will also be an opportunity to bring in positive vibes, build communities, and foster social interaction. It creates opportunities for joy and amity after a long time since the pandemic overtook the world.

The festival programme will be showcased in 19 Indian cities and shall feature 120 events created in collaboration with French and Indian partners, in domains as diverse as education, science, literature, cinema, gastronomy, street art, performing arts and photography.

In Chandigarh, we are delighted to host a cine-brunch, two concerts, one mural painting, a photo exhibition, an interactive project on the city among other exciting projects!



CINE-BRUNCH

A CINE FOOD EXPERIENCE

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE CHANDIGARH CAFET'
SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2022 / 11 AM

FILM "DELICIOUS" (ENG SUB) + FRENCH BRUNCH

Ciné-Brunch / 11 am / Alliance Française's café-théâtre, 4th floor

A ciné-food experience for cinema and food lovers, connecting, reconnecting, community, conviviality, and memories and tastes that last forever.

Film "Delicious", Eric Besnard, 2021 (Eng sub)

France, 1789, just before the Revolution. With the help of a surprising young woman, a chef fired by his master finds the strength to free himself from his position as a servant and opens the first restaurant.

Book your French Brunch on Alliance Française Chandigarh website.



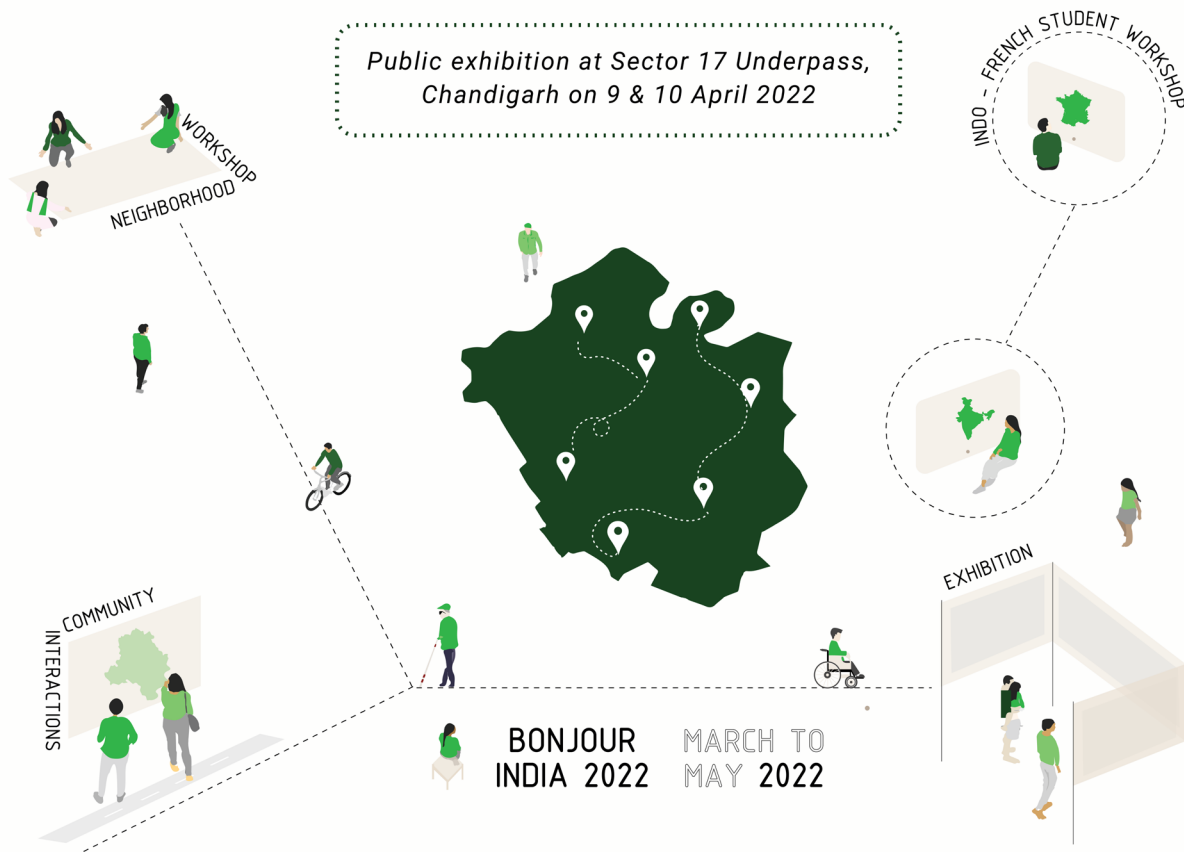
CITY FOR ALL?

Public art festival questioning
the role of gender in our cities



सबका
chandigarh?

Public exhibition at Sector 17 Underpass,
Chandigarh on 9 & 10 April 2022



City For All? / 9 & 10 April / Sector 17 underpass, Chandigarh

Opening the 9th of April at 5 pm with performances
"An interactive exhibition"

Let's take a quick quiz! Did you walk the streets past midnight? Sat at a road-side stall and had tea? Found a toilet to pee when you needed one? Took a bus without fear of harassment? Laid down in a park and took a nap?

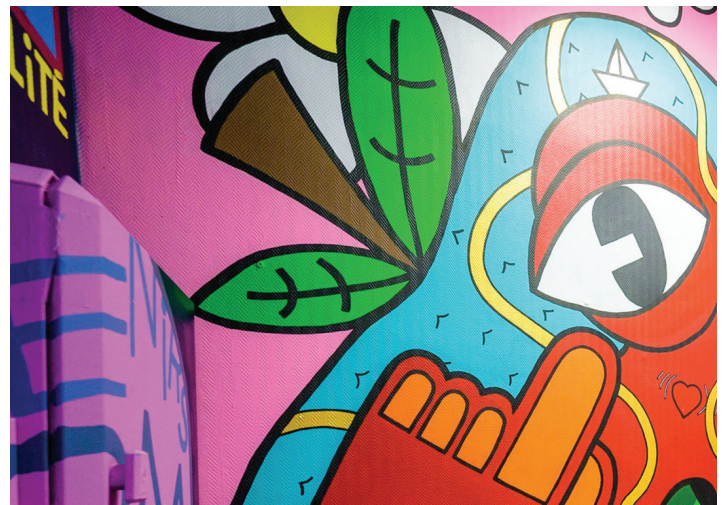
The City For All? is a project designed to question the design, planning and architecture of the cities and built spaces, and our interaction with them.

Electrik-Pô / Sunday 17 April / 6 pm / Alliance Française's Garden

“A sundowner outdoor concert”

From ambient electro to Lo-fi sounds of Massive Attack or Portishead to the rhythmic adventurism of the Balkan Beat Box collective.

The well-known music producer Fuzzy Logic comes back to India with two talented musicians he met in France, his adoptive country! They present a powerful ethnic-electro performance, mixing electronic and organic sounds.



A Mural by Lili Totas / 17 to 19 April / From 9 am onwards / Alliance Française's Parking

Watch the mural painting in progress!

The artist, Lili Totas

Lili was born in Brazil and raised in Honduras. She has been living in Lyon since 2003. Uprooting is the source of her creativity. She has chosen to express through street art techniques using bright colours and round and soft shapes: many nostalgic representations for a political and social claim. It is also the femininity of a committed citizen that she evokes. The eye, the feet, the clouds, the Klein blue sky, the boats, the daisies are recurring and constitutive elements of a complex pictorial staging. This disproportionate mouth, carmine red, present in all her creations is her voice, the one she would dream of lending to all those who dare not express themselves. Each creation is a universe.

You have to read it in all its depth go beyond its apparent innocence.

BONJOUR India 2022

AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN INDE
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS

af
Alliance Française
India



Let's Dance / Thematic Short Films / 28 & 29 April / 7:15 pm /
Alliance Française's Garden

Outdoor screening with handpicked thematic shorts by Clermont-Ferrand
International Short Film Festival.

What could be more natural? Cinema and dance have the distinctiveness
of questioning and constantly renewing our relationship to space and time
through movement.

The short films around dance offer astonishing points of view, personal,
dramatic, funny, sometimes nervous or even explosive. This retrospective
provides an eclectic panorama of all dance styles and their origins.

A trip to France, 1970 / 3 to 14 May / Alliance Française's Art Gallery

Opening with Mr. Dalwadi at 7 pm on the 3rd of May

Photo exhibition

Experience Dalwadi's journey to France in the 70's traced in 50 photographs. Captured with his Nikon F, these also showcase the influence of Cartier-Bresson on his art.



Chérif Soumano & Shahnawaz Ahmed Khan

Tuesday 4 May / 7:30 pm / Alliance Française's cafe-theater (4th floor)

An intimate fusion concert

Classical guitarist Shahnawaz Ahmed Khan and Kora artist Chérif Soumano from West Africa in a musical jugalbandi.

BONJOUR
India 2022

75 years of Indian Independence
and Indo-French diplomatic
relations



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Recipe

Chocolate cake by Florence



200 g dark chocolate
100 g butter
150 g sugar
3 eggs
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
70 g flour

Preparation: 15 mn - Cooking: 25 mn (180° degrees)

- 1) Preheat oven : medium (180 degrees)
- 2) Melt the butter and chocolate in a saucepan
- 3) In parallel, in a bowl, mix the sugar and the vanilla extract
- 4) Add the eggs one by one. Blanch the mixture so that it is frothy
- 5) Gradually add the flour
- 6) Then, distribute the mixture in a floured and buttered mold
- 7) Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 180 degrees (baking depends on your oven and if your cake starts to crack, you can take it out)

Bon appétit !



RENDEZ-VOUS EN FRANCE



“Summer in France”

An initiative of the French Institute in India

Scholarships for Indian students to learn, explore and enjoy a summer school programme in France!

Your Chance to Learn, Explore and Enjoy a Summer in France

For graduate and postgraduate level students from India: spend a “Summer in France!” and hone your skills in management, arts, business, robotics, technology, social sciences etc, during the summer of 2022. The French Institute in India is offering this excellent opportunity to Indian students in collaboration with institutions in France. Participants will gain first-hand experience of France’s higher education system and its rich and diverse culture. The school programmes will be offered in English. French classes will be provided as a bonus.

Financial support

One time allowance of 700 euros, funded by the French Institute in India for the duration of the summer school programme.

How to apply?

Send your applications directly to the below partner institutions before the deadline

ESDES School of Management

Join the ESDES Summer School for 3 weeks and Experience French Business in the Alpes. Study business and work on a real corporate business case for a partner company. A fun way to acquire your first corporate experience in France and to improve your knowledge of the French language and culture!

Location : Lyon and Annecy

Duration : 3 weeks (4 July to 22 July 2022)

Application Deadline : 30 April 2022

Participation fee : 2,635 euros for the students selected for financial support by the French Embassy in India. The above cost includes Academic training, french language classes, excursions in Lyon & Annecy, accommodation and meals in Annecy and much more etc.

SciencesPo University Programme Summer School (Social Sciences track)

Sciences Po, one of the world's leading universities in the social sciences is offering a University Programme Summer School (Social Sciences track) for the summer 2022. Students will have the chance to participate in a social and cultural programme that includes a variety of activities and visits of Parisian landmarks. The sessions also include career workshops to help students prepare their professional skills for the workplace. Courses are offered on the Paris campus in the historic Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighbourhood.

Location : Paris

Duration : 4 weeks

June session : 7 June to 1 July, 2022

July session : 4 July to 29 July, 2022

Participation fee : 2,500 euros

The above cost includes Academic training, French language classes, cultural activities & trips in and around Paris (students will have to pay for it), and much more etc.

EPITECH and ESME - Summer School in Robotics

Immerse yourself in the exciting world of Robots! EPITECH Technology and ESME offer a Summer program that brings the best of innovation, passion for technologies and robotics and French culture to offer you a unique experience. The Summer School in Robotics will help you learn about Electronics, Robotics, Creative Coding, CAD, Digital Art and Digital Manufacturing in a fun and informal way.

Location : Paris

Duration : 3 weeks (4 July to 22 July 2022)

Application Deadline : 31 May 2022

Participation fee : 1920 euros for the students selected for financial support by the French Embassy in India.

The above cost includes Academic training, french language classes, cultural activities & trips in Paris, 3 week Paris Pass, accommodation and meals (Breakfast & Lunch on weekdays only) and much more etc.

CYTECH Summer School in Visual Computing and Artificial Intelligence

The Summer School programme offered by CYTech aims at developing the students' academic knowledge and professional skills in 2 major topics related to Computer Science – Visual computing and Artificial intelligence. In addition, students learn how to perfect the art of communication and get involved in various projects with the teaching staff. they are provide you with the tools to create virtual reality, video games, virtual divides, interactive objects and to learn about optimizations methods and data mining.

Location : Paris

Duration : 3 weeks (20 June to 15 July 2022)

Participation fee : 2,400 euros

The above cost includes Academic training, french language classes, cultural activities & trips in and around Paris, and much more etc.

For information on Higher studies in France:

Mrs. Nidhi Chopra

Manager, Campus France -Chandigarh

Email: chandigarh@india-campusfrance.org

Art inspiration



Alliance Française de Chandigarh wishes you a happy spring season with this painting of Sonia Delaunay, a French artist.

She formally trained in Russia and Germany before moving to France (she spent her working life in Paris) and expanding her practice to include textile, fashion, and set design. Her work is based on geometric abstraction, giving birth to orphism art movement.

She was the first living female artist to have a retrospective exhibition at the Louvre in 1964.

Sonia Delaunay, Printemps (Spring), 1971



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General information: +91 7986661775

Email: info.chandigarh@afindia.org

Course enrollment: counsellor.chandigarh@afindia.org

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