



FONDATION
FRANCE ASIE



FRANCE
INDIA
FOUNDATION

The France-India Young Leaders Programme

2023

YLP Activity Report

8:30 am onwards

The Leela Palace

Welcome Coffee at Le Cirque

The Young Leaders and Founders commenced the program with an early breakfast at the stellar Wine Cellar at Le Cirque, Leela Palace, Delhi, most of them meeting for the first time. The icebreaker started with identifying their own names on custom bookmarks in Devnagari script; the group began the day with light conversations.



9:00 am - 10:30 am

The Leela Palace

Welcome Address by Emmanuel Lenain, Sumeet Anand and Arnaud Ventura, followed by Team introduction

Icebreaker with Arnaud Ventura, Chiki Sarkar

The Founders of the FFA and FIF welcomed the cohort and elaborated on the mission and vision of both foundations. As an icebreaker, the cohort was divided into rotating groups, and answered questions about their life's defining moments and the significance of the Indo-French relationship to them. This icebreaker helped the Young Leaders understand one another and created an engaging ambience prior to the Guest Speaker's talk.



10:30 am - 11:15 am

The Leela Palace

Guest Speaker #1: Ashish Dhawan, Founder, CEO, The Convergence Foundation Topic: India's Convergence

Guest Speaker Ashish Dhawan introduced the French Young Leaders to India's story of economic growth and emergence on the world stage, while establishing the socio-economic landscape of the nation. It was an insightful introduction for French Young Leaders, and was appreciated by the Indian members of the group for its depth and wide explanation of India's opportunities and challenges, leading to an interactive series of questions.



11:15 am - 12:45 pm

The Leela Palace

Discussion Session #1: How do you envision the future of your nation? Moderated by Chiki Sarkar and Irene Hors

For the first discussion session within the cohort, the group was divided into a mix of Indian and French nationals. The group was prompted to think about the similarities and contrasts between the two countries, while debating the trajectory of the nation in coming years. After discussing within groups, their conclusions were shared with the larger cohort. This exercise highlighted the synergies between France and India, while highlighting the opportunity for learning more about one another's culture.



YLP Activity Report

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm

The Leela Palace

Lunch at The Qube



2:45- 3:45 pm

Private tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan

4:00 - 4:30 pm

Vice President's House, New Delhi

Meeting with the Honourable Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar

The Young Leaders were hosted by the Honourable Vice President of India at his residence where Hon'ble Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, spoke to the group at large about the crucial need for people to people connections between France and India, and the strong government relations that have strengthened ties. After his speech, he interacted individually with each cohort member, and shared his opinions and ideas enthusiastically. The interaction was followed by a hi-tea, where the Vice President continued conversations with many Young Leaders.



5:45 pm - 7:00 pm

Humayun's Tomb with William Darlymple

The author and historian William Darlymple accompanied the cohort to Humayun's Tomb on a cultural visit, taking the group on a tour of the historical monument while vividly narrating the stories of India's medieval rulers from the Mughal Dynasty, Humayun, Akbar and Shah Jahan. For both Indian and French Young Leaders, this was an incredibly exciting experience, and it facilitated deep cross-cultural exchange.



8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

French Embassy in India

Dinner hosted at the Residence of France in New Delhi.



YLP Activity Report

Friday, 14th April - Bengaluru

9:10 am - 11: 50 am
Vistara Flight

2:00 pm

Ultraviolette Hangar

2:10 pm: Welcome and presentation by Co-Founder and CTO, Mr. Niraj Rajmohan

2:40 pm: Facility Tour and look of the Bikes

3:00 pm: Bike rides

Upon their arrival in Bangalore, the Young Leaders travelled directly to Ultraviolette's Hangar for a private visit to the facility before its official opening. The Founder and CTO of Ultraviolette, Niraj Rajmohan, greeted the cohort and made a short presentation about the company's journey and milestones thus far. The cohort was impressed by the company's achievements, and the presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session. Many Young Leaders took the Ultraviolette motorcycles on a test drive on the streets of Bangalore after. This visit helped bring to life the start-up culture of Bangalore, and gave the Young Leaders a taste of innovation in India.



4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

The Leela Palace

Discussion Session #2: Overcoming Challenges in Life

Talks by Aurelie Jean, Masoom Minawala, and Vishal Agrawal

In the second discussion session of the programme, 3 Young Leaders took the floor and shared their personal challenges and journeys with the group. Aurelie Jean spoke about the difficulties of being a woman in a male-dominated industry like artificial intelligence, and about the need to uplift and cultivate female talent. Masoom Minawala discussed the trepidation of belonging to an entirely new industry like social media influencers, as well as her experiences with online hate and trolling. Vishal Agrawal conducted an activity to help the cohort understand the unique existence of a visually impaired individual, while providing an inspiring personal story. This session assisted the cohort in getting to know one another as individuals, and helped them connect as a group.



YLP Activity Report

5:45 pm

Manish Sabharwal's Residence

6:00pm - 7:00pm: Aperitif in the lower lawns till 6:30 pm

7:00pm - 8:00pm : Panel discussion with Q&A

Panellists: Mr Tarun Mehta, CEO of Ather Energy, Mr Neeraj Kakkar, CEO of Paper Boat, Sandeep Singhal, Westbridge Capital

8:00pm: Dinner at 8pm on the Upper Lawns

Manish Sabharwal hosted the Young Leaders at his home in Bangalore, an evening that began with an engaging panel discussion with some of the city's brightest entrepreneurs. Mr. Sabharwal chaired the panel discussion, and facilitated audience interaction. The panel touched upon India's growing middle class, the active Indian consumer and the country's booming online presence. The discussion was followed by dinner, with many guests from the fields of business and culture. The cohort had a chance to not only interact with top entrepreneurs, but also network with accomplished professionals across fields.



Saturday, 15th April - Bengaluru

9:15 am - 10:45 am

Capgemini Site Visit: Digital Customer Xperience Foundry, Energy Command Centre



12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Bangalore International Centre
Lunch at Podi and Spice

1:45 pm- 2:45 pm

The Leela Palace

Discussion Session #3: Problem-solving session on digital public infrastructure: Democratising Through Technology: How Can India and France Partner Together?

Speakers: Sharad Sharma and Harshit Kacholiya, iSPIRT

In the third discussion session, two team members from the think tank iSpirt presented about digital sovereignty and its significance in the Indian republic, as well as moderated an engaging question and answer session. Being in the tech capital of India, this session helped the cohort think about the impact of innovation on the wider Indian populus and the opportunities presented by the booming online generation.



YLP Activity Report

3:30 pm- 5:30 pm

M. Chinnaswamy Stadium

IPL Match – RCB (Royal Challengers Bangalore) vs DC (Delhi Capitals)

The cohort had the exciting chance to attend an Indian Premier League cricket match in Bangalore. While they had visited start-ups and Indian institutions, they got a taste for Indian culture and fervour at the IPL match.



8:00 pm- 10:00 pm

LUPA

Indo-French fusion dinner

Sunday, 16th April - Bengaluru

7:45 am - 8:30 am

The Leela Palace

Yoga class in lawns of the hotel with Deepa Aiyer

On the final morning of the program, cohort members joined Deepa Aiyer, a talented yoga instructor, for a yoga session in the hotel lawns to begin the day. While many French cohort members had heard of or practised yoga previously, the group enjoyed the session thoroughly as it was the first time for quite a few of them!



9:45 am – 11:30 am

Art of Living Ashram

Meditation Session and meeting with Shri Shri Ravi Shankar

The cohort had the opportunity to visit one of the most prominent spiritual gurus of India, Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, a globally renowned Indian spiritual leader. The YLPs were made to exercise a 20 minute Meditation at the Guru's private chamber, post which the YLPs were given an opportunity to interact 1-1 with the Guru and ask any questions related to spiritual/mental well being. Gurujee emphasised and advised the YLPs to make meditation as a key part of their overall discipline in life to witness significant changes in their overall health, especially mental wellness.



YLP Activity Report

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

The Leela Palace

Lunch



2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The Leela Palace

Discussion Session #4: Where do you go as a YL on building Indo-French ties from here? What will you do moving on from this program - business, personal and other initiatives together?

Chaired by Sumeet, Arnaud, and Nicolas

In the final discussion of the inaugural Young Leaders Programme, the Foundation founders spoke to the cohort about their vision for the future of the programme, and opened the floor to feedback and suggestions from the group. Many Young Leaders volunteered their time and energy to help grow the Foundation and expressed their appreciation for the friendship developed in these few days!



3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Leela Palace

Surprise dance session with choreographer Pooja Sharma

4:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Free time for French YLs/ Departure for Indian YLs

After programme for French cohort

8:30 pm

Young Leader Nikhil Mallavarapu's house for dinner



10:30 pm

Leave for Airport



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