French in a Big way

France is a country which is always associated with excellence in Art, Cuisine, Fashion and of course the language.

French has come to the Kamala Nehru College to stay, judging by the popularity of the courses and the rush for admissions every year. The college runs courses spanning three years. These courses are recognized by the Delhi University and teachers are appointed by the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies. At the end of three years students are eligible for appearing in the French M.A entrance examination provided they already have a B.A degree (Honors or Pass). This year the students of the college topped in all three courses in the south campus and three of them cleared clear the M.A entrance, two of them are pursuing M.A French in the department of Germanic and Romance studies. Not all however pursue M.A quite a few go into teaching also. The college also hopes to start BA elective in French soon.

Apart from just learning French the students learn various aspects of French culture. Every year exhibitions and programs are organized to familiarize students with French culture and civilization. For example one year an exhibition of the regions in France was organized with a cooking contest. The students learnt how to make crepes, salads, apple-pie and chocolate cake. Another year it was a rendering of poems from Tagore’s Gitanjali translated in to French by André Gide and a dramatization of one of Tagore’s poems in French. The students were also introduced to French art and some of them made beautiful copies of the French Impressionists and charcoal sketches of the monuments. Christmas was also celebrated with great gusto with carols in French and an exchange of gifts and a lot of fun and games.

During the academic session 2010-2011 it was a fashion show to present famous French Designers of the early and middle twentieth century. Creating the dresses was not easy because details of them are not available and the French have always been hesitant to reveal the secrets of their ateliers. It was also difficult to obtain the perfection and excellence of these creations. However the show was planned for the 23rd March 2011 and it turned out to be a grand carnival of fashion and style in Kamala Nehru College with audience who just adore the finesse with which the French style was presented by the students of French course. It was as successful as it was expected. We look forward to many more of such shows in the years to come.