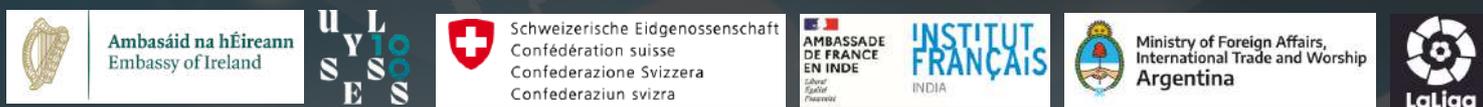


# EULAT 4 CULTURE 'THE WAY FORWARD' EUNIC DELHI CLUSTER

## Unfolding Potentials: A spectrum of Opportunities through the lens of India, Europe and Latin America



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# FOREWORD

‘The Way Forward’ is a EULAT 4, Culture Project taken up by the European Union National Institutes for Culture, EUNIC Delhi Cluster. The project is a subject of exceptional support from the Spanish government in the context of AECID’s presidency of EUNIC. The principal aim is to explore the intricacies of the increasingly globalized world and to unpack the diversified tools of diplomacy. The aspiration is to connect Indian, Latin American and European youth to diplomats and key experts for mutually insightful discussions, which in turn will lead to a better understanding between India and Latin American Nations with Europe acting as a catalyst.

The EUNIC EULAT 4 Culture Project Magazine has been founded by Ms. Ayushi Kapoor (Coordinator, EUNIC EULAT 4 Project, Delhi Cluster), Global Youth India and students of the University of Delhi in the year 2022 to further their vision of uncovering the potential of multilateral relations by encouraging research and writing. It also reinstates the objective of amplifying young voices in shaping the forthcoming future

The first edition of the ‘Unfolding Potentials: A spectrum of Opportunities through the lens of India, Europe and Latin America’ Magazine outspreads readers’ cognisance of India-Europe-Latin America relations with avenues relating to defence, culture, education, history, etc. With the help of the articles and the interviews, we hope to introduce the readers to the various perspectives on the multilateral relations between three geographically distant regions. While largely focused on India, the editorials also explore Europe and Latin America’s presence in the Asian continent across the aforementioned tenets of International Relations.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am highly indebted to the European Union National Institutes for Culture Brussels, Delhi Cluster and AECID (Spanish Government) for their extraordinary support, guidance and for providing us with the opportunity to begin the initiative of establishing the Magazine for 'The Way Forward' EULAT 4 Culture Project.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Ambassadors, Head of Missions, Charge D' Affaires, Diplomats and Directors of Alliance Française de Delhi, Camões Centro Cultural Potuguês, Pro Helvetia, Liszt Institute, Instituto Cervantes, Institute of Social Sciences, Embassy of Brazil, Embassy of Chile, Embassy of Colombia, Embassy of Costa Rica, Embassy of the Dominican Republic, Embassy of Mexico, Embassy of Spain, Embassy of Peru, European Union Delegation to India, Embassy of Cuba, Embassy of Uruguay, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Embassy of Guatemala, Embassy of El Salvador, Embassy of France, Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of Switzerland, Embassy of Argentina and Goethe Institut for their kind cooperation and encouragement that helped us in the completion of the magazine.

In particular, Dr. Òscar Pujol, Director, Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi, India has been a constant source of guidance and motivation. Former Ambassador Mr. Deepak Bhojwani and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, the Institute of Social Sciences have been very gracious in sharing special remarks on the trilateral cooperation. Special gratitude and appreciation also go out to Indian Express, NewsX, Mr. José Antonio, Director, La Liga; Professor (Dr.) Sandra Joseph, Principal, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi and International Council, Global Youth India for their invaluable inputs.

Lastly, I would like to thank special team members who assisted with the implementation of the project and editing of the magazine. The support team includes Ms. Sanya Karna, Instituto Cervantes; Mr. Akash Kumar, Alliance Française de Delhi; Ms. Sargam Arora, Embassy of Colombia and Ms. Simran Kazania, Embassy of Chile, and Ms. Garima Editor-In Chief. Additionally, I thank the authors and members for their contribution to the magazine.



Ayushi Kapoor

Coordinator, EUNIC EULAT 4 Culture Project, Delhi Cluster, India

# From Coordinator's Desk

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Ayushi Kapoor



"When it comes to people, the most natural place to focus is on young minds with a curiosity about the world."

'The Way Forward' is a EULAT 4, Culture Project that has been taken up by the European Union National Institutes for Culture, EUNIC Delhi Cluster. The project is a subject of exceptional support from the Spanish government in the context of AECID's presidency of EUNIC. The principal aim of the project was to explore the intricacies of the increasingly globalised world and unpack the diversified tools of diplomacy. Alongside, the aspiration was to connect Indian, Latin American and European youth to diplomats and key experts for mutually insightful discussions, which in turn will lead to a better understanding between India and Latin American Nations with Europe acting as a catalyst.

In today's world, a lot is talked about the importance, strength and imperative need for people-to-people ties. Furthermore, the contemporary global culture is different from earlier imperial culture, it is absorptive, a continuously changing terrain that incorporates the new cultural element whenever it can. At the same time, today's global culture can't absorb everything, it is always a terrain for contestation and its edges are certainly always in flux. 'The Way Forward' Culture Project acted as a strategic project where these dynamics materialise in concrete patterns.

Both India and Latin America share many common developmental challenges. While India has been successful in some areas, Latin Americans have excelled in others. The two sides can learn from each other's success stories and policies with Europe acting as a catalyst. The project acted as a bridge to provide fundamental transformations and move forward in a stable and predictable trajectory of growth and prosperity.

With this goal in mind, I'm pleased to present the first-ever magazine of the EUNIC EULAT 4 'The Way Forward' Culture Project, Delhi Cluster. The title of the magazine is 'Unfolding Potentials: A spectrum of Opportunities through the lens of India, Europe and Latin America', covering diverse themes. I believe the magazine provides a platform for key experts and youth to share their knowledge and skills. I consider myself fortunate enough to have been trusted by the embassies, cultural institutions and peers to publish the work in the first edition of the magazine of this project. Lastly, I hope that this endeavour would inspire more people to engage in research and materialise the true aim of the project.

Thank You!

# Editor's Note

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Warmest greetings to our readers!

There is no such thing as a distant place in our increasingly interconnected globe. After undergoing significant change over the previous twenty years, both Latin America and India are now on a steady and predictable path to growth and prosperity. The perspectives on the new Latin America and the new India and European Union appear more promising than ever thanks to the identification of complementarities and synergies between their markets and mindsets. Latin America's inclination to look forward to India's reciprocation, particularly following the latter's support during the pandemic, may pave the way for deeper ties in the near future. Lifting consciousness on both sides is expanding links through travel, language emancipation, economic and cultural exchanges, and mutual appreciation of the other's civilizational resources.

Against this backdrop was the project - 'The Way Forward' launched and as part of the same, this magazine is being released. I would thus like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors without whom this magazine wouldn't have come into existence.

I sincerely hope that the readers will find the magazine interesting, relevant and intellectually stimulating.

**Garima K.**  
Editor-in-Chief

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On September 14, 2022, the Opening Ceremony of 'The Way Forward' EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at the Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of ambassadors of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, the European Union delegation to India, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Portugal and the Dominican Republic, diplomats from Latin American and European embassies, directors and professors from various cultural and educational institutions, and youth from India, Europe and Latin America. The programme included Opening Remarks- Dr. Òscar Pujol (Director, Instituto Cervantes), an introduction to the Project- Ms. Ayushi Kapoor (Coordinator, EUNIC EULAT 4 Delhi Cluster), Special Remarks- Mr. Deepak Bhojawani (Former Ambassador) and Panel Discussion with the ambassadors Mr. André Aranha Corrêa do Lago (Embassy of Brazil), Mr. Juan Angulo Monsalve (Embassy of Chile), Ms. Mariana Pacheco Montes (Embassy of Colombia), Mr. Claudio Ansorena Montero (Embassy of Costa Rica), Mr. Ugo Astuto (European Union Delegation to India), Mr. Federico Salas Lotfe (Embassy of Mexico) and Mr. José María Ridao Domínguez (Embassy of Spain).





On September 21, 2022, the Youth Commission of 'The Way Forward' EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at the Embassy of Colombia, New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of ambassadors of Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Dominican Republic and the High Commissioner of Jamaica, special guest Mr. Anil Dhingra (Former Professor of Hispanic Studies and Chairperson, Centre of Spanish Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University), diplomats from Latin American and European embassies, directors and professors from various cultural and educational institutions, and youth from India, Europe and Latin America. The event bridged the information gap eminent in the field of educational opportunities and facilitate enhanced cooperation in the cross-regional sharing of ideas and information.





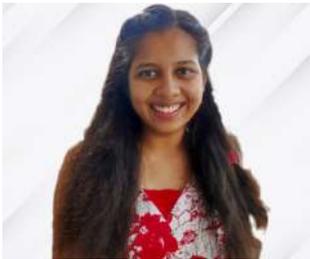
On September 29, 2022, the Case Study Competition of 'The Way Forward' EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at the Embassy of Chile, New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of ambassadors of Chile and the Dominican Republic, Jury members- Dr. Arunabha Ghosh (CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water), Ms. Carolina Mye Sito (Secretary / Head of the Science, Technology, Innovation, Energy), Prof. Jeanette Chaljub (Academic Coordinator of Basic and Environmental Sciences Degree Level, Technological Institute of Santo Domingo), Ms. Sara Cognuck González (Consultant in climate action, natural resource management and sustainable development, with experience in local, national and international interdisciplinary processes),

Ms. Stephanie (LAC Regional Coordinator, International Solar Alliance), diplomats from Latin American and European embassies, directors and professors from various cultural and educational institutions, and youth from India and Latin America. The case study competition focused on the theme of Environment & Sustainability, seeking to trace the path of sustainable development undertaken in Latin America, India and Europe. The competition served as an invigorating platform for the youth diaspora of the involved regions to engage in policy development and provide solutions. Additionally, participants were encouraged to think strategically and put into practice their analytical skills to solve a case/problem and formulate a solution for it.





## OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION-WINNER



*Pragyaa Saini  
Gargi College, DU  
3rd year  
B.A.Program*

On September 29, 2022, the team won the first position in a Case Study Competition on the theme “Environment and Sustainability” and the topic was Demystifying Blue Economy with the involved stakeholders such as Costa Rica and Colombia. The vision for choosing this topic was to develop a blue sector economy further analyzing women’s role. Women play a crucial role in initiating the advancement and growth of any society, in nations across the world.



*Soujanya Ambali  
Gargi College, DU  
3rd year  
B.A.Program*

In Costa Rica, surprisingly there are only 2% of women entrepreneurs and even fewer are involved in the fishing sector. The presentation focused on finding sustainable fishing practices across oceans and empowering women. Through this project, the envision was to implement Binational Border Development Plans, which permit the joint execution of cross-border programs and initiatives for the benefit of bordering nations to build sustainable collaborative action plans and improve long-term relationships. Thus, the presentation included a plethora of concepts, ideas, and policies based on the general principles of the blue economy.



*Shalini Sharma  
Gargi College, DU  
3rd year  
B.A.Program*

The team members are thankful for the great opportunity that has broadened their horizons on various issues and equipped them to find real-life solutions to combat these problems, in order to create a better world as young leaders.



## OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION-FIRST RUNNER UP



*Sakshi Maurya*  
*Gargi College, DU*  
*2nd year*  
*B.A(Hons) Business Economics*

For many denizens and tourists of the Dominican Republic, sights of dirty coastlines, huge stacks of garbage and oceans choked with microplastics aren't uncommon but a reality which they daily wake up to. If speaking about the reasons for these unfortunate conditions, then the first major one would be improper Hotel management or infrastructural systems. Hoteliers have indeed set up their establishments in the prohibited areas lying in close proximity to the coast ( 60m from the shore). Not only this, the quality of water supplied to the tourists is highly appalling. Although 84% of the population has access to sanitation yet only 20% have access to sewage systems with wastewater treatment plants. Over and above this, the area is also plagued by inappropriate practices of solid waste management. As per the national statistics office report 2020 approximately 75% of household waste gets disposed of by municipalities which as a matter of information comes only once a week whereas approximately 24% of households dispose of their solid waste by dumping it in backyards or by simply burning it. Moreover, the existence of tourists makes the matter worse. This is an indisputable fact that 85% of international tourists go to places with water scarcity. These tourists influence the social, cultural and environmental conditions of the region in both positive and negative ways. The fallouts of such circumstances can range from the destruction of the wetlands and protected sites, i.e mangroves to imbalances in the ecology.



*Kirti Bhadana*  
*Gargi College, DU*  
*2nd year*  
*BA (Hons) Political Science*

Since water management becomes a significant issue, given various concerns of availability and quality it is surrounded with, one can't take his or her eyes away from analyzing the role of Chile which also contributes to the precarious affairs of the same. Though Chile has a fairly good quality water supply, its highest contribution of microplastic in the ocean water has been a cause of worry. According to sources, people have been consuming microplastics through food and even by respiration leading to the culmination of infectious diseases. Thus a whole host of challenges can be seen.

The solutions have been framed at different levels. At an individual level, it's about engaging in activities which encourage the usage of Cora balls in washing machines, to promote plastic-free toiletries for tourists. At the national level, it's not just about policy formulation but also redefining those policies which have not given fruitful results, making investments in green finance. At the international level, it's about participating in conferences such as the international conference on microplastic and urban plastic pollution, and the 7th international marine debris conference so that the tragedy of commons problem can be tackled collectively.



On October 13, 2022, the Round Table Discussion of ‘The Way Forward’ EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at the Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of ambassadors from Chile, Spain, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay, diplomats from Latin American and European embassies, directors and professors from various cultural and educational institutions and youth from India. The Round Table Discussion was a platform for academicians and ambassadors to extensively engage in a discussion focusing on trilateral relations and put forth solutions and policies for fostering the relations. The panellists for the session were Mr. José María Ridao Domínguez (Ambassador of Spain), Mr. Jorge Heine (Former Ambassador of Chile to India), Mr. Deepak Bhojwani (Former Ambassador) and Dr. Ash Narain Roy (Director, Institute of Social Sciences, Latin America specialists), and Moderator Dr. Noorin Khan (Associate Professor, Centre for European and Latin American Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University).





On October 15, 2022, the Festivscape (Leap into Culture: A Spectrum of Opportunities) of 'The Way Forward' EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at Jesus and Mary College (University of Delhi), New Delhi. The fest was a special collaboration with Jesus and Mary College- one of the most renowned academic institutions in India. The fest was a one-day event wherein the embassies, educational institutions and youth got a chance to partake in various activities through interactive stalls in the form of games, exhibitions, photo booths, etc. It began with the Soccer Tournament which was led by Alliance Française and the Sports Department of the college. A total of 12 teams participated in the tournament and that included the Embassy of Argentina, the Embassy of Brazil, the Embassy of Chile, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, the Embassy of Ireland, the Embassy of France, the Embassy of Mexico, the Embassy of Spain, the Embassy of Switzerland, Jesus and Mary College and Global Youth India. The winner of the tournament was the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, the first runner-up was the Embassy of Switzerland and the second runner-up was the Embassy of Argentina.



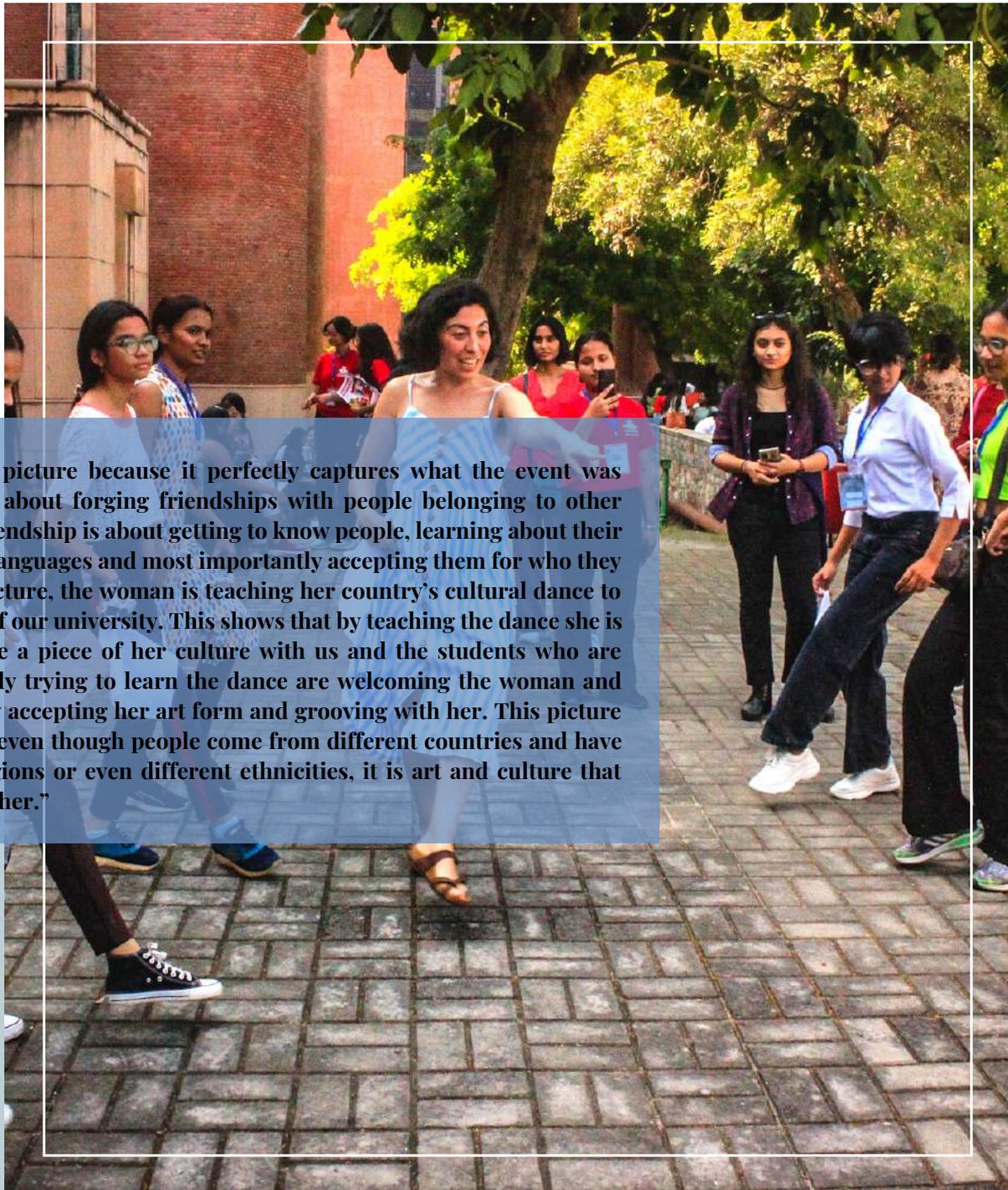


The tournament was followed by the Inaugural Ceremony. The ceremony consisted of the opening remarks by Prof. (Dr.) Sandra Joseph (Principal, Jesus and Mary College), special remarks by H.E. Mr. Juan Angulo Monsalve (Embassy of Chile), H.E. Mr. David Puig (Embassy of the Dominican Republic) and H.E. Mr. Federico Salas Lotfe (Embassy of Mexico), felicitation ceremony, musical performances by Echo and Traunam Music societies, a dance performance by Nriyanjali Dance society and Show & Tell by Global Youth India. Post the ceremony, 17 European and Latin American embassies displayed art and culture through diverse regional booths providing a unique experience to understand the culture. Lastly, various workshops were conducted by the Embassy of Chile (Cooking Master Class, Chilean dance and music), the Embassy of the Dominican Republic (Bachata Dance) and a musical concert by the Latino Band.



# STORIES FROM THE FEST

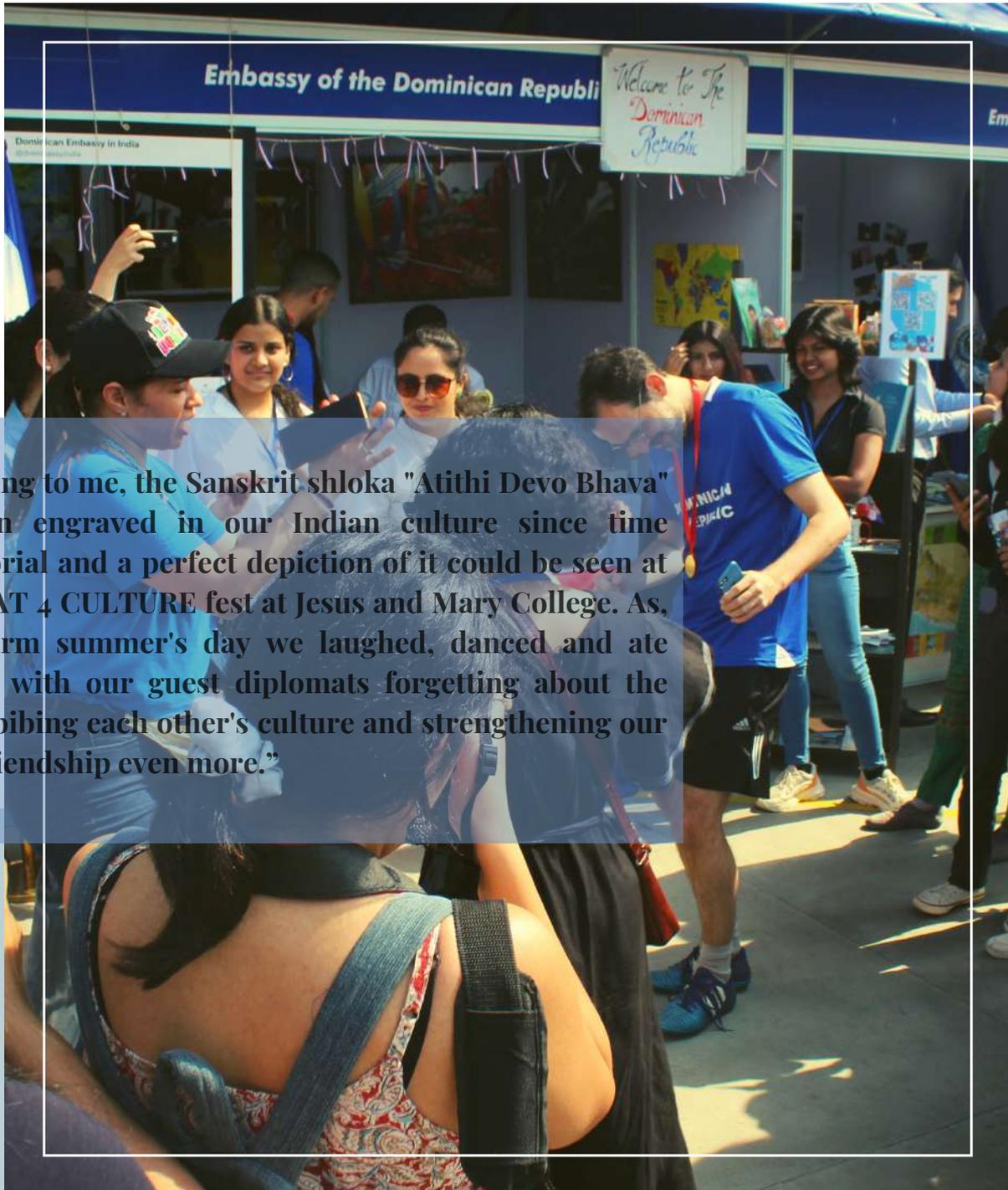
By- Vani Grover, Jesus and Mary College, DU



**“I chose this picture because it perfectly captures what the event was about. It was about forging friendships with people belonging to other countries. Friendship is about getting to know people, learning about their cultures and languages and most importantly accepting them for who they are. In this picture, the woman is teaching her country’s cultural dance to the students of our university. This shows that by teaching the dance she is trying to leave a piece of her culture with us and the students who are enthusiastically trying to learn the dance are welcoming the woman and her culture by accepting her art form and grooving with her. This picture suggests that even though people come from different countries and have different religions or even different ethnicities, it is art and culture that binds us together.”**

# STORIES FROM THE FEST

By- Vishestha Sharma, Jesus and Mary College, DU



“According to me, the Sanskrit shloka “Atithi Devo Bhava” has been engraved in our Indian culture since time immemorial and a perfect depiction of it could be seen at the EULAT 4 CULTURE fest at Jesus and Mary College. As, on a warm summer’s day we laughed, danced and ate together with our guest diplomats forgetting about the heat, imbibing each other’s culture and strengthening our ties of friendship even more.”

# STORIES FROM THE FEST

By- Rashi Gupta, Jesus and Mary College, DU

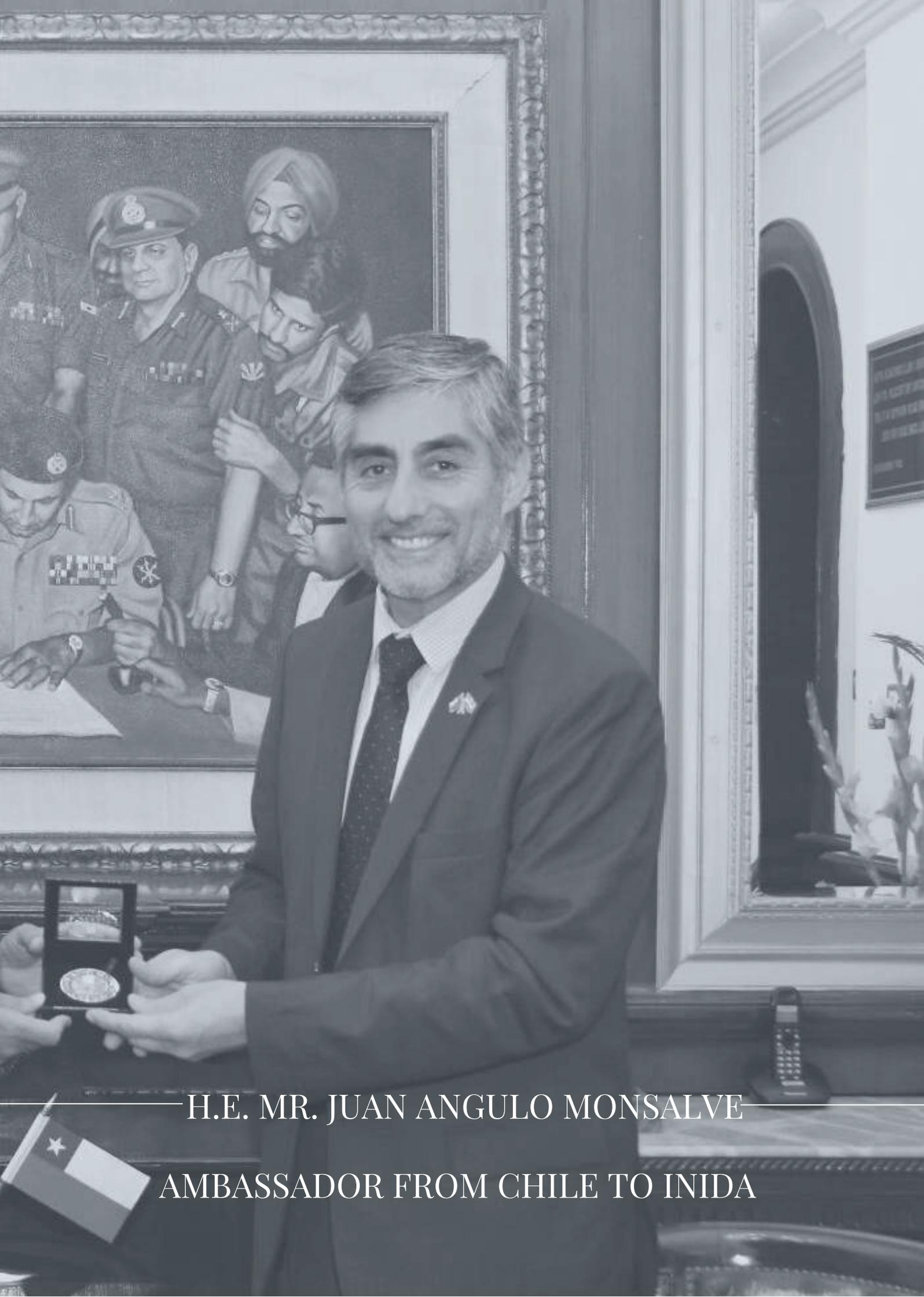
**“On 15th October 2022, the EUROPEAN UNION NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR CULTURE, DELHI CLUSTER in association with JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI organised a group of activities under Festivscape. The showstopper of the entire event was the stalls displayed by the participating countries outside the hall, where members and students enjoyed authentic delicacies and got to know about some courses and institutions of the countries. This event was a successful step to provide exposure and a step forward for international exchange programs.”**





On October 28, 2022, the Closing Ceremony and launch of the magazine of ‘The Way Forward’ EULAT 4 Culture Project was hosted at the Alliance Française de Delhi, New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of ambassadors of Chile, Jamaica, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and the High Commissioner of Jamaica, diplomats from Latin American and European embassies, directors and professors from various cultural and educational institutions, and youth from India, Europe and Latin America. The event commenced with Opening remarks from Mr. Stephane Amalir (Director, Alliance Française de Delhi) followed by a Panel Discussion on the importance of the multilateral relations shared between India, Europe and Latin America from the point of view of the panellists (Dominican Republic, European Union Delegation to India, Uruguay and Peru), and learnings from the EULAT 4 Project. It also included a musical performance, the launch of a magazine and glimpses of the project in a video. The event concluded with a celebration over cocktails at the venue.





H.E. MR. JUAN ANGULO MONSALVE  
AMBASSADOR FROM CHILE TO INIDA

***We'd like to know how your experience has been while serving your tenure in India. So far, has there been anything (place, food, memory, etc.) that you hold close to your heart from your time here?***

Ambassador Mr. Juan Angulo Monsalve, started by describing the cultural heterogeneity of India, which impressed him a lot from both professional and personal perspectives. He was very vocal about the memories he holds close to his heart, especially how he enjoyed trying out different cuisines available in India—from those found in the country's southernmost tip to those found in the mountains and valleys of the north. He is also an epicurean of South Indian food varieties, especially that of Kerala.

Holding the position as a key diplomat representing Chile, with his experience of three and a half years in India and one more year to go, he perceives the transformation of India as an ongoing process with significant happenings. He also talked about the unparalleled role played by India as a rising power during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Answering a follow-up question posed by the interviewers, the ambassador was really fascinated to talk about the different kinds of food varieties and the items that he found uniquely available in India, such as dosas, spicy dishes, and many more, which he would love to explore even further.

***Chile and India are trade partners and have had a trade agreement in place since 1956. Thus, the ties between the two nations have been strong and active for decades. What can you tell us about Chile's priorities today in terms of its bilateral relations with India?***

Mr. Juan Angulo Monsalve was really enthusiastic about talking about the trade agreement signed between India and Chile in the year 1956, which was instrumental in conceptualising a broader framework for economic engagement between both countries. Drawing upon this, the Ambassador draws a parallel to the very recent "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement", signed between India and Chile on March 9, 2020, to expand the arenas of cooperation between both countries for their benefit. Areas such as easy VISA mechanisms, bilateral level of talks, Free Trade Agreement, etc. were clearly identified. Sports, science and technology, Antarctica, defence, air services, agriculture, new and renewable energy, education, outer space, geology, and mineral resources were all specially recognised as new areas of interest.

***The Embassy of Chile has graciously agreed to host the Case Study Competition on "Environment and Sustainability". What is Chile's stance on the topic and how do you foresee the chances for greater collaboration between Europe, Latin America and India in terms of blue economy and renewable energy resource generation?***

The Ambassador answered by mentioning the reasons for their enthusiasm behind joining hands for the Case Study Competition on "Environment and Sustainability", that is, the Chilean governance being primarily based on a green economy and sustainable development itself. In addition, the availability of infrastructure is complemented by the optimistic hope of the ambassador in the true spirit of the younger generation to bring about constructive changes aligned with the intention of joining this collaboration with Global Youth for the competition. Mr. Juan also expressed how curious he was to witness and be confronted with the various solution proposals offered by the participants of the competition.

***The Embassy of Chile has been a very active stakeholder and supporter of the Way Forward Project. What do you think is the importance of conducting such events and what do you hope the success of the project will bring to the multilateral relations between the three geographical regions, that is, India, Latin America and Europe?***

As the theme of the Way Forward Project itself emphasises the need to buckle up efforts on sustainability and conservation, the Embassy of Chile is intrinsically attached to the theme. The Ambassador was also very keen on holding such events in the future in order to increase cultural cooperation between the countries, creating more avenues of engagement and encouraging better people-to-people relations. Here, he took up the possibility of a "white paper" between India and Chile, even though he was not quite sure about its materialisation before his tenure came to an end. He based the scope for such kind of a white paper that would facilitate easy and effective delegation of cooperation between the countries. This would depend on the ability of both countries to take inspiration from countries like Germany and enter into the process of engaging more with academia and think tanks and spreading more awareness about Latin American countries, something that is still practically nonexistent in India.



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H.E. MS. MARIANA PACHECO MONTES  
FORMER AMBASSADOR FROM COLOMBIA TO INDIA

***How did you feel when you were first appointed as the ambassador to India, and how was your experience?***

The ambassador's initial reaction was one of excitement because it was her first visit to India. Mrs. Montes was aware that it would be a new experience, but she was also fearful, so she felt a combination of emotions. Coming to India was a significant adjustment for her because she had previously been stationed in Washington. She received information from a variety of sources, including the Indian Ambassador to Washington and the Deputy Chief of Nation, who all spoke favourably of India. The Ambassador described how the first call she received from former President Dubya told her of her trip to India. "Excuse me, I'm here in the United States," she said, smiling. The president wanted her to visit India and was overjoyed for her. Mrs. Montes began reading more about India as a result of this and understood how the perception of India differs greatly from reality. Her exploration of India began with history books, which she thought were equally astounding and vital for the history of the globe, and she was blown away by India's richness and diversity. Knowing India is a learning process for her that she enjoys as the country continues to surprise her. For her, it becomes a personal and professional journey of exploration in which you must enter India with an open mind, heart, and spirit in order to embrace India.

***Could you please give us an account of your experience as a female ambassador in a field that was somehow predominantly dominated by male counterparts? At the same time, there are long values that are associated with females in diplomacy. So what's your perception on this point?***

Mrs. Montes notices certain disparities between the two cultures because she was raised at a school in the United States in a completely different setting, which encourages her to insist on learning Indian culture at the outset. She recalled some of her experiences in India. She was in India with her 22-year-old son, and anytime they went to a restaurant, her son was received as an ambassador. Staff used to feel sorry when they found out she was the ambassador, but she eventually grew accustomed to it. She went on to say that she is still addressed as his Excellency in numerous locations. But she is also observing developments in which women are gradually gaining ground. The Ambassador then shared her experience speaking with women workers at Tech Mahindra who were enthusiastic about the new transformation in their lives but had to juggle family and work, which Mrs. Montes acknowledged. She then explained how she was asked about her family-work balance. Recognizing the difficulty of the undertaking, she said, "But I mean, you make it, you make it," demonstrating her bravery and determination.

***The Embassy of Colombia graciously hosted the Youth Commission as a part of the Way Forward Project EUNIC Delhi cluster. So can you please tell us the reasoning as to why you choose to host this particular event and what is the significance of youth in diplomacy?***

The ambassador began by affirming the fact that the youth are the future of this world. She then highlighted the demography of both countries where both of them have more than 50% of the population as youth making them a very young country. For her the duty she had as an ambassador was to make the best for the youth and the children of Colombia to have a better country. Through this event she wanted to introduce Colombia to the youth in India. She highlighted how the Colombian embassy is doing this by opening the doors of rich cultural experiences by promoting Colombian culture, music, spirit, photography and everything that has to do with Colombia. The ambassador underlined the similarity in Indian and Colombian culture by giving the example of Gabriel Garcia Marquez Colombian Nobel Prize winner, who started a trend called magical realism. Marquez's stories are basically the same but in a village in northern part of Colombia. For her, the EUNIC project also becomes important in the sense that it connects the youths from Europe, Latin America and India. In the time when youths too are becoming a part of the global village, this people-to-people connection is not only important for getting closer but equally necessary for availing all the opportunities that also include a better life and employment. Bringing the beauty of cross cultural interactions she gave the example of her son who being a saxophone jazz player learns Hindustani classical music. She thus believes that global identity includes beauty of different unique cultures which is only possible with the events like this. The rising tourist exchanges that both the countries have experienced in these years again underpins the value of cross cultural interactions.

***What do you wish the way forward project to accomplish and what future do you wish to see for the three geographies that is India, Latin America and Europe?***

In response, the Ambassador noted how there is a wide range of issues that we can work on, but climate change is one of the issues that we must all address. She emphasized how Colombia has the lowest environmental impact in the world, with the Amazon covering one-third of the country and natural parks covering 30%. The ecology she mentioned is protected, and the Amazon is the world's lungs. She went on to discuss Colombia and its aggressive climate change ambitions, with the goal of becoming a net zero country by 2030. As a result, youth from Latin America, India, and the EU can collaborate on this. She mentioned how, in today's era, one does not need to travel, and social media is a powerful tool, but it's natural to have that people-to-people contact, and thus when looking for a job, one will be competing with youth from all over the world, so coming together as regions gives an advantage and opens doors. As a result, she stated that she is looking forward to the project and hopes that Indian youth can learn about Latin America, Colombia, and Europe as well. She emphasised the misconception that Europe is just regarded as London and France, but there are other great places of Europe as well; it is diverse, much like Latin America. As a result, she views it as a fantastic opportunity, citing Mumbai in the south and Delhi in the north as instances of India's variety.



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H.E. MR. DAVID PUIG

AMBASSADOR FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO INDIA

***During your tenure as the ambassador of the Dominican Republic to India, what has been the major highlight of your stay in India?***

The recent opening of the Indian embassy in the Dominican Republic is a major step in the consolidation of the bilateral relations between India and the Dominican Republic. I first came to India in 2006 as a counsellor, and was part of the team which opened the Dominican Republic Embassy in India. It is quite special to be back in Delhi 15 years later as ambassador and to experience during the beginning of my tenure the opening of the Indian Embassy in Santo Domingo. Also, working hand in hand with the first Indian ambassador in the Dominican Republic, H.E. Ramu Abbagani, has helped us both move forward with the goal of strengthening our countries bilateral relations. In that regard I can proudly say that in the summer of 2022 we held our second political consultation meeting. As a result of this meeting, areas which I consider of great importance such as higher education, health, science and technology are now part of our agenda with India.

***Latin America has been a particular new area of focus for trade and with the Indian government improving its economic policies for the region, how would you say these initiatives would affect the fiscal growth of the Dominican Republic?***

The Dominican Republic has become more visible in the map of India with the opening of the Indian resident mission in our capital, Santo Domingo. We want to continue to see more presence of India in terms of trade and investment in our country. There are great opportunities for investments for Indian companies in the sectors of IT, BPO/KPO, hospitality, infrastructures, renewable energy and manufacturing. With our embassy team, we are working hard to have these opportunities explored by Indian investors that approach us with interest in doing business in the Dominican Republic. As we know, investment creates value and generates jobs. Regarding trade, India has been one of the main buyers of Dominican gold in the past few years, which also highly contributes to our fiscal growth.

Last but not least, Indian medicines, of high quality and affordable cost, can contribute enormously to our economy by reducing the amount of government expenses in medicines.

***Is there anything about our culture that you relate with your own/that reminds you of your home country?***

It is hard to explain why, but I feel at home in India. Since the days when I first landed here in 2006 and spent 4 years in Delhi, there has been a connection. It is not that particular elements remind me of home, it is a more general feeling of being at ease and comfortable in India. But focusing on the question, I would say that there are whole regions of India that feel strangely similar to the Dominican Republic because of their landscape, tropical weather, and food habits. For example Kerala. The city of Goa with its Portuguese heritage and colonial architecture is also reminiscent of the Dominican Republic.

***Do you believe that sports could play a vital role in building/improving relations between our countries? (In reference to a recent win in EULAT 4 soccer tournament)***

Sports have always meant fraternity and equality for me. It is a space where we all meet with a universal language. The football tournament brought a lot of enthusiasm and excitement to all its participants and spectators. It was the perfect opportunity to bring together members of several embassies. We have been receiving so much good input about the game, that we might consider organising similar initiatives on a regular basis. At the embassy, we are particularly happy that we brought the trophy home, as football is not our main sport.

# Unfolding the Potential Through Education Lens: India and Costa Rica

**Lakshmipriya PB**  
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Education is an important attribute that can change the lives of an individual and this is very vivid in Malala Yousafzai's- *“One book, one pen and one teacher can change the world”*. In this article, I wish to talk about my experience as an ‘Exchange Student’ at the University of Peace in Costa Rica. I completed a semester at the University for Peace (UPEACE) under the ‘Semester Abroad Program’ from OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat in 2018. The exposure I received from the University was overwhelming as there were over 120+ students on the campus from over 72 countries.



I chose UPEACE and Costa Rica because of a special university outreach program in 2017, where one of my professors organized a visit to the Embassy of Costa Rica in Delhi. In this small event, I met the former Ambassador of Costa Rica to India, Ms Mariela Cruz Alvarez, who highlighted some impactful information about Costa Rican culture, society and the state's choice to renounce an active standing army. I was thoroughly impressed by the latter aspect, as it is a unique phenomenon in the international affairs scenario. So, this prompted me to opt for a semester abroad in Costa Rica, especially in the area of International Peace Studies, to have a broader understanding of peace and peace-building, a perspective that seems to be unthinkable in other states' policies.

UPEACE is a reputed international institution of higher education dedicated to the study of peace created through a UN General Assembly Resolution. Life at UPEACE is enriching and the faculty at the campus is very supportive. On campus, I met peers of various age groups who are culturally different and multilingual. They inspired me every day to be a better person and help me to be culturally sensitive and respectful of traditions. Academically, my coursework in ‘International Peace Studies’ helped me broaden my career pathways, especially in peacebuilding and peace diplomacy. Additionally, I experienced the ‘Pura Vida (pure life) life in Costa Rica by sinking in its natural beauty, picturesque beaches and volcanic mountains along with delicious cuisines like ‘Gallo pintos’.





In general, Indian students prefer countries like the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Canada, etc for their higher studies but there are many Latin American and European countries with excellent universities that can offer relevant exposure and a cosmopolitan learning environment for students to grow. In this regard, I have realized that outreach programs from Universities to Embassies and interaction with various diplomatic representatives from Latin American Countries/ European countries can instil confidence and promote Indian students to participate in exchange programs or pursue higher studies in such countries. These opportunities also help students to think out of the box and pick the 'road not taken' rather than the mainstream pathways that are usually picked up by the crowd. I hope this brief article inspires the readers to know more about the versatile educational opportunities in Latin American countries, especially Costa Rica.



Conclusively, I am always thankful for doing that semester abroad program and making a lot of friends all around the world. It has helped me, especially while working for the Ministry of External Affairs under the Indian Government and also at the Embassy of Costa Rica. I look forward to reading more such stories from students who pursue their studies in Latin American Countries.



# Poema

## Dosti

**Guillermo Chávez Conejo**

*Head Political, Press and Concurrences Affairs,  
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**Hindi Translation by Dr. Noorin Khan**

*Huellas  
Memorias vivas,  
puertas y espejos  
estatuas sin nombres,  
hombres de sol teñidos,  
mujeres cuyo felino signo  
arde el horizonte*

*Rumores en parvada.*

*Anochece.*

*Abecedarios*

*Aquí reinan las mil danzas,  
vestidas de pavesas  
abrasadas por príncipes talismanes  
abrazadas.*

*Aquí moran en delirio  
lo mismo el comino,  
el azafrán y la canela.*

*Aquí habitan con deleite  
los diccionarios del asombro.*

*Espejos*

*Presiento el alba,  
sus ramajes palpan este sueño  
donde crepita el invierno  
previo a prenderse del verano.*

*Somos ajenos,  
nos madruga rompeolas.*

*Hacia un idioma de miradas  
hallo su lengua de significados bruñida,  
sus letras pulsán ese instante,  
la ilegible alegría de encontrarse:*

*India*

*Footprints  
Vivid memories,  
doors and mirrors  
nameless statues,  
dyed sun men,  
women whose feline sign  
scorches the horizon*

*Flock rumors.*

*Nightfall*

*Alphabets*

*Here reign thousand dances,  
dressed in sparks  
burnt by talismanic princes  
embraced.*

*Here they dwell in delirium  
likewise the cumin,  
the saffron and the cinnamon.*

*Here they dwell with delight  
the wonder dictionaries.*

*Mirrors*

*I foresee the dawn  
its branches palpate this dream  
where winter crackles  
before enlightening on to the summer.*

*We are outsiders,  
brakewater rises us early.*

*Towards a language of gazes  
I find its language of burnished meanings,  
its letters beat that instant,  
the illegible joy of self-finding:*

*India*

*Paon ke nishan  
Zinda yaaden  
Darwaze aur aeine*

*Benaam but  
Sooraj se tapte aur simte log  
Auraten jinki mohak chaal*

*Kshitij jalati hui  
Kuch nadaan afwaahen  
Shaam hui*

*Varmala  
Yahan hazaaron raqs raaj karte hain  
Chingaari ki tarah libaas  
Jhulasti hui tilsimi rajkumaron se Lipti  
hui*

*Behoshi yahan basti hai  
Jaise zeere  
Zaafraan/kesar aur daalchini ki  
Yahan basti Hain khushi se  
Hairan karne wale shabdkosh  
Aiene  
Subah ki aamad ki khabar Dete hue  
Daalon pe choote hain yeh khwab  
Jahan sardi chatak jati hai  
Jhulasti hui garmi ke aane se pehle*

*Hum ghair hain  
Ji uthti hain jaise*

*Apne saath le jati hain aankhon ki  
zubaan ki taraf  
Mein Dhoondhta hun ujale jaise matlab  
Uske shabd is lamhe/pal ko dharakte hue  
Ek ajeeb si khushi milne ki*



Source: ORF India

# The Trilateral Vision

Columnist- Bharat Singh

In the era of globalization and modernity, nations around the world have formed a common village in which these nations cooperate, coordinate, and create a platform for a more flexible regime to negotiate in the political and socio-economic spheres. The growing sense of sovereignty around the globe and a common feeling of moving together to fight against common global threats like terrorism, climate change, human rights violations, etc., have created a sense of collective conscience amongst the nations.

However, with growing multilateralism, factors like expansionist policies in terms of power and territory to win hegemony over the globalized world have divided the west and east, and the north and south of the globe.

In light of the contemporary geopolitical atmosphere, the aim of the following article is to identify and explore dimensions, to mitigate the realistic factors by taking India, Latin American countries, and the European Union as the subjects, focusing on strengthening ties between the three. The combination of developed and developing nations might help us get a realistic picture of the future global order.

Describing and analyzing the bilateral ties and then synchronizing the common grounds for cooperation would simplify the essence of the following article.

## **India- Latin America ties**

The Latin American countries (LACs) comprise countries from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean region. The region shares a lot of similarities with India. Starting the story in the aftermath of World War 2, both nations were starting a new system of economic and political regimes. Broadly, the evolution of India-Latin America relations can be divided into three phases. Firstly, the phase from the 1950s to the 1980s was about mutually negative perceptions of each other. For the Latin Americans, Indians were too slow and couldn't keep up with the pace of development, and similarly, for Indians, Latin Americans were too fast and quick in the developmental process. Thus, interactions on a global scale were limited except for mutual recognition on the non-alignment platform (NAM) and global south cooperation. Therefore, we see no major ties being developed during this phase. Both powers were focused on mainstreaming their own economies and political culture.

The second phase was between the 1980s - the 1990s. This timeframe saw the so-called "LOST DECADE" of the Latin American nations because of hyperinflation and economic collapse. There was a popular saying among LACs back then that if you wanted to buy wine, buy a full stock because you never know when the prices would rise and you'd be left without wine!

On the other hand, talking about India, the end of the 1990s saw a major economic crisis in the form of the balance of payments. Since there was a similarity in the form of a crisis, the two regions looked at and observed each other with keen interest.

The third phase is from the 1990s till date. The impressive growth of the LACs after the economic collapse in the lost decade and the LPG (liberalization, globalization, and privatization) reforms, which opened Indian markets to the rest of the globe, created a connection between the two powers. Since then, the scope of similarities and areas of cooperation has grown steadily. The pull factors for both sides have been increasing, which include areas such as information and technology, agriculture, renewable resources, and conventional resources, mutual export markets, countering terrorism, and soft power, including each other's cuisine, yoga from India, music, the civilizational powers of indigenous people, and affiliated tourism. Today, bilateral trade is almost \$19 billion.

The issues like poverty and high inequality form the basis for these nations' being in the developing category, thus receiving similar trade obligations in the global arena. India's FOCUS LACs(1996) policy and various preferential trade agreements ( PTAs) like the India-Mercosur PTA, 2009, and India-Chile PTA, the CARICOM grouping, and BRICS provide a great platform to negotiate with each other and strengthen ties. The issues like India's aspiration for a permanent seat in the Security Council and the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), which is supported by Mexico as well, despite being a member of the coffee club, show India's growing footprints. The Indian Pharma sector has flourished in LACs because of the availability of generic medicines at affordable prices from Indian companies to the Brazilian market (Ranbaxy and Cipla companies from India). Similarly, the bread market in India is

captured majorly by the LACs (group bimbo from Mexico) and the love for Mexican cuisine in India, and the market for horticultural exports from Costa Rica shows romanticism between India and the LACs. However, the geographical proximity and language barrier act as hurdles in further deepening the ties. The forward-looking possibilities and solutions need to be discussed in this regard.

### ***EU relations with India and Latin American countries***

The European nations have built strong economies and cultures and emphasized soft power with both India and the LACs. , EU is leading the sustainable development goals(SDGs) in the Caribbean nations. The EU is LAC's third largest trade partner, while LACs are the EU's fifth largest trading partner. In 2021, both sides celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, stating that Europe and America are among the regions with the highest share of democracies. This was the result of shared cultural affinity, social contact, principles, values, and belief in effective multilateralism.

With the celebration of its 75th independence day, India is also celebrating 60 years of India-EU ties. Bilateral trade is estimated to be worth \$116 billion in 2021-22. However, India's share of the EU's trading percentage at the global level is just around 2%. Therefore, there is high scope for reciprocity and the potential to increase trade links.

### **The trilateral link**

Having a brief outlook, the trilateral vision between India-LACs-European nations has a strong platform to start on a promising note.

The diversification of LACs and of the Indian market to counter Chinese hegemony can be facilitated by the European market. This would not only enhance the existing trade links between the nations but also contribute to the diversification of global supply chains for end consumers and maintain the trade equilibrium. The concern is the over-dependency of these countries on one nation like China, which could harm the long-term sustainability of the trade. This would clearly go against the current multilateral regime. Therefore, diversifying trade links with each other would not only enhance their mutual trade but also bring about global trade stability. The combined GDP of the EU, India, and the LACs is approximately \$25 trillion, which is almost 1/4th of the global GDP. Thus, the scope for growth is immense.

The agricultural sector is another factor that inhibits long-term complementarity in food security. India is under the pressure of a growing population, and the small and marginal farmers contribute around 85% of the total farmers in India. This results in less productivity as the majority of the agricultural products are produced for subsistence agriculture. Therefore, India has a shortage of pulses and edible oils, which can be fulfilled by the LACs. Brazil has 20% of the world's freshwater resources, and the LACs as a whole have millions of hectares of agricultural land. The facilitation of tech, research, and development from the European nations would create a win-win situation for all three parties. India will get its food security addressed, LACs will get an agricultural market in India for their farmers, and the EU's R&D will enable a cost-effective benefit for itself and its food security.

The backing of the European nations is very much needed for the fight against terrorism, especially narco-terrorism in the LACs. The USA is the largest market for such drug smuggling produced in the LACs.

And at the same time, the US is putting pressure and sanctions on countries like Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil, which are oil-surplus countries and could help India with its energy needs and diversify its import basket. These two particular issues could be addressed by strong negotiations between the USA, LACs, and India with the European Union acting as the mediator.

Apart from that, the growing sovereignty and autonomy of the multilateral world call for these nations to build a strategic trilateral alliance, focusing on the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The expansionist policies followed by China and counteractions taken by the West need planned thinking for making alliances, as the contemporary global order is associated with and originated from the Indo-Pacific region, and at the same time, the Atlantic Ocean serves the interests of the LACs and the EU both. The democratic union of such nations would create order only if the links and ties are levelled up from just economic ties to strategic alliances. With India recently getting direct access to the Pentagon, the mandate of India has even become higher in taking the lead and maintaining the multilateral regime.

Lastly, the value addition in human resources in transforming and training would add the ties to the next level. Already, Indian IT companies have performed well and contributed to enriching LAC's human resource pool. Through the contributions of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Uruguay became the Human Resource hub. European companies can add to these contributions with their developed technology and R&D.

The soft power and civilizational power of the three regions would add to the overall trilateral framework..

Cuisine, music, and culture are always the central themes of bonding at the ground level and developing people-to-people relations. Hence, the overall discussion made one thing clear in today's world and geopolitics, the concept of strategic autonomy and mutual respect is gaining currency, and the trilateral framework involving Europe, Latin America, and India creates a new dimension for the very purpose

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Source: Travel + Leisure India

# Blended Flavours: Veiled Integration Of the Three Continents

Columnist-Shubhangi Pathak

The variety in Indian, European and Latin American Cuisine should be accredited to their respective historical backgrounds and geographic locations. Limiting only one kind of food to the three given cuisines is difficult. In Europe and in Latin America, different countries have their own speciality. Similarly in India, different states bring their own touch to the food making the cuisine extremely diverse.

The interaction of the three continents in the past and contemporary times has extensively influenced their gastronomy. From borrowing basic ingredients to borrowing cooking techniques, the interplay of culinary science has by and large affected the daily diet of the people living in these three regions of the world. The palate of Hispanic cuisine and Indian cuisine does have some similarities in the sense that both these cuisines are bold, luscious and (sometimes) fiery. Both cuisines use different kinds of meats, seafood, grains, vegetables, spices and herbs. One of the most unique similarities is that both cultures encourage the use of fresh ingredients.

In the book, “The East India Vade-Mecum”, Captain Thomas Williamson talks about the similarity between the Indian breakfast and the Scottish meal. He says, “A breakfast in India bears a strong resemblance to the same meal in Scotland, with the exception of whiskey...”

Today, the presence of a tea kettle on every Indian breakfast table is a testament to the influence of English habits on Indian fare. While talking about English cuisine, it is impossible to miss the concept of ‘English breakfast’ which has become popular worldwide. Western cooking techniques like baking, grilling, making creamy sauces and steaming have over the years determined the flavours of both Indian and Latin American cuisines. *Pav* which is the only form of leavened bread in India is actually a gift of the Portuguese to India (especially to Mumbai). They brought the tradition of culturing yeast and baking bread to India. The influence of the Portuguese culture can be most seen in the Goan dishes. *Bolo sans rival* which literally translates to ‘Cake without rival’, *Sorpotel*, *Bebinca* and *vinha d’alhos (Vindaloo)* are some of the most famous dishes introduced by the Portuguese in Goa. The natives of the place added/substituted the ingredients according to their availability. For example, in *Bolo sans rival*, almonds were replaced with cashews, in place of adding just the pig’s blood in *Sorpotel*, the locals added the whole pig in the dish and in *vinha d’alhos*, the locals used palm vinegar instead of wine since, at that time, the latter was not produced in Goa. They also added black pepper, cinnamon and tamarind to spice it up.

However, this influence works conversely and has been so since the 1800s. *Curry-rice* has been extremely popular amongst the British people. Books like the '*Economical Cookery Book*' and '*Curry: A Global History*' talk about fish curry, prawn curry, onion-based *do pyaza* curries, the Hyderabadi *korma* curries etc. The *chamosa* of Portugues is a dish inspired by the Indian dish *Samosa*. *Kedgerie* is a classic example of an Anglo-Indian dish. The dish is a modified version of what is popularly called *kichiri* in India. The cultural exchange between Europe and Latin America has resulted in the interplay of their gastronomical practices as well. The Cuban dishes reflect a strong Spanish influence with the use of cumin, oregano and bay leaves in their preparation techniques. Olive oil, wheat and wine were first planted by the Europeans in Latin America. Europeans developed the taste for chocolates, frijoles and chile peppers which were primordial to Latin America. Corn, tomatoes and potatoes are some of the crops native to Latin America which are now widely used throughout Europe. The similarities between Indian and Mexican food are also unmissable. The generous use of spices in both cuisines makes the food more colourful and flavourful. The *chapatis* and the *Kathi Rolls* in India can be compared to the *Tortillas* and the *Tacos* and *Burritos* respectively in Mexico. The concept of *Antojitos* in Mexico is akin to the concept of *Chaat* in India. The innumerable similarities between these two cuisines show that the cuisine, despite the distance, can connect the people of two places anthropological.

The influences and inspirations driven by the culinary customs of a particular place from another locale give rise to a spectrum of opportunities for different countries undertake intercultural ventures. Many restaurants have successfully been able to blend the local flavours with those of overseas.

Most restaurants go global with their menu as they want to show their open-mindedness to the people. Celebrity cooking shows such as *Masterchef* have made different cuisines known to the world. The multi-cuisine culture appeals to the millennials and thus going global with the menu helps the restaurants to delight their customers. Gordon Ramsey, Vikas Khanna, Daniela Soto Innes, and José Mendín are some of the world renowned chefs who have done a noteworthy job in celebrating the cuisine of their origin as well as inventing new dishes. Some of the best culinary schools are found in Europe especially in Switzerland and France. *Le Cordon Bleu*, although offers course in French culinary techniques, invites people of all nationalities to pursue a degree in culinary sciences and even offers them scholarships in the same. With gastronomy getting recognized as a lucrative career option, students travel to different places in order to obtain a degree in cookery. They add their native touch to what they learn thus creating a fusion of flavors.

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*Source: EU and Latin America and the Caribbean stand together*

# A perspective on Academic Relations between India, Europe & Latin America

*Columnist-Anushka*

Globalization is an inevitable phenomenon. The world is an ever-growing arena in terms of economy, polity and society. It is not a hidden fact that the growing interconnectedness among nations as well as states has opened multiple doors of varied opportunities for all stakeholders. Every state or every region has their separate culture or way of doing things, some have considered their way better than others at certain points in history. However, there is no 'one' way that is best and it has been proved time and again that it is better to integrate the advantages of such varied cultures in order to produce a collective procedure of doing or performing a task most efficiently.

The focus area of this article is 'education' and it analyzes the relations between countries from three geographically different areas. It analyses India's (South-East Asian) relations with one country from Latin America, and one from Europe.

## ***Germany (Europe) and India***

Germany is India's biggest trading partner in Europe. The two countries are a part of the G4 alliance in United Nations and India was also one of the first countries to end a state of war and officially recognize the Republic of Germany.

Both the States have since collaborated in many areas including research in the field of science and technology. Intergovernmental S&T Cooperation Agreements have been signed in 1971 and 1974. Presently, there are more than 150 joint S&T research projects and 70 direct partnerships between Indian and German universities. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha is supporting research in Ayurveda by Charité Medical University, Berlin on Osteoarthritis of the knee, which is the first systematic clinical trial for use of Ayurveda in Europe.

Another example is the introduction of Indian Studies in the curriculum. There are six branches of Max-Mueller bhavans, so named after the person who was responsible for introducing Indian Studies in Germany. These institutes carry out language and programme work, a testimony to this is the fact that 48 Indian schools at which German is taught as a foreign language are receiving support from the Goethe-Institut and the Central Agency for Schools Abroad.

According to data provided by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), "Around 4500 Indian students are pursuing various courses in Germany, while around 800 German students are studying or doing their internships in India. Many Indian students are opting for Engineering and Management courses in German Universities on a self-financed basis".

### ***Brazil (Latin America) and India***

The geographical and social conditions of this country are quite close to that of India. Indians might recognize Brazil more by the theme song of FIFA 2014 or the more recent visit of former Prime Minister Jair Bolsonaro to India, but the relations between the two countries go a long way back, a way which has not always been without bumps. That is however a topic for a separate debate, for now we will be focusing on the 'education' aspect of relations.

Brazil seems to be interested in the practical application of both Ayurveda and Yoga in their country. It has collaborated with India for research, study and use of these two through ABRA (Brazilian Association of Ayurveda) and conduction of International Yoga Day, respectively, with the help of the Indian embassy in Brazil.

The two countries are natural powerhouses, have commonly large economies, are populous, and have common ground in SAARC as well as the G4. An important programme in BRICS is the "TechTransfer" which initiates the training of human resources at the post-graduate level through programs offered by each country which seek to improve professional qualification through short courses and webinars on specific topics, such as technology valuation, negotiation, searches on patent-bases, etc.

The 6th IBSA academic forum acted as a forum for engagement between scholars in higher education. It concluded with signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of higher education on 17th October, 2007.

According to MEA documents, "About 55 Brazilians have gone to India under ITEC programme for training in communications, management, defence, etc. in the last seven years. ITEC courses continue to gain popularity amongst Brazilians, and a number of students have enrolled for the current session".

### ***The Way Forward***

Both Latin America and South-East Asia (represented here by India) constitute a large part of the Global South or the Third World countries that have certain similar characteristics like large populations, speedily growing economies, poverty and a wide divide in income as well as education among other aspects. Some points have hence been listed below based on this research and ideas gathered from observations around me in order to improve the situation:

1. Cultural programmes and events conducted by the embassies are an influential means of promoting awareness about cultural homogeneity in the world but we need to improve the existence of such events in school education in such a way that a child grows up to be a mature individual who is away from ills such as division, complexes and discrimination.
2. Bilateral agreements and treaty relations based on trust are a perfect portrayal of fraternity and friendship among nations in a more globalized world. It gives strength to third-world claims and a necessary and valid push for their fair share of resources in the world.
3. Reforms and further support are required on international discussion platforms such as the United Nations to bring the three Worlds on the same pedestal even when in an open computing environment.

Considering the history of world relations, there has been a lot of mistrust among entities and people in general. International relations are ultimately a game of changing power relations and to be honest, no one is a winner here unless everybody wins. The only way forward according to me, is to trust and help each other, respect each other's sovereignty and learn to live together in a peaceful and harmonious manner. In the words of Jimi Hendrix, "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace".

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Source: Tico Times

# The New Age: Reimagining the Potential of India & Latin America Relations

*Editor-In-Chief- Garima*

*The purpose of foreign policy is not to provide an outlet for our own sentiments of hope or indignation; it is to shape real events in a real-world – John F. Kennedy*

In our increasingly interconnected globe, there is no such thing as a distant place. In matters of love, diplomacy, and commerce, distance is irrelevant. While metaphorical flourishes are acceptable, it is imperative that both parties take real steps to increase air connectivity between India and important Latin American cities. The three concentric circles believed to define India's foreign policy are a common metaphor. The first circle represents the immediate area, the second the wider area, mainly Asia, as well as important allies like the US and Russia, and the third and last circle refer to the rest of the world, including Latin America.

The nations of Latin America had been sovereign for more than a century by the time India gained independence in 1947. Latin American societies were created by and from the offspring of people of European, and occasionally African, ancestry, with only a very limited number of indigenous people. Partly owing to their shared history of colonialism, political and diplomatic ties were established shortly after 1947. India's relationship with Latin America is wholly built on economic diplomacy, which balances and stabilizes the two regions' interactions.

The relationships between both regions did not flourish to their full potential for mixed reasons, despite having comparable natures and goals. Geographical distance, practical challenges, and a general paucity of knowledge compounded the situation and put an otherwise flourishing relationship on hold. That should not, however, imply that no efforts were taken to forge a successful partnership. The relationship between both regions is complementary in that Latin America will need India's talent and knowledge in managing its resources and achieving a higher degree of self-sufficiency, while India's economic expansion will see a substantial necessity for energy and food that may be acquired from Latin America. Joint economic partnerships within India-Latin America relations have seen a rapid expansion. In areas including aviation, ethanol, defence, agriculture, hydrocarbons, etc., India and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have invested together. Another promising set of prospects has been the trade relations between India and the LAC nations of Venezuela and Argentina. Furthermore, trade between India and Peru is considerable despite its relatively low volume.

India has expanded its commerce with Latin American nations over the past two decades, and it has broadened its investment portfolio to include industries like manufacturing and information technology (IT).

The region has also grown to be a significant market for the Indian automotive and pharmaceutical sectors. There is also a significant strategic angle to this relationship. For India to fulfil its global goals, including pursuing membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and various other international fora, the region is crucial. India and Brazil are working together on platforms like BRICS and IBSA, which have given developing nations an alternative platform and decreased their reliance on Western-oriented organizations.

In the relationship between India and Latin America, a new paradigm of perception and growth is forming, which could pave the way for a deeper connection. Latin America and India both face shared developmental obstacles. While India has achieved success in a number of fields, including IT, generic drugs, dairy cooperatives, affordable railroads, an affordable and competitive mobile telephone system, rural development and best practices for election administration, Latin American excellence can be observed in their agribusiness practices like No-Till farming, silo-bag storage, and Agricultural Process Outsourcing. Other areas of success for LAC include fuel ethanol and Bolsa Familia programs, the Brasilia Consensus, which is a pragmatic and well-balanced mix of pro-poor and pro-market policies.

Latin America and India have undergone profound shifts in the past twenty years, and both regions are now on a steady and predictable path to growth and development. With the discovery of complementarities and synergies between their markets and mindsets, the perspectives on the new Latin America and new India seem more promising than ever.

The desire of Latin America to anticipate India's reciprocation, especially after the latter's assistance during the pandemic, might set the stage for more profound connections in the near future. Growing connections through tourism, language emancipation, economic and cultural interactions, and reciprocal appreciation of the other's civilizational riches are lifting consciousness on either side. Though not impossible, the emergence of an Indo-Latin American society in a region that has seen centuries of intermarriage requires intensive institutional and official effort. When this transpires, India and Latin America will be well on the path to cooperation, with no need for outside momentum.

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*Source: National Maritime Foundation*

# The Ignored Potential For Maritime Cooperation between India & Latin America

*Columnist- Sweekriti Pathak*

## **Introduction**

Latin America and India are megalithic civilizations with great diversity, growing opportunities and Herculean potential. The interaction between both regions has been branching out into various fields. Yet, in this article, I will be talking about the failed opportunity of maritime cooperation between the two regions.

In recent times, there has been a surge in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the protected waters of coastal countries. Both the Indian and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) High Seas are suffering economically, environmentally and in terms of security due to IUU fishing. High seas are the areas that are outside the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the coastal nations; an EEZ extends 200 nautical miles off the coast of a country. While fishing is legal in the High Seas, several Chinese fleets have been found within the EEZs of certain Latin American nations such as Chile, Argentina and Ecuador.

This article will discuss how there ought to be greater maritime cooperation between India and these Latin American countries and how India can help the region in combating illegal fishing and other transnational maritime crimes.

## **Maritime Security and Latin America**

Illegal fishing is the third most lucrative illegal activity in the world. Estimates indicate that around 26 million tons of fish and other marine resources are caught illegally every year to supply a black market that is worth up to \$23 billion.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing includes:

- “(1) Fishing-related activities conducted in contravention of national and international laws;
- (2) Non-reporting, misreporting, or under-reporting of information on fishing operations and their catches;
- (3) Fishing by “Stateless” vessels;
- (4) Fishing in convention areas of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) by non-party vessels; and
- (5) Fishing activities which are not regulated by States and cannot be easily monitored” (Agnew et al., 2009;)

Several illegal Chinese fleets have been captured in the High seas of Chile, Ecuador, Argentina, etc. These ships usually catch endangered and protected species, specifically the giant squids that are found in the region. “At the beginning of 2020, a Chinese fleet of around 260 boats reached the boundaries of the Galápagos exclusive economic zone to fish for squid. For days, this group of boats, which artisanal fishermen described as “a giant city”

in the middle of the sea... alarmed fishing authorities, the navy and even Ecuadorian President Lenín Moreno, who ordered the creation of a committee to design a protection strategy for the Galápagos Islands.

Several Chinese fleets were also caught crossing the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park in Chile, the largest marine protected area in Latin America in 2020.” [3]

The Overseas Development Institute has said that China owns roughly 17,000 distant waters fishing boats (boats outside a nation’s 200-mile exclusive economic zone), becoming the largest fleet in the world. [4] Ecuador has recently announced that more than 300 fishing ships were functioning illegally around the Galapagos Islands. [5] In 2016, the Argentinian Coast Guard shot a Chinese fleet believed to be part of a bigger fleet operating in Argentinian waters. [6] As expounded by the image below, there is an imminent maritime threat to LAC nations.

Although India conducts maritime exercises and defence cooperation with Brazil through IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) and BRICS respectively [8], the overall engagement between India and Latin America has been disappointing with respect to maritime cooperation.

India, however, has been branching out to combat illegal fishing through its collaborations with institutions such as the Quad. The Quad has already proposed the Indo-Pacific Marine Domain Awareness programme to tackle the maritime issues; its expanse covers the South Pacific Sea creating the perfect rationale for an Indo-LAC maritime collaboration.

### ***Possible Solutions and Recommendations***

1) Special emphasis must be placed on South-South cooperation between India and the LAC region, dominantly in the technical and scientific spheres. There should be frequent naval visits and exercises between the two regions like the joint IBSA Naval Exercise scheduled for 2022 [9].

2) Recently, defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated new technologies for military use. These include the Command, Control, Communications, Computers Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems which are meant to be exported to friendly nations.

“C4ISR provides for information, knowledge and intelligence along with comprehensive situational awareness to decision makers that enable superior decision necessary to execute governmental/coalition decisions...The envisioned outcome is a comprehensive network enabled capability which includes technological aspects such as command and control, communications, sensor data fusion as well as human aspects including concepts, doctrine and educational principles.” (Thiele, 2013; [10]) Thus, this technology fits perfectly into the LAC agenda of combating increased maritime threats.

3) NASA and ISRO are currently collaborating on a surveillance satellite called “NISAR”, or NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, which is to be launched by India in 2023. It provides the ability to see through clouds, the intelligence sharing of which is planned to be free of cost. The illegal vessels shutting down their GPS makes it difficult for other countries to track them but, due to the new surveillance satellite, this problem can be solved and intelligence sharing with LAC countries can be extremely beneficial.

All of the suggestions above can culminate in the creation of a joint Indo-LAC Marine Domain Awareness (MDA) program. “MDA is an enabling tool for maritime cooperation as it enables getting a more precise, updated and informed picture of what is going on at sea. It requires data, information and knowledge, resulting from cooperation between a variety of actors...to make sense of the data.” (Celine Pajon, 2020; [11])

## **Conclusion**

Marine security is an aspect of security that is often overlooked. Despite being physically distant, India and Latin America are both suffering from the menace of dark shipping, IUU and swathes of other marine issues. All the supranational stakeholders in the status quo have failed to usher in justice, which is precisely why countries like India, Chile, Argentina and Ecuador need to come together and forge a joint venture for technology and intelligence sharing to make their seas safer

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*Source: Bazardelmundo*

# Unfolding Cultural Similarities

## Ft. Festivals in Latin America and India

*Columnist- Lavanya*

The promise of forever, like the intricacies of nature, lies in the profound cultural impact a country has on the rest of the world. But culture can be vastly interpreted, and the implications of it are purely subjective. The festivals, which represent the mindset of the people of a country, are a significant leeway to understand what its people prioritise. Be it the French celebrate wines and cakes or the Americans celebrate music, festivals offer an insight into what a country represents and what its people enjoy.

But humans are quite similar in their preferences, they enjoy a good happy meal after a nice, warm day and they tend to work in communities. The inherent nature of the human race is bound to inflict some similarities that are prevalent even miles beyond the geographical frontier of a country. This aspect weaves its way into the way the people of a country celebrate, vis a vis their festivals!

Latin America and India share a lot, from colonisation to a fondness for rice, and this cultural similarity seeps into the festivals as well. There are festivals that are celebrated in both regions, which might seem distinct, but their values are the same and when one ponders, they would represent the immense cultural similarity between Latin America and India.

For instance, Festival de la luz, Costa Rica and Diwali are akin to each other. Both are held around the winter months, with fireworks and gaiety common to them both.

One of the events that Costa Ricans look forward to the most is the Festival de la Luz. The procession of floats, masquerades, live music, and fireworks are all part of the celebration in San Jose. The Festival de la Luz is connected to holiday festivities in the Costa Rican capital because it occurs in December. It celebrates colour, light and creativity, just like Diwali, where light is used as a means to celebrate the victory of good over evil in India. La Tomatina, Spain and Holi, both celebrate the joys of youth and are a means to bring people together to have fun.

In a Spanish town, which is close to Valencia, a food fight event known as La Tomatina is celebrated annually on the final Wednesday in August. The "World's Biggest Food Fight," in which more than 100 metric tonnes of overripe tomatoes are tossed in the streets, attracts tens of thousands of participants from all over the world. Similar merriment graces India in the spring when the festival of Holi is celebrated, where colours are thrown around and people have a gala time with their friends and family.

Dia de Los Muertos, Mexico and Shradh are alike in their very nature and belief. The widely known Day of the Dead festival in Mexico, reflects the belief of indigenous cultures that life should be celebrated after death. In order to remember their deceased family members and families make ofrendas (offerings).

These altars are adorned with vivid yellow marigold flowers, pictures of the deceased, and the honoree's preferred snacks and beverages. As the deceased spirits hear their prayers, smell their food, and participate in the festivities, the offerings are said to invite visitation from the afterlife. Indians celebrate 'shradh' to commemorate their ancestors and pay homage to them, they observe elaborate fasts and make donations in the name of the deceased. Fiesta de la Candelaria, Peru and Durga Puja are similar in more ways than one, they both are to worship a goddess, they span about for days and they involve parades.

Every year in February, the Virgin of Candelaria, patroness of Puno, Peru, is honoured with the 18-day Fiesta de la Candelaria. Numerous religious and cultural events influenced by Catholic traditions are included. Throughout the festival, the Virgin of Candelaria statue is carried around the main streets by a never-ending, vibrant procession from the church. The streets are lined with people as the participants dance in unending parades wearing bright costumes. In a similar fashion in India, crowds of people gather around the pandals during Durga Puja. The sculptural idols are ritually immersed into rivers or other bodies of water on the last day after being paraded in processions throughout Bengal.

Inti Raymi, Peru and Makar Sakranti are festivals to worship the Sun god and to pray for a successful harvest.

The Festival of the Sun, which dates back to pre-Columbian times, was the most significant celebration of all. It was intended to honour and please Inti, the Sun deity who was most respected in pre-Columbian civilization. In order to guarantee a successful crop, animals were sacrificed, and over the period of nine days, processions would be led from the former Inca city of Cusco to the legendary citadel of Sacsayhuaman in Peru.

The Sun deity is commemorated in India during Makar Sakranti which marks the end of winter and a successful harvest is celebrated with kites and post-winter delicacies.

People travel far off, but culture always brings them together. No matter how different one might seem in terms of the geographical and cultural divide, the fact that humans love a good celebration accelerated by the intrinsic values of civilisation and similar means to acquire a livelihood imbibes a tradition that is unique to all but possessed by none.

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*"Living through Exchanging"*



*"Viviendo por intercambia"*

*-Aishani Gupta*

This poster displays how India, Spain and Latin America can increase their trilateral trade and exchange ideas, goods(both capital and consumer), cultures and traditions to foster their strength. The thought of "living through exchange" emphasizes the dependency of all these three regions on each other, so as to sustain living and cooperation. The coming together of these 3 regions can bring a lot of Global stability and will help in the development of these regions. The items which are the focus of the trade in the poster are displayed keeping in mind the trading pattern of the year 2021- 22 between India, Latin America and Spain.

## Illustration: India A Powerhouse



*-Neha Sethi*

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