

The Blue Moon

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COUNTRY FOCUS PERU

Forging Ahead Strengthening India-Peru Relations

*H.E. Mr. Javier Paulinich
Ambassador of Peru to India*

Pg - 5

From Yoga to UPI A Diplomatic Odyssey Between India and Peru

*H.E. Mr. Viswas Vidu Sapkal
Ambassador of India to Peru*

Pg - 8

Strategic Goals Strengthening the Andean Community

*Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez
Secretary General of the Andean Community*

Pg - 11

Magazine
on International Trade,
Bilateral & Cultural Relations,
Art & Tourism



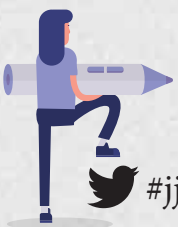
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INDEX

Ambassador Unplugged

- 5 Forging Ahead**
Strengthening India-Peru Relations
*H.E. Mr. Javier Paulinich
Ambassador of Peru to India*
- 8 From Yoga to UPI**
A Diplomatic Odyssey Between India and Peru
*H.E. Mr. Viswas Vidu Sapkal
Ambassador of India to Peru*

Tête-à-Tête

- 11 Strategic Goals**
Strengthening the Andean Community
*Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez
Secretary General of the Andean Community*
- 14 Peru**
The Rising Star of South American Ports
*Mr. Juan Carlos Paz Cárdenas
President of the Board of the National Port Authority (APN)*

Contributor

- 17 Benefits For India From The New Port Of Chancay**
For Its Trade And Investment With South America
*Ambassador Jorge Castaneda
Former Ambassador of Peru to India*

Honorary Consul Chronicles

- 21 Cultural Exchange and Business Opportunities**
A Conversation with Peru's Honorary Consul
in Bangalore
*Mr Vikram Viswanath
Honorary Consul of Peru in Bangalore*

Culture

- 19 The Birth of the Inka Empire**
(The Legend of the Ayar Brothers)
- 13 Vibrant Threads of Peru**
Weaving Culture and Color into Every Stitch

Taste Quest

- 20 Peruvian Cuisine**
The Boom Of Peruvian Cuisine And Its Foreign Influence

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India-Peru Trade Agreement

India and Peru are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement that will lower customs duties, address technical barriers to trade, and introduce dispute settlement mechanisms. The two countries concluded their 7th round of bilateral talks on April 11, 2024, with the next round scheduled for June in Lima.

Establishing a trade agreement is crucial for India to access critical mineral reserves like lithium in Peru. These discussions highlight the benefits of proactive efforts on both sides to strengthen trade engagement and resolve trade-related disputes. This will become increasingly important amid global competition for critical minerals and the growth of frontier industries.

Peru has 22 free trade agreements (FTAs) with 58 nations, which have significantly boosted commerce, investment, and collaboration. Trade relations between India and Peru are steadily growing. In 2022, Peru exported goods worth US\$2.22 billion to India, primarily gold (US\$1.9 billion), copper ore (US\$253 million) and calcium phosphates (US\$12.7 million). The export basket from Peru to India has grown at an annualized rate of 25.5% from US\$4.84 million in 1995 to US\$2.22 billion in 2022.

India's exports to Peru were around US\$1.09 billion in 2022, mainly automobiles (US\$178 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (US\$155 million) and packaged medicaments (US\$83.8 million). Over the last 27 years, India's exports to Peru have increased at an annualized rate of 13.3% from US\$37.2 million in 1995 to US\$1.09 billion in 2022.

Peru, a significant producer of lead, zinc, gold, copper and silver, also has lithium reserves. Both countries aim to lower or eliminate customs tariffs on various items and ease regulations to boost trade in services. Currently, neither nation exports services to the other. India sees great potential in bilateral trade with Latin American and Caribbean countries, as Indian exports currently make up less than 2% of their total imports.

Peru has become India's third-largest trading partner in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Over the past two decades, trade between the two countries has grown from US\$66 million in 2003 to around US\$3.68 billion in 2023.

Holding two rounds of negotiations within two months demonstrates the willingness of both countries to deepen economic cooperation. Ambassador of Peru in India, Mr. Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, stated, "The recent negotiations have laid a substantial foundation, fostering confidence in the outcomes towards a partnership."

Amit Mittal

Forging Ahead

Strengthening India-Peru Relations

As the Ambassador of Peru to India, H.E. Mr. Javier Paulinich is serving his second term, marking a unique milestone in diplomatic relations. Under his leadership, the bilateral ties between Peru and India have grown substantially. In this exclusive interview, Ambassador Paulinich shares his insights, achievements and future visions for enhancing the partnership between the two nations.

by Jjuliaa Gangwani

Q. As this is your second term as the Ambassador of Peru to India, a rather unique occurrence, could you share your observations on India's development and the progress of bilateral relations between Peru and India during this period?

The economies of our two countries are complementary and have great potential. Both are growing open economies favourable to the market, encouraging the participation of public and private enterprises and industries to achieve commercial development and economic growth. Currently, India is among Peru's top seven trading partners. India is also the sixth destination for exports and the ninth source of imports for our country.

Q. Could you provide an update on the status of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and Peru? In your opinion, which sectors in Peru present



the most potential for Indian investors, especially considering the 25 Free Trade Agreements that Peru has in place with the world's largest economies?

FTA negotiations were resumed earlier this year, as both countries have recognized the enormous commercial and potential opportunities. Sectors such as mining, the automotive

industry, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, food, tourism, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, the textile industry and handicrafts have been identified as possible areas for greater economic engagement for mutual benefit. The Free Trade Agreement negotiations were resumed last April, with the 7th Round of talks successfully concluded. The 8th round of negotiations is scheduled for this July, which is expected to have significant advances.

Q. How many Indian and Peruvian companies are operating in both countries and in which sectors are they primarily active?

Peruvian companies in India are mainly present in machinery and mining services, lubricants, and soft drinks. The most recognized companies include Resemin Co., Big Cola of the AJE group, Vistony, Reliant Drilling Pvt. Ltd., and AAC Mining Executors Group, among

others. On the other hand, Indian companies in Peru have a presence in mining, information technology and digital services, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, etc. Notable companies include Tata, Hero, Mahindra, among others.

Q. Can you share any ongoing or upcoming initiatives that highlight the collaboration between India and Peru in the renewable energy sector?

In the field of renewable energies, I must highlight the interest of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Peru (MINEM) in continuing coordination with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India within the framework of the Peru-India Group for New and Renewable Energies. This group, created in 2018, seeks the exchange of lessons learned in capacity building in areas of renewable energy, the identification of areas of mutual interest for the development of system technologies, and the design and development of new and renewable energy technologies such as solar energy, wind energy, bioenergy, and small hydroelectric plants.

Similarly, last February in the city of Munich, a bilateral meeting was held between the Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier González-Olaechea Franco and the Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, where Peru reiterated its interest in signing the "Memorandum of

Understanding on Cooperation in the Fields of Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy between the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN) and the Department of Atomic Energy of the Republic of India."

Q. The mega port of Chancay is set to start operations in November. How do you envision this development benefiting India, particularly in terms of exports and imports from Peru and other South American Pacific nations?

The Megaport of Chancay, located on the central coast of Peru, is emerging as a large-scale project that will have a significant impact on international trade between Asia and Latin America. With a total investment estimated at more than 3.5 billion dollars, this megaport aims to become a world-class logistics hub, connecting Asian markets with the Latin American region more efficiently and competitively.

The Megaport of Chancay, which will be inaugurated in the last quarter of this year, opens a world of opportunities for Indian, Peruvian, and Latin American companies in general, which will be able to take advantage of greater connectivity and logistical efficiency to expand their operations to new markets, diversify their exports and imports, and access new customers and suppliers.

Q. How do you plan to enhance the appeal of Peru as

a travel destination for Indian tourists, especially in the post-COVID-19 era?

We can affirm that Peru is an increasingly popular tourist destination among Indian tourists due to its extraordinary cultural and natural wealth, and the great attraction of having the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Additionally, being included as a prime destination in many tour packages that include other destinations in South America has contributed to the increase in Indian tourists in recent years, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. Both India and Peru are known for their rich, multi-ethnic cultures and diverse cuisines, which have gained international recognition. How would you evaluate their presence in both countries? Are there any plans to promote Peruvian cuisine in India or to reopen the Peruvian Art Gallery?

Promoting Peruvian gastronomy in India is an important part of our functions and a constant in our diplomatic efforts. The last major gastronomic event featured the presence of Virgilio Martínez, chef of the restaurant "Central," which has been awarded multiple times as the best restaurant in South America, Latin America, and the world.

On May 24 and 25, the

renowned chef offered two dinners for a select Indian audience at the St. Regis Hotel in Mumbai. As the kickoff of the activities, a press conference was held on May 23, where around 80 people, including local gastronomy professionals, bloggers, influencers, and representatives of the specialized press, interacted with the renowned Peruvian chef. He illustrated the attendees about the concept of his cuisine reflected in his restaurant Central, which prioritizes a return to nature and the techniques of our ancestors in an environment that also highlights the cultural and social aspects of gastronomy. Additionally, the Peruvian chef shared his successful career development, motivating the audience to persevere in their goals and collaborate with sustainability and care for the planet.

Q. Could you provide information on the size of the Indian population in Peru and the Peruvian population in India? What are their primary activities in both countries?

As per the records of the Consular Section of this Mission, we currently have 332 Peruvian citizens registered in India, of which a little more than 50% are employed in the mining sector due to their vast work experience and dedication, which are highly sought after by Indian mining companies. We also have a percentage of Peruvian women married to Indian citizens who

generally engage in household activities, a small percentage of Peruvians working in private companies, and finally compatriots who have come to live in this country for religious purposes.

In the case of Indian citizens in Peru, they are mainly engaged in commercial and business activities. The consular section receives business visa applications for Indian companies established in our territory such as Tata Consultancy Services, Amdocs, and pharmaceutical companies like Cipla Limited, Alkem Laboratories, among others.

Q. Is there any specific aspect of the bilateral relations between India and Peru that you would like to highlight or discuss further?

Peru will soon have an instant payment system similar to UPI, as NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signed an agreement with the Central Reserve Bank of Peru in early June to develop this technology.

"The support of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been the cornerstone of this agreement. The Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) aims to promote financial inclusion, security, and efficiency and to introduce new use cases in digital payments. Additionally, we believe this new infrastructure will play a fundamental role in fostering

innovation and allowing new participants to enter the Peruvian ecosystem," stated Julio Velarde, President of the BCRP.

Ritesh Shukla, CEO of NIPL, mentioned, "Our partnership with the BCRP aims to strengthen Peru's financial infrastructure to foster economic growth. Once operational, Peruvian citizens will gain access to an unparalleled level of convenience, security, and efficiency in financial transactions."

This is NIPL's second partnership with a central bank to implement the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the international market. In May of this year, the payment organization signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to develop an instant payment system like UPI in the African nation.

The Colorful Peruvian Textile



From Yoga to UPI

A Diplomatic Odyssey Between India and Peru

In an exclusive interview with Blue Moon Magazine, His Excellency, Mr. Viswas Vidu Sapkal, Ambassador of India to Peru, shares his insights on the evolving relationship between India and Peru. As he completes nearly a year in Peru, Ambassador Sapkal discusses the notable achievements, ongoing initiatives and prospects that are shaping the bilateral ties between these two vibrant nations.

by Jjuliaa Gangwani



H.E. Mr. Viswas Vidu Sapkal
Ambassador of India to Peru

Q. Thank you very much, Ambassador Sapkal, for giving your valuable time to The Blue Moon Magazine for our special edition on India-Peru relations. As you are completing almost a year in Peru, could you share your experiences and notable achievements during this time? What has stood out to you?

Peru and India share warm and cordial relations, a journey we have travelled together for almost 63 years. Our diplomatic relations were established in March 1963. Over the past year, from March 2023 to March 2024, we have celebrated numerous activities

to commemorate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

One of the significant activities was the celebration of the International Day of Yoga, which was held in almost ten locations last June.

Additionally, we had three cultural groups from India, sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), visit Peru.

The first group, a Bollywood dance troupe, performed in three cities, mesmerizing thousands of Peruvians. Bollywood has a great following in Peru, and the performances were highly appreciated. Interestingly, Bollywood made its entry into

Latin America through Peru, with movies being shown in theatres extensively. For instance, the classic film “Mother India” is screened annually on Mother’s Day in one town, highlighting the cultural link and fascination with Indian cinema.

The second group, representing the martial art Kalaripayattu from Kerala, also performed in three cities. Their performances were well-received, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India.

The third group, which visited in January, included an Odissi dance troupe and a Hindustani vocal group. Their performances further strengthened the cultural ties between our nations.

These activities have not only celebrated our 60 years of diplomatic relations but have also deepened the cultural connections between India and Peru.

Q. Apart from cultural exchanges, could you elaborate on the promotional activities and bilateral relations initiatives undertaken by the Indian mission in Peru?

Certainly. Last year was designated as the International Year of Millets by the United Nations and our mission took this opportunity to launch a series of promotional activities. We collaborated with five premier institutions in Peru, focusing on gastronomy and nutrition. Our main partner was Senfatur, under the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism. Other partners included the University of North, University of Card and Blue, Pachakudak Foundation and the University of San Marcos.

Our campaign was divided into several phases. In the first phase, we organized a hybrid seminar featuring master chefs from India and Peru, discussing the benefits of millets. This was followed by a series of demo classes conducted by these chefs, which were also available virtually to students from all participating institutions. These students, the future chefs of Peru, gained valuable insights into millet-based cuisine.

In the third phase, we held competitions across these institutions to create innovative millet-based recipes. Six winners were selected from each institution. The campaign culminated in a grand competition among all the winners, followed by a commerce, cuisine and culture fest. This event included a commercial exhibition, cultural presentations, and the prize

distribution ceremony. Four students who excelled in the competition were awarded scholarships to study in India under the ICCR.

Additionally, the Peruvian ship BAP Union visited Mumbai in November 2023, receiving a warm welcome from Indian authorities and friends of Peru. This visit was a testament to the strong maritime ties between our nations.

We also collaborated with the Peruvian Post to issue a commemorative stamp celebrating 60 years of diplomatic relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru hosted an exhibition showcasing our 60-year journey together, further strengthening our bilateral relations.

These activities have significantly enhanced the cultural and economic ties between India and Peru, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's heritage and potential.

Q. Ambassador Sapkal, could you share some recent developments in India-Peru relations?

Certainly. Two significant developments have taken place recently. On March 15th, our Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) and the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN) signed an agreement for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This agreement will facilitate

projects, training activities, and exchanges in nuclear science, particularly in the health and agriculture sectors, among other applications.

Another notable development occurred on June 4th, when the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) signed an agreement with the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank to help create a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-like platform in Peru. Currently, Peru has various banking apps, but there is no integrated platform. This collaboration will benefit Peru by providing a unified digital payment system.

Q. Congratulations on the UPI initiative. Could you provide more details about the timeline for implementing UPI in Peru? When can we expect to see the first UPI transaction?

This is just the first phase. As I mentioned, Peru has different banking apps without an integrated platform. The NPCI will assist the Peruvian government and Central Bank in developing this UPI-like platform. While I can't comment on the exact timeline, this initiative is on the agenda, and we are optimistic about future cooperation.

Q. So, it might take a couple of years?

It's difficult to say at this point. The timeline will depend on the discussions between the banks. We remain hopeful and keep our fingers crossed.

Q. Moving forward, will your main agenda focus on enhancing cultural relations or do you have other priorities for the coming years?

While cultural diplomacy is important, economic diplomacy is a core focus. The agreement between NPCI and the Central Bank of Peru is a significant step. We also support Indian companies in investing in Peru, particularly in the mining sector. I am confident that more companies will come forward in the near future.

Q. Ambassador Sapkal, could you shed light on the business opportunities and growth in various sectors between India and Peru?

Certainly. In the last financial year, 2022-23, our bilateral trade was stable at \$3.2 billion. However, last year, it grew to \$4.35 billion, indicating positive growth in trade relations.

We are optimistic about the future, expecting more Indian companies to enter not only the trade sector but also the services and infrastructure sectors. In the IT sector, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has a significant presence in Peru, providing job opportunities to around 1,300 Peruvians, with almost 99% being local hires. Tech Mahindra is also active here, employing approximately 450

locals. Other companies are also exploring opportunities in this sector. In the pharmaceuticals sector, major Indian companies are already present, primarily in trading. We are hopeful that some will venture into manufacturing in the near future. The automobile sector is another area of strength. Bajaj, a well-known player, has been in Peru for over 30 years. Their three-wheelers are popular across the country, from Cusco to Ayacucho, due to their ability to navigate diverse terrains. TVS three-wheelers also have a strong presence. We anticipate more players entering this market soon.

Q. As we discuss enhancing trade between India and Peru, how do you see the upcoming Chancay project impacting our trade relations?

The Chancay project, set to be inaugurated next year, will reduce distances and expedite cargo movements, benefiting everyone involved. We are confident that it will positively impact our trade relations.

Q. How do you see India and Peru collaborating on environmental conservation, sustainable development and climate change initiatives, including renewable energy, biodiversity and ecotourism?

Peru is an active member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and has ratified its membership. Recently, Peru hosted a conference under the

ISA domain, focusing on harnessing solar power to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change. The alliance between our countries under the ISA umbrella is a promising way forward. We are committed to working together on these initiatives.

Q. What challenges do you foresee in deepening India-Peru relations and how can they be addressed?

I don't see any significant challenges. While there is a geographical distance, our hearts are very close. When hearts are close, geographical distance does not become a hurdle in developing relations.

Q. You mentioned the prize for studying in India during the Millets program events. How can we strengthen educational and academic ties between India and Peru? Are there any plans to enhance cultural learning opportunities?

Absolutely. One excellent example of human resource development cooperation between India and Peru is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, which has been active since 1964. Peru has been a beneficiary and active participant for the last 30 years. Since 1992, nearly 680 Peruvians have undergone training in India under ITEC.

Strategic Goals

Strengthening the Andean Community

by TBM Correspondent

Q. On May 26, the Andean Community celebrated 55 years of its creation. What are the main achievements in the economic, social and cultural development achieved in said period?

The Andean Community has made significant progress over the years. There are no tariffs among its members. We trade freely, without paying any kind of duties.

However, the Andean Community is more than a free trade agreement, not only includes trade liberalization but also has mechanisms to handle potential disputes, rules of origin, and sanitary certificates. Similarly, regulations have been developed to address non-tariff barriers that may hinder free trade. All these mechanisms operate very efficiently.

Moreover, there is free movement of people within the territory of the Andean Community. Andean citizens can travel using only their national identity document, enjoying a series of rights and benefits. For instance, currently, citizens of the Andean Community have free roaming services for their mobile phones within the Andean territory. Also, the Andean Community deals with



Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez
Secretary General of the Andean Community

Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez: A Trailblazer in Diplomacy. In an exclusive interview, Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez, Secretary General of the Andean Community, reveals insights into their strategic agenda. With extensive experience as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Peru, he now champions collaboration, bridging continents and shaping a brighter future. Key areas of focus include institutional capacity, digital initiatives, environmental priorities, and security coordination.

social issues such as indigenous populations or Afro-descendants in the region.

Q. You have already completed 9 months as Secretary General of the CAN, of a period of 5 years, what are the main objectives and goals of your strategic agenda to

strengthen the CAN and the main challenges that you must confront?

Since I was elected as Secretary General, I have sought to continue working on existing processes, strengthening the institutional capacity of the General Secretariat of the Andean Community. Likewise, I consider it important that the strategic agenda of the Andean Community seeks to prioritize:

An effective digital agenda that enables the Andean Community to be a relevant player in the global digital economy, capable of addressing the challenges of new digital tools such as artificial intelligence.

The promotion of a transversal environmental agenda with an emphasis on the fight against climate change, and the implications that the environment has on the mitigation and adaptation efforts of the Andean citizen. Also, it is important to consider how this phenomenon can affect trade and security. Facilitating the coordination of authorities in charge of internal security to combat transnational organized crime.

To achieve these objectives, we are working on different initiatives. For example, it is

expected that a project called INTERCOM will become operational this year, which involves the digital interconnection of the single windows for foreign trade windows of our member countries. Currently, there is a physical document movement of up to four million items. I hope that from October or November this year, this will start to be removed. Additionally, last week we signed a resolution approving three regulations to operationalize an electricity interconnection market among three of the four countries. Bolivia expects to join later, and Chile, which is not a member of the Andean Community, has a keen interest in participating. This will allow for a smooth exchange of buying and selling energy among the participating countries.

Q. India has established itself as one of the main economic powers worldwide, occupying fifth place on the list of the largest economies in the world and is projected to be the third-largest economy by 2029. What is the current level of economic relationship between the Andean Community and India and know if its strategic agenda considers the strengthening of said relationship and if so, in what sectors?

In 2023, Andean exports to India amounted to \$6.854 billion, making your country the sixth-largest market for

products sold by the Andean Community. Of the total sold to India, 64.7% was non-monetary gold, followed by crude oil exports, which accounted for 25.8% in 2023. Additionally, notable exports included copper minerals, coal, raw wood, and cocoa.

Concerning products originating in India and purchased by the Andean countries, in 2023, the import amount reached \$3.289 billion. The main imported products were automobiles (26.2%); pharmaceutical products (11.5%); machinery and parts (8.1%); cotton (7.3%), and organic chemicals (6.9%), among others.

In this context, it is a priority of the Andean Community to continue working to increase exports to India and diversify our export basket. It is important to notice that we aim to translate trade into greater well-being for the citizens of the Andean Community and, for sure, the citizens of India.

Q. Should the Andean Community consider inviting India to join as an Observer? This could promote commercial exchange, investment, cultural and tourism activities, strengthen institutional cooperation, identify common areas of interest and disseminate progress and results of the CAN integration process.

The Andean Community

currently has five associate countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and five observer countries (Spain, Morocco, Türkiye, the Hellenic Republic, and the Republic of Panama). As Secretary General, I have prioritized involving observer countries more actively in Andean integration efforts. We encourage cooperation and activities that yield mutual benefits, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood. Currently, we are actively seeking new observer countries interested in the Andean subregion. We extend an invitation to India to join this group. To become an observer, a country must submit a written request to the General Secretariat of the Andean Community. The Andean Council of Foreign Ministers will then evaluate its inclusion.

Q. Did you plan to reactivate the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Mechanism established between the Andean Community and India on June 3, 2003? This mechanism aims to promote activities such as maintaining a dialogue on international, regional or subregional matters, exchanging information on trade and investment and facilitating reciprocal market access. The first meeting occurred in 2010 during the visit of India's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

It is important to revitalize the

external relations of the Andean Community, which have been somewhat overlooked in recent years. Efforts are being made to reactivate existing cooperation frameworks with other countries or integration schemes, as well as to promote new cooperation opportunities that help achieve the organization's objectives.

In this regard, I consider the reactivation of this mechanism with India to be important, given its economic and political significance for the Andean subregion. A potential entry of India as an observer could be a significant opportunity to launch new concrete initiatives that make this memorandum of understanding effective.

Q. Next November, the port of Chancay, in Peru, will be inaugurated, which will reduce the time of maritime transport between Asia and South America by 40%, to what extent will India and the countries of the Andean Community be able to benefit from it?

As mentioned earlier, free trade exists among the member countries of the Andean Community. Consequently, those who find it convenient to utilize the Port of Chancay for transporting their products to Asia can benefit from Andean regulations, thereby enhancing their competitiveness in exporting to that region. Each member country must evaluate whether using the Port of

Chancay is advantageous for them as a beneficial alternative, but the Andean regulations support this choice. The same principle applies to India, which should assess whether the Port of Chancay offers an improved entry point for its products into the Andean subregion, potentially creating a win-win situation. Regardless, the Port of Chancay will reduce maritime transportation time between South America and Asia from 40 days to 23 days

Q. Are you planning a visit to India?

I am open to eventually making a trip to India if we can establish a work agenda that generates initiatives with a positive impact on the lives of both Andean and Indian citizens. India is a country with which the Andean Community can achieve great results, so I do not rule out the possibility of traveling there in the near future.

Q. Is there any message you would like to convey to the citizens of India?

The Andean Community offers abundant opportunities for Indian citizens. Whether in business or tourism, we are committed to strengthening our relationship. I encourage you to explore these prospects and collaborate with us in shaping a brighter future for both Indian and Andean communities

Vibrant Threads of Peru Weaving Culture and Color into Every Stitch

by TBM Correspondent

Peru boasts a rich tradition of craftsmanship. Textile weaving is essential to the livelihood and cultural identity of the Andean people. Besides generating income, textiles serve as a means to convey stories, express emotions, safeguard memories and



recount history. For women, weaving represents a way of life, with techniques passed down through generations without any written records. The current weavers who possess this knowledge are the sole guardians of this tradition, ensuring its continuation for future generations.

For millennia, long before European contact, the indigenous peoples of the Andes have raised alpacas, vicuñas and other camelids for their adaptable fleece. In the high-altitude Andean Altiplano, where temperatures frequently fall below freezing and fierce winds sweep across the plains,

Continued on page 16

Peru

The Rising Star of South American Ports

Peru is on the brink of a major transformation, poised to become the port hub of the South American Pacific coast. With the expansion of the northern dock of the Port of Callao and the imminent inauguration of the Port of Chancay, Peru is set to play a pivotal role in regional and international trade. In an exclusive interview, Juan Carlos Paz Cárdenas, President of the Board of the National Port Authority, shares insights into the strategic developments that are positioning Peru as a key player in the global shipping industry.

by TBM Correspondent



Mr. Juan Carlos Paz Cárdenas

President of the Board of the National Port Authority (APN)

Q. What role does the National Port Authority, of which you are president, play in the conversion of Peru as a port hub in the South American Pacific?

For the transformation of Peru into a port hub on the South American Pacific coast, the National Port Authority (APN) has undertaken extensive work over the past 21 years, actively promoting the development of the port sector and supporting the progress of various port projects, not only along the Pacific coast but also at the Amazonian river terminals. It has been crucial for the APN to have a legally mandated mission to guide these processes, as well as to possess a key instrument—the National Port Development Plan, for which the APN is responsible for its formulation and

execution.

Q. International news highlights that Peru will become the port hub of the South American Pacific coast to the countries of Asia Pacific and Oceania, as a result of the expansion of the northern dock of the port of Callao and the upcoming inauguration of the port of Chancay. What events are coming together for Peru to be that Hub?

The upcoming phase involves the consolidation of the Callao-Chancay logistics corridor. These two ports are strategically located just 80 kilometers apart, making them a pivotal axis for regional and international trade. Chancay Port is poised to become a major player in the global shipping industry, capable of attracting vessels with a

capacity of up to 24,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units). This positions Chancay as a direct competitor with major ports like Long Beach in the United States or Manzanillo in Mexico. With such a high capacity, Chancay can serve as a critical entry point for mega-ships operating along the Asia-Pacific routes. Meanwhile, the Port of Callao is set to enhance its operational capacity, aiming to exceed 4 million TEUs. This expansion will significantly boost its ability to handle increased cargo volumes and enhance its role as a major logistical hub in the region.

Q. The proximity between the ports of Callao and Chancay, only 82 km away from each other, to what extent do they strengthen Peru's port competitiveness in relation to

the rest of the Latin American countries' ports?

Together, the Callao and Chancay ports will serve as crucial nodes in the logistics network, positioning Peru as the leading logistics hub in the region. This hub will not only streamline operations between these two key ports but will also enable seamless connections with other Peruvian ports and those of neighbouring countries. The synergy between Callao and Chancay will create a robust logistics corridor that enhances trade efficiency, reduces transit times, and supports economic growth in the region, solidifying Peru's reputation as a logistics powerhouse in South America.

The strategic development of this logistics hub underscores Peru's commitment to becoming the most competitive player in the South American logistics landscape. By linking with other regional ports, this corridor will facilitate smoother, faster, and more efficient distribution of goods, significantly benefiting local economies and enhancing the global supply chain. Peru's innovative approach to infrastructure development is set to redefine regional trade dynamics and establish the country as a benchmark for logistics excellence.

Q. Likewise, it is highlighted that commercial maritime transport from the countries on the South American coast will be channelled through the port of Chancay and that,

in the future, this will also include Brazilian imports and exports to and from the Asia Pacific. What can you tell us about it?

The Chancay terminal is set to handle Brazilian imports and exports via road transport. However, it is evident that the best connection for ports of this size, with such projected cargo tonnage, is through railways. There have been numerous projects over several decades aimed at connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans via railroads. Our Minister of Transport has already commented that countries like Brazil or China would benefit the most from this infrastructure and, therefore, should be the ones to promote or sustain the majority of its financing.

Q. It is also highlighted that the Cosco Shipping Company is the majority shareholder of the port of Chancay and that the aforementioned company will not only manage it, but will establish a direct route between the ports of Shanghai and Chancay. What impact will this have on the conversion of Peru as a port hub in the South American South Pacific?

Cosco Shipping is not only one of the top five shipping companies in terms of container transportation but also the most significant shipping company when considering all types of cargo. In addition, it operates 37 ports globally and already has a presence in Peru for container

transportation. The direct connections it can establish between Shanghai and Chancay are crucial for consolidating Peru as a regional port hub and establishing a hub-and-spoke system in the region. This is further enhanced by Peru's cabotage legislation, which is one of the most liberal in the world.

Q. To what extent does the recent modification of the Peruvian Ports Law to allow cabotage by foreign companies contribute to strengthening Peru's port positioning as a regional port hub?

The new law allows transportation concessions, which previously could only have a term of thirty years, to be extended for up to an additional 30 years. This extension enables continuity in investments and provides concessions with a broader horizon for recovering their investments, which typically involve amounts of hundreds or even thousands of millions of dollars.

On the other hand, this legal modification allows concessions to make investments outside their concession area to improve their competitiveness. This means, for example, that port concessionaires can invest in infrastructures such as dry ports or truck centres.

Q. What message would you have for Indian businessmen who trade and invest in South America?

Continued from page 13

the insulation provided by woven textiles is vital.

Gathering the Animals

Andean weavers primarily obtain their fibres from alpacas but also from vicuñas, guanacos, llamas and occasionally sheep. During an annual celebratory event known as Chaco, villagers bring the animals together for shearing. The wool from alpacas is hypoallergenic, water-resistant, breathable, washable, non-flammable, shrink-resistant and comes in 22 natural colors.

Cleaning the Wool

Wool is washed at various stages of the production process, depending on the type of animal. Indigenous plants like the Sacha paraquat root and the illmanke plant can be crushed and added to washing water as natural cleansers. Both plants create a white, foamy wash that cleans the wool in just a few minutes of thorough hand washing.

Natural Coloring Agents

Natural dyes are plentiful in Peru's Sacred Valley, with some common sources including the chilca bush for yellow and green shades and indigo leaves and stems for deep blue. Cochineal insects are harvested from cacti and ground to produce a vivid red dye. Aged lichen can provide deep yellows and browns, while fresh lichen yields lighter yellows. Typically, fixatives such as mineral salts are used to enhance color

Continued on page 18

Peru's strategic location, robust infrastructure, and business-friendly environment make it an ideal partner for Indian businessmen looking to expand their operations and strengthen ties with South America. Peru is committed to creating an investment-friendly environment, and the country has a proven track record of welcoming foreign investments. This commitment is reflected in the significant involvement of over 20 countries in its port development projects, showcasing global confidence in Peru's economic potential.

Peru's extensive network of trade agreements further enhances its appeal as a trade partner. The country has free trade agreements (FTAs) with 22 countries, providing businesses with access to a vast market. Additionally, Peru is in the process of negotiating a free trade agreement with India, which will further strengthen the economic ties between our nations and open up new opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Peru offers numerous opportunities for Indian investors across various sectors, including infrastructure, mining, technology, manufacturing, and agriculture. Indian investors can capitalize on these opportunities by exploring partnerships and investments in Peru's thriving economy. Together, we can forge a strong economic alliance that benefits both our countries and contributes to the prosperity of the South American region.

About him

Mr. Juan Carlos Paz Cárdenas, President of the Board of the National Port Authority (APN), is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in the port, shipping, logistics, and hydro-navigation sectors. His leadership spans both public and private sectors, including significant roles in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) and the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Transport Infrastructure (OSITRAN). He has been instrumental in key projects such as the installation of gantry cranes in Callao and the implementation of the Amazon Waterway.

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Benefits For India From The New Port of Chancay For its Trade and Investment with South America

The upcoming inauguration of the Port of Chancay in Peru in November presents India with a significant opportunity to boost its trade with South American countries. This includes Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Brazil. This development is expected to make India's exports more competitive and its imports less costly.

*Ambassador Jorge Castaneda
Former Ambassador of Peru to India*

not limited to the reduction in maritime transportation time and the costs of transportation and port logistics services for its exports and imports. There is also an opportunity for Indian investors to invest in the Chancay Industrial Logistics Complex ("Chancay Park") project, which will work directly with the new mega port in the storage and distribution for national and international export companies.

There are two main reasons for this opportunity: The Port of Chancay, located 82 km north of Lima, will be the first smart and digital mega port on the South American Pacific coast and the deepest on the Pacific coast, capable of receiving ships carrying 18,000 to 24,000 fully loaded containers (TEU). The inauguration will be accompanied by establishment a direct route between Shanghai and Chancay by Cosco Shipping, the world's largest shipping and integrated commercial operator (encompassing ports, ships, and logistics).

As a result of both factors, the maritime cargo transport time between Asia and Chancay will be greatly reduced to 25-30 days. This is very important for fresh and perishable foods because maritime transport plays a crucial role in their export and import. Additionally, transport and logistics costs (including



freight, insurance, and the costs of specialized integrated logistics port services for the international redistribution of products to third countries) will experience a significant reduction. Currently, the average maritime transportation time between Asia and South American countries is 40-45 days and is primarily conducted through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (United States) and the port of Manzanillo (Mexico), complemented by cabotage services to South American ports.

The benefits for India derived from the Port of Chancay are

Chancay Park and the Port of Chancay will form the Port-Industrial Node of Chancay, which will span 842.5 hectares (ha) and include logistics, industrial zones, service and technology complexes, and even residential areas. Specifically, 58.8 hectares will be allocated to logistics, 87 hectares for residential purposes, 17.4 hectares for commercial spaces, 233.6 hectares for the industrial zone, 4 hectares for amenities, and more than half of the land (441.7 hectares) will feature vegetation.

The logistics and industrial complex is being developed in



It is up to Indian businessmen to pay attention to the emergence of the Port-Industrial Node of Chancay and the Special Economic Zone and support the signing of the India-Peru Free Trade Agreement. This will allow them to diversify their exports and imports, not only to and from Peru but also by investing in Peru, gaining access to all the countries with which Peru has FTAs in force.

Continued from page 16
retention, modify hues or increase colour intensity.

Spinning by Hand

The hand-spinning of wool into yarn is a skill that Andean girls start developing in childhood. Spinning serves as a constant presence in women's lives while they socialize with friends and family or walk along roads. Though it may seem casual to observers, spinning is a craft that requires years of practice and is an intricate and challenging art form.

Weaving

Traditional Andean textiles are created using very simple looms. Materials commonly found or easily made—like sticks and polished llama bones—have been used to construct looms in the Andes for thousands of years. Weavers utilize these materials to create backstrap looms that can be assembled anywhere and conveniently rolled up for traveling

three stages. The first stage involves the construction of logistics areas (58.8 ha), which includes an intraport area, the container area, general logistics services, and the commercial zone (17.4 ha). This stage is expected to be operational by December 2024, the same date when the Port of Chancay is scheduled to begin operations. The next two stages, intended mainly for the industrial area, will be executed in the following years, although no specific dates have been defined yet.

The Government of Peru is in the process of demarcating a Special Economic Zone adjacent to the Port of Chancay with the aim of attracting private investment into Peru. This will allow better use of the 25 Free Trade Agreements that Peru has signed (with the World Trade Organization, Andean Community, Mercosur, Cuba, APEC, Chile, Mexico, United States of America, Canada, Singapore, China, EFTA, Korea, Thailand, Japan, Panama, European Union, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Pacific Alliance, Honduras,

Guatemala, Brazil, Australia, United Kingdom, and CPTPP) and 4 agreements (with India, El Salvador, Turkey, and Nicaragua) that are in the process of negotiation. This initiative is expected to generate greater investment in the country and diversify exports.

The full operation of the Port of Chancay, Chancay Park, and the Special Economic Zone should also serve as a boost for the construction project of a bi-oceanic railway that connects the coasts of Peru and Brazil. This project is currently under consideration by the governments of China, Brazil and Peru, to integrate the markets of these three nations. Currently, transportation between Asia and Brazil can also be carried out via the Port of Chancay by utilizing the connection with the Amazonian multimodal axis of the northeast bi-oceanic corridor and the South Interoceanic Highway, which link Brazil with Peru. This would reduce the transport time of cargo to and from Asia and Oceania from 45 to 28 days.

The Birth Of The Inka Empire

(The Legend of the Ayar Brothers)

by TBM Correspondent

The Inca Empire, also called Tawantinsuyo, rose from the Peruvian highlands sometime in the early 13th century. It has a fantastic legend about its origin story at the hands of four brothers that tells how the city of Cuzco – the capital of the Inka Empire – was founded.

Legend has it that at the end of the great flood, which devastated the land “Tampu Tocco”, four brothers appeared with their wives: Ayar Manco and

Mama Ocllo, Ayar Cachi and Mama Cora, Ayar Uchu and Mama Rahua and Ayar Auca and Mama Huaco; they, along with ten “ayllus” (Inca organization that groups 10 families) undertook a long journey in search of fertile lands where they could settle.

Of the 4 brothers, Ayar Cachi was the strongest. He had a slingshot that could sling stones that reached the skies, and made it rain and created thunder. His 3 brothers were jealous and feared him and devised a plan to get rid of him. The plan consisted of enticing



continued their journey, regretting the loss of their two brothers, but also with the conviction of finding those coveted lands.

Sometime during their trip, in order to search for a place to live with his brother, Ayar Auca grew wings and flew over the Pampa del Sol (the Sun settlement). When he landed, he turned into stone, leaving Ayar Manco as the sole representative of his brothers.

It was the only remaining brother Ayar Manco, who arrived to the city of Cusco, where at last he found the right place to settle down after sinking the golden rod that was delivered to him by his father and God, Inti (the Sun), thus founding the Inca Empire, Tawantinsuyo.

The interpretation of this legend is that war and the battle of the strongest is an eternal constant for all humankind. In the case of the Incas, the one who survived received the enormous responsibility of founding and leading the Empire.

Ayar Cachi to enter a cave in search of food, and when he did, his brothers locked him inside by blocking the entrance of the cave with a big stone.

The remaining 3 brothers kept to the path they were on, arriving at a Mountain called Huanacaure, where they found a stone Idol with the same name as the hill. The 3 brothers and their wives entered this place of worship with a lot of fear, but one of them, Ayar Uchu, challenged the Idol, and was turned into stone.

Ayar Manco and Ayar Auca

Peruvian Cuisine

by TBM Correspondent

The Boom of Peruvian Cuisine and its Foreign Influence

several facts.

- In recent years, notable international chefs have emphasized the significance of Peruvian cuisine as among the foremost globally, praised for its diversity, ingredients, and the unique flair that each chef adds to Peruvian dishes.

- Various online platforms and magazines within the fields of tourism and gastronomy dedicate specific articles and sections to Peruvian cuisine, underscoring its quality and diversity. The “Economist” magazine listed Peruvian cuisine as one of the twelve most notable in their article “Peru: Just add Spice.” published on January 29, 2004.

- Generated recognition by its participation in international food festivals such as ‘Madrid Fusion.’



Continued on page 23

Peru has long been known for its regional dishes that are highly regarded by locals, yet it has remained relatively unknown on the global stage. However, over the past fifteen years, this has undergone a significant transformation. Some analysts refer to this period as the ‘Peruvian gastronomic revolution’, while certain journalists depict it as the surge of Peruvian cuisine. Up until the early ‘90s, there was little culinary literature or cooking schools in Peru, but today, Peruvian cuisine has become quite fashionable. Various gourmet Peruvian cooking shows are routinely aired on television and radio, and numerous articles and features are published in the press. Each year, a wealth of Peruvian cookbooks are released and countless food

festivals take place across the nation.

Cooking schools have notably expanded in Lima and other major cities. Le Cordon Bleu, the world’s most esteemed institution for professional gastronomy education and culinary arts, has established itself in Lima, offering premier study options for the entire South American region.

All these developments indeed illustrate the realization of a ‘culinary revolution’ in Peru.

Consequently, Peruvian cuisine has started to gain international recognition, establishing itself as one of the finest in the Americas and carving out a niche within the world’s most celebrated cuisines, thereby positioning Peru as a “culinary destination for tourists.” This is evident and supported by

Cultural Exchange and Business Opportunities A Conversation with Peru's Honorary Consul in Bangalore

In an exclusive conversation with Mr Vikram Viswanath, the Honorary Consul of Peru in Bangalore, we explore the evolving relationship between India and Peru. Mr Vikram Viswanath discusses his experience in international diplomacy, the cultural and economic interactions between the two countries and the different efforts to strengthen their bonds. This interview provides a comprehensive look of the lively connections between Karnataka, Goa, Kerala and Peru from commemorating Peru's National Day to advancing business prospects and cultural heritage.

by Jjuliaa Gangwani

Q. What inspired you to become the Honorary Consul of Peru?

I've always been passionate about international relations. During my master's in international management in the United States, I worked extensively with the World Trade Center in Minneapolis. My internship there introduced me to the fascinating role of honorary consuls. Additionally, my exposure to NAFTA sparked my interest in South America. I recognised a cultural affinity between India and Peru. Upon returning to India, I had the good fortune to meet the Ambassador of Peru. Our discussions eventually led to my appointment as the Honorary Consul of Peru in Bangalore. Now, I oversee Karnataka, Goa and Kerala.

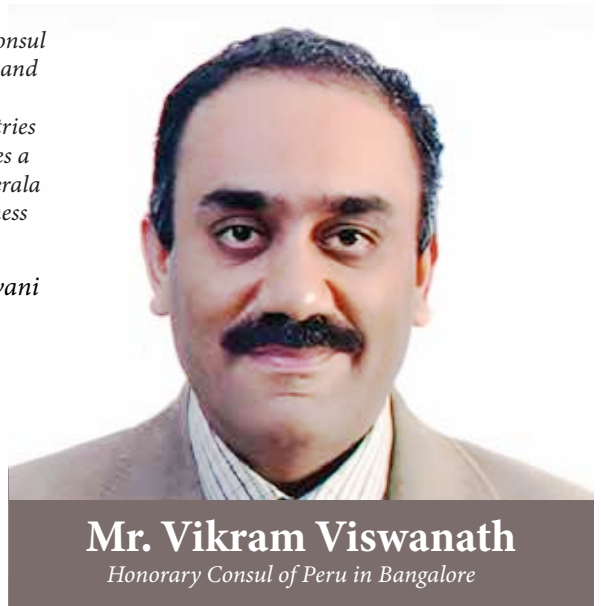
Q. Congratulations on your appointment. How does the Honorary Consulate promote cultural exchange between Peru and Bangalore as well as in Kerala and Goa? Are there any upcoming cultural events or collaborations?

Thank you. Peru's National Day on July 28th is the most significant event on our calendar. We celebrate this day with great pomp and honour,

showcasing Peruvian culture through various activities. These include Peruvian cuisine, traditional dresses and other cultural promotions. This year's celebration will be no different and we are excited to share our culture with the people here.

Q. In advance, congratulations on Peru's National Day. What opportunities exist for Bangalore-based businesses to engage with Peru and how can the consulate facilitate trade partnerships and investment ventures?

There are numerous opportunities across political, social, and technological sectors. Politically, we have an MOU between the Karnataka state government and the Peruvian government to promote tourism. Economically, Bangalore's



Mr. Vikram Viswanath

Honorary Consul of Peru in Bangalore

software companies are expanding into South America and many pharma companies are looking to enter Latin America through Peru. The upcoming Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will further enhance trade relations. Additionally, both regions share a strong mining heritage, with Bangalore's KGF being the deepest gold mine in the world. We aim to add value to the gold trade by encouraging local jewellers to manufacture finished goods in Peru. These initiatives are steps towards creating mutual value and strengthening our economic ties.

Q. Could you shed some more light on the partnerships between Karnataka and Peru, especially in areas like science, technology and innovation? Are there any future projects lined up?

We don't initiate projects ourselves; rather, we act as catalysts for those who wish to undertake projects. Our role is to ease the path of doing business, whether it's in telemedicine or jewellery trade. We facilitate connections and provide support for both Peruvians coming to India and Indians going to Peru. For instance, we recently assisted a family in securing unique medical treatment in India and helped another individual obtain urgent medication in Goa. Our efforts span political, social, economic and technological domains. We don't differentiate based on commercial viability; any issue faced by a Peruvian is important to us and we strive to help in any way we can.

Q. It's reassuring to know that the consulate is there to help with open arms. Speaking of natural resources, how is Peru advancing renewable energy initiatives and are there opportunities for collaboration with Indian companies?

Yes, we are already collaborating in the solar energy sector. Our ambassador can provide more details, but Peru and India are both part of the global alliance on solar and renewable resources. Both countries are firmly committed to advancing solar power and renewable energy initiatives.

Q. Now, on a lighter note, you mentioned Karnataka's rich history and culture, similar to Peru. What can Peruvian tourists expect in Karnataka

and what can people from Karnataka experience when visiting Peru?

Peruvian tourists in Karnataka can enjoy its rich wildlife, UNESCO heritage sites and vibrant culture. Conversely, visitors from Karnataka to Peru can experience a variety of attractions. Peru boasts the world's number one restaurant in Lima, beautiful beaches, bustling cities and economic centres like free trade zones, scenic hills, rich mining areas and lush forests. We welcome visitors with a multitude of reasons to explore and enjoy our country.

Q. Peru has a rich tradition in art and craftsmanship. How does the Council promote Peruvian artists and their work?

Promoting Peruvian art and craftsmanship is challenging but rewarding. For instance, during our National Day celebrations, we had models dressed in traditional Peruvian clothes and showcased a fashion show. This allowed people to see and appreciate Peruvian attire. We also organized a fusion art exhibition featuring Peruvian artefacts and Indian Tanjore-style paintings. Additionally, we've held exhibitions of paintings and movies to highlight Peruvian culture. These events help us bring Peruvian art, food and fashion to the forefront.

Q. Speaking of tourism, cuisine plays an important role. We've heard about Pisco Sour, the national drink of

Peru. Can you tell us more about it?

Yes, we've hosted several events to introduce Peruvian liquor, including Pisco Sour. These gatherings are usually held at prominent hotels in Bangalore during happy hours. We demonstrate how the drink is made and offer samples for people to enjoy. These events are sponsored by us and provide a great opportunity for people to experience Peruvian culture.

Q. As we near the end of our session, could you share the services available to Peruvian citizens residing in Karnataka, Goa and Kerala? How can they seek assistance from the consulate?

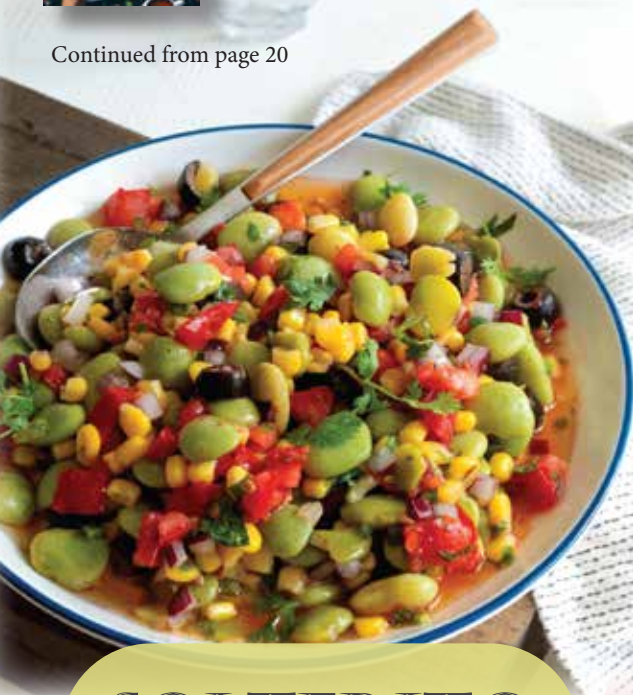
We are always here to support Peruvian citizens in Karnataka, Goa and Kerala. Whenever they need assistance, they can reach out to us. Our primary goal is to help in any way we can and we are committed to providing the best possible support. It all begins with that first call for help and from there, we do our utmost to address their needs and concerns.

Q. Finally, do you have any advice for our readers?

South America may seem far, but culturally, it's very close. It's a big market with a lot to offer. Spend some time getting to know us and we'll do our best to bridge the gap. It's wonderful to see these two old cultures bringing different products, technologies and services to the world.



Continued from page 20



SOLTERITO

Chopped Salad

Solterito is a vegetable salad, traditionally prepared with the limo beans and large kernel choclo corn that grow so well in Peru.

PERUVIAN SALAD

Ingredients

- 1/2 cups fresh or frozen limo beans
- 1 1/2 cups corn kernels
- 1 cup of diced carrots
- 1/2 cup black or green olives, sliced crosswise
- 1 tomato, seeded and diced

Preparation

- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1 1/2 cups diced farmer's cheese or mozzarella mixed with a small amount of feta cheese works well as a substitute.
- 2-3 tablespoons finely diced red chile pepper (to taste).
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley or cilantro
- Vinaigrette dressing (6 tablespoons olive oil, 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar, and salt and pepper too).
- Bring a pot of salted water to a boil and cook the corn kernels until they are just tender. Remove the corn and put it in a bowl of ice water to cool.
- Cook the carrots and the limo beans together (in the same pot of boiling salted water) until they are crisp-tender. Drain them and place them in the ice water with the corn for at least 5 minutes.
- Drain the chilled vegetables well and toss them with the remaining ingredients. Let the salad marinate in the refrigerator for a couple of hours before serving.
- Serves 4-6 as a side salad.

CEVICHE

Raw Fish Cooked With Lemon Juice

The classic Peruvian ceviche is composed of chunks of raw fish, marinated in freshly squeezed key lime, with sliced onions, chili peppers, salt and pepper accompanied by boiled com and slices of sweet boiled potato.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 pounds fish fillets (sea bass, sole, or flounder), cut on the bias into 1-inch dice
- 1 quart water, boiled and chilled
- 1 red onion, cut in 1/2 lengthwise and sliced thin
- 1 aji amarillo, rib and seeds removed, diced
- 1 clove garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped cilantro leaves
- 2 boiled corn kernels.
- 1 sweet potato, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 head butter lettuce





Preparation

- Place fish in a non-reactive bowl. Add 3 cups of chilled water to fish and rinse gently. Drain water.
- Add onions to remaining chilled water and let soak.
- Meanwhile, place aji, garlic, and pinch of salt in a mortar and pestle. Grind to make a paste.
- Combine fish, lime and lemon juices, all and garlic paste, salt, pepper, and cilantro. Let marinate for 10 minutes.
- When ready to serve, divide fish ceviche among 4 lettuce cups and top with onion slices. Serve with grilled corn and sweet potato slices and garnish with Japanese seaweed, if desired.



RICE IN PERU

Rice is a staple food in Peru, brought by the Spaniards in XVI century. In some regions it is even more important than the original potato in diet. Both, potato and rice have the most extensive cropping area in the country. Rice is also used for feeding livestock and making alcohol, acetic acid, acetone, oil, pharmaceutical products, fuel and compost.

Rice consumption in Peru is the third highest of South America after Guyana and Suriname, with 60 kg per capita per year in 2016. Rice is served in countless different ways yielding distinct enticing flavours.

How do Peruvians cook plain rice?

In Peru, the style of how rice is cooked is called “arroz graneado” (literally meaning “grained rice”) because of its unique texture.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 2 cups regular white rice
- 2 1/2 cups of water
- Salt or a cube of chicken bouillon (optional)

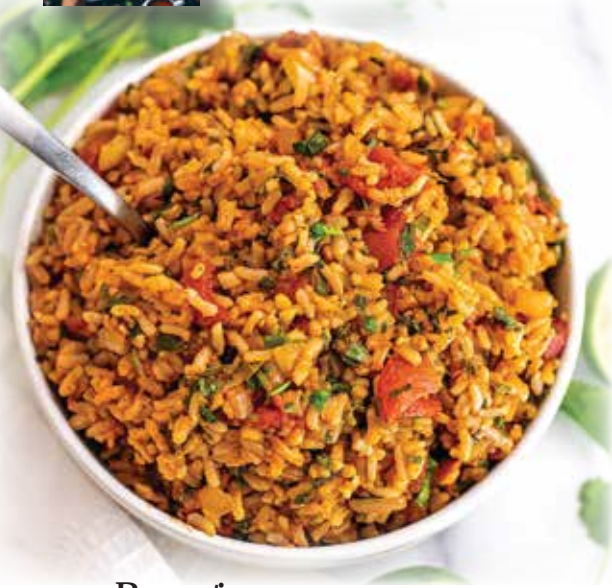
Preparation

- Put oil in a medium to large pan and turn to medium-high. Let the oil warm as you prepare.
- When the oil hot enough, add garlic and fry until brown. This just takes a few seconds. If you aren't sure whether or not the oil is hot enough, look for tiny surface ripples or place your hand a few inches above the pan and gauge the radiant heat.
- Rinse rice in a sieve. If you don't have a sieve with small enough holes, rinse it in a cheese cloth or dish towel.
- Add wet rice to the pan and stir. Make sure it mixes well with the garlic.
- Add water to the pan. Salt the water if desired; alternatively, add a cube of chicken bouillon to the water and let it dissolve as the water heats.
- Turn the heat up to bring the water to a boil. It only needs to boil for a few seconds.
- Turn down the heat, cover, and simmer gently for 15-20 minutes without peeking. Note that simmering rice has a tendency to create white foam that bubbles out onto your stovetop; if foam is a problem for you, set the lid askew until the mixture gets drier, then cover completely.
- Turn off the heat, uncover, and fluff the rice with a fork. The grains should be plump and soft, and not pasty.



ARROZ AMARILLO

Peruvian Lime Yellow Rice



Ingredients

- 3/4 tsp. Organic Ground Turmeric
- 3 Makrut Lime Leaves⁷
- 2 Tbsp. Peruvian Chile Lime Seasoning⁸
- 3 cups water
- 1 tsp. salt, plus more to taste
- 1 1/2 cups long grain white rice
- 1 small white onion, diced
- 3/4 cup small diced red or green bell pepper (or mix of both)
- 1 Tbsp. Caribbean Lime Hot Sauce, optional

Preparation

• In a medium saucepan, heat spices over low heat until fragrant, stirring, about 30 seconds. Add water, salt and rice and bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to a bare simmer. Cook, covered, without stirring until water is absorbed and rice is tender, about 20 min. Remove from heat and let sit, covered, without stirring, for 10 more min. Meanwhile, in a small saute pan, cook onions and bell peppers over medium heat until soft, about 5 to 7 min. Fluff rice with a fork then stir in cooked onions, peppers and hot sauce (if using). Taste and adjust seasoning with additional salt if desired. Serve warm.

PEPIAN DE CHOCLO

Peruvian Corn Stew

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp oil
- 1 /2 Cup chopped onion
- 2 Chopped garlic cloves
- 1 Tbsp aji mirasol⁹ paste
- 2 Yellow chilli pepper³, cut in thin stripes or use in paste

Preparation

- kernel from 4 corns
- 2 Cups vegetable stock
- 1 /2 Cup cilantro leaves
- 4 Small or 1-2 large zucchini, cut into cubes
- Salt and pepper
- Blend the corn kernels and cilantro leaves with the vegetable stock until creamy.
- In a pan with oil, over medium heat, saute the onion, garlic, and 2 chilli peppers, stirring until golden.
- Add the corn and coriander paste, zucchini, salt and pepper, and cook, stirring, for 10-15 minutes, or until it has the consistency you desire.
- Serve with white rice, and a salad, or with a piece of any kind of meat.





PERUVIAN DESSERT

MAZAMORRA MORADA

Purple Corn Pudding

The mazamorra morada is a pudding of creamy consistency made with purple corn but with some dried prunes, and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

Ingredients

- 3 pounds ears maiz morado¹³
- 3 cloves
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 pineapple, peeled and chopped
- 1 apple, peeled and cored
- 1 pear, peeled, cored and chopped
- 9 cups water
- 1/2 cup prunes¹⁴
- 1/2 cup dried apricots
- 1/2 cup sweet potato starch (or potato starch)
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 lime
- Ground cinnamon



Preparation

- Break the dried corn in several pieces.
- Put in a heavy saucepan along with the cloves, cinnamon sticks, pineapple peels, apple and pear peels and cores, and water. Bring to a boil over high heat, and cook for 15 minutes. Turn the heat to medium and cook partially covered for 1 hour and 30 minutes, or until reduced to 6 cups.
- Strain, reserving the liquid. Discard the solids.
- In the same saucepan put the liquid, 2 cups chopped pineapple, chopped apple, prunes, apricots, and sugar. Bring to a boil, turn the heat to medium and cook for 20 minutes to soften the fruits.
- In a bowl, dissolve the potato starch in a little purple corn liquid or water, and add to the saucepan, stirring constantly. Cook for 5 more minutes.
- Turn off the heat, and add the lime juice.
- Serve in ramekins or glasses, sprinkled with ground cinnamon.

PERU MILLENIAL CULTURE

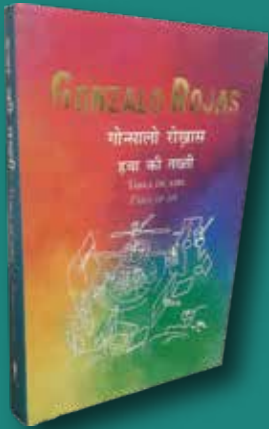
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