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## **India & Lusophone market, International congress in Goa on Jan 14-15**

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Union minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma will attend the 2-day India and Lusophone Market International Congress to be held on January 14 and 15 next year in Goa.

The event is being jointly organized by Lusophone Society of Goa (LSG) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), IDEA-Institute of Asian studies and AAPI - Friendship Association Portugal-India.

Speaking to media persons here today Dr Aurobindo Xavier, President, Lusophone Society of Goa said that, around 200 delegates are expected to participate in the event which is first attempt to establish a global common platform doing business between India and the Lusophone countries.

Dr Xavier said, 'key ideas of the congress are that more responsible business can foster more growth in India and Lusophone countries. Social business, as defined by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, shall focus on providing a product and service with a specific social ethical and environmental goal, is also one of the main aim of this congress.

The Congress should contribute to enhance economy, trade and social cohesion in India and promote investment in diverse sectors like industry, commerce, tourism and services. 'Bilateral trade is narrowing and restricting the potential of trade between India and the 250 million Portuguese speaking people of the Lusophone countries,' he observed.

He further said that, to promote social cohesion in Goa, they are offering a special registration fee of Rs 1,000 for Indian citizens and Rs 500 for Indian students.

Delegates of Indian companies and Portugese speaking countries have expressed desire to find business partners of the areas covered by the participants such as supply of salt packaging, fishing material, banking and investment, electricity, refrigeration and air conditioning, agricultural tractors and spare parts, IT and Software etc.

The plenary session will have an inaugural session, major presentations, a country panel and short presentation. 'Besides Union Minister fo Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma, state chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, dignitaries of the Lusophone countries, as well as the Ambassadors of Lusophone countries to India, the Portuguese ambassador to India Jorge Rosa de Oliveira and Dr Jitendra Nath Misra, Ambassador of India (Designate) to Portugal have been invited,' Dr Xavier added.