

## **Goa to host business meet of Portuguese-speaking countries**

*PRAKASH KAMAT, PANAJI, DEC. 23, 2013:*

The Lusophone Society of Goa (LSG), in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), IdEA-Institute of Asian Studies and AAPI-Friendship Association Portugal-India, will hold an international congress in the city on January 14 and 15.

The congress will focus on India and the market of the Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Chinese Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Macau).

Portuguese is one of the major languages of the world with close to 250 million speakers. It is the fifth most spoken language and the official language of eight countries on four continents.

Union Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar have been invited to the inaugural session while the Portuguese Ambassador to India Jorge Rosa de Oliveira has confirmed participation. Ambassador of India (Designate) to Portugal Jitendra Nath Misra has also been invited.

LSG President Aurobindo Xavier said the two-day congress will be of particular interest to entrepreneurs of Portuguese-speaking countries and of India.

Delegates from Indian companies and the Portuguese-speaking countries have expressed desire to find business partners in the areas of pharmaceuticals, orthopaedics, veterinary, infant accessories, hospitals (products and services); supply of salt packaging; fishing material; electricity, aluminium, brass and CI-cast and machined spare parts; refrigeration and air conditioning; designing and service providing; investment and financial products; logistics projects and solutions; assisting in import-export etc.