

## **On the State Visit of the President of Brazil to India, (3-5 June, 2007)**

01/06/2007

H.E. Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, will be on a State visit to India from 3 to 5 June, 2007. He had visited India earlier in January, 2004 and as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations.

President Lula will be accompanied by a large delegation consisting of Ministers, officials and business delegation of over 100 members. President Lula will have meetings with the President of India and the Prime Minister. Chairperson, UPA, Leader of Opposition and the External Affairs Minister will call on the President of Brazil. Some agreements on bilateral cooperation will be signed during the visit.

The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India will interact with the newly formed India-Brazil CEO Forum. The co-chairmen of the Forum are :

- Shri Ratan Tata from the Indian side ; and
- Mr. Jose Sergio Gabrielli, CEO of Petrobras from the Brazilian side.

President Lula will also address the Indian captains of business and industry in a function jointly being organised by CII, FICCI and Assocham on 4 June, 2007.

Following Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Brazil in September, 2006, the bilateral relations have been upgraded to a 'strategic partnership'. As part of this, a strategic dialogue was held in India on 12 April, 2007 between the National Security Adviser and the Minister of External Relations, Mr. Celso Amorim.

The third meeting of the Indo-Brazilian Joint Commission, held in New Delhi and co-chaired by External Affairs Minister and the Brazilian Foreign Minister, has covered cooperation in a number of areas such as agriculture, science & technology, trade and investment, energy, education, defence, space, nuclear energy, health, culture and sports.

It has been agreed that a Festival of Brazil will be organised in India in January-March, 2008 and a Festival of India will be held in Brazil in July-September, 2008.

The trade between the two countries has been increasing significantly in recent years. In 2006, India's exports to Brazil were 1470 million dollars and imports 937 million dollars. A number of Indian companies have made investment and joint ventures in Brazil in areas such as pharmaceuticals, IT and energy. The Brazilian companies have also started targeting India for investment and business in areas such as infrastructure, food processing and energy.

India and Brazil work closely in multilateral fora, including UN, WTO and G-20. India and Brazil are working together in the G-4 Group seeking permanent membership of UN Security Council.

India and Brazil along with South Africa cooperate in the trilateral IBSA partnership.