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#Zambia seeks increased investments from India and direct air connectivity between Mumbai and New Delhi to facilitate growing bilateral relations, officials of the East African country said on Thursday.

Photo: IANS (Representational image)



Zambia wants Indian investments, direct flights to Mumbai, New Delhi



By Sarkaritel
July 15, 2021 18:01



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Mumbai, July 15 Zambia seeks increased investments from India and direct air connectivity between Mumbai and New Delhi to facilitate growing bilateral relations, officials of the East African country said on Thursday.

In his address at a virtual expo launch which will be online from July 15 to October 15, Zambian High Commissioner to India Ngulgham Jathom Gangte said that India is one of his country's major trading partners.

The trade between the two nations has grown five-fold in the last decade and the cumulative investments of Asia's third-largest economy in Zambia has surpassed \$5 billion, he said.

There are significant Indian investments in telecom, tourism, healthcare, mining and other sectors and Zambia hopes to further strengthen relations between the two nations, said Gangte.

Zambia Development Agency's Director General Mukula Makasa said that his country wants to launch direct flights between Lusaka and Indian cities like New Delhi and Mumbai as currently Indians can visit Zambia only via Qatar, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

He said that Zambia is a 'land-linked' country, rather than a land-locked nation, since it is well connected by air, rail and road with its neighbours like Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, and Angola.

The duo's remarks came at a webinar on Trade and Business Opportunities between India and Zambia, organised by the MVIRDC World Trade Centre, Mumbai and the Indian High Commission in Lusaka and the launch of the 3-month long exhibition.

WTC Chairman Vijay Kalantri said that India's annual trade volume with Zambia declined 64 per cent from USD 1.1 billion in 2019-2020 to USD 395 million the following year owing to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Simultaneously, exports of critical goods like pharmaceuticals grew from India to Zambia amid rising demands from the healthcare industry to combat the pandemic.

The virtual expo will enable buyer-seller meetings and lead business generations in sectors like agro commodities, auto components, electricals, electronics, technology, metals, plastics, chemicals, textiles, healthcare, pharma, and home decor.

Kalantri announced that the WTC Mumbai will set up a dedicated cell to promote commercial relations with Zambia and other African countries, and work closely with various development agencies and chambers of commerce to enhance ties.

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BUSINESS

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By IANS

IANAS



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मुंबई: पूर्वी अफ्रीकी देश के अधिकारियों ने गुरुवार को कहा कि जाम्बिया भारत से बढ़े हुए निवेश और मुंबई और नई दिल्ली के बीच सीधे हवाई संपर्क चाहता है, ताकि बढ़ते द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को सुगम बनाया जा सके।

एक वर्चुअल एक्सपो लॉन्च के मौके पर अपने संबोधन में भारत में जाम्बिया के उच्चायुक्त नगुलखम जाथोम गंगटे ने कहा कि भारत उनके देश के प्रमुख व्यापारिक भागीदारों में से एक है।

यह एक्सपो 15 जुलाई से 15 अक्टूबर तक ऑनलाइन चलेगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले दशक में दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार पांच गुना बढ़ा है और जाम्बिया में एशिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था का संचयी निवेश 5 अरब डॉलर से अधिक हो गया है।

गंगटे ने कहा कि दूरसंचार, पर्यटन, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, खनन और अन्य क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण भारतीय निवेश हैं और जाम्बिया को दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों को और मजबूत करने की उम्मीद है।

जाम्बिया विकास एजेंसी के महानिदेशक मुकुला मकासा ने कहा कि उनका देश लुसाका और नई दिल्ली और मुंबई जैसे भारतीय शहरों के बीच सीधी उड़ानें शुरू करना चाहता है, क्योंकि वर्तमान में भारतीय केवल कतर, रवांडा, इथियोपिया और केन्या के रास्ते जाम्बिया जा सकते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि जाम्बिया भूमि से जुड़ा देश है, क्योंकि यह कांगो, तंजानिया, मलावी, मोजाम्बिक, जिम्बाब्वे, बोत्सवाना, नामीबिया और अंगोला जैसे अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ हवाई, रेल और सड़क मार्ग से अच्छी तरह से जुड़ा हुआ है।

दोनों की टिप्पणी एमवीआईआरडीसी वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर, मुंबई और लुसाका में भारतीय उच्चायोग द्वारा आयोजित भारत और जाम्बिया के बीच व्यापार और व्यापार के अवसरों पर एक वेबिनार और 3 महीने की लंबी प्रदर्शनी के शुभारंभ पर आई।

डब्ल्यूटीसी के अध्यक्ष विजय कलंत्री ने कहा कि जाम्बिया के साथ भारत की वार्षिक व्यापार की मात्रा 2019-2020 में 1.1 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर से 64 प्रतिशत घटकर अगले वर्ष वैश्विक कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण 39.5 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गई।

साथ ही, महामारी से निपटने के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा उद्योग की बढ़ती मांगों के बीच फार्मास्यूटिकल्स जैसे महत्वपूर्ण सामानों का निर्यात भारत से जाम्बिया तक बढ़ा।

वर्चुअल एक्सपो खरीदार-विक्रेता बैठकों और कृषि वस्तुओं, ऑटो घटकों, इलेक्ट्रिकल्स, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, प्रौद्योगिकी, धातु, प्लास्टिक, रसायन, कपड़ा, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, फार्मा और गृह सज्जा जैसे क्षेत्रों में व्यावसायिक पीढ़ियों का नेतृत्व करने में सक्षम होगा।

कलंत्री ने घोषणा की कि डब्ल्यूटीसी मुंबई, जाम्बिया और अन्य अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ वाणिज्यिक संबंधों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक समर्पित सेल स्थापित करेगा, और संबंधों को बढ़ाने के लिए विभिन्न विकास एजेंसियों और वाणिज्य मंडलों के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा।