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
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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 Ngulkham 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 MYIRDC 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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मुंबई: पुर्तगाली देश के अधिकारियों ने मुख्यालय में कहा कि जाम्बिया भारत से बढ़े हुए निवेश और मुंबई और नई दिल्ली के बीच सीधे हवाई संपर्क चाहता है, ताकि बढ़ते दिग्गजीय संबंधों को सुगम बनाया जा सके।

एक बहु-राष्ट्रीय एक्सप्रेस लॉन्च के मौके पर अपने संबंधों में भारत में जाम्बिया के उच्चायुक्त नगरपाल कार्यालय गंगट्टे ने कहा कि भारत उनके देश के प्रमुख व्यावसायिक भागीदारों में से एक है।

यह एक्सप्रेस 15 जुलाई से 15 अक्टूबर तक अन्तरराष्ट्रीय चलेगा।

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

गंगट्टे ने कहा कि दूसरे सार्वजनिक, पर्यटन, स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, खनन और अन्य क्षेत्रों में महत्त्वपूर्ण भारतीय निवेश है और जाम्बिया का दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों को और गहराई लगाने की उम्मीद है।

जाम्बिया विकास एजेंसी के महानिदेशक मुकुला मकामा ने कहा कि उनका देश लुसाका और नई दिल्ली और मुंबई जैसे भारतीय शहरों के बीच सीधे उड़ानें शुरू करना चाहता है, जबकि वर्तमान में भारतीय वेबसाइट कार्यालय और केंद्रों के रास्ते जाम्बिया जा सकते हैं।

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

दोनों की टिप्पणी एनजीआई आर्थिकीय विकास कंसोलर, मुंबई और लुसाका में भारतीय उच्चायुक्त द्वारा आयोजित भारत और जाम्बिया के बीच व्यापार और व्यापार के अवसरों पर एक वेबिनार और 3 महीनों की लंबी प्रेरणादाती शुभारंभ पर आई।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संयुक्त वित्त कंसोलर ने कहा कि जाम्बिया के साथ भारत की वार्षिक व्यापार वार्षिक वार्षिक 2019-2020 में 1.1 अरब अमरिकी डॉलर से 64 प्रतिशत घटकर अगले वर्ष वैश्विक कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण 39.5 करोड़ अमरिकी डॉलर हो गई।
साथ ही, महामारी से निपटने के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा उद्योग की बढ़ती मांगों के बीच फार्मस्यूटिकल्स जैसे महत्वपूर्ण सामानों का निर्यात भारत से जाम्बिया तक बढ़ा।

वर्षभर एकसप्ताह खरीदार-विक्रेता बैठकों और कृषि वस्तुओं, ऑटो घटकों, इलेक्ट्रिकल्स, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, प्रौद्योगिकी, थांब, प्लास्टिक, रसायन, कपड़ा, स्वास्थ्य रोव्स, फार्मा और गृह सज्जाज्ञी के क्षेत्रों में व्यावसायिक योजनाओं का नेतृत्व करने में सक्षम होगा।

कलरी ने घोषणा की कि दक्षिणी 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 एज्जेंशियां के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा।