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India asks Germany to liberalise its visa regime

PTI

New Delhi, May 10: India today asked Germany to further liberalise its visa regime to facilitate movement of professionals and tourists in order to enhance economic ties between the countries. The issue came up for discussion during the meeting of Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and German Federal Minister of Economics & Technology Philipp Roessler.

Sharma is in Germany for a five-day visit since Monday.

"I do hope that there will be further simplification of the visa regime between our countries and work permit procedures for facilitating easy movement of professionals, business persons and tourists," an official statement quoting Sharma said.

Sharma also raised the issue of dispute between an Indian firm Ideafarms and German company Continental AG concerning unauthorised use of a software whose copyright was held by the Indian company.

"India was given assurance of a just solution and Indian side will follow the issue up with the German side," it said.

He also discussed the possibilities of providing skill development services particularly in the field of manufacturing.

It said that only 20 per cent of Indian workforce undergo skill training as against 75 per cent in Germany.

"Germany has long traditions of strong linkages between industry, academia and skill institutions. In the coming years, skill development partnership will perhaps constitute the corner stone of Indo-German collaborations, it said.

The minister also met Klaus Wowereit, Governing Mayor of Berlin and explored the possibility of collaboration in town planning with regard to proposed smart cities under National Manufacturing Policy and Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

The bilateral trade between the countries stood at USD 23.64 billion last year.

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