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India – Belarus relations

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Why is in news? 11th Session of the India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation held

The 11th Session of the India-Belarus **Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation** was held on November 10, 2022 in New Delhi.

The Commission also directed concerned Ministries and Departments to **focus on key sectors** in the **trade & investment spheres** to finalise concrete outcomes.

On the economic front, there has been substantial progress with expanding cooperation across all sectors of focus. India and Belarus reiterated their strong desire to further broaden their cooperation with emphasis on key sectors such as **pharmaceuticals, financial services, science and technology, heavy industries, culture, tourism, and education.**

The two sides agreed to **promote cooperation** among various states in India and regions in Belarus, especially in focus areas.

India and Belarus are strategic partners **since 1991**. The two countries cooperate on several areas. This visit was an opportunity to review the existing relationship and find out ways and means to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

India's relations with Belarus have been traditionally warm and cordial. India was one of the **first countries to recognize Belarus as an independent country in 1991** after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

The cooperation between the two countries is visible at many **multilateral fora** such as **UN Security Council (UNSC) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).**

Belarus was one of the countries whose **support** helped in consolidating **India's candidature for the non-permanent seat at the UNSC in July 2020.**

India has also reciprocated Belarus's support at various international fora, such as Belarus's membership in the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) and other international and multilateral groups like IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).

The two countries have **signed a number of Agreements/MoUs** on various subjects, including trade and economic cooperation, culture, education, media and sports, tourism, science & technology, agriculture, textiles, **Avoidance of Double Taxation, Promotion and Protection of Investments**, and defence and technical cooperation.

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