India–Belarus Forum Highlights Growing Opportunities in Trade, Manufacturing and Innovation

By Sitaram Mewati

Mumbai, June 17: The India–Belarus Business Forum, held at the World Trade Center Mumbai, brought together government officials, diplomats, industry leaders, bankers and business representatives to explore new opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade, investment, technology transfer and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing the gathering, Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai, highlighted the longstanding relationship between India and Belarus. He noted that diplomatic ties established in 1992 have evolved into a broad partnership encompassing trade, education, healthcare, technology and cultural exchanges. He expressed confidence that the forum would open new avenues for business partnerships and long-term cooperation.

Speaking on Maharashtra's investment potential, Avinash Netaji Solwat, Under Secretary, FDI, Diaspora and International Outreach Department, Government of Maharashtra, said the state remains one of India's most attractive investment destinations. He emphasized opportunities for collaboration in manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, agriculture and innovation-driven sectors. Solwat noted that Belarus' expertise in agricultural equipment and heavy machinery complements Maharashtra's strong industrial and agricultural base.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, and President, All India Association of Industries, said India and Belarus share cordial relations across sectors such as trade, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, education and culture. He pointed out that bilateral trade stood at approximately USD 106.6 million in FY 2024–25 and stressed the need to expand cooperation in pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, chemicals, textiles and machinery. He added that greater collaboration in manufacturing, joint ventures and technology transfer could contribute significantly to Maharashtra's vision of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.

Highlighting the role of financial institutions, Atul Kumar Goel, Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association, said efficient banking channels, local currency settlement mechanisms and trade finance instruments are essential for boosting business confidence and facilitating smoother cross-border transactions.

Tatiana Alekseyeva, Deputy Director General of the Mogilev Branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Belarus offers Indian companies access to the wider Eurasian Economic Union market and presents significant opportunities in manufacturing, industrial technologies, agriculture and machinery.

The forum concluded with a shared commitment to deepen economic engagement, promote business partnerships and unlock new opportunities for trade and investment between India and Belarus.