# EEPC sees big opportunities from Ukraine reconstruction

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The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) sees big opportunities emerging from the reconstruction of Ukraine and Russia.

Council Chairman Arun Garodia told the media that he "read somewhere" that the reconstruction of Ukraine would cost $1 trillion, but regardless of the number, big export opportunities would come up as and when the country builds itself back to normalcy once the war with Russia ceases.

"Ukraine wants to buy from us; Russia also wants to buy from us," Garodia said, expressing hope that the Russia-Ukraine war would soon end after Donald Trump becomes the President of the US.

He observed that India had maintained friendly relations with both warring nations.

Arun Kumar Garodia, National Chairman, EEPC India (right) and Adhip Mitra, ED & Secretary, addressing the media BIJOY GHOSH

At a media conference today to announce EEPC's flagship event, the International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS), in Chennai between November 27 and 29, Garodia said that most countries preferred to buy from India over China.

Asked if the Council had started preparing for the Ukraine opportunities, Gadoria said that there had been some discussions around that.

He said that India's exports of engineering goods (including steel and aluminium) in 2024-25 would surpass the $118 billion mark, compared to $109 billion in 2023-24, and could even go as high as $125 billion.

In the April-September period, India's engineering goods exports rose 5.3 per cent, to $56 billion. Since, typically the second half of the year performs better, this year's exports would easily cross $118 billion, said Adhip Mitra, Executive Director and Secretary, EEPC.

**TARGET FAR-FETCHED?**

TheCentre has set a target of $300 billion for 2030 and $1.5 trillion for 2047, for engineering exports.

Asked if these were not too high to be a meaningful target, asking for nearly tripling current exports in 5 years, Garodia said that though they were high, they were not infeasible. He said that the government had set these targets after consultations with the industry.

The idea is that emerging sectors such as renewable energy, and electric vehicles, provided room for growth.

Garodia pointed out that in his first term as the US President, Donald Trump, exercised his power under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, 1962, to impose a 25 per cent tariff — on all countries with the exception of Canada and Mexico, but mainly targeting China.

However, after imports from China continued, he brought in additional tariffs on China, under Section 301. This policy continued under the Biden administration, which, only on September 27, 2024, finalised additional tariffs on China under Section 301.

With Donald Trump back as the President, there would be stiff tariffs against China, which would help India, Garodia said.