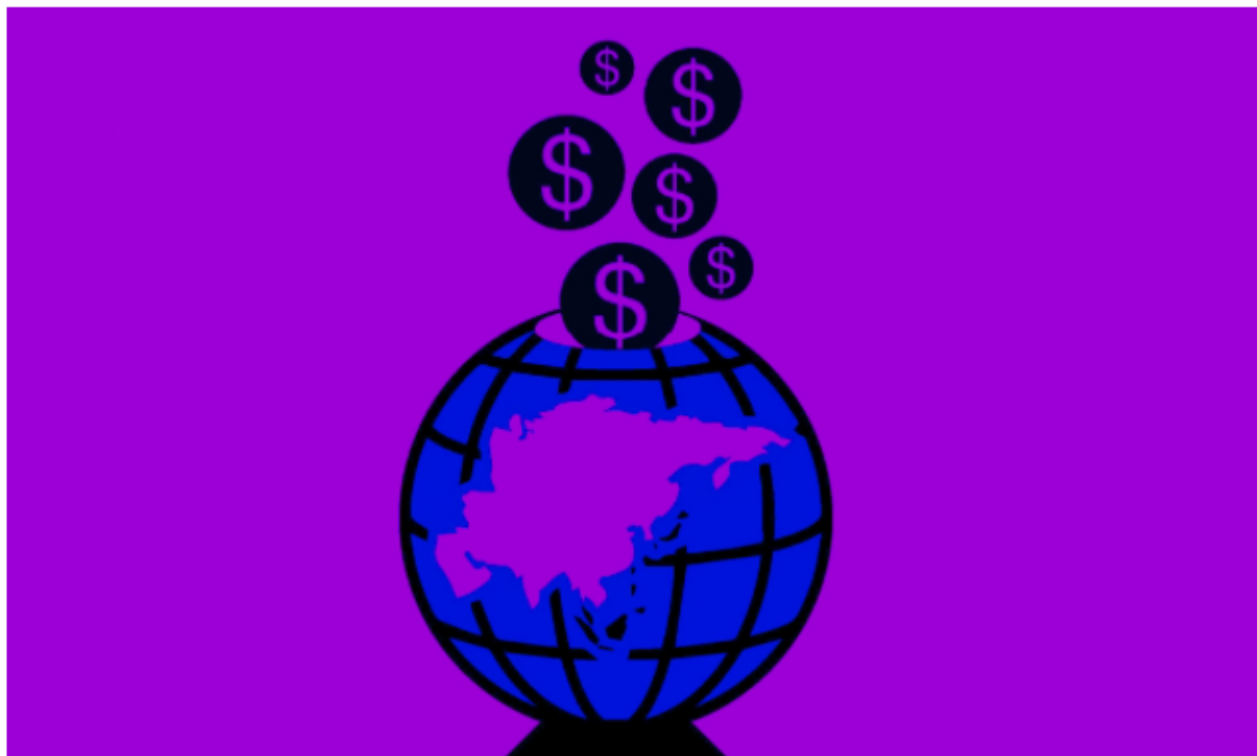


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Russia-Ukraine war a \$22.5 billion EU opportunity for India

The export opportunity arises on the back of supply chain disruptions in Russia-European Union trade due to the ongoing war.

By **JOE MATHEW**, Apr 2, 2022 | 3 min read



The 27-country EU bloc is the second largest destination for Indian products.

Image: Fortune India

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict may open up a \$22.5 billion worth export opportunity across 83 commodities for India, says an analysis carried out by MVIRDC World Trade Centre, Mumbai.

The export opportunity arises on the back of supply chain disruptions in Russia-European Union trade due to the ongoing war. EU is dependent on imports from Russia for these 83 commodities and India has the competitive advantage in supplying these commodities to the world market, the analysis shows.

The identified goods belong to broad categories of agro commodities, processed food, petroleum products, chemicals, articles of iron & steel, aluminium, copper, machineries, auto-components, furniture, textile etc. Overall these 83 product categories account for 25% of India's total exports.

"Currently, EU market accounts for hardly 4 per cent of India's total exports of these 83 goods and hence there is a huge scope for increasing our exports to this region. Also, India ranks among the top 10 exporters in the world in many of these commodities. For instance, in agglomerated and non-agglomerated iron ores, India ranks among top six in world exports and our export quantity has grown around 20 per cent per annum since 2016. Similarly, in exports of polypropylene, India ranks 8th in the world and our outbound shipment has grown 8 per cent per annum in terms of quantity since 2016. In light petroleum oils, India ranks sixth in world export, with a share of 4.4 per cent in the global market. Majority of the identified goods belong to the industrial sectors such as petroleum, metals, plastics, rubber, chemicals etc., where India may have to create fresh capacity to increase exports to the EU market," WTC analysis points out.

"The 27-country EU bloc is the second largest destination for Indian products, accounting for 15% of our outbound shipments, after USA's share of 18%. Still, there is huge untapped export opportunity, which can be realized by exporters. India may negotiate preferential market access for these 83 commodities in the ongoing talks on free trade agreement with the EU," Vijay Kalantri, chairman, MVIRDC WTC, said.

The analysis, however, cautions that India may face stiff competition from EU member countries, who are also major exporters of these goods to the EU region. "Indian exporters need to demonstrate their cost and quality competitiveness vis a vis Germany, France, Belgium and Czech Republic that are also top exporters of these identified goods to the EU market. While the private sector may have to stay competitive in terms of cost and quality to claim the EU market, the government may have to support the private sector through measures such as improving logistics infrastructure and ensuring flow of credit to the industry at affordable cost," it said.

Russia lures Indian investors to explore economic potential of Ryazan Province connecting Europe



Russia lures Indian investors to explore economic potential of Ryazan Province connecting Europe

Mumbai, April 20 (KNN) In an effort to deepen its ties with India amid western sanctions, the Russian Government has invited Indian investors to explore the economic potential of Ryazan Province which is connected to Europe along with China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

Speaking at a meeting organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries, Nikolai Lyubimov, Governor of Ryazan region of the Russian Federation said, "Ryazan has four federal railroads, two river ports and it is located within 200 km from three major airports. We invite Indian investors to explore our territory of accelerated social and economic development."

"The current western sanction on Russia offers a special opportunity for us to boost bilateral ties," Aleksei Surovtsev, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai.

He hoped that the event will lead to mutually beneficial partnership between India and the Ryazan province which is an emerging center of industry and logistics.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai termed the sourcing of low-cost crude oil from Russia as a major relief to curb domestic inflation.

"The current level of bilateral trade is USD 16 billion, which is below the true potential. Both the countries may aim to double this to USD 30 billion by 2025 by adopting rupee-rouble trade and trading directly instead of through third parties," he said.

Kalantri highlighted the strong collaboration between Russia and India in defence and said that we can explore untapped potential in food processing, IT, science & technology, film shooting, pharmaceuticals, medical education, hospitality & tourism sector. *(KNN Bureau)*

Ghana Invites Indian Companies To Explore Investment Avenues In Mineral Refining

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As per IMF projection, Ghana's economy, which ranks first in gold mining in Africa and seventh globally, is expected to grow 5.1 per cent from 2021 to 23



Photo Credit :



West African nation Ghana has invited Indian companies to invest in mineral refining capacity including gold, bauxite, lithium, diamond, crude oil and manganese.

Speaking at an interactive session organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries, Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh, High Commissioner of Ghana in India, said, "We are willing to offer mining leases and export licenses for refining gold and other raw materials to Indian companies."

Indians have already set up business in timber, teak, cashew processing, steel manufacturing and IT sectors, Cheremeh said, adding that the African nation has a fair and transparent judicial system and it ranks first in ease of doing business in West Africa and fifth in Africa.

Ernest Nana Adjei, Minister Consular, Political and Economic, Ghana High Commission said that Indian companies can get 10-year tax holiday by investing in free zones and exporting at least 70 per cent of production.

As per IMF projection, Ghana's economy, which ranks first in gold mining in Africa and seventh globally, is expected to grow 5.1 per cent from 2021 to 23.

Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai and President, AIAI said, "It is time India launched an "Act Africa" policy on the lines of Look East Policy and Look South Policy. India and Japan can also collaborate a trilateral group with Africa to bring together the natural resource & labour of Africa, capital from Japan and expertise from India. India can be a promising business partner for Ghana as other foreign countries' investments are not enough to support that country's growth potential."

Kalantri informed that the current level of USD 2.4 billion bilateral trade is low and can be diversified away from gold, cocoa and diamond. The government of Ghana can provide land at low cost to Indian food processing companies for cultivation of crops and post-harvest processing. Indian agri-business companies can set up agro-processing units in Ghana to meet local food security, increase exports and also generate jobs through value addition.