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दिनांक: 20/03/2026

संचालक उद्योग
(निर्यात कक्ष)
उद्योग संचालनालय छ०ग०
उद्योग भवन, रिंग रोड नं०
तेलीबांधा, रायपुर


विषय:- जिला निर्यात कार्ययोजना (District Export Action Plan) अनुमोदन उपरांत प्रेषण विषयक।

संदर्भ:- आपका पत्र क्रमांक GENS-11/2178/2025-DOI दिनांक 25.02.2026

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उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत संदर्भित पत्र के परिपालन में आपके द्वारा प्रेषित जिला निर्यात कार्ययोजना प्रारूप (District Export Action Plan) का जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति से प्राप्त आवश्यक सुझाव/अभिमत को सम्मिलित कर कलेक्टर महोदय से अनुमोदन पश्चात् अनुमोदित प्रति (संशोधित) आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु संलग्न प्रेषित है।

संलग्न:- उपरोक्तानुसार।

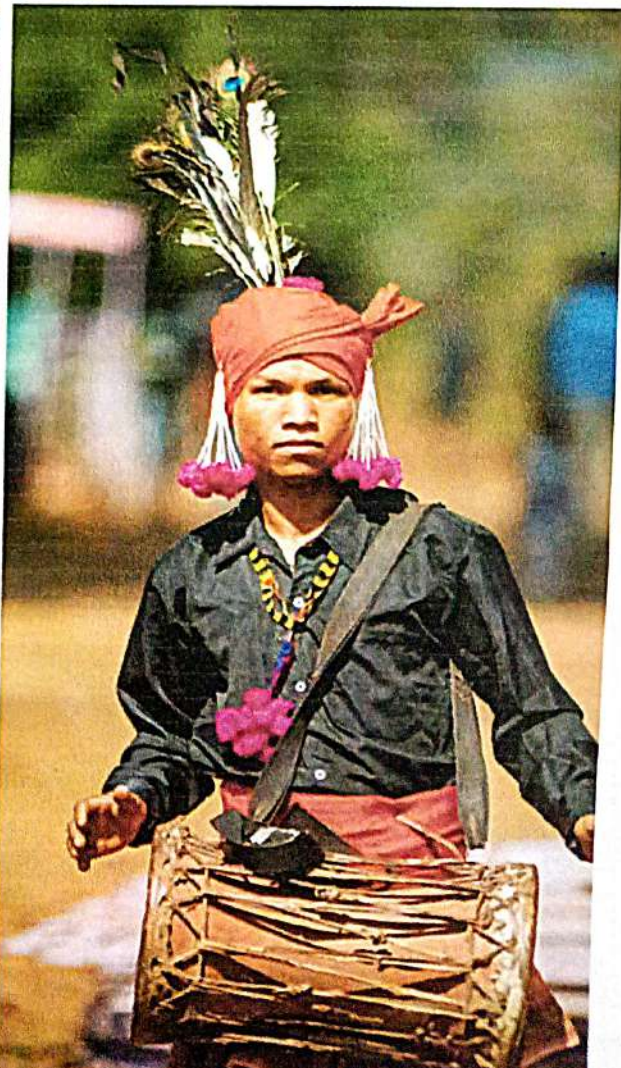
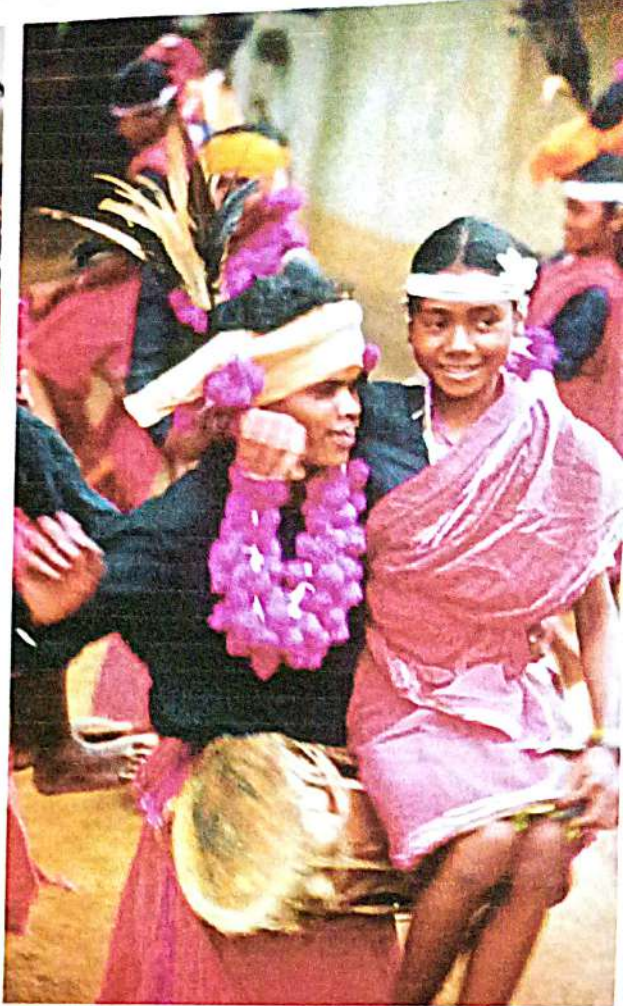

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक
जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र
जगदलपुर



DISTRICT EXPORT ACTION PLAN



BASTAR



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1. District Profile

1.1 Introduction

Bastar district, anchored by its administrative headquarters at Jagdalpur, occupies a strategically significant location in southern Chhattisgarh. Bastar district is a cultural and ecological gateway that borders other Bastar division districts (Kondagaon, Dantewada, Bijapur and Narayanpur) and sits close to the neighbouring states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, enhancing its role as a crossroads for inter-state trade and cultural exchange. The district's road connectivity is anchored by major national highways – notably NH-30 and NH-63 – which link Jagdalpur to Raipur, Andhra Pradesh and coastal markets, while an active network of Chhattisgarh state and district roads maintained by the PWD supports intra-district movement and rural access.

Bastar's terrain is a richly forested plateau interspersed with undulating hills, river valleys and moist deciduous forests: an ecological endowment that underpins livelihoods through non-timber forest products, minor forest produce, fisheries and rain-fed agriculture, that sustains important biodiversity and ecosystem services for the region. Agriculture in Bastar remains predominantly smallholder and monsoon-dependent, with paddy as the principal crop during kharif and maize, millets, pulses and oilseeds cultivated in rabi and fallow seasons. The region has limited irrigation and low fertilizer use characterising the agrarian profile, reinforcing the importance of watershed and extension interventions.

The district is demographically and culturally dominated by tribal communities, viz., Gond, Maria, Muria, Bhatra, Halba, Parji and others who speak Gondi, Halbi and several

local dialects. The livelihood traditions, oral literature, crafts (notably tribal metalwork, woodcraft and textiles) and festival cycles (such as Dussehra in Bastar) form the fabric of the district's cultural identity.

Bastar's landscape is dotted with emblematic natural sites, viz., the Kanger Valley (Kanger Ghati) National Park with Tirathgarh falls, Kutumbsar Cave, the Chitrakote falls - a natural waterfall on the Indravati river systems and assorted waterfalls and sacred streams which together create pockets of high biodiversity and attract tourism that supports local economies. Modern public infrastructure has expanded in recent years as Jagdalpur hosts government schools, colleges, technical institutes, hospitals and a growing NGO and tourism ecosystem that complements traditional livelihoods and creates new avenues for education, healthcare and sustainable rural development.

1.2 Administrative Profile

Bastar district, with its administrative headquarters at Jagdalpur, spans an area of 6596.90 km² and is one of the key southern districts of Chhattisgarh. It is administered through a Collector & District Magistrate, with further administrative division into subdivisions, tehsils and blocks, all under the Bastar Division jurisdiction. The district has one Lok Sabha and three Vidhan Sabha constituencies. These departments operate across these administrative units under district-level offices to implement governance and services effectively. The governance structure ensures focused development planning, especially for its large tribal population, and facilitates the implementation of centrally and state-sponsored schemes across rural areas.

Administrative Structure of Bastar¹:

- **District Headquarter:** Jagdalpur
- **Tehsils (7):** Jagdalpur, Lohandiguda, Bastar, Bakawand, Tokapal, Bastanar, Darbha
- **Sub-division (4):** Jagdalpur, Bastar, Lohandiguda, Tokapal
- **Development Blocks (7):** Jagdalpur, Lohandiguda, Bastar, Bakawand, Tokapal, Bastanar, Darbha
- **Lok Sabha Constituency:** Kondagaon, Narayanpur (ST), Bastar (ST), Jagdalpur, Chitrakote (ST), Dantewada (ST), Bijapur (ST), Konta (ST)
- **Vidhan Sabha Constituency:** Narayanpur (ST), Bastar (ST), Jagdalpur, Chitrakote (ST)
- **Rural Governance:**
 - Revenue Villages: 595

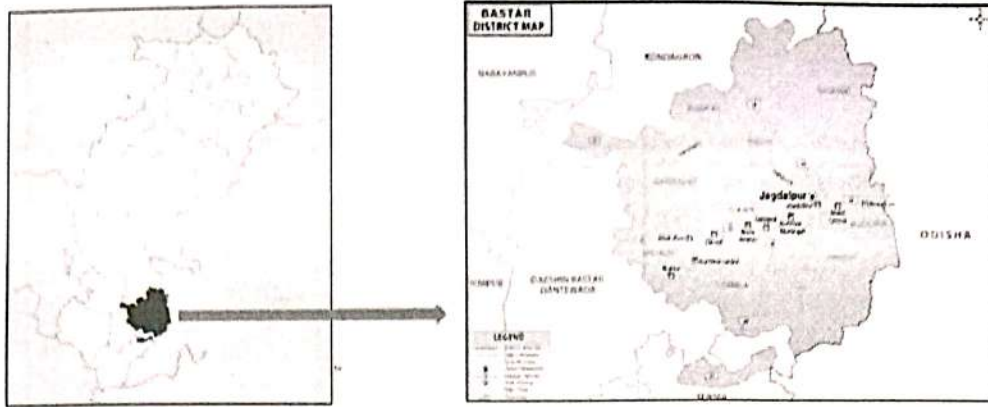


This strong administrative and legal framework establishes Bastar as a key hub for governance and judicial services in the state, reinforcing its ongoing significance both regionally and institutionally.

1.3 Location and Geography

Bastar district, located in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, shares borders with Dantewada, Kondagaon, Sukma and Narayanpur districts, while also connecting to Odisha, Telangana. Spread over forested plateaus and river valleys, its geography positions it as a strategic cultural and ecological bridge in central India.

¹ Administrative Setup, Bastar district website <https://bastar.gov.in/en/about-district/administrative-setup/tehsil/> as accessed on 20-09-2025



Note: The map shown is used for illustrative purpose only

- **Coordinates:** Between latitude 18°38'04"- 20°11'40" N and longitude 81°17'35"- 82°14'50" E²
- **Total Area:** 6596.90 square km

Geographical Boundaries

Bastar district is bounded by Raipur in the north, Bilaspur in the west, Dantewada in the south, east in the Sukma while sharing its eastern boundary with Odisha and southeastern edge with Telangana. This strategic location connects Bastar to mineral-rich regions and emerging industrial corridors across state borders.

Climate and Land Use:

- **Climate:** Sub-tropical climatic condition
- **Average Rainfall:** 1386.77 mm²
- **Forest:** Bastar has 40.43% area covered with forest³

² Ground Water Brochure of Bastar District, Chhattisgarh 2012-13, Ministry of Water Resource

³ India State of Forest Report 2019 - Chhattisgarh

2. Demographic Profile



Picture Note: Bison Horn dance by Maria tribe of Bastar. The horn-shaped headgears are worn by the men of the Maria tribe during traditional dance and ceremonies.

Bastar district, located in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, is predominantly inhabited by tribal communities, making it one of the most culturally rich and diverse regions of the state. The population is largely rural, with Scheduled Tribes forming the majority, including Gond, Maria, Muria, and Halba communities, who preserve their distinct traditions, dialects, and art forms. According to Census 2011, the district has a population of over 1.4 million⁴, with a balanced gender ratio

and a relatively young demographic structure. Literacy rates are gradually improving, supported by government and community-led educational initiatives, though challenges remain in bridging urban-rural and gender gaps. Agriculture, forest-based activities, and traditional crafts continue to be the primary sources of livelihood. The demographic profile of Bastar reflects a vibrant blend of indigenous heritage, youthful energy, and untapped human potential, making it central to the region's social and economic development. Table 1 below provides the demographic profile of Bastar district.

Table 1: Bastar – Demographic Profile⁴

Sl.no	Indicators	Metrics
Population Statistics (Census 2011)		
1	Total Population	1413199
2	Males	698487
3	Females	714712
4	Urban	135511
5	Rural	698864
6	Population (0-6 age group)	148265
7	Population growth rate	18.07%
Sex Ration		
9	Overall	1017 females per 1,000 males
Literacy Rate		
10	Overall	53.15%
11	Male Literacy	63.02%

⁴ Demography, Bastar district website <https://bastar.gov.in/en/about-district/demography/> as accessed on 20-09-2025

12	Female Literacy	43.49%
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3. Logistics Infrastructure Profile

Bastar has a robust logistics infrastructure supported by two National Highways (NH-30 and NH-63) and several district roads under the Public Works Department of Chhattisgarh. Jagdalpur railway station is operated by East Coast Railway, which serves as the primary transportation link for iron ore movement from NMDC Bachel (in Dantewada district) to Vishakhapatnam. The Jagdalpur Airport enhances regional air connectivity, while rail links support passenger and freight movement. Road, rail, air, and mineral corridors enable smooth movement of coal, steel, and agricultural produce, positioning Bastar as a strategic trade and transport node.

3.1 Road Transport

Bastar is connected by national highways and state highways that form the backbone of its logistics framework:

- **National Highway – 30, 63:** National Highway 30 and National Highway 63 serve as critical lifelines for Bastar’s logistics and export ecosystem. NH 30 connects Jagdalpur to Raipur, the state capital and a major trade hub, and further links Bastar to industrial centres in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. NH 63 extends connectivity towards Vishakhapatnam and continues into Maharashtra, linking Bastar to key industrial belts such as Nagpur and onward to Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh. These corridors facilitate faster movement of agricultural produce, forest-based goods, and handicrafts to national and international markets. By linking Bastar with trade centres, industrial clusters, and port cities, NH 30 and NH 63 significantly strengthen the region’s export readiness and overall logistics efficiency.
- **State Highway 5:** State Highway 5 passes through Bastar district, connecting Jagdalpur with Dantewada, Sukma, and other adjoining towns, thereby strengthening linkages between key production and industrial areas. This roadway not only facilitates smoother transport of agricultural produce, forest goods, and minerals but also complements NH-30 and NH-63 in enhancing Bastar’s export-oriented logistics network.

In addition to national and state highways, Bastar’s connectivity is supported by a network of 185.04 km district roads developed by the PWD, Chhattisgarh⁵. These

⁵ Roads – Office of Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

roads link remote villages, tribal production clusters, and local markets with major trade centers, ensuring smoother movement of goods, reducing transit time, and boosting rural-to-market access.

3.2 Air Transport

Air transport connectivity in Bastar is centred around Jagdalpur Airport, which plays an emerging role in facilitating faster trade and export opportunities from the region. With its strategic location, Jagdalpur Airport enhances accessibility to major industrial corridors and port facilities, particularly Visakhapatnam Port, thereby improving export potential. Strengthening cargo handling and storage infrastructure at the airport could further transform Bastar into a competitive hub for exports.

3.3 Railway Transport

Rail transport connectivity in Bastar is primarily supported by the Kirandul–Jagdalpur–Visakhapatnam line, which is part of the vital Kottavalasa – Kirandul (KK) rail corridor. This route links Bastar to Visakhapatnam Port, a major gateway for exports, and facilitates the movement of minerals, forest produce, and agro-based goods. The railway network enhances trade efficiency by providing cost-effective bulk transportation and reducing logistical bottlenecks.



4. Economic and Sectoral Overview

Bastar district's economy is predominantly agrarian, supplemented by rich forest resources and a growing handicraft sector. Agriculture, mainly paddy cultivation, forms the backbone of livelihoods, while forest produce such as tamarind, lac, and mahua significantly contribute to household incomes. The district is also renowned for its traditional crafts, particularly bell-metal and woodwork, which hold strong export potential. Industrial activities are emerging, with opportunities in food processing, minor forest produce value addition, and tourism. Together, these sectors reflect Bastar's unique blend of natural wealth, cultural heritage, and evolving industries, positioning it as a region with significant economic and export opportunities.

4.1 Agriculture

Bastar district's agricultural setup is dominated by kharif crops, with paddy being the principal staple cultivated over the bulk of rainfed land. Other kharif crops include maize, urad, arhar, and various millets like kodo and kutki. Paddy cultivation is more prevalent in Jagdalpur, Bastar, Bakawand, and Tokapal with over 80 per cent area under the same and less prevalent in Lohandiguda, Darbha with less than 70 per cent and Bastanar at less than 50 percent¹¹. Maize cultivation exists in 4.5 per cent of the cultivated area.

During the rabi season, where irrigation permits, farmers grow gram, mustard, linseed, sesame and other pulses. Horticulture is gradually gaining ground with fruit trees such as mango, cashew, guava and minor fruits (bael, ber, sitafal) being cultivated, along with vegetables and spices like chillies for supplementary income. Despite fertile soils and favourable climate, productivity is limited by low irrigation coverage, traditional methods, and minimal input use like fertilizers and improved seeds. The table 2 below provides details of the variety of horticultural produce in Bastar.

Table 2: Area, Production figures of Horticulture crops in Bastar,

Sl.no	Crop	Area (000 Ha) (2022-23)	Production (000 MT) (2022-23)	Area (000Ha) (2025-26)	Production (000 MT) (2025-26)
A. Fruits					
1	Mango	1.913	9.749	1.917	9.778
2	Banana	0.357	8.725	0.357	8.753
3	Guava	0.121	0.916	0.121	0.919
4	Papaya	0.115	2.898	0.115	2.907
5	Aonla/Gooseberry	0.122	1.971	0.122	1.977
6	Ber	0.110	2.419	0.110	2.425
7	Jackfruit	0.694	17.642	0.697	17.694

Sl.no	Crop	Area (000 Ha) (2022-23)	Production (000 MT) (2022-23)	Area (000Ha) (2025-26)	Production (000 MT) (2025-26)
8	Limes & Lemons	0.085	0.602	0.085	0.605
9	Watermelon	0.045	0.719	0.045	0.721
10	Litchi	0.018	0.012	0.017	0.010
11	Custard Apple	0.110	0.274	0.110	0.275
12	Muskmelon	0.079	1.344	0.078	1.348
13	Pomegranate	0.054	0.102	0.054	0.102
14	Sapota	0.041	0.281	0.041	0.282
15	Other Citrus	0.001	0.001	-	-
16	Other Fruits	0.850	8.514	0.832	8.540
	Total	4.715	56.169	4.701	56.336
B. Vegetables					
1	Tomato	1.005	17.284	1.014	17.440
2	Brinjal	1.005	17.286	1.014	17.441
3	Okra	0.792	13.617	0.799	13.740
4	Potato	0.251	4.323	0.254	4.360
5	Cabbage	0.804	13.827	0.811	13.952
6	Cauliflower	0.654	11.235	0.660	11.336
7	Onion	0.986	16.958	0.995	17.111
8	Leafy Vegetables	0.367	6.282	0.369	6.337
9	Green Chilli	1.455	15.434	1.468	15.574
10	Pumpkin	0.283	4.858	0.285	4.903
11	Bitter Gourd	0.427	7.335	0.431	7.402
12	Bottle Gourd	0.290	4.973	0.292	5.019
13	Radish	0.352	6.050	0.356	6.104
14	Sweet Potato	0.089	1.517	0.089	1.531
15	Arbi / Colacasia	0.710	12.196	0.716	12.305
16	Ridge/Sponge	0.064	1.094	0.064	1.104
17	Beans (All)	0.201	3.457	0.203	3.489
18	Pointed Gourd	0.070	1.191	0.070	1.202
19	Peas (Green)	0.176	3.015	0.177	3.042
20	Elephant Foot	0.121	2.055	0.121	2.073
21	Other Vegetables	1.158	19.112		
	Total	11.260	183.099	10.188	165.465
C. Flowers					
1	Marigold	0.122	1.267	0.124	1.277
2	Rose	0.009	0.115	0.009	0.014
3	Gladiolas	0.034	0.275	0.035	0.021
	Total	0.186	2.207	0.168	1.312
D. Spices					
1	Coriander	0.427	1.079	0.432	1.090
2	Fenugreek	0.055	0.067	-	-
3	Garlic	0.062	0.305	0.062	0.309

Sl.no	Crop	Area (000 Ha) (2022-23)	Production (000 MT) (2022-23)	Area (000Ha) (2025-26)	Production (000 MT) (2025-26)
4	Fresh Ginger	0.512	4.518	0.573	4.627
5	Fresh Turmeric	0.657	5.314	0.663	5.355
6	Other spices	0.453	3.636	0.510	3.732
	Total	2.166	14.919	2.240	15.113
E. Plantation Crops					
1	Cashew Nut	9.383	7.507	9.413	7.530
2	Coconut	0.292	60.210	0.293	0.877
	Total	9.675	67.717	9.706	8.407
F. Aromatic Plants Crop					
1	Jamarosa	0.029	0.350	0.030	0.350
2	Lemon Grass	0.359	5.431	0.358	5.419
3	Palmarosa	0.030	0.354	0.030	0.353
4	Eucalyptus Citriodora	-	-	0.237	0.508
	Total	0.418	6.135	0.655	6.630
G. Medicinal Plant Crop					
1	White Musli	0.007	0.006	0.008	0.007
2	Senna / Sanay	0.003	0.033	0.003	0.033
3	Other Medicinal	0.238	0.509		
	Total	0.248	0.548	0.011	0.040

During 2022, paddy (rice) was produced over an area of 1,269.9 square kilometre which produced 0.311 million metric ton of rice. Maize was produced over an area of 199.1 square kilometre with an output of 0.098 million metric ton⁶.

Table 2.1: Area, Production figures of Agriculture crops in Bastar

S.N	Crop Name	Area (in 000 hac)	Production (In 000 Tons)	Area (in 000 hac)	Producti on (In 000 Tons)	Area (in 000 hac)	Producti on (In 000 Tons)
		2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
1-	Rice	117.459	261.460	117.493	270.010	116.415	270.832
2.	Jwohar	0.01	0.010	0.019	0.010	0.015	0.01
3	Maize	34.371	97.830	37.803	108.047	40.272	115.541
4	Kodo Millets	2.846	9.910	1.919	10.656	1.922	11.814
5	Little Millets	7.751		7.672		7.780	
6	Finger Millets	2.539		3.302		3.941	
7	Pigeon pea	0.937	0.350	0.380	0.354	0.472	0.357

⁶Statistics (Crop Details – Kharif season), 2022, Agriculture Development and Farmer Welfare and Bio-Technology Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

S.N	Crop Name	Area (in 000 hac)	Production (In 000 Tons)	Area (in 000 hac)	Product ion (In 000 Tons)	Area (in 000 hac)	Product ion (In 000 Tons)
		2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
8	Green Gram	0.883	0.690	0.146	0.018	0.165	0.022
9	Black Gram	8.327	2.500	3.522	2.603	3.215	2.790
10	Horse Gram	1.053	0.230	0.523	0.293	0.706	0.23
11	Groundnut	0.167	0.010	0.156	0.047	0.093	0.090
12	Seasamum	0.294	0.080	0.073	0.044	0.160	0.060
13	Niger	7.129	1.590	2.315	1.296	1.985	1.412
14	Sunflower	0.043	0.050	0.320	0.454	0.405	0.035
15	Sugarcane	1.032	22.800	0.875	15.640	0.547	16.200
16	Wheat	0.871	2.00	0.876	2.015	0.780	2.060
17	Chick Pea	1.894	2.120	1.897	2.087	1.897	2.102
18	Pea	1.112	0.860	1.115	0.858	1.002	0.872
19	Lentil	0.505	0.260	0.948	0.241	0.410	0.276
20	Lathyrus	0.098	0.060	0.024	0.009	0.012	0.009
21	Mustard	6.832	5.470	6.564	5.251	6.450	5.310
22	Linseed	0.178	0.080	0.048	0.019	0.020	0.019
		196.331	408.360	187.990	419.952	188.664	430.041

4.2 Agro-Processing Landscape in Bastar

Bastar's agro-processing landscape is anchored in its abundant cereals, tubers and minor forest produce, offering clear value-addition opportunities. Identified products under the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) for Bastar include Bastar iron craft, rice, jowar, maize and potato, which can be targeted for milling, parboiling, flaking and value-added packing. Under ODOP the district's focus includes bell-metal crafts and tamarind/minor-forest-produce and papaya-based products, which suit small-scale processing and GI-linked export branding. Bastar district majorly cultivates 92.7% food crops, of which 73.2% is dedicated for paddy cultivation⁷ and 85% production relates to Kharif crops¹². This also provides sufficient basis for expanding processing capabilities for value added products which can be further supplemented for exporting to Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian regions. Bastar being predominantly agriculture-based creation of 14 cold storage and 03 ware house infrastructure assumes greater significance. The total storage capacity of 86980MT is available in Bastar district through various agencies¹². Local raw material streams for processors include paddy / rice, maize, potatoes, tamarind, mango/papaya and assorted vegetables (tomato, chilli, gourds) as reported in Chhattisgarh's 2022-23 horticultural statistics.

⁷ Understanding Livelihood Opportunities: Bastar District, Chhattisgarh, NABARD

This data shows that farmers already devote 47.15 square kilometres (aggregated) to fruit orchards and 112.60 square kilometres (aggregated) to vegetables, harvesting roughly 0.056 million metric tonnes of fruits and 0.183 million metric tonnes (aggregated) of vegetables; another 14,919 metric tonne is under spices such as fresh ginger and turmeric; 67,717 metric tonne is plantation crops like cashew nuts and coconut; 6,135 is under aromatic plant crops like lemongrass and 548 metric tonne is under medicinal plant crops such as white musli, senna, etc.

Bastar's agro-processing potential extends across key crops such as paddy, maize, pigeon pea, green gram, wheat, and other harvested grains. Processing opportunities include rice milling, pulse splitting, flour production, and value-added grain products. Strengthening these segments can boost farmer incomes, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance the district's competitiveness in domestic and export markets.

4.3 Industry profile

Bastar's industrial profile is rapidly evolving under the state's Industrial Policy 2024-30 and rising investment interest. With public investment in the mineral sector and further private investment flowing into sectors like food processing, healthcare, MSMEs and tourism, the region is emerging as a significant manufacturing and services hub. Infrastructure projects in rail, road and cold storage are being prioritized to improve connectivity and reduce logistical constraints. Inclusive incentives targeting tribal communities, SC/ST entrepreneurs and other areas further shape the industrial landscape, promising growth that is both broad-based and sensitive to local socio-cultural dynamics. The table below provides the industrial profile of Bastar:

Table 3: Industrial Area in Bastar

Sr. No	Name of Industrial Area	Land acquired (In hectare)	Land developed (In hectare)	No. of Units in Production
1	Frezerpur, Jagdalpur	12.726	12.726	52
2	Industrial Estate, Geedam Road, Jagdalpur	10.56	10.56	31
3	Kurandi	8.38	8.38	05
4	Pandripani, Jagdalpur	4.87	4.87	02

Source: DIC, Jagdalpur

Table 4: Industrial Profile of Bastar

Sr. No	Category	No. of Units
1	Registered Industrial Units	479
2	Registered Medium & Large Unit	02
3	Estimated average number of daily worker employed in small scale industries	06
4	Employment in Large & Medium Industries	199
5	Overall employment	3461
6	Number of Industrial Areas	04

Source: DIC, Jagdalpur – MSME Development Institute Raipur, Ministry of MSME

The table below provides details of existing micro and small enterprises and artisan units in Bastar:

Table 5: Micro & Small Enterprises in Bastar

Sr. No	Type of industry	No. of Units	Employment
1	Agro Based	171	941
2	Forest product	20	207
3	Cement Product	34	387
4	Stone Crusher industry	36	505
5	Fabrication industry	49	308
6	Fly ash bricks industry	09	96
7	Gas manufacturing	02	14
8	Granite cutting	03	33
9	Iron ore	01	09
10	Iron oxide powder nirman	01	18
11	Vinier Sheet manufacture	01	08
12	Profile sheet manufacture	01	04
13	Tin Slag manufacture industry	01	19
14	Wooden based	22	153
15	Ware house	02	07
16	Food product	01	08
17	Sponz iron industry	01	117
18	Other industry	123	545
19	Service center	01	82

DIC, Jagdalpur – MSME Development institute Raipur, Ministry of MSME

4.4

Mineral

Bastar district sits on a mineral-rich terrain with availability of minerals like limestone, dolomite, bauxite, quartzite, etc. The region is endowed with hematite (iron ore) deposits, especially in the Bailadila hills and hosts bauxite, dolomite, and garnet reserves. Several new tin blocks have also been identified in Bastar, suggesting future

growth potential in non-ferrous minerals. The mineral sector thus forms a core pillar of Bastar's industrial base, with scope for expansion through responsible exploration and value addition. The table below captures production data of major minerals in Bastar during 2023.

Table 6: Production of Major Minerals, 2023⁸

Name of the mineral	Production (Tonne & other)		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (jan 2026)
Main minerals	2574 Tonne	3581 Tonne	4067 Tonne
Limestone	713259 Tonne	697282 Tonne	507146 Tonne
Stone	435088 Cubic Mtr.	123732 Cubic Mtr.	54667 Cubic mtr.
Murroom	51600 Cubic Mtr.	26500 Cubic Mtr	40500 Cubic mtr.
Sand	39718 Cubic Mtr.	31598 Cubic Mtr.	13929 Cubic mtr.

Source: Chhattisgarh District-wise Mineral Resource

Chhattisgarh produces the 4th highest limestone in India holding 11% share of the country's total limestone production⁹. Bastar district alone constitutes the highest share in limestone production from Chhattisgarh with 310.23 million tons during 2023. The region also holds significant iron ore deposits at 35.31 million tonnes of grade Fe% which has attracted iron ore producing plants like M/s Tata and most recently NMDC planning to install a major plant at Nagarnar area of Bastar district¹⁰.

4.5 Animal Husbandry

Animal Husbandry is the second most important occupation practiced in the state, 75% of households have landholdings of 1.4 hectares with active involvement in animal husbandry activities as a means of subsidiary income¹¹. Bastar hosts a significant livestock population comprising cattle, buffaloes, goats, pigs, and poultry, with cattle and goats being the most dominant. These animals provide milk, meat, draught power, and manure, forming a crucial part of the agrarian economy. NABARD's Potential Linked Credit Plan 2024-25 highlights opportunities for breed improvement, fodder development, and veterinary care to enhance productivity. With better infrastructure, scientific practices, and financial support, animal husbandry in Bastar district can substantially augment household incomes and employment. The table below captures the Bastar district cattle population as of 2019.

⁸Chhattisgarh District-wise Mineral Resource, Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

⁹Indian Mineral Yearbook 2023, Ministry of Mines, Government of India

¹⁰Iron ore – Mineral Deposits/Occurrences, Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

¹¹ Bastar district – Potential Linked Credit Plan 2024-25, NABARD

Table 7: Bastar District Cattle Population 2019

Type of Cattle	Male	Total Male	Female				Total Female	Grand Total
	Breeding Only		In Milk	Dry	Not calved Once	Others		
Exotic	62	1313	2254	805	337	124	5692	7005
Indigenous	2163	172438	26787	28757	7856	4377	106118	278556

Source: 20th Livestock Census, Chhattisgarh State District-wise Cattle population 2019

Financial Year	Product Name			
	Milk (Tonne)	Egg (Tonne)	Wool (Tonne)	Meat (Tonne)
2023-24	37787.625	131643.174	9.127	1181.860
2024-25	37849.343	144535.736	-	1353.586

Source : District Veterinary department.

According to the 20th Animal Census, in the livestock in Bastar district, indigenous cows constitute 97% and exotic cows are only 3%. The daily milk production of indigenous cows is less than 1 litre, farmers rear indigenous cows mainly for cow dung manure and indigenous males (bulls) which are very useful in agricultural work. Per capita availability of milk per day in the district is low at 111 gm/day as compared to the National and State per capita availability of 444 gm/day and 183 gm/day. The production of milk in Bastar district was 33925 MT during 2022-23 whereas the demand for milk is around 40000 MT during the year¹¹.

4.6 Fisheries

Fisheries is an emerging sector in Chhattisgarh, with approximately 77% of the state's fish production coming from its northern districts. The fisheries sector in Bastar remains largely traditional and subsistence-oriented, with tribal communities depending on seasonal streams, ponds and riverine systems for fish capture and consumption. Against a demand of 8000 MT only 7472.63 MT fish was produced during 2021-22 in the district. The fish seed rearing centre at Moti Talab along with other producing centre produced around 650 lakh spawn and 265 lakh standard fry¹¹. The training centre at Balenga near Jagdalpur provides on hand training. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jagdalpur which also conducts seed production, provides technical know-how and supplies fertilizers to farmers. The table below shows fish production in Bastar during 2024-25

Table 8: Fish production in Bastar during 2024-25 (metric ton)

District	Ponds & Tanks		Reservoirs		Fish Federation		Cage	Rivers		Tilapia / Pangasius		Total	
	T	A	T	A	T	A	A	T	A	T	A	T	A
Bastar	15785	15950	809	823	0	0	45	150	153	100	36	16844	17007

Source: Fisheries Department, Government of Chhattisgarh

Year	Product name	Quantity(Tonne)
2023-24	Fish	14062.16
2024-25	Fish	16006.55
2025-26 (January 2026)	Fish	16317.85

Source : District Fisheries Department.

As per statistics provided by the Fisheries Department, Bastar district has achieved a total fish production of 17,007 MT in 2024-25, indicating a marginal increase over the previous year of 14062 MT. The rise is primarily attributed to higher productivity in ponds, tanks, and cage, while river and tilapia culture remain limited.

4.7 Minor Forest Produce

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) sector is a cornerstone of Bastar's rural economy, engaging a large tribal population in collection and processing activities. Key products include tamarind, chironjee, sal seeds, harra, bahera, mahua, and tendu leaves, many of which are procured under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme managed by the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Federation. Bastar is one of the leading contributors of tamarind and tendu leaves in the state, with significant potential for value addition into processed tamarind, herbal extracts, and natural cosmetics. Strengthening collection, storage, and processing infrastructure can elevate Bastar's MFP sector into a sustainable export driver. The table below captures collection data for few products as of 2024-25.

Table 9: Minor Forest Produce Collection data for Bastar, 2024-25

Product	Collection (in QTL)
Tamarind Fruit	30000
Chironji seed	1500
Cashew seed	7500
Sal seed	12000
Aamchoor	200
Raeli Kosa	1054250
Kodo	1000
Kutki	1600
Ragi	5200
Baheda Kachriya	730
Harra Kachriya	600
Baheda Sabut	300
Dried Giloy	600
Total	1115480

Source : Forest Department

Further details on yearly collection rate, collection quantity, etc. (at state level) will be available at the website of Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce (Trading & Development) Co-operative Federation Limited.

4.8 Handicrafts

The handicrafts sector of Bastar, nurtured under the guidance of the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board, is one of the district's strongest cultural and economic assets. Renowned globally for its Dhokra (Dokra) metal casting, wrought iron art, terracotta works, and intricate wood carvings, Bastar's crafts reflect the rich tribal heritage and artistic excellence of the region. Crafted extensively in the Nagarnar, Jondarpadar, and Kondagaon villages of Chhattisgarh, the blacksmiths skilfully forge the items using rudimentary tools. The Wrought Iron craft of Chhattisgarh has got "Geographical Indication" from Registrar of Geographical Indication Chennai, Govt of India, for global uniqueness of creation¹². These traditional crafts not only preserve centuries-old skills but also provide sustainable livelihoods to thousands of artisans across the district. With increasing promotion, design innovation, and market linkages, Bastar's handicrafts are gaining visibility in national and international exhibitions, thereby strengthening the district's export potential and cultural branding.

4.9 Sericulture Department

S no	Yojna name	Year 2023-24	Year 2024-25	Year 2025-26
1	Tasar Daba Palit Kosa Utpadan	4166061 Nos	7429114 Nos	7512439 Nos
2	Malbani Kosa Utpadan	7.186 MT	1.240 MT	8.11 MT
3	Tasr Dhaga Utpadan	2.782 MT	3.54 MT	1.02 MT

4.9 Government Initiatives to Promote Industry

The Government of India and the Government of Chhattisgarh have launched multiple initiatives to boost industrial development in Bastar. The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme provides a 35% credit-linked

¹²Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board <https://cg handicraft.cgstate.gov.in/en/wrought-iron> accessed on 24-09-2025

capital subsidy to entrepreneurs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, cooperatives, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Additionally, a 50% grant is available for branding and marketing support for food processing clusters. Given Bastar's rich base in agriculture, forest produce, and fisheries, value-added processing of crops like rice, maize, tamarind, lac, and fruits is being encouraged under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing (PLIS-FPI) further promotes investment in allied sectors such as millets, fruits, and forest produce. At the state level, the Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Policy 2024-30 identifies food processing, forest-based industries, tourism, and mineral-based industries as thrust sectors, offering incentives of up to 30% fixed-capital investment subsidy (or SGST reimbursement) and up to 75% export-related expense reimbursement to strengthen competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

4.10 Agricultural Export Profile of Bastar

Bastar district's agricultural exports has been primarily parboiled rice, other seeds-dried / fresh (used for perfumery, pharmacy, or insecticidal/fungicidal purposes), and dried tamarind. The district's agricultural export basket also constituted of lentils, other dried fruits details of which has been provided in the table below in the year 2024-25. The table below provides a snapshot of the top agri-export items and destinations of these items for the year 2024-25.

Table 10: HS code wise products exported from Bastar, 2024-25

HS Code	Product	Top Markets	Export Value (INR million)
10063010	Parboiled Rice	Benin, Sierra Leone, Togo	193.43
HS Code	Product	Top Markets	Export Value (INR million)
12119019	Other seeds-dried / fresh (used for perfumery, pharmacy, or insecticidal/fungicidal purposes)	Bangladesh, Vietnam	57.78
08134010	Tamarind Dried	Bangladesh, Vietnam, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates	54.99
07134000	Lentils (Mosur), Dried and Shelled	Nepal	3.69
08011290	Other Endocarp (of Coconuts, Brazil nuts, Cashew nuts)	Bangladesh	2.06

23025000	Bran, Sharps and other residues derived from Leguminous plants	Bangladesh	2.17
07096010	Green Chilly	United Arab Emirates	1.27
08134090	Other Dried Fruits (excluding Tamarind, Singhoda Whole)	Bangladesh	0.55

Source: DGCIS

During the year 2024-25, Bastar district's leading agricultural export was parboiled rice with significant shipments to Benin, Togo and Siera Leone at INR 193.43 million, and other seeds-dried / fresh to Bangladesh and Vietnam at INR 57.78 million. The district also exports some quantity of Dried Tamarind to Bangladesh, Vietnam, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates at INR 54.99 million. With agricultural export value at INR 315.80 million during 2024-25, Bastar district's export strength lies in agricultural produce.



5. SWOT Analysis – Bastar

Bastar district, known for its rich natural resources, tribal heritage, and unique products, presents a distinct export potential. From agro-based commodities and forest produce to handicrafts and emerging processed goods, Bastar's offerings are diverse. A structured analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats highlights pathways to unlock its export competitiveness.



Strength

- 1 Abundance of forest produce such as tamarind, lac, mahua, honey, and medicinal plants.
- 2 Traditional handicrafts with GI potential, including bell-metal, wrought-iron craft, and woodwork.

Weakness



- Low levels of mechanization and modern processing units in the district.
- Poor last-mile connectivity from villages to major highways / railheads



Opportunity

- 4 Expansion of agro-processing industries in rice, pulses, maize, and tamarind.
- 5 Rising global demand for organic and natural forest produce places Bastar in a unique position.
- 6 Strong fiscal support to the district from the state government via Chhattisgarh Industrial Development

Threat



- Vulnerability to climate change affecting agriculture and forest ecosystems.
- Global market fluctuations and export barriers (tariffs, quality standards).
- Over-extraction of forest resources leading to sustainability challenges.



6. Bastar – Export

Bastar district, located in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, is emerging as a region of export potential, particularly due to its unique mix of agro-based products, forest resources, and traditional handicrafts. Bastar's strength lies in its diverse agricultural base and rich repository of minor forest produce, which together form a significant portion of its export basket. The region is also rich in mineral reserves like iron ore, limestone, etc. which constitute some portion in the export basket. Bastar's export portfolio prominently features products like tamarind, dried fruits, dried seeds used for perfumery, pharmaceuticals which are in high demand in global markets for their natural and organic value. In addition, rice, maize, arhar, and horticultural produce such as mango and jackfruit hold strong potential for processed and bulk exports. The district is equally renowned for its traditional handicrafts such as wrought iron, bell-metal (dokra), and terracotta which enjoy niche markets abroad.

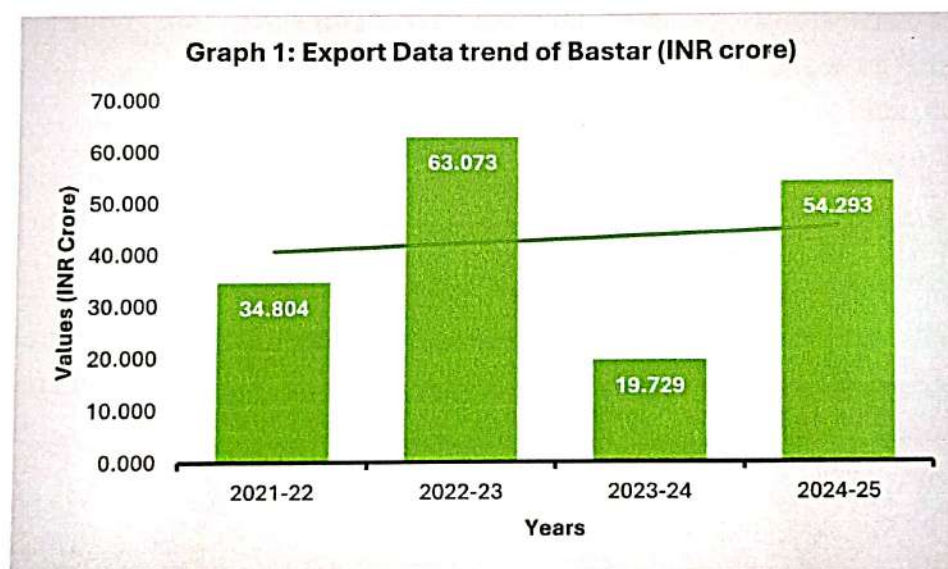
The Districts as Export Hub (DEH) framework has identified tamarind, handicrafts, and forest-based products as focus sectors for Bastar. Efforts are being made to build export clusters, enhance market linkages, and strengthen branding of tribal products. Further, the establishment of agro-processing units in neighbouring districts, such as Kondagaon, can support Bastar in leveraging economies of scale and addressing infrastructural gaps like cold storage, quality certifications and logistics. With greater emphasis on value addition, sustainable harvesting of forest produce, and promotion of tribal craft, Bastar is well-positioned to emerge as a distinct contributor to Chhattisgarh's international trade. The table below captures Bastar's export basket during 2024-25.

Table 11: Bastar District Current Export Scenario 2024-25

HS Code	Item Description	Destinations	Value (INR million)
26011142	55% FE or more but below 58% FE	China	158.83
72021100	Fero-Manganese, Carbon Containing>2% By Weight	United Arab Emirates, Netherlands	32.69
72023000	Ferro-Silico-Manganese	United Arab Emirates	18.37
25161100	Granite Crude or Roughly Trimmed	Taiwan, Poland	12.95
68022310	Granite Blocks / Tiles, Polished	Poland, Tanzania	3.40
28042100	Argon (Rare Gases)	Bangladesh	0.70

Source: DGCIS

The graph below shows export trend from Bastar, Chhattisgarh over the period of 2021 to 2025.



6.1 High Potential Products of Bastar District

Bastar district, located in southern Chhattisgarh, is endowed with abundant natural resources, diverse agricultural output, and globally recognized handicrafts. Its unique combination of agricultural surplus, forest-based products, and cultural heritage crafts provides a strong foundation for developing a competitive export basket. The global shift toward sustainable, organic, and handcrafted products further strengthens Bastar's position as an emerging export hub. Leveraging these strengths under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative and supported by state and central government policies,

Bastar can enhance its contribution to India's international trade. Table 11 below lists down potential export products from Bastar.

Table 12: Potential Export Products from Bastar

Products	Rationale for Export Potential
Rice Varieties and Millets	Bastar cultivates rice extensively, with both high-yield and indigenous aromatic varieties, alongside nutritious millets such as kodo, kutki, and ragi. With global dietary shifts toward gluten-free, organic, and nutrient-dense staples, these crops present strong export opportunities. Growing demand in the EU and Middle East for organic rice and ancient grains enhances Bastar's prospects, especially under the India Millets (Shree Anna) Mission.
Pulses (also processed)	Bastar's favourable agro-climatic conditions support large-scale cultivation of pulses, which are essential protein sources worldwide. Processed pulses also form the raw material for ready-to-eat packaged foods. Increasing global vegetarian and vegan consumption, coupled with protein-rich diet trends, ensures long-term demand, particularly in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle Eastern markets.
Processed Horticulture (Mango, Jackfruits)	Bastar has significant production of both vegetables and fruits, which can be processed into frozen, dehydrated, or pulp-based products for exports. Processed fruits and vegetables are in high demand in Southeast Asia, Gulf countries, and Europe, where Indian exporters are expanding market presence.
Dhokra (Dokra) and Wrought Iron Handicrafts	Bastar's world-famous tribal metal crafts represent centuries-old heritage, with each artifact being handmade and eco-friendly. These handicrafts are sought after in global niche markets for décor, cultural heritage, and gifting. Strong opportunities in Europe, North America, and Japan, where consumers value sustainable and artisanal handicrafts. Supported by Geographical Indication (GI) tagging, Bastar's crafts can achieve premium positioning.
Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (Senna / Sanay, White Musli, Lemongrass)	Bastar's forest wealth includes high-value medicinal and aromatic crops used in Ayurveda, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics. With rising demand for herbal and plant-based products, these hold immense potential. Increasing global demand for herbal medicine and plant-based cosmetics, especially in Europe and the Americas (North and South), creates an attractive export market for Bastar's NTFPs.

Tabel -13 (16 Product Identified for Export from a Bastar District)

S.No.	Product Name	HS Code	Target Country (share in India's exports)	Trade Potential (USD'000) in 2025	Competitor country (share in Target country's imports)
1	Tamarind fresh	081090	UAE (34%) (USA, Maldiva, France)	62059	Vietnam 17% Thailand 9% Egypt 6% South Africa 3%
		081090	USA(3.2%)	91497	Maxico- 45%, Ecuador - 21% Peru - 8% Vietnam - 5%
2	Tamarind Seedless	081340	UAE(24%) (Bangladesh, Usa, Canada)	7011	Thailand 19.6% France 16.4% Turkey 4.4%
3	Tamarind Seed	120991	US(16%) (Netherland, Bangladesh, France)	103641	Netherland 16% Chile 9% France 8.6% Denmark 6% Itly 6.4%
4	Tamarind Seed Powder	130232	USA(22%) (Rus Fed, Germany, Canada)	91265	Spain 5.9% Itly 4.7% Pakistan 3.4%
5	Mahua Flower	121299	UAE(0.37%) (spain, Netherland, France)	4035	China 55% Sudan 31% Egypt 3%
6	Mahua Seed Oil	151590	Maliysia (25%) Rus Fed,Spain, Vietnam)	82998	Grara 43% Nigeria 11% UAE 4%
7	Mahua Seed	120799	UAE(11%) (Vietnam,Rus Fed, Iran)	2784	Paraguay 39% Brazil 6.7% Syria 3.8%
8	Bastar Dhokra (Bell metal)	830610	USA(43%) (Germany, Surinam, Koria, Nepal)	8680	Chaina 78% Taipei, Chinese 2.3% Canada 1%
9	Bastar Iron Craft	830629	USA(37%) (Germany, Spain, Canada, France)	3827	China 78% Combodia 1.7% Mexico 1.5% Thailand 1%
10	Bastar Wooden Craft	442090	USA(49%) (Germany , Uk, Spain)	4778	China 49% Vietnam 12% Thailand 6.7% Canada 5%

S.No.	Product Name	HS Code	Target Country (share in India's exports)	Trade Potential (USD'000) in 2025	Competitor country (share in Target country's imports)
11	Rice, Semi milled and wholly milled	100630	GUINEA(4.3%) (Benin, Sierra Leone, Kenya)	10961	USA 10.5% Thailand 5.1% France 0.8%
12	Fresh Green Chilly	070960	UAE(Spain, Maldives, Bahrain, Kuwait)	17708	Iran 13% Thailand Netherland Jordan
13	Coconut, Fresh or dried, Shelled or Peeled	080112	UK (Nepal, Canada, Saudi)	1218	Vietnam, Thailand, costa Rica
14	Tikhur Powder (Other Starches)	110819	USA 18% (Japan, Australia, Sri lanka)	578	Belgium 43% Canada, Thailand, Austria.
15	Termeric Powder	091030	Libya 32% (Saudi, UAE, Indonesia)	433	UAE
16	Chilli Powder	090422	Spain 1.8% (Itly, Saudi, Netherland)	35053	Chine 69% Australia, Germany, Portugal

6.2 Global demand for products exported from Bastar

During 2024-25, Bastar district has majorly exported parboiled rice (10063010), 55% FE or more but below 58% FE (26011142), other fresh and dried seeds (12119019) and tamarind dried (08134010). The table below shows the top countries in the world who are the highest importers of these products during 2024-25.

Table 14: Product wise top importing countries in the world, 2024

Product	Country	Value (in US \$)
Dried Tamarind	United States of America	207.868
	China	195.849
	Germany	125.887
	Viet Nam	78.914
	United Kingdom	46.783
Other fresh and dried seeds	United States of America	533.185
	Germany	485.185
	Japan	287.96
	China	239.07
	Australia	181.857
Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excl. roasted iron pyrites)	China	130156.03
	Japan	9951.26
	Korea	7301.19
	Germany	2444.89
	Taipei, Chinese	2147.15
Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Indonesia	2437.59
	Philippines	2261.35
	Saudi Arabia	1971.66
	Iraq	1661.20
	United States of America	1514.76

Source: ITC Trademap

United States of America, China, and Germany are the highest importers of the products mentioned above. Even though products from Bastar are exported to China, potential remains to expand the volume and diversify into other sectors. Among these countries, Germany is an untapped international market for products exported from Bastar district. However, access to these international markets depend on the custom tariff and non-tariff measures applicable on Indian exports.

6.3 Strategy to Improve Bastar District's Export

Bastar district, with its strong base in agriculture, horticulture, minor forest produce, and globally renowned handicrafts, possesses immense potential to emerge as a leading export hub in Chhattisgarh. However, to unlock this potential, Bastar needs a carefully structured strategy that addresses infrastructural gaps, builds skills, and strengthens market linkages. The following roadmap outlines short-term, medium-term, and long-term interventions to enhance Bastar's export readiness, improve product competitiveness, and ensure sustainable growth.

Short-Term Strategy (0-2 year)

1. Infrastructure & Logistics Readiness

- i. **Export Facilitation Cell in Bastar:** District Industries Centre - Bastar may facilitate the establishment of export facilitation cell to coordinate with DGFT, APEDA, and EPCs for easing export processes.
- ii. **Last mile connectivity:** Efforts may be directed towards improving last mile connectivity to key highways (NH-30 & NH-63) for faster cargo movement to nearest ports viz., Vishakhapatnam, JNPT, Paradip, etc.
- iii. **Cold Storage & Warehousing:** For infrastructure development, setting up of small-scale cold chains and warehouses near Jagdalpur and Darbha for perishables like tamarind, fruits, and vegetables may be facilitated.

2. Skill Development

- i. **Exporter Awareness Programs:** District-level awareness drives may be conducted on export documentation, packaging standards, and international certifications.
- ii. **Skill Mapping:** Identify artisans, farmer-producer groups, and SHGs engaged in tamarind processing, handicrafts, or millets for focused training.

3. Training for Farmers & Entrepreneurs

- i. **Farmer Training (Crop Diversification):** Introduce scientific cultivation methods for tamarind, rice, and millets, including certification practices Faculty of Food Safety and Quality and CDG Training for auditors, often focusing on specific GAP schemes like Global GAP or USDA GAP.

- ii. Entrepreneur Workshops: Train local entrepreneurs and SHGs on value addition, branding, and compliance with international quality standards.
- iii. Mobilize Self-Help Groups (SHGs) / Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to register for APEDA/RCMC and traceability systems (like HortiNet <https://traceability.apeda.gov.in/hortinet/nrl/nrllogin.aspx>)

4. Marketing & Promotion

- i. The Export Facilitation Cell for Bastar will serve as a one-stop helpdesk to support exporters with documentation, licensing and certification, packaging, and building market linkages.
- ii. Organize district-level trade fairs in Bastar to showcase tamarind, handicrafts, and forest produce to domestic and international buyers. Facilitate local exporters from Bastar to attend trade fairs and exhibitions being conducted across the country.
- iii. To enhance the national visibility and market outreach of Bastar's traditional arts and crafts, dedicated display centres showcasing Bastar handicrafts will be established across major trade centres in India.
- iv. Geographical Indication (GI) Branding: Promote GI-tagged Bastar handicrafts in premium export markets (EU, US, Japan).
- v. Encourage participation in Chhattisgarh State Export Promotion events, APEDA trade fairs, and GI/product registration awareness drives. Local District Trade and Industries Centre (DTIC) may step in to spread awareness of these events/ trade fairs / awareness drives happening across Chhattisgarh.

5. Skill & Capacity Building

- i. DIC may facilitate development of FPO/SHG-based clusters around tamarind and millet processing for economies of scale.
- ii. Packaging & Labelling Training: Support small producers with modern packaging techniques, eco-friendly material, and compliance with international standards.

Medium-Term Strategy (3-5 years)

1. Infrastructure Expansion

- i. Create dedicated processing centres where locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and pulses can be sorted, graded, washed, treated, and packaged to meet international quality standards. This may include automated grading lines, packing lines, quality control labs, etc.
- ii. This may be clustered near major farming belts of Bastar, with easy road access to Jagdalpur and railway stations.

- iii. **Railway Link Utilization - Kirandul-Jagdalpur-Raipur Line:** The Kirandul-Jagdalpur-Raipur railway corridor connects mineral-rich interior Bastar to the national freight network at Raipur, providing a cost-effective, high-capacity route for bulk agricultural cargo.

2. Skill & Technical Capacity Building

- i. **Export-Oriented Training Institutes:** Collaborate with IIFT, APEDA, and EPCH for specialized export training programs in Jagdalpur.
- ii. **Handicraft Design & Innovation Training:** DIC may facilitate partnerships with NIFT/NID for modernizing Bastar crafts to suit global tastes while retaining authenticity.
- iii. Producers may be trained in packaging innovations and shelf-life enhancement techniques that are compliant with international markets such as European countries, Middle East, Southeast Asian countries.
- iv. This can be facilitated by collaborating with NIFTEM / schemes under MoFPI.
- v. Launch women-led processing units with dedicated training on entrepreneurship and export finance (this can be facilitated by tying-up with NABARD, SIDBI).
- vi. Prepare, strategize and deploy ICT-based traceability systems to ensure transparency in agro supply chains.

3. Farmer & Entrepreneur Enablement

- i. **Value Addition Training:** Promote processing of tamarind into seedless concentrate, pulp, and powder; processing of pulses and millets into ready-to-cook (RTC) formats.
- ii. Enable 10-15 active FPOs in Bastar to become export-compliant by supporting them in acquiring essential domestic and international certifications like:
 - GlobalG.A.P. certification
 - Traceability integration (BRCGS, QR code trace-back systems)
 - Technical support to comply with EU phytosanitary and pesticide norms
- iii. These certifications act as stepping stone to enhance market access, product credibility, and competitiveness in global markets.
- iv. Additionally, DIC Bastar may scale-up training to include post-harvest management, organic certification, and residue-free cultivation techniques.

- v. Entrepreneurship bootcamps may be organized in collaboration with ITI Jagdalpur, ITI Darbha, ITI Bastarnar - for agripreneurs and MSMEs in food processing, green logistics, etc.

4. Marketing and Trade Linkages

- i. Curating a district export product catalogue (eg: mango puree, banana chips, tomato concentrate, guava premix powder). These products can be leveraged by local exporters and create e-market linkage cells to onboard these exporters on GeM, ONDC, AgriBazaar, and TradeIndia.
- ii. Build e-commerce partnerships with Amazon Global, Flipkart Export, and Government's e-Marketplace for Bastar products.
- iii. To consolidate this system, leverage Export Facilitation Cells in coordination with DGFT, APEDA, and Industries Department under DTICs to bridge the gap between exporters and external markets.
- iv. Develop a unified export brand identity, e.g., "Bastar Naturals" (for agro / forest produce) and "Bastar Heritage" (for crafts).
- v. Facilitate participation of Bastar producers in international trade fairs such as Dubai Expo, Gulfood, SIAL, etc.

Long-Term Strategy (5-8 years)

1. Integrated Agro-Export Infrastructure

- i. To take a step ahead, setting up a Mega Food Park at full-scale with advanced facilities for fruits, vegetables, pulses, and millets.
- ii. DIC may initiate establishment of an ICD at Bastar for seamless containerized cargo movement.
- iii. This can be further amplified by developing a Multimodal Agri Export Terminal near the rail linkage in Jagdalpur for large-scale container handling.

2. Advanced Skill Ecosystem

- i. Establish long-term collaborations with international universities and training bodies to bring global best practices to Bastar. Efforts may be directed towards institutionalizing programs to preserve tribal handicraft skills while modernizing techniques for higher productivity.
- ii. Collaborate with institutions like NIFTEM, Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to offer certifications (basic and advanced) to solidify skill development.
- iii. DIC may support in instituting a District Export Fellowship Programme for youth to work with FPOs, logistics, and certification bodies.

3. Export Ecosystem & Market Development

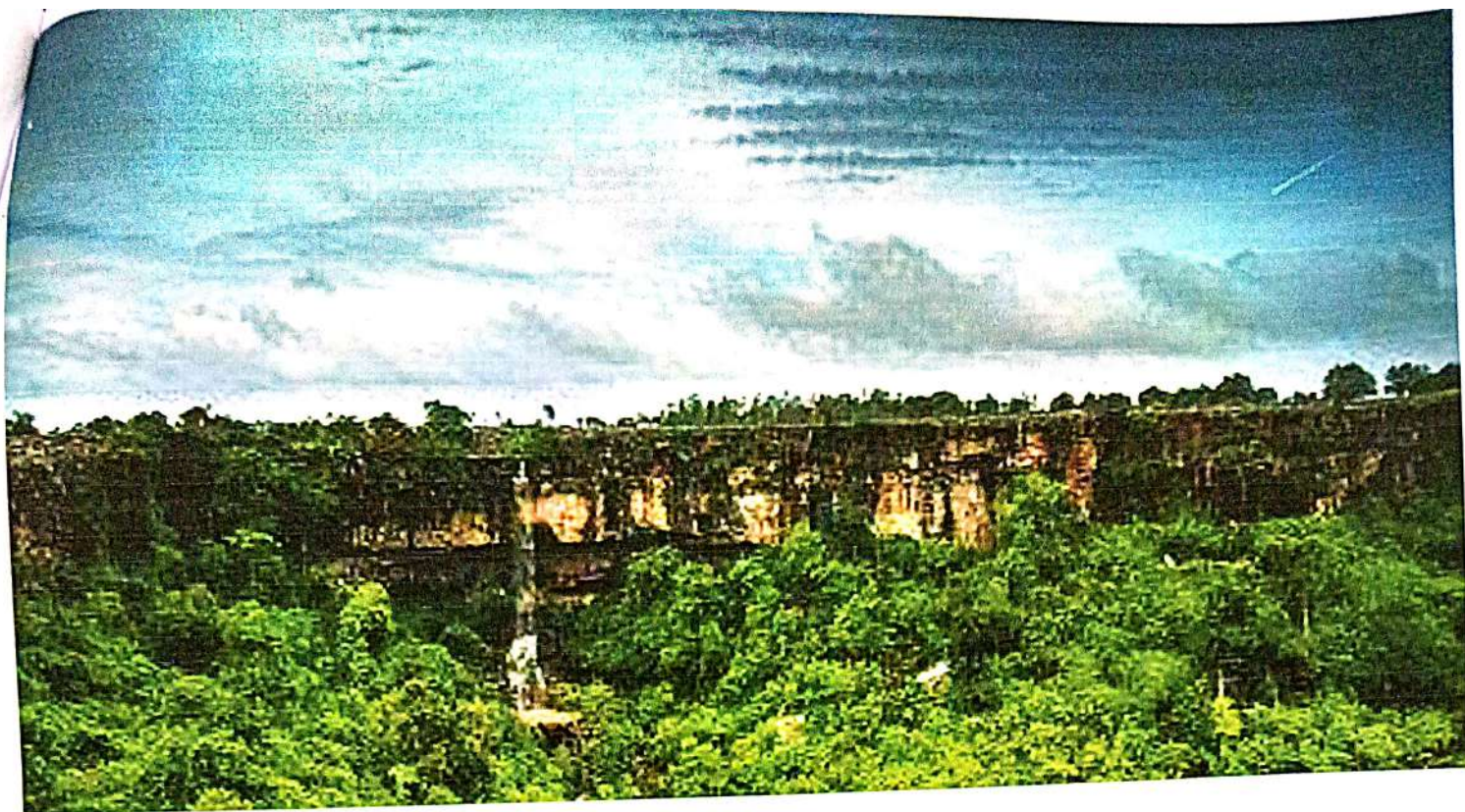
- i. Facilitate international buyer-seller meets and reverse trade missions in collaboration with FIEO/APEDA.
- ii. Establishing Export Incubation Units for micro-exporters offering services like regulatory help, packaging design, digital marketing.

4. Global Branding and Policy Advocacy

- i. Develop sustained export contracts with Middle East, EU, and ASEAN buyers for staples like pulses and rice.
- ii. Facilitate the inclusion of Bastar's products under the Merchandise Exports for India schemes (MEIS) / Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RODTEP) benefits.

6.4 Financial Incentives & Policy Support

- i. To realize Bastar's export potential, a focused financial and policy support framework is essential. The Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2024-30 already provides incentives such as capital subsidy, transport subsidy, technology upgradation support, and SGST reimbursement, that can be calibrated to Bastar's export-specific needs. Additionally, the policy also provides special industrial investment promotion on establishment of Research and Development units, export expense reimbursement (only for export-oriented units). Skill development schemes focused on export compliance, packaging, and quality standards are also crucial for building a capable local workforce.
- ii. National schemes such as the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) can be leveraged for infrastructure development and financial access. Export clusters in rice milling, agri based processing (mango, banana, jackfruit) can benefit from public-private partnerships (PPPs) for shared facilities such as packaging centers, cold storage, and quality testing labs. Support under ODOP and PMFME can be integrated with export promotion to scale up Bastar district's signature products.
- iii. Institutional facilitation is equally important. The District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) should lead coordination of all schemes, while a dedicated Export Facilitation Cell at the District Industries Centre (DIC) can guide exporters on applications, documentation, finance and scheme benefits. Railway and highway authorities, CONCOR, leading banking institutions may provide the necessary support to build holistic infrastructure capable of handling large scale export orders. With the right combination of financial incentives, national scheme alignment, and district-level handholding, Bastar can be transformed into a vibrant export hub driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



7. Challenges and Recommendations

Bastar district holds immense promise as an emerging export hub, but like many developing regions, it faces a set of challenges that require targeted interventions to fully realize its potential. One of the foremost challenges is infrastructural readiness. Limited warehousing, inadequate cold chain facilities, and the absence of large-scale processing units restrict the ability of producers to meet international standards of quality and preservation. While National Highways 30 and 63, along with the Kirandul-Jagdalpur-Raipur rail line, provide important connectivity, there is a need for integrated logistics hubs and an air cargo terminal at Jagdalpur to enable seamless export operations.

Another critical challenge is limited awareness and skills among farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs regarding export procedures, certifications, packaging norms, and global market trends. Traditional cultivation and craft practices, though rich in heritage, often do not align with the stringent quality and design expectations of international buyers. Similarly, lack of value addition such as processing tamarind into concentrate or millets into ready-to-cook mixes restricts producers from tapping into higher-value markets.

On the marketing front, Bastar's products like tamarind, handicrafts, and forest produce remain underrepresented in global trade fairs and online marketplaces. Without strong branding, such as Geographical Indication (GI) promotion for crafts or "organic" certification for crops, these products cannot command the premium they deserve. Access to finance is also a challenge, particularly for SHGs, FPOs, and small entrepreneurs, who require affordable credit for scaling operations and achieving export compliance. Furthermore, although State Warehousing Corporation is considering

construction of godowns with capacity of 21600 MT under the State Government, a gap of 57200 MT still exists (existing capacity of 81200 MT and required storage capacity for rice, maize, other food grains, forest produce is 160000 MT)¹². For the remaining capacity utilization, DIC may facilitate development of cold storages with modern technologies (Integrated Pack Houses) for processed food segment.

However, these challenges present opportunities for positive transformation. Strategic recommendations include the development of dedicated agro-processing clusters, setting up of a Mega Food Park, and creation of Integrated Pack Houses to ensure export-ready quality. Capacity-building programs on packaging, branding, and certification, supported by APEDA, NABARD, and EPCs, can empower local stakeholders. Promoting digital platforms and e-commerce exports will broaden market reach. Financial assistance through Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Policy 2024-30 and targeted export subsidies can further enhance competitiveness.

By addressing these challenges with a proactive, collaborative approach, Bastar can position itself not only as a regional leader but as a model tribal district in India's export growth story, showcasing how tradition, sustainability, and modern trade can co-exist for inclusive development.

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8. Conclusion

Bastar district, with its unique blend of rich natural resources, agricultural abundance, vibrant handcraft traditions, and cultural heritage, holds immense promise as a driver of inclusive and sustainable growth. Its geographical position, supported by National Highways 30 and 63, rail connectivity through the Kirandul–Jagdalpur–Raipur line, and growing air transport facilities, strategically links the region to major domestic and international trade corridors. The district's strengths lie not only in its core sectors such as paddy, tamarind, pulses, and horticulture but also in its globally acclaimed Dhokra and wrought iron handicrafts, which provide Bastar with a distinctive identity in export markets.

At the same time, the district's vast forest wealth, medicinal and aromatic plants, and potential for agro-processing present opportunities for diversification and value addition. With policy support through the Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Policy 2024–30 and the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative, Bastar is well-positioned to leverage government incentives, infrastructural investments, and export facilitation measures. Equally important is the role of local farmers, artisans, SHGs, and entrepreneurs, who, with the right training, capacity building, and financial support, can become key stakeholders in driving Bastar's integration with global value chains.

While challenges remain in the form of limited processing facilities, certification



Government of Chhattisgarh
Department of Commerce and Industries