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क्रमांक:-GENS-11/8256/2026/606
प्रति,

गरियाबंद, दिनांक- 24/03/2026



संचालक उद्योग
(EXPORT कक्ष)
उद्योग संचालनालय,
उद्योग भवन, रिंग रोड नं० 01
तेलीबांधा, रायपुर (छ०ग०)

* विषय:- जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) के अनुमोदन के संबंध में।

संदर्भ:- आपका पत्र क्रमांक GENS-11/2178/2025-DOI, रायपुर दिनांक 20.03.2026.
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Export

DEENBANDHU

27 MAR 2026

उपरोक्त संदर्भित विषयान्तर्गत District Export Action Plan को जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति से प्राप्त सुझाव/अभिमत को सम्मिलित कर समिति से अनुमोदित कर जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) आपकी ओर संलग्न प्रेषित है।

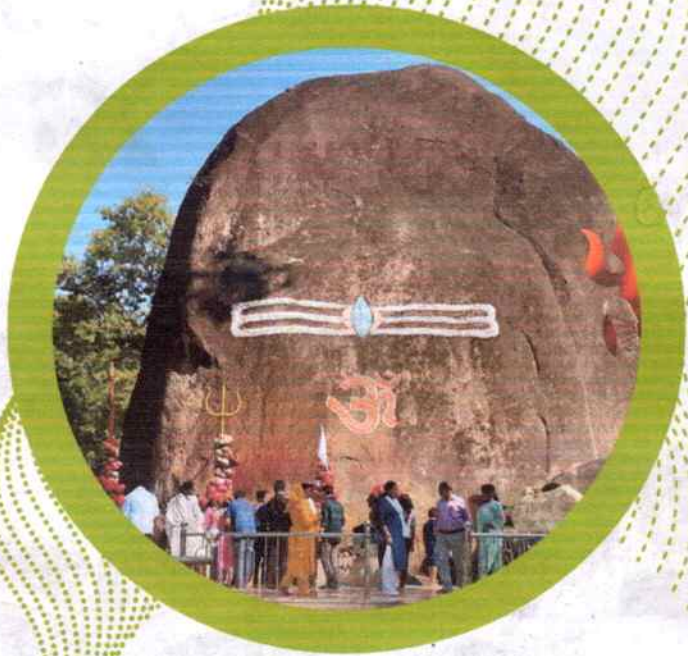
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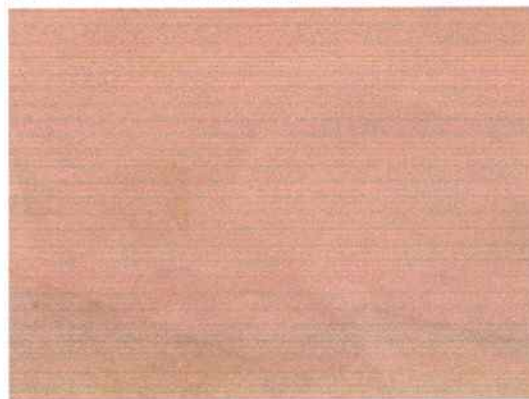
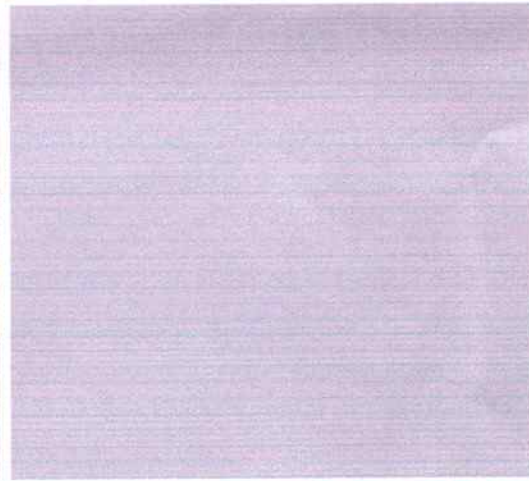
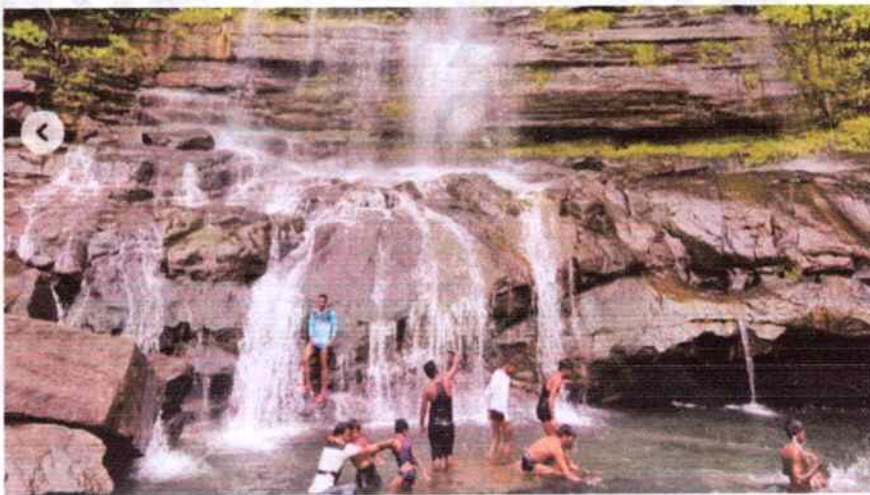
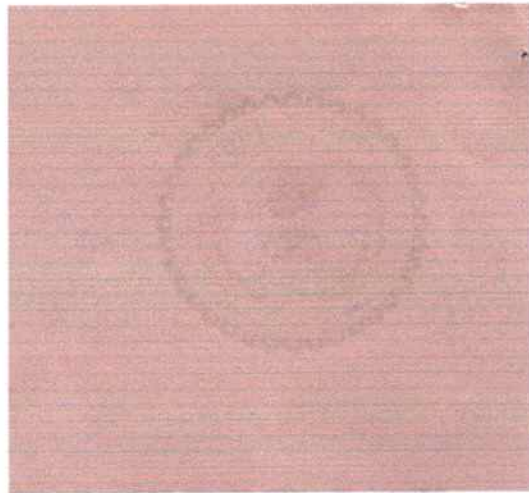
महाप्रबंधक
जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र
गरियाबंद



DISTRICT EXPORT ACTION PLAN



GARIABAND



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1.1 Introduction

Gariaband District, one of the nine newly formed districts of Chhattisgarh, was officially established on January 1, 2012, after being carved out of Raipur district. With its headquarters in Gariaband town, the district is bordered by Dhamtari and Mahasamund districts and spans an area of 5,822.861 sq. km, rich in natural resources. The Pairi and Sondhur rivers flow northward through the district, converging at Rajim to form the "Triveni Sangam," a sacred site. On the southern border, the Tel River flows along the boundary shared with Odisha. Rajim is a well-known pilgrimage center, often referred to as "Prayagraj" of Chhattisgarh. Every year, it hosts the Rajim Kumbh Mela from Magh Purnima to Maha Shivaratri, drawing thousands of devotees.

The Gariaband Forest spans 1,951.861 sq. km, while the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve covers 983.94 sq. km. The district is home to numerous natural and cultural attractions. Gariaband block, rich in resources like sal and teak, also includes forests near the confluence of the Pairi and Sondhur rivers at the Dhamtari border. Chhura block is known for its scenic tourist spots like Jatmayi and Ghatarani waterfalls. The Baruka Aniket, Tonhidabri, and Ramaipot areas, near the Malaygiri hills at the Odisha border, feature both forested and plain landscapes. The fertile Fingeshwar block, a largely irrigated plain, is a hub of modern agricultural practices. This blend of cultural significance, natural beauty, and rich resources makes Gariaband a notable district in Chhattisgarh.

1.2 Administrative Profile

Gariaband district forms part of the **Raipur Division** and is administratively governed through seven tehsils and five development blocks. The Collector and District Magistrate serve as the nodal authority for governance, assisted by sectoral officers in agriculture, industry, forest, rural development, and health.

GENERAL MANAGER
District Trade & Industries Centre
Gariaband (C.G.)



Senior Scientist cum- Head
Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Gariaband (C.G.) 493889

Administrative Structure of Gariaband:

- District Headquarters: Gariaband
- Area: 5822.861 Sq Km
- Tehsil: seven (Rajim, Gariaband, Chhura, Deobhog, Mainpur, Amlipadar, Fingeshwar)
- No. of Revenue Division- five
- Urban Local Bodies:
 - Seven (Nagar Panchayat/Municipality) (Gariaband Nagar Palika Parishad)
- Rural Governance:

Table 1: Block wise number of Gram Panchayats & Villages of Gariaband¹

S.no	Name of Block	Geographical Area (in sq.km.)	Gram Panchayat	Total Village
1.	Gariaband	726.12	62	172
2.	Chhura	714.62	74	169
3.	Fingeshwar	474.27	71	101
4.	Deobhog	301.53	53	94
5.	Mainpur	670.52	74	177
	Total Village	2887.06	334	713

Gariaband district Under the Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency and comprises two Vidhan Sabha constituencies—Rajim and Bindranawagarh. The Bindranawagarh Assembly segment is reserved for Scheduled Tribes, reflecting the district's significant tribal population and ensuring political representation for indigenous communities.

The administrative framework of Gariaband under the Collectorate and Tehsil offices provide strong base for development activities throughout the district.

1.3 Location and Geography²

Gariaband lies between 20 D 57' North and 81 D 53' 'East. The district is positioned the south-eastern part of the Chhattisgarh. The altitude ranges from 350 metres above sea level, with a subtropical monsoon climate.

Gariaband district shares its eastern boundary with the state of Odisha, while it is bordered by Raipur district to the west, Mahasamund district to the north, and

² <https://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/Gariaband.pdf>



Dhamtari district to the south. Owing to its inter-state location, Gariaband serves as a transitional zone between the Chhattisgarh plains and the Eastern Ghats region of Odisha.

Geographically, the district is characterized by undulating terrain interspersed with forested hills, plateaus, and fertile river valleys. A significant portion of the area falls under forest cover, contributing to rich biodiversity and the availability of minor forest produce. The Mahanadi River and its tributaries, including the Pairi and Sondur rivers, form the principal drainage system, supporting agriculture and livelihoods.

2. Demographic Profile

Gariaband district in Chhattisgarh has a total population of around 5,97,653 with significant Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) populations, highlighting its diverse social makeup, strong workforce participation (especially in agriculture), and growing literacy, though data from the 2011 Census indicates significant rural populations and reliance on agrarian labor, with ongoing development focusing on improving welfare and infrastructure.

Table 2: Demographic Profile of Gariaband³

Sl.no	Indicators	Metrics
Population Statistics (Census 2011)		
1	Total Population	5,97,653
2	Males	295851
3	Females	301802
4	% of Urban population	6.77%
5	% of Rural population	93.23%
6	Population (0-6 age group)	65741
Sex Ratio		
7	Overall	1022 females per 1,000 males
Literacy Rate		
8	Overall	68.26%
9	Male Literacy	80.38%
10	Female Literacy	56.45%

Gariaband district, as per the Census of India 2011, had a total population of 5,97,653 persons, comprising 295851 males and 301802 females, with a sex ratio of 970 females per 1,000 males, lesser than the state average of 991.

³ <https://gariaband.gov.in/en/about-district/demography/>

2.1 Social Composition

Gariaband's population is predominantly rural, with nearly 93.23% of residents living in villages. The district has a significant tribal population, with Scheduled Tribes (STs) accounting for around 36.14 % of the total population, while Scheduled Castes (SCs) comprise about 10.13 %. The major tribal communities include the Gond, Binjhar, Kanwar, Oraon, Halba, and Kamar groups, who have traditionally relied on agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, and collection of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

Traditional community institutions such as **gram panchayats**, customary tribal councils, and cultural practices continue to play an important role in **local governance, conflict resolution, and natural resource management**. These systems help preserve the district's cultural heritage while supporting community-led development and sustainable use of forest resources.

2.2 Literacy and Education

The district's overall literacy rate stands at 68.26%, and slightly below the Chhattisgarh state average of 85.05%. Male literacy is around 80.38%, while female literacy trails at 56.45%, reflecting persistent gender gaps in education. However, recent expansion of government educational initiatives under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and tribal residential schools has improved enrolment and reduced dropout rates.

Gariaband district hosts a range of secondary, higher, and technical education institutions that cater to both rural and tribal communities. Key institutions include the Government Polytechnic College, Gariaband, Government Danteshwari Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Gariaband, and several Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) located across different blocks such as Gariaband, Rajim, and Bindranawagarh.

Skill development initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Mukhya Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana focus on trades related to agro-processing, handloom and handicrafts, construction skills, and forest produce-based activities, thereby aligning local human capital with the district's agricultural and forest resource base.

The bottom section of the page contains several handwritten signatures and official stamps. On the left, there is a circular purple stamp with the text 'LEAD BANK GARIABAND' and 'बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा' (Bank of Baroda) in Hindi. Below it, another circular stamp reads 'BANK OF BARODA' and 'आमजी बैंक, ग.प.' (Amaji Bank, G.P.). To the right of these stamps are several handwritten signatures in blue ink. One signature is clearly legible as 'Dr. Director'. There is also a small blue arrow pointing towards the right.



3. Logistics Infrastructure Profile

Gariaband district has a developing logistics ecosystem driven by its strategic location in the south-eastern part of Chhattisgarh and its proximity to major districts such as Raipur and Dhamtari. Although primarily rural and forested, the district has been witnessing gradual improvements in road connectivity, storage infrastructure, and transport services.

3.1 Road Transport

Gariaband district is connected to the regional highway network through state highways and nearby national highways-130 via Raipur, Mahasamund, and Dhamtari, enabling movement of goods and passengers to major urban and trade centers. Major district roads (MDRs) link key block headquarters such as Gariaband, Rajim, Bindranawagarh, Chhura, Mainpur, and Deobhog, supporting the transportation of agricultural produce and minor forest produce (MFP) to local markets and procurement centers.

Rural road development under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has significantly enhanced last-mile connectivity across villages, improving access to mandis, service centers, and logistics nodes, and strengthening market linkages for farmers and forest-dependent communities.

3.2 Air Transport

Swami Vivekananda Airport Raipur is the nearest airport from Gariaband. Gariaband is well connected with Raipur airport. Daily train / Bus are available from/ To Gariaband. The Nearest airport near Gariaband is Raipur (Capital of Chhattisgarh). One can take flights from Delhi for Raipur. Almost all major cities of the country are connected through Raipur Airport. Indian Airlines, jet airways and Air India are Providing their Daily Service to all the Major airports of the Country.

3.3 Railway Transport

Gariaband district nearest railway station nayapara Raipur. infrastructure within its boundaries and therefore depends on nearby railheads for rail-based transport of passengers and freight. The nearest major railway stations include **Raipur Junction**, **Mahasamund**, and **Dhamtari**, which are well connected to major cities and industrial centers across Chhattisgarh and adjoining states. These stations serve as key transit points for the movement of agricultural produce, minor forest produce, and essential commodities from Gariaband. The district's proximity to Raipur Junction, an important rail hub on the Howrah–Mumbai main line, provides access to long-distance freight corridors and national markets. Strengthening road–rail linkages to these railheads can further improve logistical efficiency for the district

4. Economic and Sectoral Overview

Gariaband's economy represents a transitional structure between a agrarian base and a gradually diversifying resource-linked rural economy. Its dual dependence on agriculture and forest-based livelihoods defines the district's developmental priorities. While agriculture remains the backbone of employment, minor forest produce and emerging small industries contribute significantly to non-farm incomes.

4.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the **primary livelihood activity** in Gariaband district, engaging a large proportion of the rural and tribal population. The district's agrarian economy is largely **rainfed**, with farming practices closely linked to the southwest monsoon. Small and marginal farmers dominate the agricultural landscape

Table 3: Area, Production figures of Horticulture crops in Gariaband, 2023-24⁴

Sl.no	Crop	Area (000 Ha)	Production (000 MT)
A. Fruits			
1	Banana	0.212	3.871
2	Ber	0.118	0.215
3	Custard Apple	0.412	0.521
4	Guava	0.130	3.331
5	Jackfruit	0.096	1.475
6	Limes and Lemos	0.180	1.260
7	Mango	0.745	3.799
8	Muskmelon	0.075	0.536
9	Papaya	0.168	2.952
10	Sweet orange	0.075	1.875
11	Watermelon	0.220	1.875
	Total	2.161	21.710
B. Vegetables			
1	Arbi/ Colacasia	0.175	0.723

⁴ Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department – Horticulture Statistics Report 2023–24



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2	Beans (All Including)	0.120	0.708
3	Bittar Gourd	0.210	2.211
4	Bottle Gourd	0.210	1.743
5	Brijal	0.220	3.449
6	Cabbage	0.215	4.838
7	Carrot	0.135	0.805
8	Cauliflower	0.200	0.324
9	Elephant Foot	0.200	1.027
9	Green Chilli	0.180	1.089
10	Kaddu/Pumkin	0.200	2.210
11	Leafy Vegetables	0.215	1.475
12	Okra/Ladies Finger	0.160	1.177
13	Onion	0.252	9.879
14	Pea (Green)	0.130	0.927
15	Pointed Gourd	0.145	0.684
16	Potato	0.140	1.499
17	Radish	0.190	4.442
18	Ridge/Sponge Gourd	0.160	0.701
19	Sweet Potato	0.215	1.358
20	Tomato	0.218	3.319
21	Other vegetable	0.759	5.294
	Total	4.649	49.882
C. Spices Crops			
1	Coriander	0.375	1.159
2	Fenugreek	0.170	0.442
3	Ginger	0.105	0.566
	Total	0.650	2.167
D. Flower			
1	Gladiolus	0.025	1.875
2	Marigold	0.062	0.434
3	Rose	0.024	1.077
4	Tube Rose	0.031	0.950
4	Other Flower	0.022	0.611
	Total	0.164	4.947

Gariaband district possesses favourable agro-climatic conditions that support diversification from traditional agriculture into horticulture, vegetables, and minor fruit crops. The district's fertile soils, adequate rainfall, and suitable temperature regime provide strong potential for high-value crop cultivation.

Horticulture and vegetable cultivation has been steadily expanding, with farmers increasingly adopting diversified cropping patterns. Major fruit crops grown in the district include **mango, banana, and jackfruit**, while **tomato, onion, brinjal, okra, cauliflower**, and other seasonal vegetables constitute the most widely cultivated vegetable varieties. These crops collectively form the backbone of Gariaband's

horticultural economy and offer significant scope for productivity enhancement, value addition, and market-linked agribusiness development.

4.2 Agro-Processing Landscape in Gariaband

Gariaband district has a developing agro-processing landscape supported by a strong base of rice, vegetables, and forest-based produce. The district produces significant quantities of fruits such as mango, banana, and jackfruit, along with vegetables including tomato, onion, brinjal, okra, and cauliflower, creating substantial scope for value addition. At present, agro-processing activity is largely limited to primary and cottage-level operations such as cleaning, grading, drying, and small-scale milling, with most produce being transported outside the district for advanced processing. Inadequate cold storage, pack-houses, and organized aggregation infrastructure result in post-harvest losses and price volatility, particularly for perishable commodities. However, the availability of raw materials, increasing farmer interest in diversification, and potential for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and SHG-led enterprises present strong opportunities for developing fruit and vegetable processing units, cold chain infrastructure, and forest-produce-based value addition, positioning Gariaband as an emerging agro-processing hub in the region.

4.3 Industry profile

The industrial profile of Gariaband is in very nascent stage, with almost all industrial area chosen for industries vacant and underdeveloped. The sporadic presence of smaller rice milling units and other processing zones, mining units around towns of the district is the main stay of industry in Gariaband. Cluster formation for industries is very limited in the district. The tables below indicate an overview of industrial profile in Gariaband.

Table 4: Industrial Profile of Gariaband 2024 -25

Sr. No	Category	No. of Units	Investment in Lacs	Employment
1	Registered Industrial Units	132	19342.49	1236
	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT	132	19342.49	1236
2	Registered Medium & Large Unit	03	3220.22	52
3	Estimated average number of daily worker employed in small scale industries	-	-	9.17
4	Employment in Large & Medium Industries	-	-	17.33
	No of Industrial Area	-	-	-
5	Turnover of Small-Scale Ind.	-	-	-
6	Turnover Of Medium & Large-Scale Industries	-	-	-

Source: DIC, Gariaband, Ministry of MSME

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

Table 5: Micro & Small Enterprises in Gariaband

Sr. No	Type of industry	No. of Units	Investment in Lacs	Employment
1.	Agro Based	50	13287.00	525
2.	Chemical/ Chemical Based	0	0	0
3.	Mineral based	52	2776.99	541
4.	Metal based (Steel fab)	-	-	-
5	Others	30	3278.50	170
	Total	132	19342.49	1236

Source: DIC, Gariaband, Ministry of MSME

4.4 Minor Forest Produce

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) plays a significant role in the rural and tribal economy of Gariaband district, given its substantial forest cover and dependence of local communities on forest-based livelihoods. The district is endowed with a variety of MFPs such as **tamarind, harra, mahua, lac, honey, chironji, and medicinal herbs**, which are collected seasonally by forest-dependent households and Self-Help Groups. Currently, MFP-related activities are largely limited to primary collection and minimal processing, including cleaning, drying, and raw sale, resulting in low value realization for collectors. The absence of organized aggregation, storage, grading, and value-addition facilities restricts the growth of forest-based enterprises. However, there is considerable scope for developing MFP-based industries in Gariaband through scientific harvesting, primary processing, packaging, and branding, supported by institutional mechanisms such as SHGs, FPOs, and forest cooperatives, thereby enhancing livelihoods and promoting sustainable forest-based industrial development.

4.5 Government Initiatives to Promote Industry

The Government of India and the Government of Chhattisgarh have undertaken a range of initiatives to promote industrial development in Gariaband, recognising the district's potential in agro-based processing, minor forest produce, and MSME industries. A major thrust has been on improving basic hard and soft infrastructure through upgraded road connectivity, reliable power supply and the development of industrial growth centres in and establish Skill centre around Gariaband to attract micro, small and medium enterprises.

It is further that the state has streamlined land allotment procedures through the Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Corporation, enabling quicker approvals and Single-Window Facilitation for entrepreneurs seeking to set up units in sectors such as food processing, forest-produce processing, metal fabrication and rural manufacturing.

The government has also placed special emphasis on leveraging Gariaband's rich agricultural and forest resources. Under various state-level policies, incentives are provided for setting up tamarind, amla, mahua and sal-seed processing units, along with financial support for cold chains, warehousing and primary processing infrastructure. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras and SHG-based producer groups have been strengthened to transition from raw produce collection to value-added enterprise activity, thereby feeding into local industrial ecosystems. In parallel, schemes such as the Chief Minister's Food Processing Scheme and PMFME have been extended to promote small agro-allied units, offering subsidies, training and access to credit.

To improve the ease of doing business, the State has operationalised a digital single-window platform that enables entrepreneurs to obtain registrations and approvals through a single interface, track applications in real time, and access compliance requirements for both new and existing industries. Skill development centres, implemented through department-led programmes and the Kaushal Vikas Yojana, equip local youth with industry-relevant skills in trades such as welding, fitting, food processing, packaging, logistics, and electrical work, thereby aligning workforce capabilities with industrial demand. Further, the Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy extends a range of financial incentives—including capital subsidies, interest rebates, SGST reimbursements, and support for technology upgradation—to promote industrial investment, particularly in backward districts such as Gariaband.

The Chhattisgarh government has also prioritised cluster-based development by promoting small manufacturing hubs, handloom and handicraft clusters, and mineral-based micro-industries that draw on local resources. Ongoing efforts to strengthen connectivity with Raipur and major national highways aim to improve market access, reduce logistics costs and integrate Gariaband with larger industrial corridors. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a strategic approach to transforming Gariaband into a competitive destination for small and medium-scale industries, generating employment, promoting local entrepreneurship and strengthening the district's economic resilience.

4.6 Export Profile of Gariaband

Exports from Gariaband is not limited to parboiled rice over the past years. The table below provides a snapshot of the top export destinations of parboiled for the year 2024-25.

Table 6: Destinations of exported from Gariaband, 2024-25

HS Code	Product	Top Markets	Export Value (INR)
08134090	OTHERS FRUIT DRIED (EXCLDNG TAMARIND AND SINGODA WHOLE	BANGLADESH PR	5406175
10063010	RICE PARBOILED	BENIN, COTE D' IVOIRE MOZAMBIQUE, TRINIDAD	79944878



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12119019	OTHER SEEDS FRSH/DRID W/N CUT CRSHD/ PWDRDUSD IN PERFMR	SRI LANKA DSR	562369
12119090	OTHER PLANTS AND PARTS OF PLANTS USD IN PRFMRY, PHARMCY,	SRI LANKA DSR	1152961
13019099	OTHER OLEORESINS	SRI LANKA DSR, U ARAB EMTS, U S A	43733443
28521000	CHEMICALLY DEFINED	U ARAB EMTS	1304888
33049990	OTHERS	U S A	122579
39229000	OTHR SANITARY ARTICLES	THAILAND	17119

Source: DGCIS

5. SWOT Analysis – Gariaband

Gariaband's economy is transitioning from a primarily subsistence-based system to a diversified rural production landscape. With its rich natural resources, forest base, and growing institutional ecosystem, the district stands at a critical juncture where targeted interventions can convert latent potential into sustainable export-led growth.



Strength

- Diverse agro-climatic conditions suited for paddy, millets, and horticultural crops.
- Availability of Van Dhan Kendra to provide employment all year round
- Potential nationwide as well as globally huge market.
- Policy focus on agro-processing, MSMEs, and FPO-led development.

Weakness



- Lack of modern technology for processing.
- Weak industrial and logistics hard and soft infrastructure
- Lack of direct marketing channel.
- Limited access to finance and technical skills for small enterprises.



Opportunity

- Global demand for Rice, Millets, organic rice, herbal products, and eco-crafts.
- Promotion of SHG/FPO-led enterprises and cluster-based development.
- Increased demand for the product with growing population
- Scope of manufacturing fortified rice for new sector by value addition to the product to go for high end market.

Threat



- Price volatility of agricultural and forest produce.
- Climate variability affecting crop yields.
- Competition from established agro-processing clusters in neighbouring districts/states.
- Active involvement of middlemen.
- Fear of damage from calamities and insect attack as it is perishable item.



6. Gariaband – Export

Gariaband district presents a highly promising and scalable export potential, rooted in its robust agricultural base, rich minor forest produce, and growing alignment with global food and wellness trends. While parboiled rice currently dominates the export basket, this reflects a strong foundation rather than a limitation. The district's abundant paddy production, coupled with diverse herbal and forest resources, provides an excellent platform for expanding into value-added, export-oriented agro-processing.

With targeted investments, Gariaband can move up the value chain into differentiated products such as oleoresins, herbal extracts, rice-based nutraceuticals, functional food ingredients, and convenience food segments including ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products. Rising international demand for health foods, natural ingredients, and sustainable sourcing further strengthens the district's prospects. By fostering food-processing clusters, upgrading modern milling and extraction facilities, strengthening quality certification and compliance systems, and improving market linkages under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative, Gariaband is well-positioned to evolve from a mono-commodity exporter into a diversified, high-value agro-export hub aligned with emerging global trends in nutrition, wellness, and convenience foods.

6.1 High Potential Products of Gariaband District

Gariaband district, possesses a strong agrarian base, significant minor forest produce, and an emerging food-processing ecosystem. While its export portfolio is currently limited, the district's combination of high-quality paddy, rich forest resources, and a growing interest in health-oriented value-added foods positions it well for future expansion under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative. With global demand rising for sustainable, functional, and nutritionally enhanced products, Gariaband can leverage its natural strengths to diversify into high-value agri-food,

nutraceutical, and forest-based exports. Table 9 below outlines high-potential export products from the district.

Table 7: Potential Export Products from Gariaband

Products	Rationale for Export Potential
Agro-Based Products	• Paddy and Rice Products: Raw rice, parboiled rice, rice flakes (poha), rice flour, and value-added rice-based snacks • Pulses Processing: Arhar (pigeon pea), chana, and processed dal • Oilseeds: Mustard oil and filtered edible oils • Millet: Kodo, kutki, and ragi (cleaned, graded, and processed millet products)
Herbal & Medicinal Products	• Herbal Leaves and Extracts: Basil, hyssop, rosemary, sage, savory (dried herbs, powders, essential oils) • Medicinal Plants: Ashwagandha, kalmegh, giloy, safed musli (dry roots, extracts) • Herbal Teas and Wellness Products: Single-herb and blended formulations for domestic and export markets
Minor Forest Produce (MFP)	• Tamarind (raw, deseeded, paste, and concentrate) • Mahua (flowers, seed oil, value-added food and cosmetic inputs) • Chironji (kernels and processed nut products) • Harra, Bahera, Amla (raw and processed—powders, extracts, Triphala)
Horticulture & Allied Products	• Amla Processing: Candy, juice, pulp, and herbal formulations • Vegetables: Dehydrated and frozen vegetables • Honey and Beekeeping Products: Natural honey, beeswax, and value-added honey blends

6.2 Strategy to Increase Exports from Gariaband

Gariaband district, with its strong agricultural base and minerals like coal, ordinary stone and sand, and emerging potential in value-added food processing, is well-placed to evolve into a competitive agro-based export hub in Chhattisgarh. Although its current export basket is limited to such as *rice and Oleoresins*. Gariaband has the foundations necessary to diversify into high-value categories such as low-glycaemic index millets, nutraceutical ingredients, ready-to-eat (RTE) and ready-to-cook (RTC) foods, processed spices, and sustainably sourced forest products. To unlock this potential, the district requires a structured roadmap that enhances infrastructure, builds technical capabilities, and strengthens market linkages. The following phased strategy outlines short-, medium-, and long-term interventions to accelerate Gariaband's export readiness and strengthen its contribution to India's trade ecosystem.

Action Plan /Short-Term Strategy (0–2 year)

1. Hard Infrastructure & Logistics Readiness

1. Export Facilitation Cell in Gariaband: District Industries Centre (DIC)—Gariaband may facilitate the establishment of an Export Facilitation Cell to coordinate with DGFT, APEDA, MPEDA, Spices Board, and EPCs, acting as a single-window support system for exporters.
2. Strengthening Connectivity: Improve last-mile road connectivity for key rice belts and MFP-producing clusters to NH-30 and NH-43 to reduce cargo handling time and expedite movement to major ports such as Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and JNPT.
3. Common cold storage/Warehousing for Grains & MFP: Facilitate creation of small-scale warehousing and scientific storage units for paddy, rice, millets, spices, tamarind, and lac in Gariaband to improve product holding capacity and reduce post-harvest losses.
4. Drying grading, packaging centers.
5. Export facilitation center.
 - Identify 3 to 5 Export products.
 - Training of SHGS.
 - Branding and Packaging start.
 - Register exporters.
 - Set up processing units.
 - Develop clusters.
 - Start pilot exports.
 - Improve logistics.

2. Soft Infrastructure

- i. Exporter Awareness Drives: Organize district-wide training on export documentation, packaging norms, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, GI requirements, and pre-shipment inspections.
- ii. Skill Mapping: Conduct mapping of rice millers, SHGs, FPOs, MFP collectors, and spice growers to identify enterprises with potential for export-oriented scaling and certification.

3. Training for Farmers & Entrepreneurs



- i. Farmer Training for Crop Diversification & Quality Standards: Introduce training in GAP, residue-free cultivation, organic farming for spices, and quality compliance for rice and millets meant for low-GI processing.
- ii. Entrepreneur Workshops: Train local MSMEs and SHGs on value addition in agro- products, brand-based nutraceutical extraction, and ready-to-cook breakfast mixes.
- iii. Digital Traceability Onboarding: Facilitate FPO/SHG onboarding onto APEDA systems such as HortiNet and GrainsNet; encourage adoption of QR-code based traceability for niche rice & millets and nutraceutical products.

Skill Development and Training focus on

- Export documentation.
- Packaging and branding.
- Processing technology.
- Womens SHGS.
- Tribal entrepreneurs.

4. Marketing, Branding & Promotion

- i. Exporter Helpdesk: Establish the Export Facilitation Cell as a one-stop desk for documentation support, packaging norms, buyer queries, and organic certification assistance for rice, MFP, and nutraceuticals.
- ii. District-Level Buyer Engagement: Organize local trade fairs showcasing Gariaband's value-added rice, spices, and forest-based products to domestic buyers, e-commerce platforms, and institutional buyers.
- iii. Brand Promotion: Develop district-level branding for value-added millets, forest products, and healthy food mixes to position Gariaband as a source of clean-label, nutrition-rich foods.
- iv. Create brand like "Gariaband Tribal Organics".
- v. **Digital Marketing.**
 - E-commerce (Amazon, Flipkart , ONDC).
 - Export portals (DGFT,APEDA)

Medium-Term Strategy (3-5 years)

1. Hard Infrastructure & Logistics Readiness

- i. Establish Export Hub
- ii. Large Scale Exports
- iii. GI Tagging & Global Branding
- iv. Processing Centres for RTE/RTC Foods and Spices: Establish dedicated processing hubs for millets and horticulture products, extruded breakfast products, spice cleaning and grinding, dehydration, and MFP processing (tamarind, mahua, chironji).
- v. Quality Labs & Testing Units: Promote NABL-certified testing facilities for GI, pesticide residues, aflatoxins, moisture levels, and nutraceutical component testing to ease compliance for exporters.
- vi. Improved Rail-Linked Logistics: Utilize and augment connectivity to major railway points in Gariaband to efficiently move bulk agri-products and processed foods to Raipur for containerization.

2. Soft Infrastructure & Technical Capacity Building

- i. Export-Oriented Training Institutes: Collaborate with IIFT, APEDA, and EPCH for specialized export training programs in Gariaband.
- ii. 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.
- iii. This can be facilitated by collaborating with NIFTEM / schemes under MoFPI.
- iv. Launch women-led processing units with dedicated training on entrepreneurship and export finance (this can be facilitated by tying-up with NABARD, SIDBI).
- v. Prepare, strategize and deploy ICT-based traceability systems to ensure transparency in agro supply chains.

3. Export Marketing and Trade Linkages

- i. District Export Product Catalogue: Curate a catalogue for Gariaband showcasing low-GI rice, nutraceuticals, spice powders, and tamarind-based



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products; onboard sellers on ONDC, AgriBazaar, GeM, Amazon Global, and Flipkart Export.

- ii. **Industry–EPC Coordination:** Use the Export Facilitation Cell to bridge gaps between producers and EPCs such as APEDA, FIEO, and Spices Board for deeper market access.
- iii. **Unified Export Branding:** Develop branding like “Gariaband Naturals” or “Gariaband Health Foods” for value-added foods and nutraceuticals.
- iv. **Trade Fair Participation:** Facilitate participation of Gariaband producers in Dubai Expo, GulfFood, Africa Food Manufacturing Expo, and SIAL Paris for targeted market exposure.
- v. **Actions**
 - Tie-up with exporters
 - Participate in trade fairs, Buyer-seller meets, B2Bfairs.

6.3 Financial Incentives & Policy Support

- i. Unlocking Gariaband's export potential requires a targeted financial and policy support framework that aligns with the district's strengths in value-added rice, nutraceuticals, spices, and minor forest produce. The Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2024–30 already extends a wide range of incentives—including capital investment subsidy, transport subsidy, technology-upgradation assistance, and SGST reimbursement—which can be calibrated to address Gariaband's export-specific needs. Given the district's emerging niche in low-glycaemic index rice, fortified rice, RTE/RTC foods, and bran-based nutraceuticals, policy instruments may prioritise support for modern milling technologies, extrusion units, nutraceutical extraction lines, and packaging innovation. The policy's provisions for R&D units and export-related expense reimbursement can be particularly valuable for rice mills, processing units, and FPO-led enterprises seeking to develop globally compliant, science-backed nutrition products. Skill development efforts focused on export compliance, SPS standards, residue-free cultivation, food safety audits, and international packaging norms will strengthen Gariaband's workforce and enable micro-enterprises to meet global market requirements.
- ii. National schemes can be leveraged to accelerate infrastructure creation, enterprise scaling, and market access for Gariaband's export-oriented sectors. Product clusters in rice milling, nutraceuticals, spices, and MFP processing stand to gain from public-private partnerships (PPPs) for establishing integrated packaging centres, cold storage, warehousing, and quality labs. Further, the One District One Product (ODOP) and PMFME schemes may be strategically integrated with export promotion to scale up Gariaband's signature product categories—particularly value-added rice and

tamarind—by supporting branding, capacity building, and market development.

- iii. Strong institutional facilitation is critical to operationalize these interventions and create an enabling ecosystem for exporters. The District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) must anchor coordination between line departments, industry stakeholders, certification bodies, and financial institutions. A dedicated Export Facilitation Cell within the District Industries Centre (DIC)—Gariaband can serve as the district's export helpdesk, guiding enterprises on scheme applications, export documentation, regulatory compliance, packaging standards, international certifications (HACCP, ISO 22000, GlobalG.A.P.), and export finance. Closer coordination with railway and highway authorities, CONCOR, APEDA, Spices Board, and leading banks will help build the logistics and financial infrastructure required to support large-scale export operations. With a cohesive blend of financial incentives, alignment with national export schemes, and strong district-level handholding, Gariaband can evolve from a single-commodity exporter into a diversified agro-processing and nutraceutical hub, driving inclusive, high-value economic growth across the district.

iv. **Institutional support**

- **Leverage schemes:**
PMFME
Van-dhan yojana
Food processing policy
One district one product (ODOP)
- **Create:**
District export promotion committee (DEPC)
Export Facilitation cell.



Dy. Director Of Agriculture
Distt. Gariaband (C.G.)

7. Challenges and Recommendations

Gariaband district possesses considerable potential to emerge as a competitive agro-processing and value-added food export hub; however, several structural and operational challenges must be addressed to unlock this potential. A primary constraint is the district's limited export-grade infrastructure and data availability. The Plan would not be finalized on real-time data. This can lead to subjective decision-making rather than evidence-based planning.

However, Gariaband is a major paddy-producing district, inadequate scientific warehousing, the absence of modern value-added rice processing units, and negligible facilities for nutraceutical extraction restrict the district's ability to produce globally compliant low-glycaemic index rice, fortified rice, and bran-based products. Cold chain infrastructure, particularly for perishable minor forest produce (MFP) such as tamarind and chironji, remains insufficient, leading to post-harvest losses and restricting shelf life for international markets. While NH-130 provides critical connectivity to Raipur, the district lacks integrated logistics hubs, pack houses, and quality testing laboratories essential for establishing Gariaband as an export-ready node within the region.

Another central challenge is the limited community participation and Prioritization of global export norms among rice millers, FPOs, SHGs, and small entrepreneurs. Many enterprises continue to rely on traditional processing and packaging methods that do not meet international food safety standards. Lack of exposure/awareness to requirements such as HACCP, Global G.A.P., ISO 22000, BRCGS, and residue-free certification undermines access to premium markets, especially for low-GI rice, nutraceutical ingredients, and value-added RTE/RTC products. Similarly, inadequate knowledge of branding, modern packaging, consumer trends, and digital traceability systems prevents producers from leveraging the rising global demand for clean-label, plant-based, and functional food products. Limited value addition—such as converting rice bran into fibre supplements, tamarind into concentrate, or spices into dehydrated extracts—further restricts the district from tapping higher-value market segments.

Marketing limitations compound these challenges. Despite growing global interest in health foods and sustainable forest produce, Gariaband's products remain underrepresented in trade fairs, export expos, and e-commerce marketplaces. Without district-level branding—for instance, "Gariaband Low-GI Rice" or "Gariaband Naturals"—producers cannot command premium pricing or recognition. SHGs and FPOs also face barriers in accessing affordable credit needed for technology upgrades, compliance audits, and packaging improvements. Although the State Warehousing Corporation is exploring the creation of additional storage capacity, a significant gap continues to exist between the current scientific storage availability and the district's total requirement across rice, spices, and MFPs. To bridge this gap,

DIC may facilitate the development of cold storage, modern godowns, and integrated pack houses equipped with grading, sorting, and pre-cooling facilities for processed food and RTE/RTC segments.

At the same time, these challenges present an opportunity for strategic transformation. Establishing dedicated agro-processing clusters for low-GI rice, nutraceuticals, and spices; promoting an integrated food processing park; and encouraging the development of Integrated Pack Houses can ensure adherence to global quality standards. Capacity-building programmes in partnership with APEDA, Spices Board, NABARD, NIFTEM, and EPCs can enable producers to upgrade skills in packaging, branding, certification, and e-commerce exports. Digital platforms such as ONDC, Amazon Global, and AgriBazaar offer new avenues for market access. Financial support under the Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2024–30—combined with central schemes such as PMFME, ODOP, and TIES—can be leveraged to incentivize technology adoption, encourage export-compliant units, and build shared infrastructure.

The DEPC at Gariaband should also conduct a thorough assessment of export potential products and monitoring for implementation of all export related work in the district. DEPC also prepare chart out most cost-efficient logistics corridor to nearest ports, detailing the State Highways, National Highways, congestion points, road quality etc across the route map.

By tackling these constraints through a coordinated, forward-looking approach, Gariaband can transition from a district dependent on a single commodity to a diversified, high-value export ecosystem. This transformation will not only enhance rural incomes and employment but also position Gariaband as a model district in India's rising health-food and nutraceutical export landscape—where traditional strengths evolve into globally competitive opportunities.



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8. Monitoring Indicators

- Export volume
- No. of exporters registered
- SHGs engaged
- Processing units established
- Employment generated

9. Expected out comes

- Increase farmer and tribal income
- Employment generation
- Industrial development in rural areas
- Position Gariaband as India's Tribal and Forest product export district.

10. Conclusion

Gariaband district, despite its strong agricultural base and rich forest resources, remains at an early stage of industrialisation and export development. At present, its export profile is narrowly concentrated, with parboiled rice being the only significant commodity reaching international markets, largely through intermediaries outside the state. The absence of modern processing infrastructure—such as advanced rice milling, nutraceutical extraction facilities, integrated pack houses, scientific storage, cold chain systems, and export-grade testing laboratories—limits the district's ability to move beyond raw or minimally processed exports and access higher-value global markets.

At the same time, substantial paddy production and the availability of diverse minor forest produce, including tamarind, coriander, mahua, and lac, present significant untapped potential. Most of these resources are currently marketed in unprocessed form, preventing the district from capturing value in emerging segments such as low-glycaemic index and fortified rice products, ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook foods, rice-bran-based nutraceuticals, dehydrated spices, and processed forest-produce foods. Constraints related to logistics infrastructure, quality certification, technical know-how, branding, and market exposure further restrict participation in premium domestic and international markets.

These gaps, however, also create a clear pathway for structured and transformative development. With targeted investments in modern processing, storage, logistics, and quality infrastructure—supported by focused capacity building and institutional assistance from agencies such as APEDA, NABARD, Spices Board, and PMFME—Gariaband can progressively build a diversified, export-oriented ecosystem. By strengthening skills, encouraging value addition, and promoting district-level branding, the district has the potential to transition from a single-commodity exporter

to a competitive hub for value-added rice, nutraceutical ingredients, and sustainable forest-based products, enabling inclusive and resilient economic growth.

Gariyaband has very high export potential especially in forest produce, organic agriculture, and bamboo products. The focus should be on value addition + branding + export linkage, not just raw materials selling.


GENERAL MANAGER
District Trade & Industries Centre
Gariyaband (C.G.)




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