

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,  
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क्रमांक / जिव्याउके-अं0पुर / सूलमउ0 / 2026 / 910 अम्बिकापुर, दिनांक ....16/04/2026  
प्रति,

e-mail

संचालक उद्योग,  
(निर्यात प्रकोष्ठ)  
उद्योग संचालनालय,  
उद्योग भवन, रायपुर (छ0ग0)

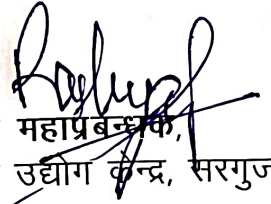
**विषय:-** जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) के  
संबंध में ।

**सन्दर्भ:-** उद्योग संचालनालय, छत्तीसगढ़ का पत्र क्रमांक GENS-11/2178/2025/  
रायपुर दिनांक 23.12.2025

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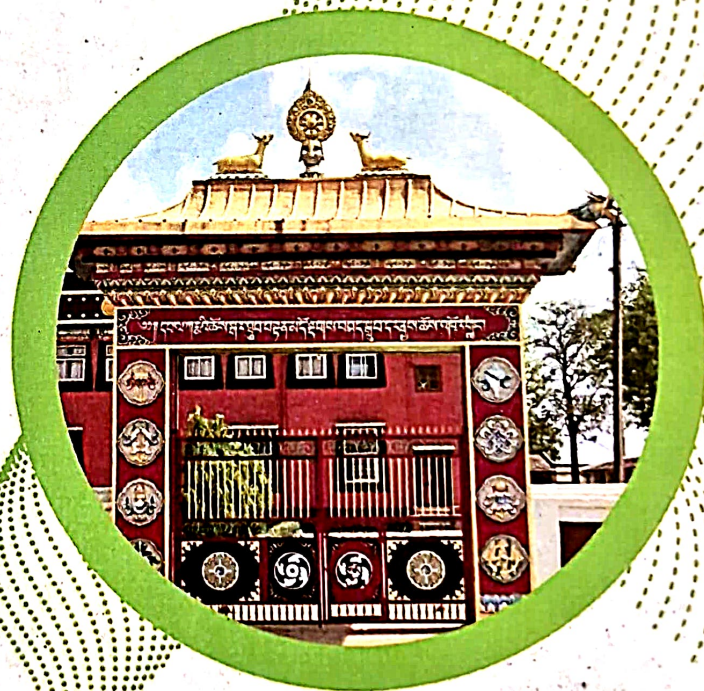
उपरोक्त संदर्भित विषयांतर्गत जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति से जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना का अनुमोदन कराकर, संशोधित/अनुमोदित प्रति संचालनालय को उपलब्ध कराने हेतु निर्देश हैं। निर्देश के अनुक्रम में जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति की बैठक कलेक्टर महोदय, सरगुजा की अध्यक्षता में दिनांक 06.04.2026 को आयोजित किया गया। उक्त बैठक में जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना का अनुमोदन किया जाकर जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति की बैठक का कार्यवाही विवरण एवं जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) की अनुमोदित प्रति पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर सादर प्रेषित है ।

**संलग्न:-** उपरोक्तानुसार ।

  
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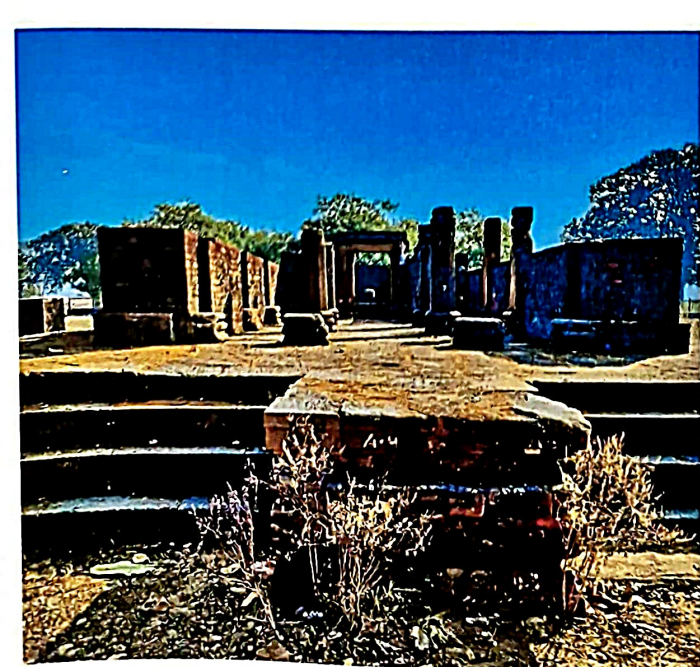
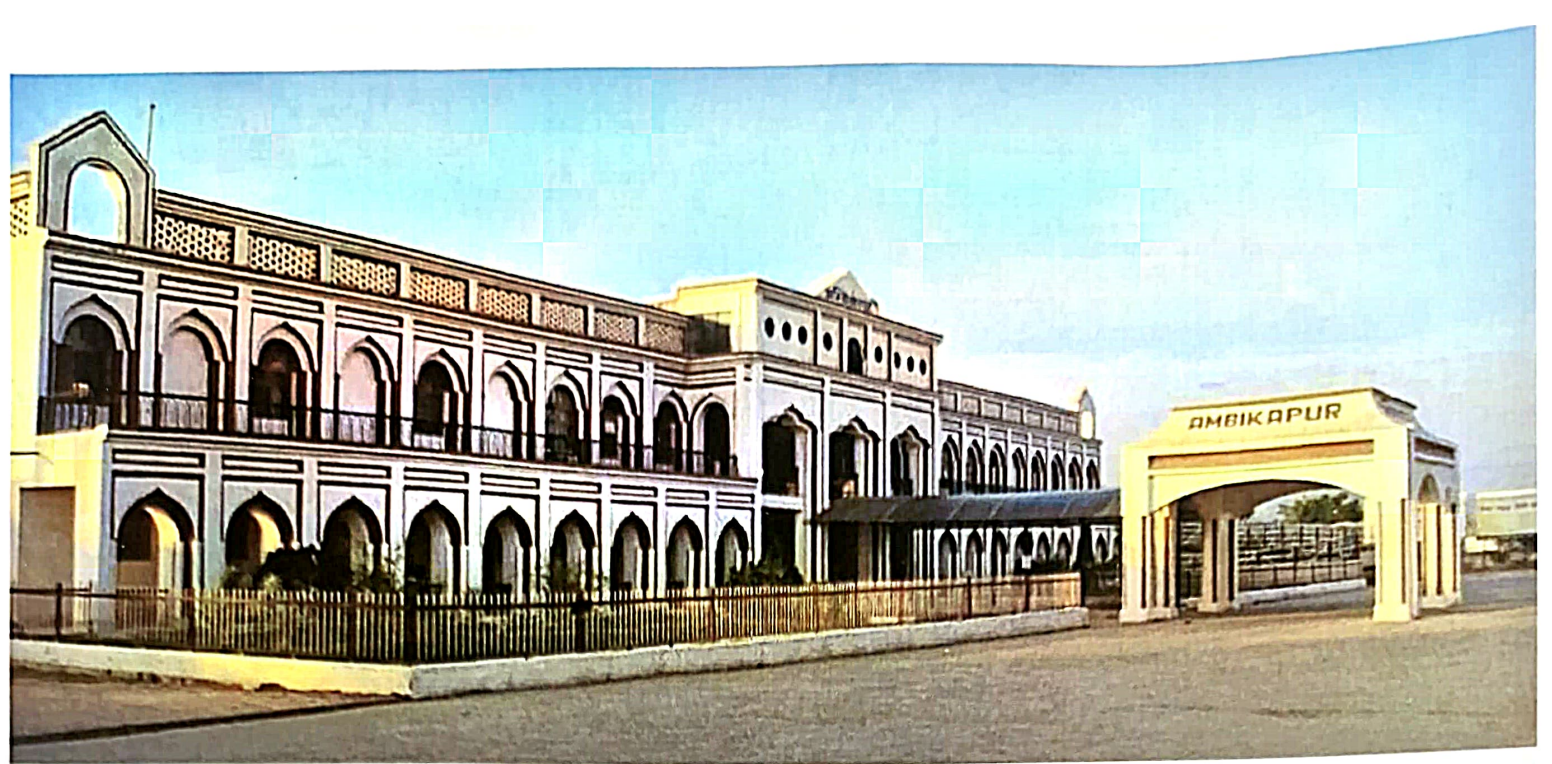


# DISTRICT EXPORT ACTION PLAN



## SURGUJA



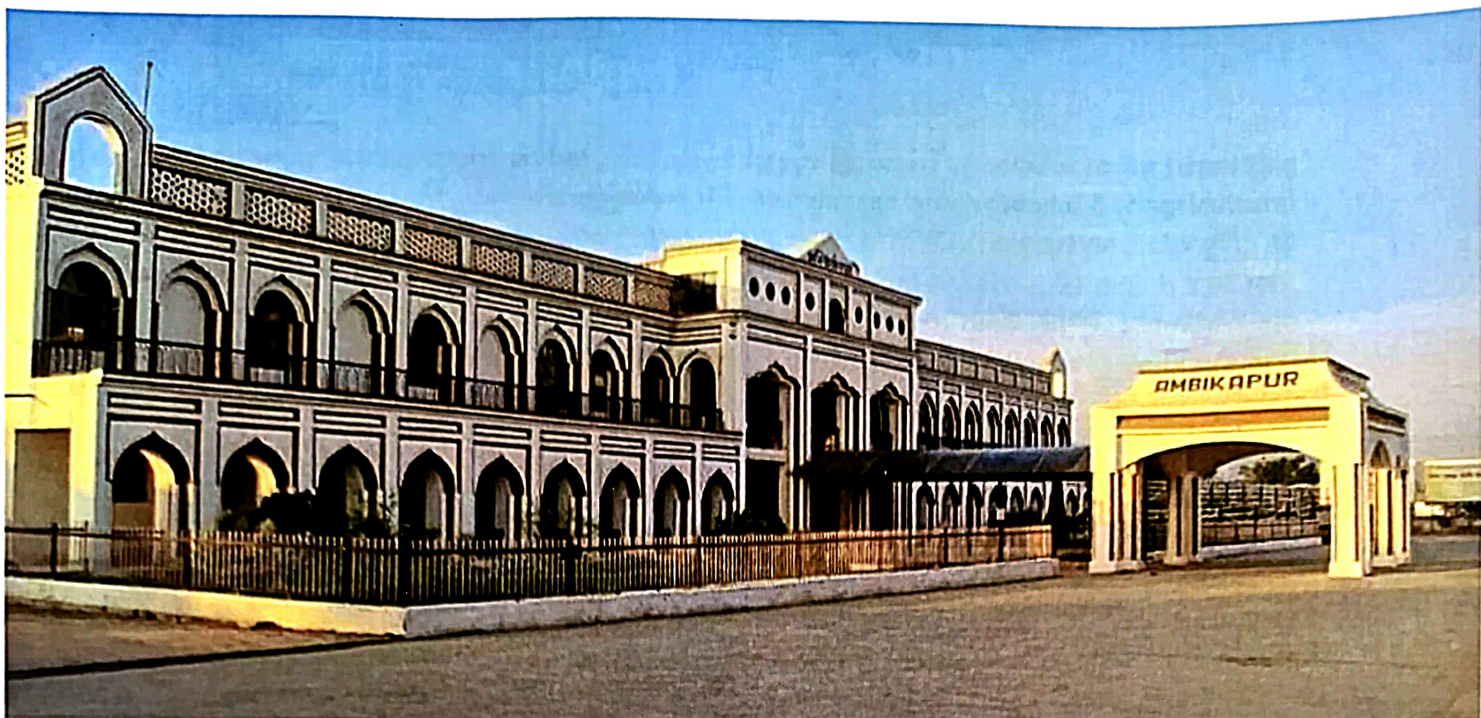




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## 1. District Profile

### 1.1 Introduction

Nestled in the northern reaches of Chhattisgarh, Surguja district shares borders with neighbouring districts of Korba and Raigarh to the south, Balrampur to the north and north-east and Surajpur to the west. This strategic positioning places it near multiple District boundaries, most notably those with industrial districts like Korba and Raigarh.

Surguja is served by state highway 16, and part of state highway 17 that enters Surguja toward east. National Highways 43, 130 and 343 pass through Surguja which link it efficiently with regional centers and industrial hubs such as Korba<sup>1</sup> and via rail and roads with Bilaspur, Raipur, and beyond. The railway line from Bilaspur via Katni further connects Ambikapur to the wider network, aiding movement of both people and resources.

Geographically, the district exhibits diverse landscapes-highlands and plateau (like Mainpat) rising over 1000 m, with fertile central plains bisected by the Rihand, Ghunghutta, Mand, Atem, Gagar, Machchali, and other rivers fostering agriculture<sup>2</sup>. Nearly 58% of its area is under forest cover, yielding timber and valuable forest produce<sup>3</sup>. The soils range from red yellow and laterite to alluvial types, supporting rice and traditional crops. Mineral wealth is considerable-bauxite reserves (over 57 million tonnes) on Mainpat, along with coal, mica, pyrites, sulphur, galena, and more in central-north Surguja.

<sup>1</sup> List of National Highways in the country, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India

<sup>2</sup> Surguja District website, <https://surguja.gov.in/en/history/>,

<sup>3</sup> Surguja district website, <https://surguja.gov.in/en/physical-resources/>,

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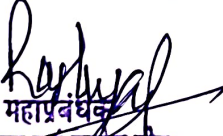


Ambikapur stands as the primary industrial city, supported by smaller towns benefiting from mining and agro-processing strengths. The district's rich mineral and agricultural base underpin its industrial potential. With over half the population belonging to Scheduled Tribes (e.g., Gond, Oraon, Panika, Korwa, Santals, etc.), Surguja is a vibrant hub of tribal culture. Languages like Surgujia, Kurukh (Oraon), Hindi, Sadri, and others are widely spoken. Tribal traditions and arts remain deeply interwoven in daily life and regional identity.

The district has several tourist highlights which include Mainpat plateau (hill station), Ramgarh and Kailash caves, and ancient temples like Gauri-Shankar at Deogarh. Surguja hosts a range of educational institutions (Sant Gahira Guru Vishwavidyalaya in Ambikapur; medical, engineering, polytechnic, nursing, ITI, and agricultural colleges), and healthcare facilities including a government medical college. Common Facility Centres and governance infrastructure further bolster economic activities, empowering local development and service delivery.

## 1.2 Administrative Profile

Surguja district spans approximately 5,732 km<sup>2</sup> and is administratively organized into 8 tehsils and 7 development blocks<sup>4</sup>. Politically, the district one Lok Sabha constituency and three Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) constituencies. The district administration is headed by a Collector, supported by line departments including agriculture, health, education, tribal welfare and industry. 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.

  
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<sup>4</sup> State portal, Government of Chhattisgarh, <https://cgstate.gov.in/en/district-details/32#>.



### Administrative Structure of Surguja<sup>5</sup>:

- District Headquarter: Ambikapur
- Tehsils (08): Ambikapur, Lakhanpur, Udaipur, Lundra, Batauli, Sitapur, Mainpat, Darima.
- Development Blocks (07): Ambikapur, Lakhanpur, Udaipur, Lundra, Batauli, Sitapur, Mainpat.
- Rural Governance:
  - Gram Panchayat: 439
  - Revenue Villages: 1769



Note: The map shown is used for illustrative purpose only

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

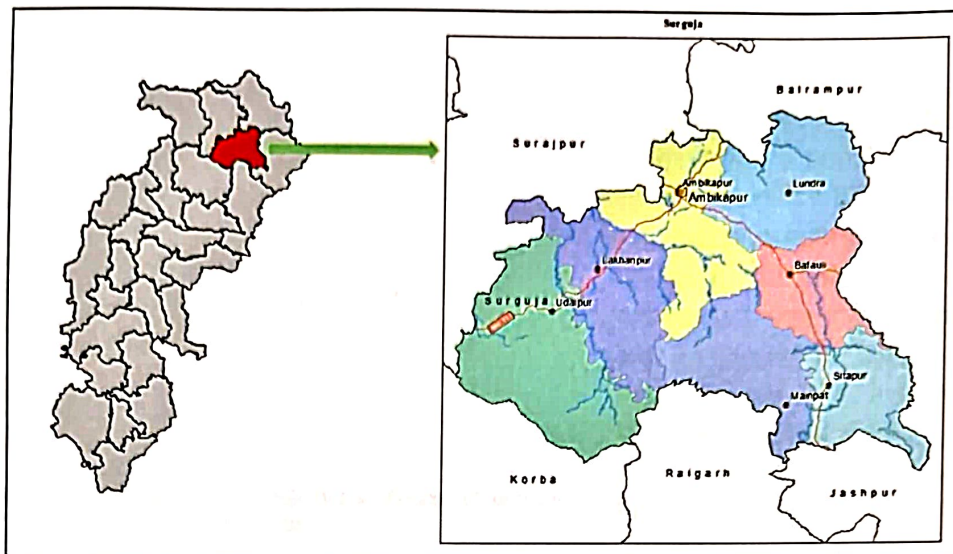
### 1.3 Location and Geography

Surguja district holds a strategically significant position in the northern part of Chhattisgarh. Its location near the trijunction of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh facilitates inter-state trade, cultural exchange, and connectivity. The district is also well-connected to mineral-rich and industrially developing areas like Korba and Bilaspur, enhancing its potential as a logistics and processing hub. Its varied topography characterized by plains, plateaus, and forested hills, supports both agricultural and mineral-based economic activities.

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<sup>5</sup> Surguja district website <https://Surguja.nic.in/>





Note: The map shown is used for illustrative purpose only

- **Coordinates:** Between 23° 37' 22" - 24° 06' 17" North and 81° 34' 40" - 84° 4' 40" East longitude
- **Total Area:** Approximately 5,732 km<sup>2</sup>

### Geographical Boundaries

Surguja shares its boundaries with several districts, giving it strategic inter- regional connectivity. Within Chhattisgarh, it is bordered by Surajpur to the west, Balrampur to the north, Korba to the south, and Koriya to the southwest. This geographical positioning enhances its administrative, economic, and cultural significance within the region.

### Climate and Land Use:

- **Climate:** The climate is characterized by hot summer and well distributed rainfall during monsoon season.
- **Average Rainfall:** 100-200 cm June to October
- **Forest:** Surguja has almost 58% area covered with forest

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Surguja district, with a substantial population of approximately 9.87 lakh, exhibits a predominantly rural makeup, with around 84% of its residents living in villages and just 16% in urban centres. The sex ratio stands at a balanced 987 females per 1,000 males, while the literacy rate hovers at 68.48%, reflecting a notable rural-urban divide. A notable

Image: Pahadi Korwa tribe of Surguja District (Source: Chhattisgarh Tribal Research C Training Institute)

demographic attribute is the large Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, constituting the majority socio-cultural group in the district. Together, these figures portray Surguja as a predominantly tribal, rural district with challenges and opportunities in literacy and youth development. The table below captures the overall demographic profile of Surguja.

**Table 1: Surguja - Demographic Profile<sup>6</sup>**

| Sl.no                                                              | Indicators                         | Metrics                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Projection as per Economic Survey 2025-26 (Projection for 03/2026) |                                    |                            |
| 1                                                                  | Total Population                   | 987122                     |
| 2                                                                  | Males                              | 488055                     |
| 3                                                                  | Females                            | 481507                     |
| 4                                                                  | Urban                              | 164740                     |
| 5                                                                  | Rural                              | 822382                     |
| 6                                                                  | Population Density                 | 244                        |
| 7                                                                  | Population Growth Rate (2001-2011) | 19.74%                     |
| Sex Ration                                                         |                                    |                            |
| 9                                                                  | Overall                            | 987 females per 1000 males |
| Literacy Rate <sup>7</sup>                                         |                                    |                            |
| 10                                                                 | Overall                            | 68.48%                     |
| 11                                                                 | Male Literacy                      | 74.08%                     |
| 12                                                                 | Female Literacy                    | 62.83%                     |

<sup>7</sup> Demography, <https://descg.gov.in/en/Economic-Survey.aspx>, [https://descg.gov.in/en/Statistics\\_Highlights.aspx](https://descg.gov.in/en/Statistics_Highlights.aspx)



### 3. Logistics Infrastructure Profile

Surguja district possesses a developing logistics infrastructure supported by National Highways NH-43, NH-130 and NH-343, along with key state highways and district roads enhancing regional connectivity. Proximity to industrial hubs in Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states facilitates movement of goods, while ongoing improvements in road, rail, and storage facilities strengthen its role in regional trade and commerce.

#### 3.1 Road Transport

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

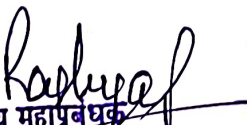
- **National Highway - 43, 130 and 343:** National Highways 43, 130 and 343 serve as vital trade corridors for Surguja, linking it to Raipur, Bilaspur, and key markets in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. National Highway 43 links Surguja's Ambikapur to Raipur and further west through Manendragarh and Baikunthpur, enhancing access to Chhattisgarh's industrial and agricultural hubs. It continues into Jharkhand through Gumla and Ranchi. Meanwhile, NH 130 connects Ambikapur directly to Katghora (in Korba), Bilaspur, and Raipur, strengthening internal state market integration. NH 343 Connects Ambikapur to Garhwa.
- **State Highways 16,17:** State Highways 16 and 17 enhance Surguja's logistics framework by linking interior production zones to Ambikapur and major national highways.

#### 3.2 Air Transport

Maa Mahamaya Airport is located approximately 18 km from Ambikapur city. This airport facilitates domestic air travel to surrounding norther part of the state, supporting the movement of goods and passengers. Even though the airport accommodates smaller aircrafts, it aids reduced transit time and cost for regional producers but also serves as a catalyst for economic integration and trade augmentation across Surguja's transport network.

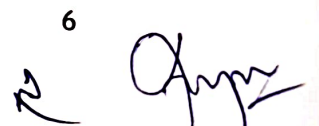
#### 3.3 Railway Transport

Surguja district is served primarily by the Ambikapur railway station, which lies on the broad-gauge line connecting Ambikapur to Anuppur Junction in the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh. Anuppur Junction serves as a key railhead linking Surguja to the national railway network. From Anuppur Junction, passengers can access major rail routes to important cities such as Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Durg, Bhopal, Raipur, and even

  
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New Delhi. This makes Anuppur an essential gateway for long-distance rail travel from Surguja.

Several trains operate on this route, these trains connect Surguja to major urban centers like Raipur, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Katni, Gwalior, and others, facilitating passenger movement as well as regional trade. While Ambikapur remains the principal station in the district, other smaller stations such as Surajpur Road also support regional connectivity.

  
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#### 4. Economic and Sectoral Overview

Surguja district is a resource-rich region with a diverse economic base driven by agriculture, forestry, and mineral reserves. Fertile plains support paddy, maize, and horticultural produce, while dense forests sustain forest-based industries. Abundant coal and bauxite deposits, along with emerging connectivity infrastructure, position Surguja as a growing hub for trade and industrial activity.

##### 4.1 Agriculture

Surguja district's agriculture thrives on approximately 41.67% of its geographical area, though much of it is rain-fed and yields remain modest<sup>8</sup>. Rice dominates, covering around 70% of the cultivated land, while maize follows as the next chief crop, demonstrating notable importance in regional cropping systems. The district also cultivates traditional aromatic varieties like Jeeraphool rice, an indigenous short-grain rice famed for its fragrance and granted Geographical Indication (GI) status, reflecting its cultural and economic value<sup>9</sup>.

The table below provides details of the variety of Crops (Cereal/Pulses/Oilseeds) produce in Surguja.

| Sl. No. | Name of Crop | Area (In Hect.) | Production (In MT) |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 01      | Paddy        | 74514           | 289561.404         |
| 02      | Maize        | 20640           | 48978.720          |
| 03      | Kutki        | 2658            | 2304.486           |
| 04      | BuckWheat    | 2535            | 2192.775           |
| 05      | Wheat        | 17909           | 44127.776          |
| 06      | Pigeon Peas  | 10131           | 9502.878           |
| 07      | Black Gram   | 14025           | 11907.225          |
| 08      | Ground Nut   | 9365            | 14937.175          |
| 09      | Chick Pea    | 6825            | 6586.125           |
| 10      | Red Lentil   | 5810            | 3805.55            |
| 11      | Mustard      | 22895           | 16988.09           |

<sup>8</sup> Physical Resources, Surguja district website, <https://surguja.gov.in/en/physical-resources/>,

<sup>9</sup> Geographical Indication Registry, Office of Controller General of Patents, Design, and Trademark, DPIIT, Government of India

The table below provides details of the variety of Horticulture produce in Surguja.

Table 2: Area, Production figures of Horticulture crops in Surguja, 2024-25<sup>10</sup>

| Sl.no                | Crop                      | Area (000 Ha) | Production (000 MT) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>A. Fruits</b>     |                           |               |                     |
| 1                    | Mango                     | 6.780         | 64.417              |
| 2                    | Banana                    | 1.111         | 13.332              |
| 3                    | Guava                     | 1.091         | 9.628               |
| 4                    | Jackfruit                 | 0.712         | 6.145               |
| 5                    | Limes & Lemons            | 0.707         | 5.959               |
| 6                    | Litchi                    | 2.323         | 21.572              |
| 7                    | Muskmelon                 | 0.081         | 0.071               |
| 8                    | Papaya                    | 0.625         | 9.223               |
| 9                    | Pear                      | 0.550         | 5.062               |
| 10                   | Watermelon                | 0.101         | 0.121               |
| 11                   | Other Fruits              | 0.914         | 8.974               |
|                      | <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>14.995</b> | <b>144.504</b>      |
| <b>B. Vegetables</b> |                           |               |                     |
| 1                    | Arbi/Colacasia            | 0.396         | 6.420               |
| 2                    | Beans (All Including Sem) | 0.859         | 7.953               |
| 3                    | Bitter Gourd              | 0.591         | 5.903               |
| 4                    | Bottle Gourd              | 0.879         | 14.038              |
| 5                    | Brinjal                   | 1.895         | 28.498              |
| 6                    | Cabbage                   | 1.465         | 21.852              |
| 7                    | Carrot                    | 0.051         | 0.579               |
| 8                    | Cauliflower               | 1.404         | 22.310              |
| 9                    | Elephant Foot/Jimikand    | 0.283         | 1.416               |
| 10                   | Green Chilly              | 2.828         | 28.259              |
| 11                   | Pumpkin                   | 0.606         | 8.684               |
| 12                   | Leafy Vegetables          | 0.141         | 0.836               |
| 13                   | Okra                      | 1.779         | 19.026              |
| 14                   | Onion                     | 1.520         | 23.560              |
| 15                   | Peas (Green)              | 1.707         | 17.069              |
| 16                   | Potato                    | 7.575         | 110.050             |
| 17                   | Radish                    | 0.586         | 13.552              |
| 18                   | Sweet Potato              | 0.645         | 6.454               |
| 19                   | Tomato                    | 2.970         | 65.600              |
| 20                   | Other Vegetable           | 3.182         | 21.191              |
|                      | <b>Total</b>              | <b>31.362</b> | <b>423.250</b>      |
| <b>C. Flowers</b>    |                           |               |                     |
| 1                    | Gladiolus                 | 0.115         | 0.517               |
| 2                    | Marigold                  | 0.105         | 0.696               |
| 3                    | Rose                      | 0.005         | 0.002               |

<sup>10</sup> Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department - Horticulture Statistics Report 2024-25

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|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 4                | Tube Rose     | 0.215        | 1.183        |
| 5                | Other Flowers | 0.035        | 0.117        |
|                  | <b>Total</b>  | <b>0.475</b> | <b>0.517</b> |
| <b>D. Spices</b> |               |              |              |
| 1                | Garlic        | 0.150        | 1.067        |
| 2                | Ginger        | 0.130        | 0.650        |
| 3                | Turmeric      | 1.350        | 6.750        |
|                  | <b>Total</b>  | <b>1.630</b> | <b>8.467</b> |

## 4.2 Agro-Processing Landscape in Surguja

Surguja's agro-processing landscape can be strategically anchored around crops and products flagged by government initiatives and recent state statistics. The Chhattisgarh Horticulture Statistics (2024-25) indicate strong statewide momentum in vegetables and associated value chains, providing the throughput needed for packhouses, grading, and cold-chain assets that Surguja can leverage for procurement and primary processing close to farm-gates. Under the Districts as Export Hub (DEH) list, Surguja's priority agri commodities are rice, jowar (sorghum), maize and potato - lending themselves to modern rice milling (including fortified and parboiled rice), millet extrusion/snacks and blended flours, maize grits/starch/animal feed, and potato dehydration (flakes, powders, chips). These lines can be integrated with shared utilities (steam/boilers, testing labs, effluent treatment) in cluster-based food parks to lift quality and unit economics. Complementing this, minor forest produce (mahua, jackfruit) - as identified under ODOP, endows opportunities for FPO-led processing of mahua (flower syrup, nectar, seed-oil soaps and cosmetics) and jackfruit (pulp, flour, ready-to-cook segments, vacuum-fried chips).

On the horticulture side, scalable interventions include ripening/curing, pack-sheds, reefer aggregation, and primary processing for vegetables that ride on the state's rising 2024-25 vegetable output, with district procurement nodes feeding Raipur-Bilaspur-Ranchi markets and institutional buyers. District-level data for 2024-25 show that farmers already devote 149.9 square kilometres (aggregated) to fruit orchards and 313.6 square kilometres (aggregated) to vegetables, harvesting roughly 144504 metric tonnes of fruits and approximately 423250 metric tonnes (aggregated) of vegetables. Tomatoes, potato, cabbage, pumpkins, gourds (bitter, bottle), mango, banana, coriander provide an assured raw-material base for pulp, purée, pickle, dehydration, spice-powders and RTS beverages. With national highways linking the district to Raipur and border state of Jharkhand, Surguja can position itself as a collection and primary-processing hub.

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### 4.3 Minerals

#### 4.3.1 Bauxite

Surguja district hosts significant mineral wealth, with bauxite and coal being the most prominent. Recoverable bauxite reserves total approximately 57.54 million tonnes, comprising about 57 % of Chhattisgarh's total reserves-of which 42.21 million tonnes are proved, 13.56 million tonnes probable, and 1.76 million tonnes possible<sup>11</sup>. These high-quality metallurgical-grade deposits are concentrated in the Mainpat, Samri, and Jamirapat plateau belts. The table below captures the bauxite available in Surguja:

Table 3: Bauxite Production during 2025-26

| Gradewise Production of Bauxite, 2025-26 |                                                                                   |        |           |           |            |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                                          | For use in Alumina C Aluminium extraction: Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> content |        |           | Total     |            |
| District                                 | No. of Mines                                                                      | 45-50% | 40-45%    | Quantity  | Value      |
| Surguja                                  | 05                                                                                | -      | 20784.108 | 20784.108 | 6010856.17 |

Source: District Mining Officer As on 18-03-2026

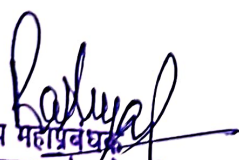
From the 13 mines producing bauxite in Chhattisgarh, 5 mines are located in Surguja. Surguja's bauxite production has experienced a gradual increase with majority contribution from 45-50% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> grade followed by 40-45% grade.

#### 4.3.2 Coal

Surguja district possesses substantial coal reserves, forming part of the Central India Coalfields, with deposits primarily in the Lakhanpur coalfield. Estimated reserves stand at around 459 million tonnes, nearly half classified as high-grade (Grade I) coal. These reserves support both state and regional energy demands, supplying raw material to thermal power plants and allied industries. The table below captures the coal reserves in Surguja for the as of 2024.

Table 4: Surguja Reserves/Resources of Coal, 2024 (In million tonnes)

| Coalfield | Proved | Indicated | Inferred | Total |
|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Lakhanpur | 456    | 3         | -        | 459   |

  
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<sup>11</sup> Physical resources, Indian Minerals Year Book 2024



#### 4.4 Industry profile

Surguja district's industrial profile is shaped by its rich natural resources, agricultural base, and emerging processing sectors. The region hosts significant mining activity, particularly in bauxite and coal, supplying raw material to aluminium and power industries. Agro-based industries, including rice mills, oil extraction units, and minor forest produce processing, leverage the district's strong agricultural and horticultural output. Handloom and handicraft sectors, rooted in tribal traditions, contribute to rural livelihoods and cultural preservation. With improving connectivity, growing small-scale manufacturing, and potential in agro-processing and mineral-based industries, Surguja is steadily evolving into a balanced hub of resource-driven and value-added industrial activity. Furthermore, the table below provides the industrial profile of Surguja:

Table 5: Industrial Profile of Surguja<sup>12</sup>

| Sr. No | Category                                                                    | No. of Units |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1      | Registered Industrial Units                                                 | 1274         |
| 2      | Estimated average number of daily worker employed in small scale industries | 7948         |
| 3      | Investment (In Lakh)                                                        | 42850.38     |
| 4      | Number of Industrial Areas/Parks                                            | 05           |
| 5      | Number of Food Parks                                                        | 02           |

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

Table 6: Micro & Small Enterprises in Surguja

| Sr. No | Type of industry                                               | No. of Units | Investment (In Lakh) | Emp. |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------|
| 1      | Agro Based                                                     | 548          | 20717.79             | 3836 |
| 2      | Packaged Drinking/Soda Water                                   | 04           | 140.00               | 32   |
| 3      | Cotton Textile, Wollen, Silk & artificial Thread bases clothes | 22           | 247.52               | 128  |
| 4      | Water Storage Tank                                             | 02           | 837.33               | 17   |
| 5      | Ready-made Garments & Embroidery                               | 34           | 250.23               | 172  |
| 6      | Wood/wooden based furniture                                    | 28           | 788.00               | 226  |
| 7      | Paper & Paper Products                                         | 15           | 253.01               | 94   |
| 8      | Leather Based                                                  | 08           | 58.45                | 38   |
| 9      | Chemical/Chemical based                                        | 04           | 153.51               | 30   |
| 10     | Rubber, PVC Plastic & Petro based                              | 17           | 1346.94              | 109  |
| 11     | Mineral based                                                  | 93           | 770.50               | 746  |
| 12     | Metal based (Steel fabrication)                                | 64           | 648.85               | 331  |
| 13     | Cold Storage and Warehouse                                     | 18           | 5258.84              | 128  |
| 14     | Electrical machinery & Transport Equipment                     | 02           | 26.00                | 12   |
| 15     | LPG Bottling Pland                                             | 01           | 628.30               | 08   |
| 16     | Repairing & Servicing                                          | 56           | 546.40               | 292  |
| 17     | Other                                                          | 358          | 10179.71             | 1749 |
| TOTAL  |                                                                | 1274         | 42850.38             | 7948 |

Source: DIC, Surguja

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#### 4.4 Government Initiatives to Promote Industry

The value addition to various agricultural produce is supported by various government schemes. At the centre, the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme offers 35% credit-linked capital subsidy to individuals / proprietorship / partnership / Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) / NGOs/ Cooperatives/ Self Help Groups (SHG) / Pvt. Ltd. Co, 50% financial grant for branding and marketing support to groups of FPOs/ SHGs/ Cooperatives or a SPV of micro food processing enterprises. Minor forest products especially Jackfruit from Surguja has also been recognized under “One District-One Product” clusters, while the Production Linked Incentive for Food Processing (PLIS-FPI) rewards investments in millets, fruits and marine-based product lines. Surguja district’s horticultural endowment in terms of production comes from mango, litchi, tomato and potato - which can form the base for value addition. Chhattisgarh’s Industrial Development Policy 2024- 30 designates food processing a thrust sector and extends incentives of up to 45% of fixed-capital investment subsidy (or equivalent SGST reimbursement) and export expense reimbursement of up to 50% for export of goods from the unit’s production site to the port.

#### 4.5 Agricultural Export Profile of Surguja

Surguja district’s agricultural exports has been primarily rice based. The table 7 below provides HS code wise products exported to various countries 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 7: HS code wise products exported from Surguja, 2024-25

| HS Code  | Product                             | Top Markets    | Export Value (INR million) |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 10062000 | Husked Brown Rice                   | Vietnam        | 10.54                      |
| 10059090 | Other: Maize (corn) (non-prepacked) | Nepal          | 1.69                       |
| 12079930 | Niger Seeds W/N Broken              | Mexico, Jordan | 3.87                       |

Source: DGCIS (CG EFC)

During the year 2024-25, Surguja’s key agri export products included husked brown rice (HS Code 10062000) valued at INR 10.54 million, primarily exported to Vietnam; non- prepacked maize (HS Code 10059090) worth INR 1.69 million, exported to Nepal; and niger seeds, whole or broken (HS Code 12079930) valued at INR 3.87 million, exported to Mexico and Jordan. These figures highlight rice as the district’s leading agricultural export by value, followed by niche agricultural commodities like niger seeds and maize.



## 5. SWOT Analysis - Surguja

Strategically located in northern Chhattisgarh, Surguja leverages its rich natural resources, agricultural base, and growing connectivity. Surguja holds strong prospects for industrial, agro-processing, and mining-led growth, while also needing to address infrastructure gaps, skill development, and market integration challenges. This structured analysis provides insights into Surguja's comparative advantages and critical development gaps, enabling targeted interventions for sustainable economic transformation.

### Strength

Rich mineral reserves, particularly bauxite and coal, supporting mining and allied industries.  
Strong agricultural and horticultural output, with paddy, maize, and minor forest produce forming key products.  
Strong tribal cultural heritage and eco-tourism potential in Mainpat and forest areas

### Weakness

Limited large-scale industrial base; predominantly primary sector-driven economy.  
Limited warehousing and logistics infrastructure for bulk exports.  
Skill gaps in industrial trades and processing technologies

### Opportunity

Expansion of agro-processing clusters for rice, maize, and forest produce.  
Collaborate with institutions like IIFT, NIFTEM, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, to build export-oriented skills and certification readiness.  
Scope for mineral-based industries - ancillary industry around aluminium.  
Leveraging government schemes (PMFME, PM Gati Shakti, SAGY) for infrastructure and skill development.

### Threat

Depletion of mineral reserves due to unsustainable extraction, affecting long-term industrial prospect.  
Inadequate rail connectivity limiting competitiveness in bulk commodity exports.  
Potential trade barriers or changes in export regulations affecting agricultural exports to other bigger markets.

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## 6. Surguja - Export

Surguja's export base is anchored in agricultural produce with potential for expanding to forest produce. The district's net sown area is significantly large and grows rice, maize and pulses; forests are extensive and rich in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) such as mahua, tendu patta, chironji and forest honey - providing natural product streams for food and wellness value chains. The district also exports small quantity of denim fabric which has been captured in sections below.

Vegetables like potato, tomato and brinjal are widely cultivated which can also be verified from the district-level horticulture statistics. This supports planning for grading, pack-houses and reefer movement to nearby APEDA approved pack-houses and ports. This supporting infrastructure can be aided with investment avenues such as National Horticulture Board's Cold Storage Scheme and allied packaging infrastructure to meet export specifications. The district's GI-tagged Jeeraphool rice offers premium branding for specialty rice exports with traceability and Intellectual Property protection. Under PMFME's ODOP, Surguja is notified for minor forest produce - jackfruit, enabling micro-enterprise support for dehydration, pulping, RTS beverages and natural sweeteners that fit food and cosmetics global value chains (e.g., mahua seed oil, jackfruit chips / snacks).

Under DGFT's Districts as Export Hubs (DEH), Surguja's identified products are rice, jowar, maize and potato - suggesting export-ready lines like parboiled/aromatic rice, millets mixes, frozen fries / flakes and starches. These products can be packaged by techniques such as cluster-based sorting, IQF packaging and MAP packaging which aid in the process of lifting shelf-life and realization. The district possesses significant



mineral wealth, with major coal deposits located within the broader Surguja belt and substantial recoverable reserves of bauxite. This resource endowment supports the growth of ancillary industries such as equipment manufacturing, packaging, and logistics services, which in turn contribute to the enhancement of agri-minor forest produce export activities.

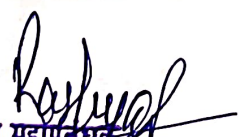
As district infrastructure expands - leveraging FPO-led processing and potential cold storage facilities - Surguja is poised to integrate agro-mineral outputs into regional and international export supply chains. The table below represents the export basket of Surguja for the year 2024-25.

**Table 8: Surguja District Current Export Scenario 2024-25**

| HS Code      | Item Description                                 | Destination          | Value (INR million) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 10062000     | Husked Brown Rice                                | Vietnam              | 10.54               |
| 54075490     | Other (Woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn) | United Arab Emirates | 5.34                |
| 12079930     | Niger Seeds W/N Broken                           | Mexico, Jordan       | 3.87                |
| 10059090     | Other: Maize corn (non-prepacked)                | Nepal                | 1.69                |
| 52114200     | Denim fabric woven from cotton                   | Bangladesh           | 0.03                |
| 39229000     | Other Sanitary Articles                          | Indonesia            | 0.002               |
| <b>Total</b> |                                                  |                      | <b>21.48</b>        |

Source: DGCIS (CG EFC)

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

  
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Source: DGCIS

## 6.1 High Potential Products of Surguja District

Surguja district possesses a diverse portfolio of high-potential export products, underpinned by its rich agricultural base, abundant forest resources, and mineral wealth. The region is known for specialty produce such as the GI-tagged Jeeraphool rice, high-quality minor forest produces like mahua, amla, and chironji, along with vegetables such as potato and tomato that can serve fresh or processed markets. Additionally, Surguja's identification under the ODOP and DEH initiatives ensures institutional support for product development, value addition, and market linkages. With strategic investments in cold-chain, packaging, and processing, these products can successfully integrate into global value chains. The table below lists down potential export products from Surguja.

**Table G: Potential Export Products from Surguja**

| Products                     | Rationale for Export Potential                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mahua (flowers & seed oil)   | This may be used in traditional beverages, natural sweeteners, and cosmetic oi. Growing demand for natural, organic (certified), and plant-based products in many developed economies may position this product appropriately. |
| Amla (fresh & processed)     | This product has an inherent quality for being rich in Vitamin C content. This can be processed into powders, candies, juices, pickles which aligns with global health food trends.                                            |
| Chironji kernels             | This may be positioned as premium dry fruit used in sweets, bakery, and health snacks. International destinations like the middle eastern countries may be potential markets with high consumption.                            |
| Potato (fresh & processed)   | Potato being a universal vegetable may find its usage in multiple international destinations. This product can be exported as fresh or processed (frozen fries, flakes, chips, etc).                                           |
| Tomato (fresh and processed) | As tomato constitutes a large basket of Surguja's production base, it has the potential for dehydration, puree, ketchup for shelf-stable exports.                                                                              |
| Litchi (processed fruit)     | Litchi is one of the highest produced fruits from Surguja. This can be exported in the form of juice, pulp, jam in neighboring countries.                                                                                      |

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Listed below are a few Indian source states/UTs and destination regions where the above-mentioned potential products were exported during 2024-25.

**Table 10: Export scenario for potential products**

| HS Code  | Potential Products                                                                                                                      | Destination              | Value (INR million) |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 12129920 | Mahua Flower                                                                                                                            | Uruguay                  | 0.06                |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Netherlands              | 0.027               |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Kazakistan               | 0.004               |
| 081120   | Amla / Goosberry (Fresh)<br>Frozen raspberries, blackberries, mulberries (black/white/red currant), and gooseberry                      | United States of America | 30.603              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Canada                   | 9.657               |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Australia                | 5.988               |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United Arab Emirates     | 2.596               |
| 20019000 | Amla / Goosberry (Processed)<br>Vegetables, fruits, nuts, and other edible plant parts, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid | United Kingdom           | 1689.890            |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Spain                    | 405.347             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Germany                  | 387.974             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Canada                   | 305.194             |
| 20060000 | Amla / Goosberry (Processed)<br>Vegetables, fruits, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar                      | Bangladesh               | 37.701              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United States of America | 29.745              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Malaysia                 | 28.842              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United Arab Emirates     | 27.056              |
| 20079990 | Amla / Goosberry (Processed)<br>Jams, Jellies, Marmalades of other fruits                                                               | United States of America | 435.364             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United Arab Emirates     | 340.646             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Japan                    | 80.882              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Iraq                     | 56.019              |
| 08134090 | Chironji Kernels (Other dried fruits)                                                                                                   | United Arab Emirates     | 497.387             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United States of America | 210.208             |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Canada                   | 98.825              |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | United Kingdom           | 62.568              |
| 0701     | Potatoes - Fresh and Chilled                                                                                                            | Nepal                    | 2819.927            |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Oman                     | 1492.730            |
|          |                                                                                                                                         | Bangladesh               | 1137.857            |

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|          |                                                                                                                                     |                          |          |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Indonesia                | 891.366  |
| 07101000 | Potatoes - Cook or Uncook, Frozen                                                                                                   | Nepal                    | 331.169  |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Maldives                 | 31.119   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | United States of America | 24.175   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Bangladesh               | 12.748   |
| 20041000 | Frozen potatoes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid                                                     | Philippines              | 3819.529 |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Thailand                 | 2810.590 |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Malaysia                 | 1859.633 |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Saudi Arab               | 1438.903 |
| 20029000 | Tomatoes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, other                                                     | United States of America | 193.662  |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Brazil                   | 44.108   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Morocco                  | 39.425   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | United Arab Emirates     | 34.384   |
| 20089919 | Processed Litchi<br>Other preparations of squash - prepared or preserved, with or without added sugar, sweetening matter, or spirit | Oman                     | 26.838   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Nepal                    | 35.687   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Somalia                  | 12.348   |
|          |                                                                                                                                     | Kenya                    | 11.670   |

## 6.2 Global demand for products exported from Surguja

During 2024-25, Surguja district has majorly exported husked brown rice (10062000), other (woven fabrics of synthetic filament yarn) (54075490), niger seeds w/n broken (12079930), other-maize corn (non-prepacked) (10059090), denim fabric woven from cotton (52114200) and other sanitary articles (39229000). The table below shows the top countries in the world who are the highest importers of these products during 2024.

Table 11: Product wise top importing countries in the world, 2024

| Product           | Countries         | Value (US \$ million) |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Husked Brown Rice | Republic of Korea | 338.33                |
|                   | United Kingdom    | 334.947               |
|                   | Belgium           | 194.607               |



|                                                |                          |          |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|                                                | Brazil                   | 171.573  |
|                                                | Spain                    | 144.573  |
| Other woven fabrics of synthetic filament yam) | Nigeria                  | 407.757  |
|                                                | United Arab Emirates     | 164.004  |
|                                                | Viet Nam                 | 131.971  |
|                                                | Bangladesh               | 112.154  |
|                                                | Brazil                   | 68.63    |
| Niger seeds w/n broken                         | United States of America | 174.737  |
|                                                | Germany                  | 135.231  |
|                                                | Austria                  | 77.294   |
|                                                | Spain                    | 65.115   |
|                                                | India                    | 61.547   |
| Other-Maize corn (non-prepacked)               | Japan                    | 3924.519 |
|                                                | China                    | 3746.408 |
|                                                | Korea, Republic of       | 2892.293 |
|                                                | Viet Nam                 | 2489.66  |
|                                                | Egypt                    | 2256.77  |
| Denim fabric woven from cotton                 | Bangladesh               | 511.188  |
|                                                | Viet Nam                 | 191.306  |
|                                                | Cambodia                 | 130.877  |
|                                                | Mexico                   | 112.993  |
|                                                | Egypt                    | 81.281   |
| Other sanitary articles                        | Italy                    | 144.194  |
|                                                | Germany                  | 135.642  |
|                                                | France                   | 106.894  |
|                                                | United States of America | 102.091  |
|                                                | United Kingdom           | 86.753   |

### 6.3 Strategy to Improve Surguja District's Export

Improving exports from Surguja requires multi-pronged approach with a synchronised efforts amongst various stakeholders. Some strategic steps to improve Surguja's export are listed below.

#### Short-Term Strategy (0-1 year)

##### 1. Infrastructure s Logistics Readiness

- Map infrastructure to identify existing cold storages, warehouses, pack houses, and processing units.

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- Upgrade road connectivity to key production clusters using network of state highways and national highway links for faster movement to Raipur and nearby logistics hubs.
- Identify aggregation points for vegetables, forest produce, and horticulture products for streamlined supply to APEDA pack houses.

## 2. Skill Development

- Facilitating basic exporter orientation programs in collaboration with APEDA, DGFT, and the Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC).
- Provide hands-on training in sorting, grading, and packaging for products like Jeeraphool rice, litchi, and forest produce.

## 3. Training for Farmers s Entrepreneurs

- Conduct awareness programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), post-harvest handling, and SPS (Sanitary C Phytosanitary) compliance.
- Introduce quality certification workshops (organic, GI tagging compliance, FSSAI norms).
- 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 s Promotion

- Showcase district's products in State and National Agri Expos (e.g., IndusFood, AAHAR).
- Encourage participation in Chhattisgarh State Export Promotion events, APEDA trade fairs, and GI/product registration awareness drives. Local District Trade and Industries Centre (DTIC) step in to spread awareness of these events/ trade fairs / awareness drives happening across Chhattisgarh.

## Medium-Term Strategy (1-3 years)

### 1. Infrastructure Expansion

- Establish district-level pack houses with cold-chain integration, MAP (Modified Atmosphere Packaging), and reefer trucks.
- Promote common facility centers for processing mahua, amla, litchi, tomato, and rice polishing.
- This also facilitates employment generation for local residents of Surguja.

### 2. Skill s Technical Capacity Building



- Establishing a dedicated Food Processing Skill Centre to harness the abundant agriculture base of Surguja.
- This can be facilitated by collaborating with NIFTEM / schemes under MoFPI.
- Launch women-led processing units with dedicated training on entrepreneurship and export finance (this can be facilitated by tying-up with NABARD, SIDBI).

### 3. Farmer s Entrepreneur Enablement

- Enable 10-15 active FPOs in Surguja to become export-compliant by supporting them in acquiring essential domestic and international certifications like:
  - GlobalG.A.P. certification
  - Traceability integration (BRCS, QR code trace-back systems)
  - Technical support to comply with EU phytosanitary and pesticide norms
- These certifications act as stepping stone to enhance market access, product credibility, and competitiveness in global markets.
- Enable common testing and certification lab (satellite to NABL labs). Certified FPOs are more likely to attract buyers, processors, institutional finance, and government incentives for export related certifications.

### 4. Marketing and Trade Linkages

- Curating a district export product catalogue (eg: Tomato puree, litchi jelly, tomato concentrate, mango leather sheets). These products can be leveraged by local exporters and create e-market linkage cells to onboard these exporters on GeM, ONDC, AgriBazaar, and TradeIndia.
- To consolidate this system, forming Export Facilitation Cells in coordination with DGFT, APEDA, and Industries Department under DTICs to bridge the gap between exporters and external markets.

### Long-Term Strategy (3-5 years)

#### 1. Integrated Agro-Export Infrastructure

- Develop Integrated Agri Export Hub in Surguja with warehousing, customs clearance, and multimodal logistics access.
- Connect district produce to e-commerce export platforms via ONDC and Amazon Global Selling.

#### 2. Advanced Skill Ecosystem

- To further develop the skill ecosystem, the district administration may collaborate with central ministries like Ministry of Science C Technology to launch a Centre of

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Excellence in Agro-Tech in partnership with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) / Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) for RCD on food preservation, nutritional profiling, and export-readiness.

- The Department of Commerce & Industries can support in instituting a District Export Fellowship Programme for youth to work with FPOs, logistics, and certification bodies.

### 3. Export Ecosystem & Market Development

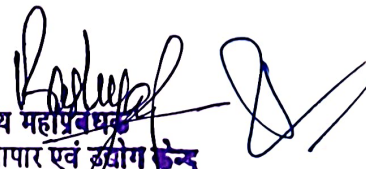
- Secure international GI recognition for Jeeraphool rice and promote through geo-tagged storytelling campaigns.
- Facilitate international buyer-seller meets and reverse trade missions in collaboration with FIEO/APEDA.
- Establishing Export Incubation Units for micro-exporters offering services like regulatory help, packaging design, digital marketing.

### 4. Global Branding and Policy Advocacy

- Additionally, the district stands to benefit significantly by advocating for GI tagging of native variety of amla, litchi, etc., positioning them in global organic/natural produce markets.
- Facilitate the inclusion of Surguja's products under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme and Merchandise Exports for India schemes (MEIS) / Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RODTEP) benefits.

## 6.4 Financial Incentives & Policy Support

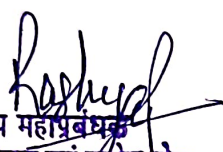
- To realize Surguja's export potential, a focused financial and policy support framework is essential. The Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2024-30 already provides incentives such as capital subsidy, transport subsidy, technology upgradation support, and SGST reimbursement, which can be aligned with 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.
- 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 (tomato, mango, strawberry, litchi, papaya, jackfruit) can benefit from public-private partnerships (PPPs) for shared facilities such as packaging centers, cold storage, and quality testing labs. Support under

  
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ODOP and PMFME can be integrated with export promotion to scale up Surguja district's signature products.

- 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, Surguja can be transformed into a vibrant export hub driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

  
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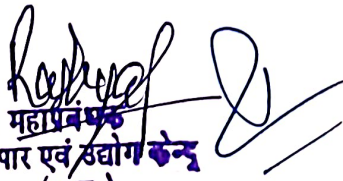


## 7. Challenges and Recommendations

Surguja district possesses significant natural and economic advantages that position it as an emerging hub for agricultural, horticultural, forest-based, and mineral-linked exports. However, to realise its full potential in the global value chain, certain structural, logistical, and capacity-related gaps need to be addressed.

At present, the district's perishable produce such as litchi, mango, tomato, and potato face limitations in long-distance trade due to insufficient pack house facilities, limited cold chain integration, and absence of specialised pre-cooling units. Similarly, while products such as the GI-tagged Jeeraphool rice, mahua, jackfruit hold high export value, the adoption of global quality and packaging standards remains at a nascent stage. Minor Forest Produce, with substantial potential for nutraceuticals, cosmetics, and organic food segments, requires enhanced processing, branding, and traceability systems to meet international buyer requirements. Market linkages too are constrained by the absence of regular buyer-seller interfaces and limited participation in targeted international trade fairs.

To address these gaps, a multi-pronged and phased strategy is recommended. In the short term, investment in district-level pack houses, grading and sorting centres, and integrated cold chain logistics is imperative, leveraging schemes of APEDA, National Horticulture Board, and the state government. Simultaneously, targeted training programmes through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, NIFTEM, APEDA and FSSAI can equip farmers, FPOs, and agri-entrepreneurs with skills in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), SPS compliance, and export-oriented packaging. Medium-term measures may include establishment of common facility centres for processing forest and horticulture produce,

  
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adoption of digital traceability for GI and ODOP products, and facilitation of contract farming models with export buyers to ensure consistency in quality and supply.

In the long term, Surguja can position itself as a regional agri-export hub by developing an Integrated Export Infrastructure Park with warehousing, customs facilitation, and multimodal connectivity. Branding initiatives highlighting the uniqueness of Jeeraphool rice, premium litchi, and forest products through geo-tagged storytelling and international GI recognition will further enhance market positioning. With coordinated action between government agencies, industry bodies, and producer groups, Surguja can transform its natural endowments into a sustainable and competitive export economy, contributing significantly to the district's socio-economic growth and India's agricultural export ambitions.

  
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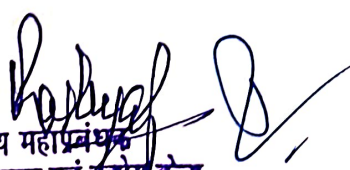




## 8. Conclusion

Surguja district stands at a pivotal stage where its inherent strengths can be channelled into sustainable export-led growth. Blessed with fertile soils, favourable climate, and extensive forest cover, the district offers a unique mix of high-quality agricultural produce, distinctive GI and ODOP products, and valuable forest-based commodities. Its export basket - from Jeeraphool rice and premium litchi to mahua, amla, and processed vegetables - has the potential to cater to diverse global markets.

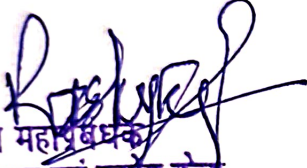
The district's growing alignment with initiatives such as Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) and support from APEDA and state-level programmes has created a conducive policy environment for expansion. By building on these foundations through improved infrastructure, quality assurance, and targeted market outreach, Surguja can position itself as a recognised origin of premium, traceable, and value-added products. This journey will not only strengthen its contribution to India's export portfolio but also generate inclusive socio-economic benefits for its communities.

  
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अम्बिकापुर (छ.ग.)

Note: List of images / pictures used in this document

| Sr. No. | Images                                 | Reference                                         |
|---------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ambikapur City Headquarter             | Surguja District website                          |
| 2       | Pahadi Korwa tribe of Surguja District | Chhattisgarh Tribal Research C Training Institute |
| 3       | Maa Mahamaya Airport, Surguja          | Wikimedia Common License                          |
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