कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, कोरबा(छ.ग.)

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क्रमांक/जिव्याउके–को/ निर्यात–कक्ष/2026/1467 कोरबा, दिनांक 28/09/2026

प्रति,

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विषयः– जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) के संबंध में।

संदर्भः– उद्योग संचालनालय का पत्र क. GENS-11/2178/2025 रायपुर, दिनांक 29.08.2025

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संदर्भित विषयांतर्गत लेख है कि जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) का प्रारूप तैयार किया गया है। उक्त कार्य योजना का सूक्ष्म परीक्षण किया जाकर जिला निर्यात संवर्धन समिति से प्राप्त आवश्यक सुझाव/अभिमत को सम्मिलित कर दिनांक 26.03.2026 को समिति द्वारा अनुमोदित किया गया।

अतः जिला निर्यात कार्य योजना (District Export Action Plan) का प्रारूप आपकी ओर आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु संलग्न प्रेषित है।

संलग्न :– उपरोक्तानुसार।

महाप्रबंधक,
जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र,
कोरबा(छ.ग.)

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Government of Chhattisgarh
Department of Commerce and Industry

District Export Action Plan

KORBA



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1. District Profile

1.1 Introduction

Korba district, located in the northern part of Chhattisgarh, was established as a separate administrative district on 25 May 1998. It is part of the Bilaspur Division and covers a geographical area of 7,14,544 hectares. The district is predominantly tribal, with Scheduled Tribes forming a significant portion of the population, including the Korwa, a protected tribe.

Korba is recognized for its role in coal mining and thermal power generation. The district hosts several major industrial establishments, including South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), and Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB). These industries are supported by extensive coal reserves.

The district has a total forest area of 4.13 lakh hectares, contributing to the availability of minor forest produce such as mahua, tendu leaves, and herbal plants. Agriculture is primarily rainfed, with key crops including paddy, maize, and pulses. The district also shows potential for agro-processing, herbal product manufacturing, and tribal forest-based enterprises.

1.2 Administrative Profile

Korba district is divided into four administrative subdivisions, Korba, Katghora, Pali, and Podi - Uproda, which further comprise a total of ten tehsils, ensuring effective revenue and administrative management across diverse geographies.

Local governance in rural areas is facilitated by 290 Gram Panchayats covering 746 revenue villages. With respect to urban administrative units, the district has one municipal corporation (Korba), two nagar palika parishads (Dipka and Katghora) and two nagar panchayats (Churrikala and Pali).

1.3 Location & Geography

Korba district is located in the northern part of Chhattisgarh and is bordered by the districts of Korea, Surguja, Bilaspur, and Janjgir-Champa. The district headquarters, Korba city, lies approximately 200 kilometers from Raipur, the state capital. Geographically, it spans a total area of 7,14,544 hectares, with a significant portion, ≈2,83,497 hectares, covered by forests under the Korba and Katghora forest divisions.

The district's topography is characterized by an average elevation of 304.8 meters above sea level. It lies between latitudes 22°01' to 23°01' North and longitudes 82°07' to 83°07' East. Korba experiences a hot temperate climate, with scorching summers from April to mid-June, followed by a monsoon season that lasts until the end of September. The average annual rainfall in the region is approximately 1506.7 mm, supporting both agriculture and forest ecosystems.

Korba is enriched by the Hasdeo River, which originates from the Chhota Nagpur Valley and flows through the district. The city of Korba is situated at the confluence of the Hasdeo and Ahiran rivers, making it a vital water resource zone. The district's forests are home to a variety of flora including Mahua, Bija, Sagon, Sahaj, and Tendu leaves, which contribute significantly to the local economy and ecological balance.



Source: District Census Handbook – Korba (2011)

2. Demographic Profile[1]

According to the 2011 Census, Korba district had a population of approximately 1.2 million, representing nearly 4.7% of Chhattisgarh's total population. Based on projections for 2021, the population of the district is estimated to have reached around 1.36 million. Of this, an estimated 40% lives in urban areas, while the remaining 60% resides in rural regions.

The district's population density is estimated at 191 persons per square kilometre, which is significantly lower than the national average of 423.9 persons per square kilometre. This lower density is primarily due to the presence of extensive rural and forested zones across the district. In contrast, the urban areas within Korba municipality exhibit much higher population density. Notably, the Korba block accounts for nearly 30% of the district's population, as it encompasses the densely populated municipal region.

Korba is classified as a Schedule V district under Article 244(1) of the Constitution of India, as designated by the state of Chhattisgarh. Scheduled Tribes (STs) make up about 41% of the district's population. Among these are tribal communities such as the Birhor and Pahadi Korwa, who are recognized as special backward tribes or particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). PVTGs constitute roughly 1% of the total tribal population in the district, with around 70% of them residing in the Korba block. Other tribal groups present in the district include Gond, Raj Gond, Kanwar, Bhayana, and others.

3. Logistic Infrastructure Profile[2]

3.1 Road Connectivity[3]

Korba is connected via the Raipur – Bilaspur – Pali – Katghora – Korba highway route (~200 km). This corridor facilitates the movement of industrial goods, especially coal and aluminium, to central logistics hubs.

- The road stretch between Raipur and Korba is in poor condition, causing delays in cargo and passenger movement.

- The 137-km 4-lane Pathalgaon – Gumla section of the Raipur–Ranchi National High-Speed Corridor is being developed under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). This corridor

[1] DIC – MSME & Korba District Administration
[2] LEADS Ranking 2021, Ministry of Commerce
[3] Press Information Bureau, *www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2041027*

will enhance connectivity between mining areas (Gumla, Lohardaga, Raigarh, Korba, Dhanbad) and industrial zones (Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Bokaro).

3.2 Rail Connectivity

Korba is accessible by rail from Raipur Junction – Bilaspur – Champa – Korba, with an average travel time of 4 hours. This rail line is vital for bulk transport, particularly for coal, aluminium, and power equipment.

3.3 Air Connectivity

The nearest domestic airport is Bilasa Devi Kevat Airport, Bilaspur (108 km) and the nearest international airport is Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, located about 212 km from Korba. Raipur provides domestic and limited international air freight services. However, it does not have a dedicated cargo terminal, and freight is typically handled via belly cargo on passenger flights. There is also a private airport in Korba operated by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO). It's primarily used for cargo transport and not for commercial passenger flights

4. Economic & Sectoral Overview

The economic landscape of Korba is primarily shaped by the primary sector, which contributes over 56% to the district's GDP—coal mining alone accounts for nearly 50% of this. The secondary sector follows with a 31% share, whereas the service sector remains the smallest contributor, adding just 12.7% to the overall GDP. This distribution highlights Korba's strong reliance on natural resources, particularly coal, as the backbone of its economy.

4.1 Primary Sector

Mining and agriculture are the two leading activities driving Korba's primary sector. In addition to these, the district's natural wealth includes significant forest cover and inland water bodies that support forestry and fisheries.

4.1.1 Coal mining

Located in Korba, Coal India subsidiary South-Eastern Coalfields Limited's (SECL) Gevra and Kusmunda coal mines have secured the 2nd and 4th spot in the list of the world's 10 largest coal mines. these two mines produce more 100 million tons of coal annually accounting for about 10% of India's total coal production[4]. The table below captures the production capacity of these mines during FY 2023-24.

Table 1: Production capacity of mines in Gevra and Kusmunda during 2023-24

Sr No	Name of Mines	Production (in

[4] Atmanirbhar Bharat: Two of the World's Five Largest Coal Mines Now in India, https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2034007#:~:text=Chhattisgarh%2Dbased%20Coal%20India%20subsidiary,for%20eco%2Dfriendly%20mining%20operations., as accessed on 31-07-2025

		million tonne)
1	Gevra opencast mine	59
2	Kusmunda opencast mine	50

Source: PIB

It also supplies nearly 18% of Chhattisgarh's coal, reinforcing the state's position as the country's leading coal producer[5].

Two of the largest coalfields in India, Korba and Hasdeo Arand, are located here and together hold an estimated 17,358 million metric tonnes (MMT) of geological coal resources. The western part of the Korba coalfields, covering the Korba and Katghora blocks, hosts most of the active mines and is rich in power-grade coal. The Hasdeo Arand coalfield, on the other hand, spans the Poundi Uproda block, a largely rural and forested area.

4.1.2 Aluminium

Aluminium is the third most important base metal in the world[6]. Four major primary producers - National Aluminium Co. Ltd, Hindalco Industries Ltd, Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd and Vedanta Aluminium Ltd (VAL) are at the forefront in aluminium production. The overall total annual installed capacity of aluminium plants in the country is 41.45 lakh tonnes. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd located in Korba operates with a smelter capacity of 0.57million tonnes per annum and power generation capacity of 2,010 MW[7]. The table below captures the annual capacity and production during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Table 2: Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. Annual Capacity and Production, 2021-23

Producer	Annual Capacity (in million tonne)	Production (in tonne)	
Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd	0.57	**2021-22**	**2022-23 (P)**
		580426	568549

Source: Indian Mineral Yearbook 2023, Ministry of Mines, Government of India

4.1.3 Agriculture

Agriculture occupies approximately 19.7% of Korba's total geographical area, amounting to around 140,765 hectares of gross cropped land. The district's soil and climate support a diverse range of crops, including rice, black gram (urad), horse gram, lentils, oilseeds, and maize. Among these, rice, urad, maize, and horse gram are the most widely cultivated. However, crop yields in Korba remain relatively low—less than half of what is achieved in high-performing agricultural states like Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.

[5] Indian Mineral Yearbook 2021, Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines
[6] Metals in World Economy, Case of Aluminium Industry in India, Niti Aayog, Government of India, https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-02/MWEC1.pdf, as accessed on 31-07-2025
[7] Indian Mineral Yearbook 2023, Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines

Farming in Korba is predominantly rain-fed, with only about 4.4% of agricultural land under irrigation. Limited irrigation during both kharif and rabi seasons restricts year-round cultivation and intercropping, making irrigation a critical factor for improving productivity.

Agriculture serves as the primary livelihood for a majority of the population, with around 64% of the district's workforce engaged as cultivators or agricultural labourers. While roughly 40% of rural households own agricultural land, most holdings are either marginal (less than 1 hectare) or small (1 to 2 hectares), with marginal holdings accounting for about 64.5%. Farmers with such small plots often earn minimal income and rely on agriculture mainly for subsistence. Poor irrigation, limited rabi cropping, and small landholdings contribute to low agricultural incomes.

4.1.4 Forest Produce

Among India's coal-producing districts, Korba has one of the highest proportion of forest cover, with forests occupying about 51.44% of its total geographical area[8]. The forests are predominantly dry deciduous, with sal being the dominant tree species. The Korba and Poundi Uproda blocks, where forest cover reaches approximately 79% and 72% respectively, are also home to a significant tribal population that depends on forest resources for both sustenance and income.

A wide variety of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are collected in the district, including tendu leaves (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), mahua flowers and seeds (*Madhuca indica*), char seeds (*Shorea robusta*), lac (a resin secreted by *Kerria lacca* insects), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), honey, harra and behera (*Terminalia bellirica*), dates, and chiraunji seeds (*Buchanania lanzan*).

Tendu leaf collection is the most organized NTFP activity and serves as a major source of income. The Chhattisgarh Government actively supports its collection and sale. In 2020, ₹739.5 million (approximately US$5 million) was disbursed to 79 Van Dhan Samitis (village cooperatives) in Korba for tendu leaf procurement. Collectors are also covered under social security schemes, including life insurance. In total, 38 minor forest produce (MFP) items are supported under the state's Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. High-value MFPs in Korba include lac (₹200–300/kg), honey (₹225/kg), tamarind (₹69/kg), and chiraunji (₹126/kg).

Korba currently has nine forest-based micro-enterprises focused on lac cultivation, chiraunji, mahua, and herbal medicines. Additionally, 6 Van Dhan Kendras (forest resource centers) in Korba have been established under the Central Government's Van Dhan scheme, which targets districts with rich MFP availability and significant tribal populations. These centers aim to enhance tribal incomes through value addition and are linked to around 4,000 beneficiaries via tribal self-help groups. Around these centers, 12 processing units employ approximately 1,300 people.

[8] Chhattisgarh

4.1.5 Tasar Silk

Tasar silk production is a notable activity in Korba district, traditionally practiced by tribal communities living near forest fringes. In 2015–16, Korba was identified as one of the key Tasar production clusters in Chhattisgarh. The district currently has 49 farm centers and approximately 1,837 hectares of land dedicated to Tasar rearing. A seed multiplication and training center is also located in the Pali block, supporting local sericulture efforts.

Although Tasar is not currently listed as a priority investment area by the Central Silk Board, its export potential is significant. According to the Directorate of Rural Industries (Sericulture Sector), Chhattisgarh produces around 2,200 metric tonnes of Tasar raw silk annually, against a national demand of 5,000 metric tonnes. Of the total Tasar cocoon production in the state, 65% is exported internationally, 32% is sold nationally, and only 3% is consumed locally. This highlights a strong global demand for wild silk products such as dress materials and sarees, which are valued for their quality and utility.

4.1.6 Fisheries

Fisheries is an emerging sector in Chhattisgarh, with approximately 77% of the state's fish production coming from its northern districts. Although Korba is geographically part of this region, its contribution to the state's total fish production remains low—around 2.5% of the targeted output. This limited performance is primarily due to the underdeveloped status of fishery cooperatives and federations in the district. The table below shows the total fish production in Korba during 2024-25.

Table 3: Fish production in Korba during 2024-25 (in metric ton)

District	Ponds & Tanks		Reservoirs		Fish Federation		Cage	Rivers		Tilapia / Pangasius		Total	
	T	A	T	A	T	A	A	T	A	T	A	T	A
Korba	19338	20059	633	633	1668	1081	605	33	33	2850	2280	**24523**	**24692**

Source: Department of Fisheries, Government of Chhattisgarh

*T – Target
*A – Achievement

Overall, Korba has recorded a gradual increase in fish production from 17759.91 metric ton during 2022-23 to 24692 metric ton in 2024-25. This increase in production has been the result of subsidies provided under state scheme for training and development of fish farmers, financial assistance on prawn culture, net and boat for fishermen, fish seed rearing unit, seed production, etc.

4.2 Secondary Sector

The secondary sector in Korba is primarily driven by the coal-based power industry, a natural outcome of the district's extensive coal reserves. Korba has emerged as a major

power generation hub. In addition, a captive TPP operated by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) supports its aluminium manufacturing operations.

The key players in Korba's power sector include NTPC Limited, a central government PSU, and Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL), a state-run enterprise. The presence of coal mining and thermal power plants has also led to the development of related industries such as coal washeries and fly ash brick manufacturing. There are five operational coal washeries, mainly concentrated in Katghora near the district's largest coal mines, with a total processing capacity of 43.6 million metric tonnes (MMTPA)[9].

Fly ash brick production is another active segment, with around 20 registered units and an estimated 65 unregistered units operating across the district, as per data from the district industry center. Apart from power and coal-related industries, Korba is home to BALCO's integrated aluminium complex—one of the company's two operational units in India.

Additionally, the district supports 376 small and medium-scale industrial units (as of 2021), with food processing emerging as a prominent sector among them.

Table 4: Categories of Industries in Korba

Sl.no	Industry Type	Number of Units/Plants
	Large Scale	
1.	Aluminium Plant	1
2.	Thermal Power Plants	11
	Medium and Small Scale	
3.	Coal Washeries	5
4.	Food Processing	72
5.	Fly Ash Bricks	20
6.	Electricals	12
7.	Steel Furniture	14
8.	Engineering Works	31
9.	Chemicals	4
10.	Explosives	1
11.	Others	219

Source: DIC Korba, DC MSME, Ministry of MSME, Government of India

[9] Provisional Coal Statistics 2020-21 report, Ministry of Coal, Government of India

5. SWOT Analysis

Korba presents very promising potential due to its abundance of natural resources as well as planned connectivity initiatives within the district. A structured SWOT analysis is presented below to capture the strengths of the district while, assessing potential threats as well.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Major aluminium export hub: Home to BALCO (Vedanta), Korba exports over USD 124 million worth of non-alloyed aluminium annually to countries like Turkey, Japan, and Mexico. **Rich in forest-based products (NTFPs):** Mahua, lac, tendu leaves, gums, tamarind & Chironji are widely collected & already exported. **Presence of strategic PSUs and industries:** Large-scale players like NTPC, SECL, BALCO, and CSEB support industrial-scale exports and create value chain opportunities (e.g., coal by-products, carbon pastes, fly ash bricks). **Van Dhan Kendras & SHG networks:** 6 VDKs and 4,000+ tribal collectors provide an institutional base for NTFP aggregation and value addition. **Rail connectivity via Bilaspur-Champa-Korba line:** Enables bulk cargo movement for aluminium, coal, and machinery to eastern and central India's logistics hubs.	**Over-reliance on a single commodity (aluminium):** Over 92% of Korba's export value is from non-alloyed aluminium, exposing the district to commodity price and demand shocks. **Lack of value-add infrastructure for NTFPs and Tasar silk**: Limited processing, packaging, or branding units for forest goods and tribal silk production. **Poor road conditions and lack of air freight terminal:** Long-distance dependency on Raipur (212 km) slows down high-value or perishable exports. **Low awareness of export schemes among MSMEs & SHGs**: Poor adoption of RODTEP, PMFME, or APEDA registration hampers market access. No formal export facilitation center in district: Exporters face bureaucratic friction due to absence of DEFC or EXIM support units locally.
Opportunities	**Threats**
Aluminium downstream park under state policy: Revival of the Aluminium Park project can attract value-add units (e.g., extrusions, foils), creating higher-margin exports. **Global herbal, organic & tribal wellness demand**: Products like mahua syrup, chironji oil, lac resin, and herbal pastes have rising export potential in Europe and Asia. **Tasar silk exports**: Global interest in sustainable wild silk fabrics creates scope for tasar-based high-end textiles. **E-commerce linkages for SHGs/FPOs**: Platforms like TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India), Amazon Global Store, ONDC and support from APEDA/FIEO can enable direct-	**Environmental compliance pressure**: Korba is a critically polluted zone (CPCB); future restrictions on fly ash, coal, and emissions could limit exports. **Issues of land acquisition or displacement:** Protests in tribal belts (e.g., Podi-Uproda) may delay infrastructure or industrial expansion. **Global aluminium market volatility:** Price dips or trade policy shifts (e.g., tariffs, CBAM in Europe) could reduce Korba's earnings drastically. **Regional competition from Raigarh, Jharsuguda, Bilaspur**: Neighbouring districts are developing more diversified industrial and export portfolios with better logistics access.

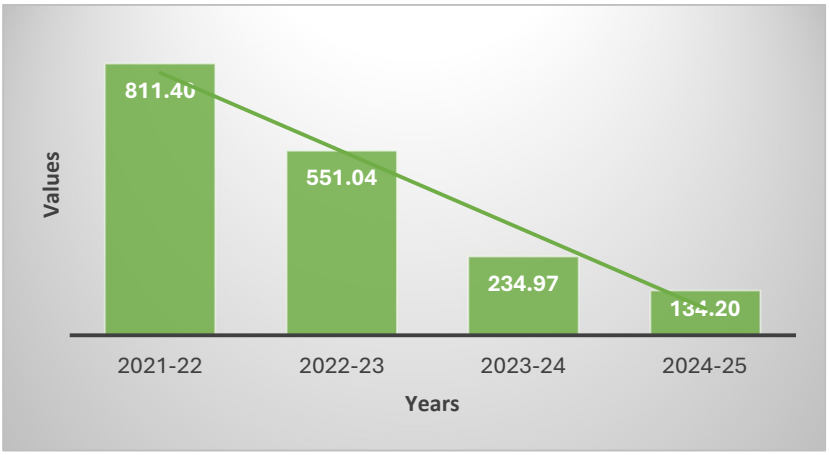
to-consumer exports. **Dry port connectivity via Katghora or Bilaspur:** ICD extension or rail-cargo corridor can resolve container handling and bring export clusters closer to the port network.	

6. Korba - Export Potential

6.1 Export Trend

The export trend of Korba district over the past four years reveals a consistent decline. In 2021–22, the district achieved its highest export value at **USD 811.40 million**, showcasing strong economic activity. However, the following year saw a dramatic drop to **USD 551.04 million** during 2022-23, indicating a sharp downturn. This negative trajectory persisted into 2024–25, with exports falling further to **USD 134 million**. The graph below showcases this declining trend over 2021-25.

Graph 1: Export data trend from Korba



Source: DGCIS

Such a steep and continuous decline suggests underlying issues, possibly disruptions in production, market demand shifts, policy changes, or logistical challenges, that have significantly impacted Korba's export capabilities. Addressing these factors will be crucial for reversing the trend and revitalizing the district's export economy.

6.2 Current Export Scenario[10]

The following table presents the leading commodities exported from Korba district during the last financial year. It highlights the district's industrial strengths, particularly in aluminium and other specialized materials, reflecting its contribution to both national and international supply chains.

[10] DGCIS

Table 5: Top Ten Exported Products from Korba

Sl. No.	HS Code	Commodity	April 2024 to March 2025 Value (USD Million)
1	760110	Aluminium - Not Alloyed	124.47
2	130190	Other: Natural Gums	4.98
3	760120	Aluminium Alloys	1.68
4	380130	Pastes for Electrodes and Furnace Linings	1.33
5	680690	Other (Mixtures and Articles of Heat Insulating or Sound Insulating)	0.71
6	330290	Aromatic Chemicals and Essential Oils	0.45
7	850153	AC Motors, Multi-Phase of Output > 75 kW	0.25
8	848340	Gears and Gearing	0.17
9	100630	Semi or Wholly Milled Rice	0.05
10	843139	Parts of Other Machinery of Heading No. 8428	0.02

Source: DGCIS

The export data for FY 2024–25 reveals a highly skewed product concentration, with non-alloyed aluminium (HS Code: 760110) accounting for over 92% of Korba's total export value at USD 124.47 million. This overwhelming reliance on a single commodity poses a significant risk of economic vulnerability, especially in the face of global price fluctuations or disruptions in the aluminium supply chain. Following this, natural gums (HS Code: 130190) emerge as the second-highest exported product, though at a much smaller scale (USD 4.98 million), reflecting Korba's potential in forest-based exports, particularly non-timber forest produce (NTFPs).

The presence of aluminium alloys (USD 1.68 million) and carbonaceous pastes for electrodes and furnace linings (USD 1.33 million) indicates value-chain linkages with Korba's dominant industrial base in aluminium smelting and thermal power. Other industrial exports, including heat and sound insulating materials, AC motors, and gearing mechanisms, though relatively small in value, reflect Korba's nascent engineering and manufacturing ecosystem, particularly in coal-based ancillary industries.

Notably, the inclusion of semi/wholly milled rice and essential oil mixtures signals emerging opportunities in agro-processing and herbal products, especially with proper branding, certification, and processing infrastructure. However, these currently contribute marginally to overall exports, underlining the need for product diversification and investment in value-added sectors like food processing, forest products, and textiles.

6.3 Export Destinations[11]

The following section presents the major international destinations for Korba's exports, along with the corresponding trade values. It provides insight into the global reach of the district's products and the countries that form its primary export markets.

Table 6: Top Export Destinations of products from Korba in FY 2024-25

HS Code	Commodity Description	Country	Value (USD Million) in FY 2024-25
760110	Aluminium - Not Alloyed	Turkey	50.26
		Japan	32.45
		Montenegro	11.96
		Korea RP	10.16
		Croatia	6.91
		Mexico	6.21
		Italy	6.14
130190	Other: Natural Gums	China P RP	1.73
		Germany	1.18
		Iraq	0.87
		USA	0.81
760120	Aluminium Alloys	Nepal	1.48
680690	Other (Heat Insulating or Sound Insulating)	UAE	0.67
380130	Carbonaceous Pastes for Electrodes and Furnace Linings	Bhutan	0.60
330290	Other: Mixtures of Aromatic Chemicals and Essential Oils	Mexico	0.45

Source: DGCIS

Korba's export destination is dominated by industrial buyers from developed and emerging economies. The export of non-alloyed aluminium is widely distributed across key industrial hubs including Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Italy, and Croatia, indicating a stable and geographically diversified demand for aluminium ingots from Korba. This broad distribution across continents helps mitigate geopolitical risks and trade dependence on a single region, though the lack of downstream aluminium products suggests low value capture at the exporter's end.

[11] DGCIS

The export of natural gums to countries like China, Germany, Iraq, and the USA reflects the global relevance of India's traditional forest products, especially in the pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetic sectors. This trade could be significantly scaled up with better harvesting practices, organic certification, and international marketing.

Interestingly, aluminium alloys are being exported to Nepal, likely indicating regional trade dynamics or reprocessing hubs. Meanwhile, heat and sound insulation materials are shipped to the UAE, suggesting growing demand for building material exports, which could be enhanced through increased production of fly ash bricks and prefabricated panels.

The export of carbonaceous pastes to Bhutan, and aromatic mixtures to Mexico, although modest in volume, reflects Korba's diversifying industrial base and latent potential for chemicals, resins, and energy-related exports.

6.4 Global demand for products exported from Korba

During 2024-25, Korba district has majorly exported aluminium – not alloyed (760110), natural gums (130190), aluminium alloy (760120), mixtures or articles heat insulating or sound insulating (680690), carbonaceous pastes for electrodes and furnace linings (380130), and mixtures of aromatic chemicals and essential oils (330290). The table below shows the top countries in the world who are the highest importers of these products during 2024-25.

Table 7: Product wise top importing countries in the world, 2024

Products	Country	Value (US $ million)
Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	United States of America	5969.55
	China	5211.20
	Korea, Republic of	2866.60
	Türkiye	2695.19
	Japan	2633.42
Lac; natural gums, resins, gum-resins, balsams and other natural oleoresins	India	199.75
	United States of America	40.84
	China	39.55
	Portugal	33.50
	Saudi Arabia	25.90
Unwrought aluminium alloys	United States of America	5098.55
	Germany	4100.94
	China	2768.47
	Japan	2624.15
	Mexico	2053.19
Mixtures and articles of heat-insulating, sound-insulating or sound	United States of America	266.25
	Germany	150.85

absorbing mineral materials	Canada	110.76
	Mexico	95.44
	United Kingdom	85.91
Carbonaceous pastes for electrodes and similar pastes for furnace linings	Indonesia	1914.22
	Kazakhstan	26.11
	Norway	23.38
	Malaysia	17.13
	United States of America	14.98
Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, incl. alcoholic solutions	France	1842.81
	United Arab Emirates	744.45
	Spain	509.91
	Italy	500.09
	Germany	446.94

Source: ITC Trademap

These countries are untapped international markets for products exported from Jashpur district. However, access to these international markets depend on the custom tariff and non-tariff measures applicable on Indian exports.

6.5 Potential Products & Clusters of Korba

The true extent of Korba's economic potential can be realised when the production value chain is complete within the district. Comprehensive clusters with plug and play facilities are ideal in gaining a comparative advantage for exports of a particular commodity. The table below indicates potential product-based clusters in Korba under various cluster development schemes of the Government of India.

Table 8: Production Clusters in Korba[12]

Category	Products/Clusters
ODOP / DEH	Minor Forest Produce – Mahua Maize, Pulses (All Types) , Rice, Soyabean
Approved Clusters (SFURTI)	Bamboo Craft Cluster

6.6 Sector-wise Export Strategy Actions – Korba District

Korba holds untapped potential in sector-wise export development. With focused interventions, sectors like engineering goods, agro-based products, and silk textiles, can be strategically promoted for international markets. Leveraging existing industrial infrastructure, workforce skills, and regional connectivity will be key to driving export-oriented growth. The following section outlines targeted export strategy actions for each

[12] DGFT & Ministry of MSME

priority sector, aligned with market demand, supply strengths, and value chain opportunities.

Table 9: Sector wise Export Strategy Action for Korba

Sub-Sector	Policy/Trade Justification	Strategic Actions
Aluminium Products (Ingots, Alloys, Castings)	Major contributor to district exports (USD 124M+); presence of BALCO. Potential for downstream value-add via Aluminium Park revival under State Industrial Policy.	- Establish Aluminium CFC (Common Facility Centre) for casting & extrusion - Link MSMEs to EEPC India for international trade fairs - Promote ZED & RODTEP
Mohua & NTFPs (ODOP)	High-value NTFPs exported to China, Germany, USA. Support under Van Dhan Yojana and TRIFED. As Mahua is Korba's ODOP product.	- Set up 2 micro-processing units for mahua syrup & gums - HACCP/FSSAI training for SHGs- Support tribal exporters via TRIFED/APEDA for organic branding
Tasar Silk & Tribal Textiles	Identified cluster under Central Silk Board; 49 farm centers; 65% of Chhattisgarh's tasar production is exported.	- Skill upgradation under PM Vishwakarma - Setup silk yarn reeling & weaving CFC in Pali block - Link with Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for global exhibitions
Carbon & Electrode Pastes	Exported to Bhutan; produced alongside thermal power & aluminium industries. Growing demand in battery and steel sectors.	- Improve quality standards & compliance - Conduct workshops on certifications needed - Engage CHEMEXCIL for market access
Processed Rice (Semi/Wholly Milled)	Existing exports, but low scale; paddy widely grown. Potential for value-add through rice mills and organic certification.	- Promote branding of tribal/organic rice- GI tagging for local paddy variety- Link FPOs to APEDA for ASEAN/Middle East exports
Honey & Herbal Products	Export demand for forest-based wellness goods; collected by SHGs/Van Dhan Kendras; support	- Setup herbal product packaging unit

	under Minor Forest Produce scheme.	- Support SHGs via AYUSH Export Promotion Council - Certification under FSSAI, Organic India etc
Dehydrated Vegetables & Spices	Potential in tribal belts; underutilized despite proximity to forest & rainfed horticulture.	- Establish 1 dehydration unit for tamarind & chilies - Train SHGs via DEH (District Export Hub) - Link with exporters through India Organic/FIEO

Among these products, Mohua flower is only exported from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to Uruguay and Netherlands respectively of worth US$ 1050. Tasar waste is exported from Bihar in negligible amount and natural honey is exported highest from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Punjab to United States of America of worth US$ 48.88 million[13]. These products are not yet exported from Chhattisgarh and hold immense export potential both in terms of raw and processed product.

7. Recommendations

To catalyse export growth in Korba, a coordinated framework of institutional partnerships and policy integration is proposed:

- District Export Facilitation Centre (DEFC) is established at the District Industries Centre (DIC), to streamline export-related documentation, assist with EPGC/Export Refunds, RODTEP, and other tax incentives, and reduce compliance hurdles for local exporters.
- Bhilai Institute of Technology (BIT), Raipur, and MSME-DI Raipur shall collaborate with DIC to run skilling programs in industrial quality standards (FSSAI, CE, ISO), packaging, branding, and export documentation, especially focused on NTFP-based products, processed foods, and herbal extracts.
- Van Dhan Kendras (VDKs) and tribal FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) shall be directly linked to export markets through e-commerce platforms (e.g., TRIFED, Tribes India, ONDC, Amazon Global Selling) and APEDA. Branding, packaging, and certification (organic, fair trade) will be integrated for key NTFP exports such as mahua, chironji, lac, and tamarind.

[13] DGCIS

- Raipur ICD (Inland Container Depot) shall be linked to Korba through improved freight infrastructure. This will reduce dependency on distant ports like Visakhapatnam and Kolkata. Coordination with CONCOR (Container Corporation of India) and the Chhattisgarh State Logistics Department shall be initiated to propose a dry port hub at Katghora, closer to the coal and aluminium cluster.
- An integrated Export ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) tool for tribal SHGs and MSMEs shall be developed with support from Start-Up Chhattisgarh, enabling inventory traceability, batch-level coding, and co-packaging systems.
- Incubation support and funding under the SSSF (Startup India Seed Fund Scheme) and STARS (Start-up Assistance for Resilience and Sustainability) shall be extended to young tribal entrepreneurs, especially in areas like sustainable packaging, essential oils, herbal cosmetics, etc.
- District Industries Centre may facilitate establishment and upgradation of warehouse and cold storage facilities for agricultural and fisheries industries. This can be enabled with the support of schemes like Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), NABARD-linked Project Linked Plans (PLP).

- The district administration may facilitate organic and herbal product quality certification for processed food which may include FSSAI, HACCP, ISO22000, BRCGS, etc. Similarly, for export promotion of engineering goods CE certification may be facilitated to ensure quality standards accepted in developed economies and many Southeast Asia countries. The Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Policy 2024-30 provides impetus to food processing sector by providing financial incentives from capital investment to research & development and expenses incurred by export-oriented units. The policy also provides financial support to engineering sector.
- RODTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) shall be actively promoted across all eligible goods, especially aluminium, herbal oils, and NTFPs. Exporters will be supported in onboarding and claim registration.

This approach shall create a future-ready, diversified export hub, expanding Korba's global trade footprint across sectors such as aluminium products, forest-based goods, textiles, and engineering components.

8. Conclusion

Korba district presents a distinctive blend of industrial strength and ecological richness. While aluminium remains the dominant export driver, accounting for over 90% of the district's current export value, there is significant untapped potential in forest-based products, Tasar silk, agro-processing, and engineered materials. The presence of strategic PSUs, tribal self-help networks, and natural resources offers a strong foundation for diversification. However, critical gaps such as limited value-add infrastructure, over-reliance on a single commodity, and inadequate export facilitation need to be addressed. By strengthening institutional collaborations, upgrading logistics, enhancing capacities of tribal and MSME exporters, and expanding product portfolios. With coordinated implementation, Korba can evolve into a diversified export hub contributing meaningfully to Chhattisgarh's trade aspirations.

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District-Korba

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Centre, Korba

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Raipur (C.G.)

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