

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update

**Country:** India

**Post:** Mumbai

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, Retail Foods

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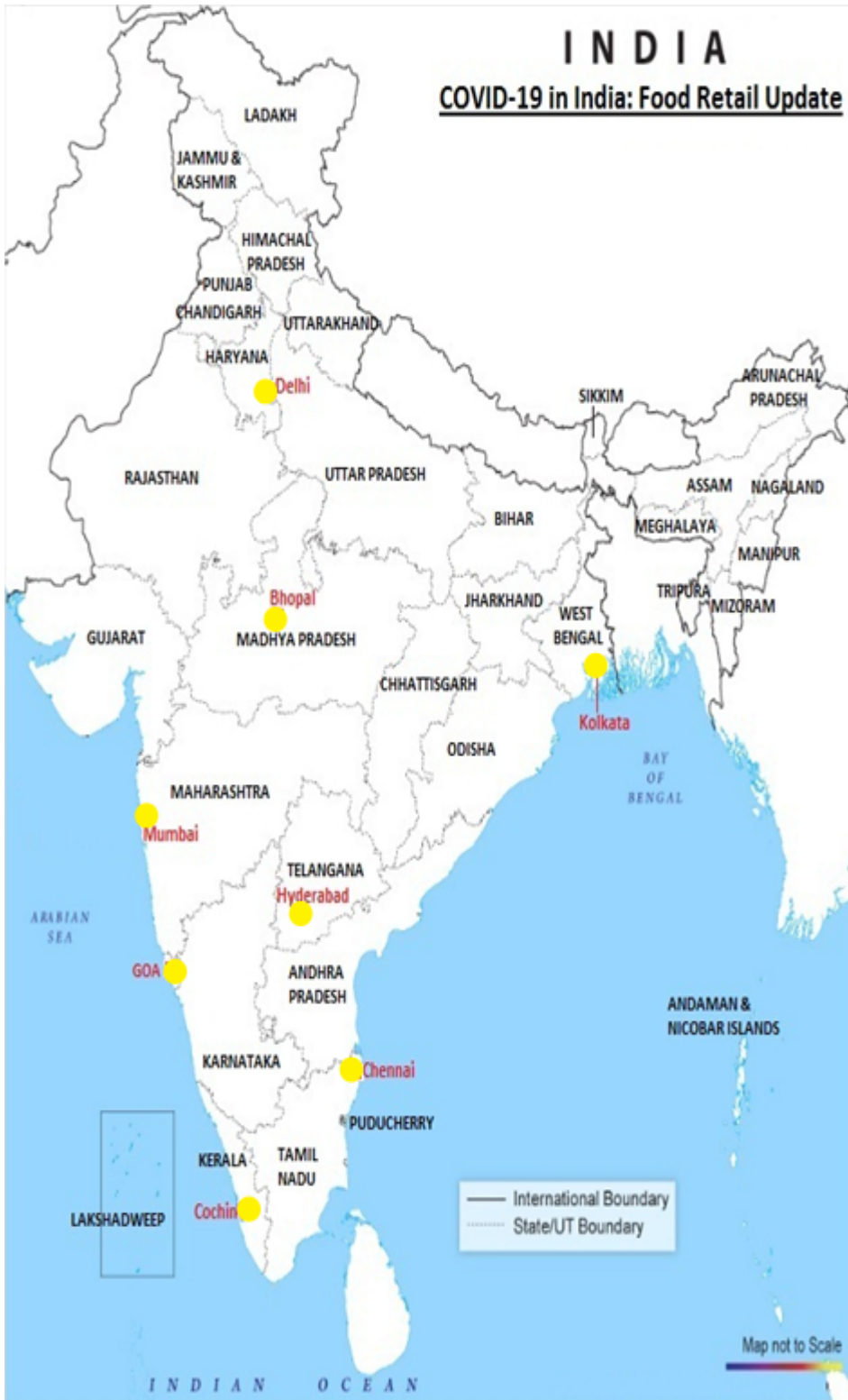
**Approved By:** Jeanne Bailey

**Report Highlights:**

Weekly report as of April 17, 2020, of COVID19 impact on India's food retail sector.

# INDIA

## COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



### India Food Retail Update as of April 17, 2020

**1. Mumbai:** Although retail stores are still facing challenges in receiving certain goods due to the lack of truckers, store shelves are generally well-stocked with only a few stores reporting limited supplies. The reopening of the Navi Mumbai APMC wholesale market will facilitate the distribution of fresh produce, pulses, and grains throughout the greater Mumbai area. As a result of the lockdown's movement restrictions, delivery apps and retail chains have partnered together to deliver groceries directly to consumers in over 125 cities. Major retailers report that there is enough inventory of essential groceries to meet demand during the extended lockdown.

**2. New Delhi:** Residents have access to adequate food supplies through a combination of Kirana stores (mom and pop stores), fresh produce markets, and modern retail chains. Wholesale cash and carry stores are focusing their efforts in supplying Kiranas to ensure all neighborhoods have access to essential food items.

**3. Hyderabad:** Retailers are facing operational challenges with only 30%-40% staff. Distribution channels are facing significant gaps due to the lack of personnel to load and unload product, forcing some area retailers to use their personal vehicles to collect supplies. There is no shortage of essential items, vegetables, and fruits, but packaged and imported goods are limited. The prices for grocery items and fresh produce have increased only slightly.

**4. Chennai:** Local retailers are operating with 50% staff, as many workers are remaining at home due to COVID-19 concerns. In response, some stores have arranged for stay-in facilities for the staff. At present, essential food products such as milk, flour, rice, and pulses are available. Grocery items, along with fresh fruits and vegetables, have experienced price hikes of up to 40%. There are concerns that fruit supplies may decline due to labor shortages for fruit cultivation and harvesting.

**5. Kolkata:** Local reports indicate that residents have easy access to food supplies through wholesale produce markets and retail stores at reasonable prices. Ration shops continue to distribute free food staples to ration card holders.

**6. Bhopal:** One retail chain has reported that full recovery will take at least one year; its immediate concern is to get workers back to their manufacturing and retail facilities. The retailer is concerned that if the lockdown is further prolonged, retailers will be unable to accommodate consumer demand during the beginning of the busy Indian festival season starting in August.

**7. Cochin:** A major retailer reported that essential product categories are adequately stocked, especially meats and vegetables sourced from local producers. So far, the retailer has been able to source products from other states without any issues, but expects reduced sales in the short term, as consumers shift to purchasing only essential categories. On the other hand, the retailer expects consumers will return to normal purchasing habits within 3-4 months.

**8. Goa:** Procuring grocery items, fresh fruits, and vegetables is a challenge for the state of Goa as all these items are brought in from neighboring states. Early last week, there were shortages of lentils, cereals, pulses, and flour, but stores have since been able to streamline the procurement of these products along with milk, bread, and vegetables. Distributors are having trouble procuring more stock due to a cash crunch. One retailer mentioned that a few suppliers will run out of stock in the coming weeks, and are not sure how they will be able to source more product.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.