

**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:** Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation, Retail Foods

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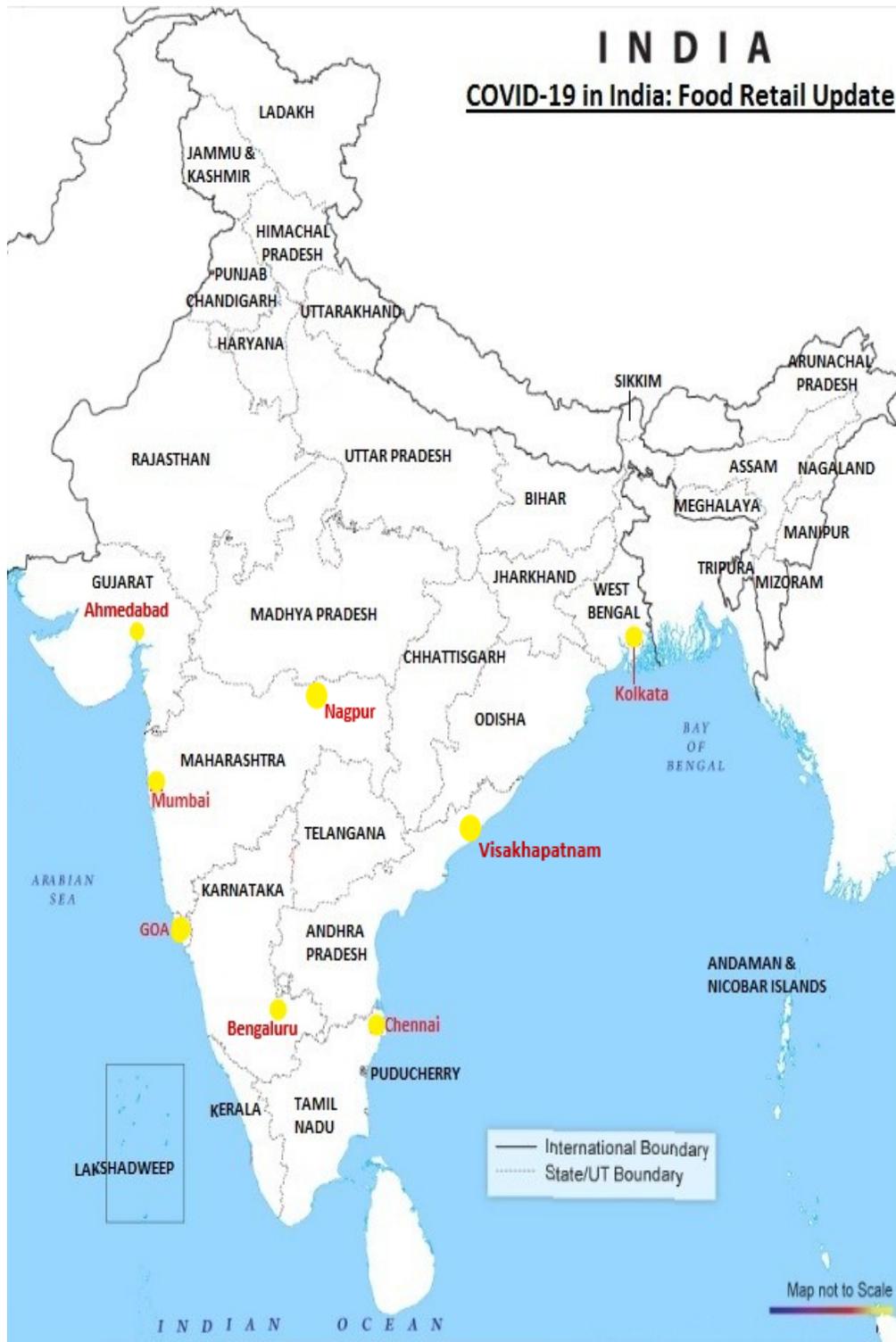
**Approved By:** Jeanne Bailey

**Report Highlights:**

Weekly report as of May 15, 2020, of COVID19 impact on India's food retail sector.

# INDIA

## COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



1. **Mumbai:** The Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Navi Mumbai - a major wholesale market for produce, pulses, and grains for the greater Mumbai area - will conduct rapid medical tests of all 15,000 market staff and traders at subsidized rates. This is in response to multiple COVID-19 detections over the past seven weeks that have led to multiple market closures and supply disruptions. The APMC will remain closed until May 17 while authorities disinfect its premises and conduct more tests.
2. **Visakhapatnam:** On May 14, the government of Andhra Pradesh issued new directives allowing grocery and medical shops to be opened at 10:00 AM-5:00 PM throughout the state, except in containment and buffer zones.
3. **Ahmedabad:** The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation will allow the sale of groceries, fruits, and vegetables beginning on May 15, after a strict, week-long lockdown that banned the sale of groceries except for milk and medicines. The sale of these goods will be allowed from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM; deliveries will be allowed from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. Vendors will only be allowed to operate if they have health cards issued by authorities.
4. **Goa:** Vegetable vendors at the partially reopened Panaji Market are struggling to sell fresh produce due to reduced customer footfall and limited transportation options. As a result, vendors from nearby villages are selling at a loss.
5. **Chennai:** Following a rise in COVID-19 cases, the Koyambedu wholesale market, a major supplier of grains and pulses, has been shut down since May 6. According to media reports, local traders believe if this market is not reopened soon, grocery shops in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu may encounter a shortage of grains and pulse stocks. In Tamil Nadu state, grocery and vegetable shops are allowed to operate during 6:00 AM-7:00 PM.
6. **Kolkata:** According to local reports, grocery prices have increased for the third time in the last six weeks. This is due to the fact that the Posta wholesale market has been turned into a containment zone, hurting the supply of essential foodstuffs. On average, pulse, rice, and edible oil prices have increased by 48, 27, and 14 percent, respectively, since March 18. Local retailers believe the price situation will normalize once the market's operations are moved to a new location as proposed by local authorities.
7. **Bengaluru:** Agricultural technology start-ups, such as Ninja Cart, are now procuring produce directly from farmers, and partnering with local e-retailers, such as Zomato and Swiggy, to deliver products to directly to consumers' homes.
8. **Nagpur:** Media reports that the Nagpur Wholesale Grains and Seeds Merchants Association is asking for additional clarification from local authorities regarding the marketing of foodstuffs after the recent closure of shops in the Itwari neighborhood by police on May 9. The association claims that the lack of coordination between the Nagpur Municipal Corporation and police on this issue is hurting the distribution of essential goods. At present, shop working hours are 11:00 AM-5:00 PM, which the association urges authorities to modify, as well.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.