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**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 21,2020

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**Report Name:** COVID-19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update

**Country:** India

**Post:** Mumbai

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

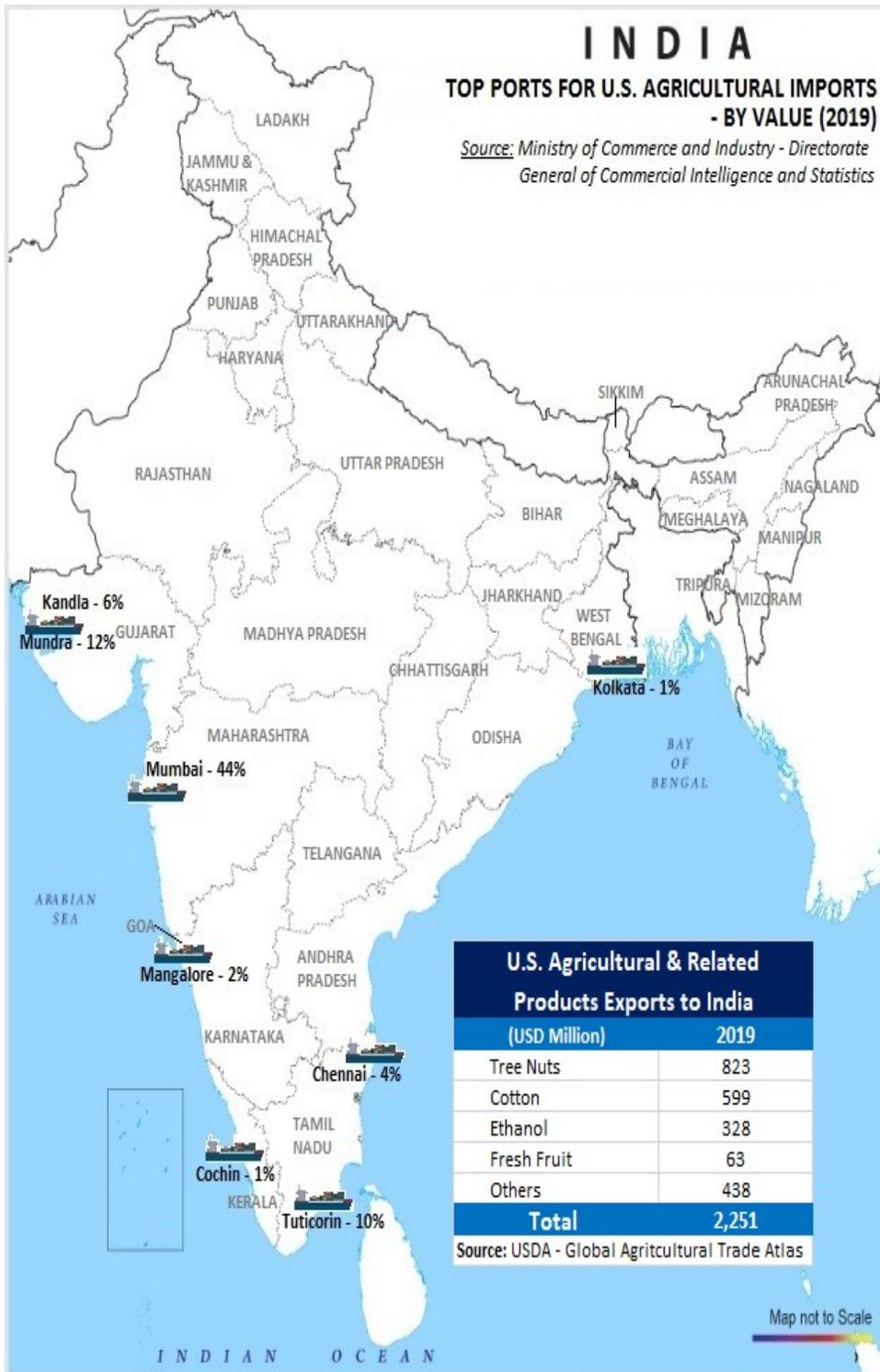
Weekly report as of June 19, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on Indian port operations.

## India Port Situation Update as of Friday, June 19, 2020

# INDIA

## TOP PORTS FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS - BY VALUE (2019)

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics



### U.S. Agricultural & Related Products Exports to India

(USD Million) 2019

Tree Nuts	823
Cotton	599
Ethanol	328
Fresh Fruit	63
Others	438
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,251</b>

Source: USDA - Global Agricultural Trade Atlas

**1. Mumbai:** In a recent media interview, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) Chairman Sanjay Sethi reported that port operations have improved with more new drivers reporting to work. During the lockdown, the number of drivers required at the port fell to 2,220 from 4,000. Exports out of JNPT have increased in June, but imports have declined by 40 percent, according to Sethi. The chairman believes that trade levels should normalize by the end of the month. JNPT's utilization rate remains at 70 percent. Mumbai Port Trust Chairman Sanjay Bhatia reports that the port is fully operational and has handled 321 ships and nine million tons of cargo during the lockdown. Media reports that the Government of India is working with software companies to accelerate the digitization and electronic transfer of trade documents, which should help expedite the processing of cargo.

**2. Mundra:** The lack of labor and containers has hurt the flow of Indian rice exports to Middle East and African markets. Media reports that trucks carrying rice have been waiting at Mundra and Kandla ports for at least seven days as there is no labor to unload them. Containers are limited due to the recent decline in imports.

**3. Tuticorin:** On June 12, V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust handled a record 189,395 tons of cargo in a single day. Media reports that this is an indication of port operations improving. The port's chairman, T.K. Ramachandran, recently mentioned that trade will remain below the levels handled during the last financial year; nonetheless, the port is still working on improving its performance.

**4. Kandla:** The lack of labor and slow truck movement continues to slowdown port operations.

**5. Chennai:** Districts in and around Chennai are under a full lockdown until June 30, which is expected to slow down the processing and movement of cargo in and out of the port. This lockdown is also expected to constrain the ability of officials and laborers to enter the port.

**6. Mangalore:** Container movement is affected by the lack of trucks and labor.

**7. Kolkata:** According to local media, Kolkata-based importers are holding back their orders from China. Over 20 percent of the cargo handled by Kolkata Port Trust is shipped to/from China.

**8. Cochin:** No update available.

**Note:** Each featured port includes air freight imports arriving at that city.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.