

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 21,2020

**Report Number:** IN2020-0070

**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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**Report Highlights:**

Weekly report as of June 19, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

# INDIA

## COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



- Pune:** Earlier this week, the Mahatma Phule Mandai (market) reopened as part of a relaxation of lockdown measures.
- Bhopal:** Municipal authorities are allowing grocery, dairy, and produce stores to remain open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM, while maintaining social distancing norms.
- Hyderabad:** The Bharat Nagar vegetable market in Moosapet has closed after a vendor, who tested positive for COVID-19, died on June 15. According to local residents, the market and its surrounding areas has not been properly sanitized before or since his death.
- Chennai:** Chennai is imposing a full, stringent lockdown June 19 - 30. While state authorities announced that grocery shops would be allowed to open during that period, significant panic buying occurred at vegetable and grocery shops during the past week. These shops will be allowed to operate from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM during the lockdown. At the same time, grocery retailers in select areas, including Arya Gowda street in West Mambalam, have been asked to shut down operations for 10 days due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases.
- Goa:** The Panaji Municipal Market reopened on June 15, with no restrictions on operating hours. Vendors are required to get tested and provide documentation proving they do not have COVID-19 in order to return. Moreover, all customers entering the vegetable and fruit market will undergo temperature checks. Despite the expanded hours, the market opened to a poor response, as most customers are hesitant to return due to a recent COVID-19 detection.
- Visakhapatnam:** With the onset of the fishing season approaching, wholesalers expect fish prices to rise due to higher transportation costs. These costs have increased 25 to 30 percent because of the easing of the lockdown, as drivers are charging almost double for their services. Fish traders are also facing issues moving product across state lines as stringent border checks are delaying deliveries. In some cases, these supplies become spoiled before they reach retail markets.
- Kolkata:** On June 16, vendors at the city's major wholesale markets began operating under an "odd-and-even" system, allowing only half of shops to remain open at any time. Moreover, shops located side-by-side will not be allowed to operate at the same time. So far, this approach has been well-received by traders, leading to a decline in vehicle and customer congestion.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.