

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 24,2020

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Report Name: COVID19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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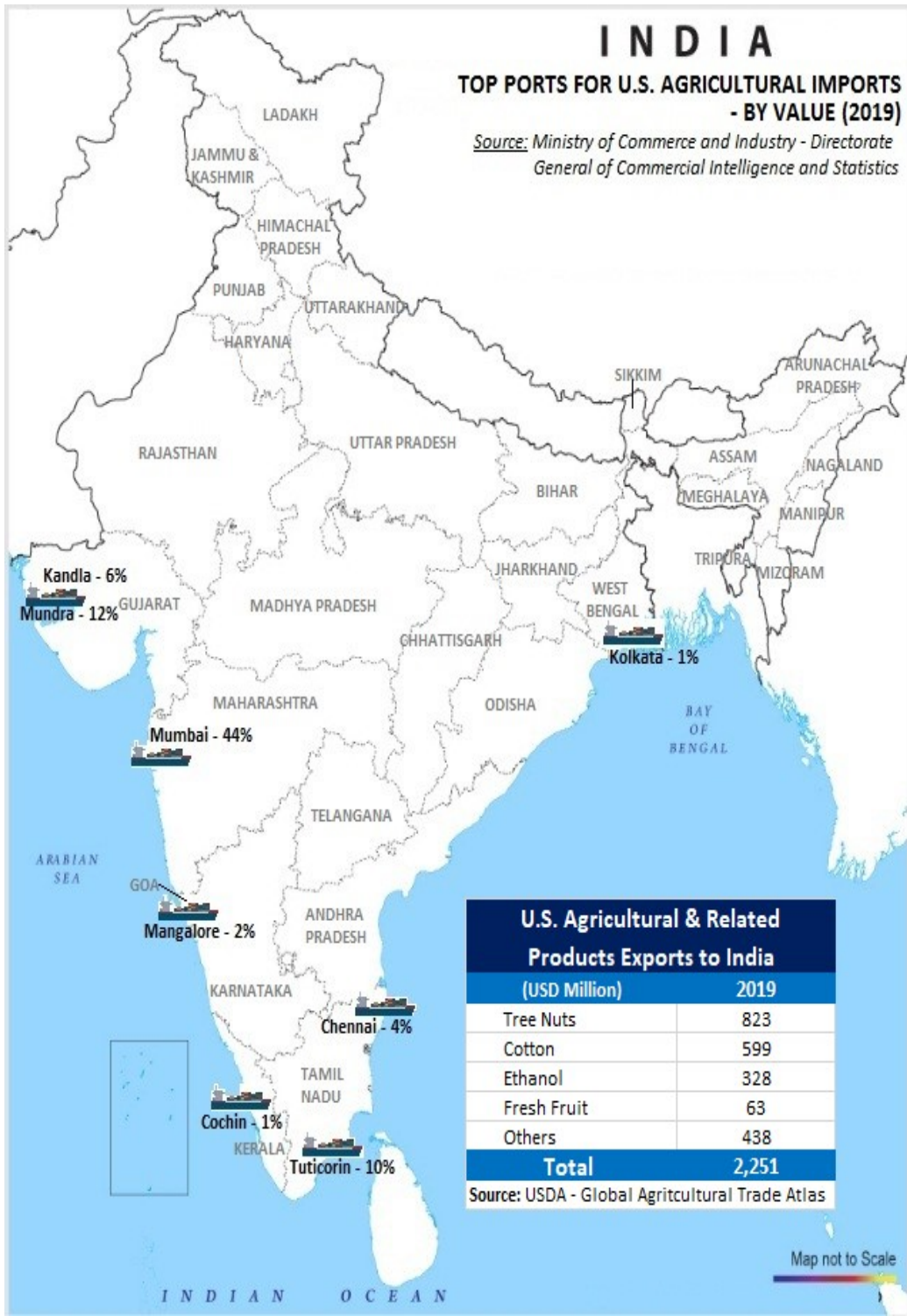
Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of April 24, 2020, of COVID19 impact on Indian port operations.

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
Total	2,251

Source: USDA - Global Agricultural Trade Atlas

India Port Situation Update as of Friday, April 24, 2020

- Mumbai:** Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust officials continue to park uncleared / unclaimed containers in nearby container freight stations and empty lots to reduce the backlog. Most port inspectors and customs agents have returned to work this week which should help accelerate clearances. Authorities are closely monitoring port facilities and neighboring villages for COVID-19 and have set up a separate isolation facility within the port in the event of a detection. According to local media, the Shipping Ministry has asked the country's twelve major ports to defer rental and license-related charges for April, May, and June to support the export/import sector and its stakeholders amid lower trade volumes. The request also asks ports not to levy any penalties or demurrage charges during the lockdown, plus a 30-day recovery period.
- Mundra:** Port operations are constrained by limited truck movement.
- Tuticorin:** Dakshin Bharat Gateway Terminal Private Limited (DBGT), the owner of a private container terminal at V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, has invoked force majeure in their concession agreement with the state-owned port. DBGT seeks a waiver of revenue sharing until trade volumes return to pre-lockdown levels.
- Kandla:** Port operations are accelerating, but truck movements continue to be slow. Port officials are working closely with employees to monitor any signs of COVID-19.
- Chennai:** Media reports that 75,000 containers are stuck at port and nearby container freight stations because of insufficient trucks to move out cargo. Port authorities sought to bring back truck drivers two weeks ago, but too few returned to adequately address the backlog.
- Mangalore:** The availability of trucks and labor continues to be an issue, which is affecting container processing.
- Kolkata:** Restricted capacity at the port due to limited staff and truckers is leading to a scarcity of imported raw materials for the local food processing industry.
- Cochin:** The Cochin Port Trust is evaluating the possibility of providing relief to traders who have been affected by the lockdown. The relief may include the reduction or suspension of port usage fees and an interest waiver for delayed customs duty remittance. The port trust will make its decision in consultation with the Shipping Ministry.

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

Attachments:

No Attachments.