

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: April 09,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0014

Report Name: COVID19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

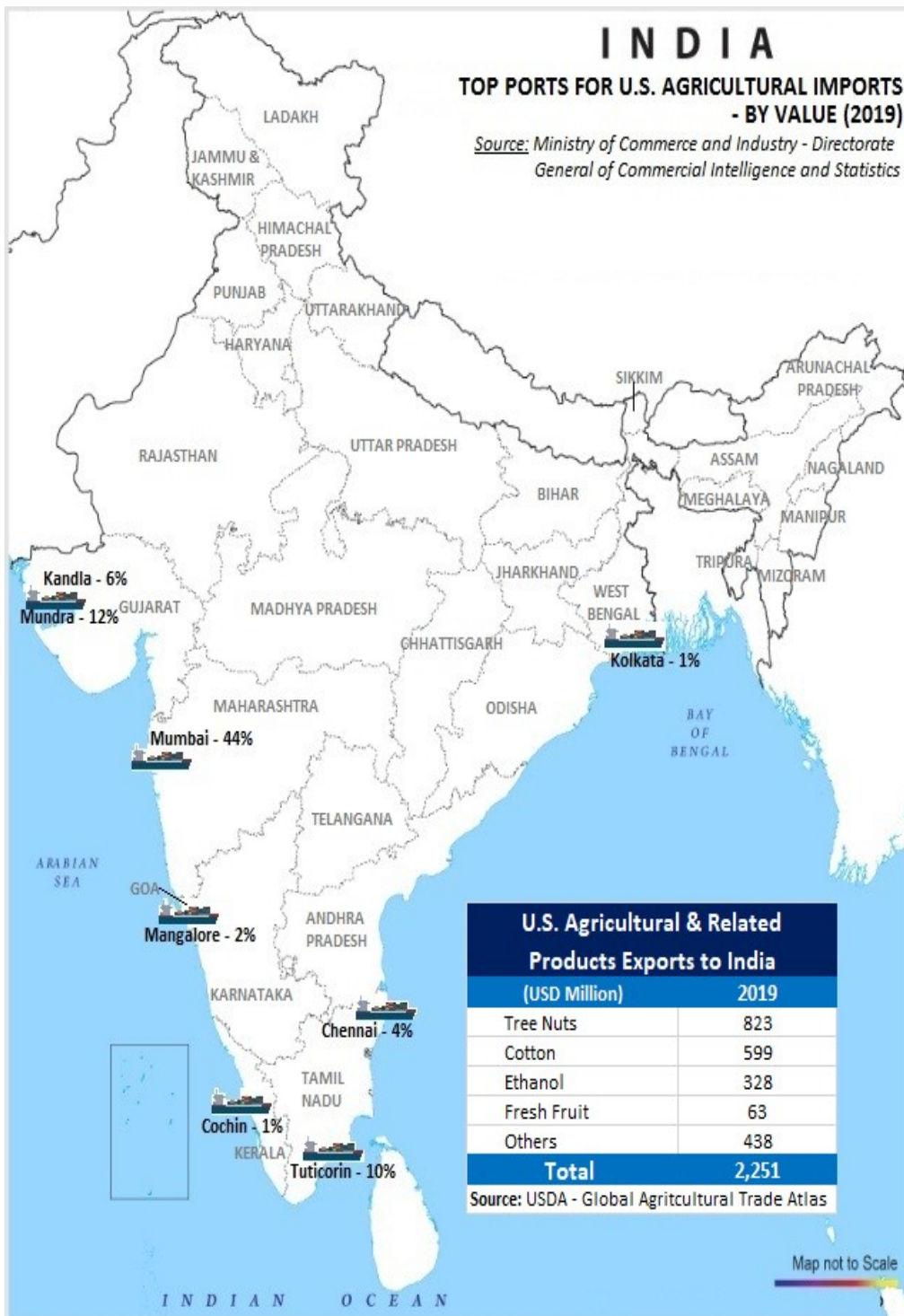
Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of April 9, 2020, of COVID19 impact on Indian port operations.



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

India Port Situation Update as of Thursday, April 9, 2020

- Mumbai:** The port continues to experience massive backlog due to the lack of administrative personnel, truck drivers, and crane operators. As a result, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is offloading containers from its terminals to nearby container freight stations (CFS) to lower congestion, but the CFS are approaching full capacity now. Consequently, global container shipping lines have started to skip JNPT and Mundra Port because import/export clearances are not occurring fast enough. Local authorities are now working to ensure all workers and trucks have the necessary permits to move and operate without police scrutiny or delay.
- Mundra:** Congestion is rising as importers and custom house agents face difficulties in clearing containers. The port's parent company, Adani Ports, has invoked *force majeure* at its Mundra and Dhamra (in Odisha) ports.
- Tuticorin:** The lack of labor and shipment backlog is resulting in slower truck movement. The port is issuing emergency passes to agents to facilitate port entry and ship boarding.
- Kandla:** The Kandla International Container Terminal declared force majeure as of March 22 where it will not be responsible for any claims, damages, and charges including vessel demurrages or issues arising from lower load/discharge rates. The Kandla region has declared a complete halt of all road traffic from 11:00 hrs until 17:00 hrs. As a result, port employees have had to shift their work schedules. Customs agents are experiencing difficulties in reaching the port and urging the state government to lift movement restrictions to anyone connected with port operations.
- Chennai:** Port operations are restricted due to limited personnel. According to local reports, the lack of truck drivers has resulted in +50,000 uncleared sea containers at the ports of Chennai, Kamajarar, and Kattupalli. Local authorities are working on bringing back drivers and ensuring truck movement with stickers issued by police.
- Mangalore:** Container movement is affected by the lack of labor and trucks. The port will soon issue passes to ensure easier movement in and around the port.
- Kolkata:** The Kolkata Port Trust has invoked *force majeure* for the period of March 22 – April 15. As such, the port will waive demurrage charges and not levy fines on port users for delays. On April 2, a port employee tested positive for COVID-19, which has led to limited personnel showing up to work.
- Cochin:** Local importers report that no agents and transporters are available to clear or move product. The Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry reports a decline in imports ports as a result of less containers arriving from China. This is also affecting the flow of exports as these containers are used to export goods to Middle East ports.

Attachments:

No Attachments.