

Clarification on MHA order allowing Opening of Shops

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Ministry of Home Affairs issued an Order yesterday on amendments in the consolidated revised guidelines on lockdown measures to allow opening of shops. (<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1618049>)

This Order implies that:

- In *rural areas*, all shops, except those in shopping malls are allowed to open.
- In *urban areas*, all standalone shops, neighborhood shops & shops in residential complexes are allowed to open. Shops in markets/market complexes and shopping malls are *not* allowed to open.

It is clarified that sale by e-commerce companies will continue to be permitted for essential goods only.

It is further clarified that sale of liquor and other items continues to be prohibited as specified in the National Directives for COVID-19 management.

As specified in the consolidated revised guidelines, these shops will NOT BE PERMITTED TO OPEN in areas, whether rural or urban, which are declared as CONTAINMENT ZONES by respective States/ UTs.

VG/SNC/VM

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