



# **MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS NETWORK**

## **Media Visibility Report**

### **Standalone Stories: Quotes & Authored Articles**

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## Interview

<b>Publication</b>	The Hindu Business Line
<b>Edition</b>	Online
<b>Date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2020

URL: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/mfin-expects-huge-credit-demand-in-next-six-months-as-india-opens-up-says-chairman-nambiar/article31715471.ece>

## MFIN expects huge credit demand in next six months as India opens up, says Chairman Nambiar

KR Srivats | New Delhi | Updated on May 31, 2020 | Published on May 31, 2020



Expresses confidence that there will be reasonable liquidity in the system

As India goes for a calibrated opening after 66 days of lockdown and livelihood concerns gains primacy, Micro-finance Institutions Network (MFIN), an RBI-approved self-regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the NBFC- MFI industry, sees huge demand for credit in the economy in the next six months, a top official said.

“Everybody who has come out of a lockdown has essentially used a big portion of their family savings. Obviously when you restart you will need money and every customer would need emergency credit to kick-

## **Standalone Quote in Stories**

<b>Publication</b>	The Economic Times
<b>Edition</b>	Mumbai
<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2020
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## THOSE IN RED ZONES seeking nod for back-end staff to resume work

# MFIs, NBFCs to Resume Full Ops in Green and Orange Zones

Saloni.Shukla@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Microfinance institutions and non-bank lenders are set to resume full-fledged operations in green and orange zones, or areas designated as safe from the Covid-19 virus outbreak, after the government announced lifting of several restrictions. Though, the lockdown has been extended till May 17.

They have asked branch staff to engage with customers in need of low-ticket, top-up loans to push credit in rural areas and for the micro, medium and small enterprises.

Spandana Sphoorty, 79% of whose branches are in green zones, is operating 794 of its 1,006 branches after the Ministry of Home Affairs included MFIs and NBFCs under essential services. The micro-lender is also expecting the rest of its branches to open after the lockdown is lifted as it does not have any footprint in areas marked as red zones.

Arohan Financial Services is

### Back on Track

**Cos** have asked branch staff to engage with customers in need of low-ticket, top-up loans and MSMEs

**MFIs** looking to restart collections as only 30-35% of their repayments happen digitally

**Top-tier NBFCs** with HQs in red zones plan to restart ops with 25% staff, scale it up later



**SFBs, too, preparing to get back to business**

also operating more than 40% of its branches, with more to follow as the lockdown lifts.

“Our member MFIs are opening as many branches (as possible) in the green zones and preparing to scale in the orange zones depending on further directions from the MHA,” said Harsh Srivastava, CEO of in-

dustry body Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).

“We want all MFIs to interact with customers and zero in on their credit needs and encourage them to pay back loans,” he said, adding it has asked members to interact with district and police authorities so as to not face challenges when resuming operations. MFIN has also requested the Gujarat government — which has yet to comply with the MHA order on essential services — to allow MFIs to restart operations, Srivastava said.

MFIs, the last-mile connect for credit, are looking to restart collections as only 30-35% of their repayments happen through digital means. According to rating firm Icra, the cash shortfall of 29 MFIs, which account for 79% of the industry’s credit, is ₹2,600 crore.

Top-tier NBFCs with headquarters in red zones such as Mumbai, Pune and Delhi are also seeking special permission from authorities to allow critical administrative and back-end staff to resume work.

<b>Publication</b>	The Times of India
<b>Edition</b>	Mumbai
<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020
<b>Page No.</b>	11

## Over 50% banks agree on relief to micro lenders

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Over half of the bank lenders to the microfinance sector have extended a moratorium on their loans according to MFPI, an association of the institutions that provide micro loans. While some microfinance institutions (MFIs) have been granted a three-month break from repaying their instalments, others have received only partial moratorium on repayment of the principal.

The willingness of banks to relax repayment rules is seen as an indication of their relative level of conflict in lending to this segment. One reason for this is that bank loans to MFIs qualify as priority sector loans. Also, much of microfinance lending is in the rural sector, part of the category that has the highest priority.

### PARTIAL MORATORIUM

According to MFPI chairman Manoj Nambiar, the industry has informed the RBI that it will require ₹10,000 crore to provide emergency loans to help borrowers come out of the stagnation arising out of the lockdown. Taken together with the regular loans, the funding requirement up to September would be around ₹25,000 crore. "The RBI is aware of this and we are working with them and through all the other agencies to ensure that this is managed as it is of national importance," said Nambiar. He was speaking at an online event 'Changing paradigms of financial inclusion post-Covid-19' organised by Electronic Payment & Services.

Nambiar, who is the MD of Arohan Financial Services, said the MFI industry deals with borrowers that face stress because of external events by providing emergency loans. "In Kerala, when there was a devastating flood, the sector responded by giving emergency loans and a moratorium, which helped turn the entire customer segment back," he said. He added the lockdown would open up a tremendous lending opportunity.

The sector as its part would respond by providing credit at lower rates and passing on the benefits of cheaper refinancing from KfVi and NABARD to borrowers.

<b>Publication</b>	The Economic Times
<b>Edition</b>	Online
<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2020

URL: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/mfis-nbfc-to-resume-full-operations-in-green-and-orange-zones/articleshow/75498012.cms?from=mdr>

## MFIs, NBFCs to resume full operations in green and orange zones

*Microfinance institutions and non-bank lenders are set to resume full-fledged operations in green and orange zones, or areas designated as safe from the Covid-19 virus outbreak, after the government announced lifting of several restrictions.*

By *Saloni Shukla*, ET Bureau | Last Updated: May 02, 2020, 07:26 AM IST



**Mumbai:** Microfinance institutions and non-bank lenders are set to resume full-fledged operations in green and orange zones, or areas designated as safe from the Covid-19 virus outbreak, after the government announced lifting of several restrictions. Though, the lockdown has been extended till May 17.

They have asked branch staff to engage with customers in need of low-ticket, top-up loans to push credit in rural areas and for the micro, medium and small enterprises.

Spandana Sphoorty, 79% of whose branches are in green zones, is operating 794 of its 1,006 branches after the [Ministry of Home Affairs](#) included MFIs and NBFCs under essential services. The micro-lender is also expecting the rest of its branches to open after the lockdown is lifted as it does not have any footprint in areas marked as red zones.



<b>Publication</b>	The Times of India
<b>Edition</b>	Online
<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020

URL: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/over-50-banks-agree-on-relief-to-micro-lenders/articleshow/75565024.cms>

# Over 50% banks agree on relief to micro lenders

Mayur Shetty | TNN | May 6, 2020, 04:00 IST

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Mayur Shetty | TNN

Mumbai: Over half of the bank lenders to the microfinance sector have extended a moratorium on their loans according to MFIN, an association of the institutions that provide micro loans. While some microfinance institutions (MFIs) have been granted a three-month break from

repaying their instalments, others have received only partial moratorium on repayment of the principal.

The willingness of banks to relax repayment rules is seen as an indication of their relative level of comfort in lending to this segment. One reason for this is that bank

<b>Publication</b>	Money Control
<b>Edition</b>	Online
<b>Date</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020

URL: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/expert-columns-2/covid-19-lockdown-its-time-to-digitally-revolutionise-financial-inclusion-in-india-5281421.html>



The screenshot shows the Money Control website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories like Home, Coronavirus, News, Markets, Mutual Funds, Commodities, Insurance, Video, Podcast, Personal Finance, Portfolio, Forum, Be a Pro, Earth360, Easybiz, and Live TV. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with sub-categories like Business, Markets, Stocks, Economy, Research, Mutual Funds, Personal Finance, Property, Auto, IPO, Politics, India, FinTech, Consumer Tech, Startups, and Opinion. The main content area features the article title "COVID-19 lockdown: It's time to digitally revolutionise financial inclusion in India" in large blue font. Below the title is a sub-headline: "Millions of people and institutions around the world are being forced to adapt, and as we all know, digitisation is perhaps the biggest aspect of adapting to this crisis." The author is identified as "Moneycontrol Contributor @moneycontrolcom". There are social media sharing icons for WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. A sponsored advertisement for "Open Online Demat Account with Zero Brokerage" is visible. Below the article text, there is an audio player section titled "Listen to the Audio Version of the Article" with a play button icon and a duration of 07:02. The author's name "Stuti Johri" is displayed at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a red promotional banner for "Network 58.5" with the text "THE POWER OF NETWORK 58.5", "58.5 CRORE VIEW", and "IN 15 LANGUAGES | 20 COUNTRIES".

## **Authored Article**

<b>Publication</b>	The Economic Times
<b>Edition</b>	Online
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## Will microfinance survive the Covid-19 crisis? Yes, it will thrive

*The Indian microfinance sector can and will play a major role in ensuring confidence and credit at the grassroots when it is needed the most to rebuild our country.*

ET CONTRIBUTORS | Last Updated: May 23, 2020, 01:10 PM IST



*Financial provisions will be taken, but eventual credit losses will be much lesser given the ecosystem today.*

**By Manoj Kumar Nambiar**

It was almost 1130 hrs and Rekha Devi (name changed for privacy), in a village in Madhya Pradesh was getting worried as it was her repayment date/time to the microfinance company that she had taken a loan from, and the scheduled meeting did not happen that day. She had taken a small Rs 20,000 loan from the company, a few months back to run her small grocery shop and support her family of four. Being very particular about paying her installments back

regularly, she walked alone to the branch office to pay the money to the surprise of the branch staff. The day was 25th March, 2020, the first day of the national lockdown announced in India!

Customers like her form the backbone of the microfinance sector in India, which today through various forms covers over 100 million women with a credit portfolio outstanding of over Rs 3 lakh crore. With a collection efficiency of an outstanding 99% plus it can put retail, MSME & corporate clients to shame.