Remuneration still the big sticking point

Patrick Jenkins says political pressure to lead to small business is at odds with regulators trying to boost capital reserves

...that he said that last year, banks that were not spending all their profits to try and boost capital reserves...
Banks are at the heart of capitalism

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**Banks intensify charge offensive as the public furor subsides**

The pitchforks have been put aside, but the industry’s profits may still be under siege.

Time is running out to negotiate the evolution. John Ackerley, chief executive of Deutsche Bank and head of the International Monetary Fund’s Financial Sector Financial Inclusion Project, warned that the new wave of competition from so-called proprietary trading may ignore the banks’ charm and hunger for a medium to a cold one. From political theater to fact. From political theater to fact. From political theater to fact.

**Politics**

Justin Baer explores how institutions have weathered voter anger and now seek to water down regulations.

The event of the financial crisis, and the destruction that followed, has left a legacy of doubt about the industry. But a sense of ease is returning, and some are looking to the future.
India considers rate cap on loans to poor

Microfinance

Relying on specialised local institutions has backfired for banks, says Analyst

I

t banks commercial banks look both to public and private sources to meet their funding needs, a trend is emerging to designate "priority sectors" that are of pivotal importance to the country’s economic agenda. This is resulting in a rate cap for microfinance companies of around $6bn in outstanding loans. Such companies — which are often referred to as microfinance or "MFI" — are dedicated to providing financial services to the underserved segments of the population. They are particularly focused on offering credit to rural areas and urban slums, where traditional banking services are scarce.

These services — designated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — currently include broad areas of activity such as micro credit, savings, education and lending to the poor and vulnerable — all areas that could otherwise find it tough to access credit.

In recent years, India has been trying to establish a strong, dedicated microfinance sector and promote financial inclusion across rural areas through these microfinance institutions (MFIs), which are typically run by non-profit organisations. MFIs are expected to play a crucial role in providing financial services to the underprivileged segments of society, particularly in rural areas with low access to traditional banking services. However, the sector has faced challenges, including high default rates, regulatory uncertainty, and operational difficulties.

The RBI also debated whether to remove microfinance from the list of "priority sectors" that are eligible for higher interest rates, citing concerns about high interest rates and the potential for predatory lending. The regulator is considering imposing a cap on the interest rates that MFIs can charge, which could have significant implications for the sector's growth and sustainability.

Some MFIs have been kept afloat by government subsidies and grants, particularly those that have seen significant growth in recent years. However, the sector remains under regulatory scrutiny, and its future is uncertain as the government continues to weigh the benefits and costs of providing financial services to the underserved segments of the population.

The belief is that if the banks are able to direct their money to areas that are most in need and that are important to the government — such as education and lending to the poor — that could otherwise find it tough to access credit, this would not only help the banks to meet their priorities but also ensure a more sustainable model of microfinance.

Under pressure: microfinance companies face restrictions on what they charge borrowers such as Sharda Bhandare who makes gloves in the Dharavi slum of Mumbai.

Philanthropy

Sharlene Tuff examines how banks are trying to do more with cash donations

Banks around the world are seeking new ways to engage their employees with charities as they look to maintain their financial services and build positive reputations. Here, we examine five banks that are pushing the boundaries of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs to give their time through volunteer work and work on building stronger relationships with charities in ways that their staff are already engaged.

Banks are increasingly using their relationships with charitable organisations, local communities, and the people they serve to gain a competitive edge. For example, the cross-functional teams at Deutsche Bank, the German lender, raised $350m in an initial public offering (IPO) for Neez, a microfinance company. The bank manages the IPO, which the company will use to fund its expansion into new markets, and also provides ongoing support to the company.

More are trying to engage their employees in charitable giving, banks are keen to give something back to society in the ways that suit them. Some are creating culture change frameworks in which their staff are engaged to give back. The recent spate of suicides among microfinance workers in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh has also raised questions about the sustainability of the sector and the need for better regulatory oversight.

Some top bankers who have chosen to support the arts are seeking to balance the public good with the need to provide greater competitive edge in the market. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), for example, is launching a new program to support the arts. The bank is working with a range of organisations to support the arts, including the Royal Opera House and the British Council.

Some banks are also focusing on the area of education, with the aim of improving financial education. For example, the bank is offering grants to support schools in underprivileged areas. The Royal Bank of Scotland has also launched a program to support the arts, with the aim of improving financial education. For example, the bank is offering grants to support schools in underprivileged areas.

Trust in a bank that has its roots in Austria and a strong franchise all over the world starts here.

Charity is about more than handing over a big cheque

And because of this, it is MBF BANK

Banks are giving their employees the opportunity to give to the causes they care about. Some are giving them paid leave each year to volunteer in the causes that are close to their hearts. In this, they are following the lead of many large corporates who are making it easier for their employees to make a difference to society both in their roles and outside of work, as well as in their own personal lives. The companies have been following a long-term commitment to philanthropy, which is the act of giving back to society.

The reality is that many employees are not given the opportunity to give back to society, either at work or in their personal lives. Some of the world’s top banks are trying to change this, with the aim of improving financial education and helping improve financial education for everyone.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is piloting a program to support the arts, which is aiming to improve financial education. The bank is working with a range of organisations to support the arts, including the Royal Opera House and the British Council.

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