

## PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

# CSR & SOCIAL GOVERNANCE

According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives (“Triple-Bottom-Line-Approach”), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In this sense it is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy. Even though the latter can also make a valuable contribution to poverty reduction, will directly enhance the reputation of a company and strengthen its brand, the concept of CSR clearly goes beyond that.

A properly implemented CSR concept can bring along a variety of competitive advantages, such as enhanced access to capital and markets, increased sales and profits, operational cost savings, improved productivity and quality, efficient human resource base, improved brand image and reputation, enhanced customer loyalty, better decision making and risk management processes.

A social governance framework is a set of guidelines and practices that organizations can use to manage and address social issues. Social governance also contributes to the development of more sustainable and equitable societies, as companies work to address social issues and support the well-being of communities and the environment. By integrating social governance into their operations and decision-making processes, organizations can help ensure that they are contributing to a more sustainable and just world.

Key Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Governance issues are environmental management, eco-efficiency, responsible sourcing, stakeholder engagement, labour standards and working conditions, employee and community relations, social equity, gender balance, human rights and good governance.

Company Secretaryship being a professional course, the examination standards are set very high, with emphasis on knowledge of concepts, applications, procedures and case laws, for which sole reliance on the contents of this study material may not be enough. Besides, as per the Company Secretaries Regulations, 1982, students are expected to be conversant with the amendments to the laws made upto six months preceding the date of examination. The material may, therefore, be regarded as the basic material and must be read along with the original Bare Acts, Rules, Regulations, Case Law, Student Company Secretary e-bulletin and Chartered Secretary published by the Institute as well as recommended readings.

This Study Material is divided into two parts. Part-I covers Corporate Social Responsibility & Part -II covers Social Governance and based on the provisions of Companies Act, Societies Registration Act, Trusts Act, Partnership Act, SEBI Regulations etc.

The legislative changes made upto May 31, 2024 have been incorporated in the study material. In addition to Study Material students are advised to refer to the updations at the Regulator’s website, supplements relevant for the subject issued by ICSI and ICSI Journal Chartered Secretary and other publications. Specifically, **students are advised to read “Student Company Secretary” e-Journal which covers**

**regulatory and other relevant developments relating to the subject**, which is available at academic portal <https://www.icsi.edu/student-n/academic-portal/>. In the event of any doubt, students may contact the Directorate of Academics at academics@icsi.edu.

**The amendments to law made upto 31st May of the Calendar Year for December Examinations and upto 30th November of the previous Calendar Year for June Examinations shall be applicable.**

Although care has been taken in publishing this study material, yet the possibility of errors, omissions and/or discrepancies cannot be ruled out. This publication is released with an understanding that the Institute shall not be responsible for any errors, omissions and/or discrepancies or any action taken in that behalf.