Monday, May 19, 2025

Info Capsule

President
CS Dhananjay Shukla
Vice President
CS Pawan G Chandak

❖ *Ministry of Commerce & Industry*

DPIIT Collaborates with GEAPP to Spark Climate- Tech Entrepreneurship in India (May 17, 2025)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to accelerate innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship in India's clean energy and manufacturing sectors. The two-year partnership, with a provision for extension, will support early-stage climate-tech startups through funding access, mentorship, pilot opportunities, and market linkages. The initiative seeks to build a strong pipeline of scalable, investable ventures aligned with India's net-zero ambitions. As part of the MoU, GEAPP will launch the Energy Transitions Innovation Challenge (ENTICE)—a competitive platform offering up to $500,000 in rewards for high-impact solutions.

For details:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2129259

❖ *Capital Market and Securities Laws*

- **Approaching Deadline for filing claims in the matter of Karvy Stock Broking Limited (May 16, 2025)**

Karvy Stock Broking Ltd. was declared defaulter by NSE on November 23, 2020. As per NSE bye-laws, rules and regulations, claims against the default broker, were invited from investors and deadline for submitting such investors' claims was fixed as June 02, 2025. As the deadline for submitting investors' claims against default broker Karvy Stock Broking Ltd. is approaching shortly, investors are advised to take note of the above deadline and are urged to file their claims before the deadline, if not lodged already.

For details:
https://www.sebi.gov.in/web/?file=https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebi_data/attachdocs/may-2025/1747397429538.pdf#page=1&zoom=page-width,-16,792

- **SEBI mandates e-book mechanism for private debt securities above Rs 20 cr (May 18, 2025)**

SEBI has made the electronic book mechanism mandatory for all private placement debt issues of Rs 20 crore or above and expanded the platform's scope to include REITs and InvITs. Under the new framework, the use of the EBP platform is now mandatory for private placements of debt securities, non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS), and municipal bonds, where the issue size is Rs 20 crore or more, including single, shelf, and subsequent issues within a financial year. Earlier, the mechanism was mandatory for all private placements of debt securities with an issue size of Rs 50 crore or more. SEBI has extended products on the EBP platform to infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate infrastructure trusts (REITs). Before that, there was no specific regulatory provision.

For details: *https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/sebi-mandates-e-book-mechanism-for-private-debt-securities-above-rs-20-cr-125051800160_1.html*

❖ *ESG UPDATE*

Smurfit Kappa

- At the core of Smurfit Kappa's approach is a circular business model, from the sustainable sourcing of its renewable and recyclable raw materials to responsible production of recyclable and biodegradable packaging solutions.
- Smurfit Kappa's board plays an important role in the company's climate and sustainability agenda, with four non-executive board members sitting on its Sustainability Committee.
- As part of the ongoing integration of sustainability ambitions into the funding strategy, the Smurfit Kappa Green Finance Framework was established in 2021, under which the organisation issued €1 billion worth of 'green use-of-proceeds bonds'.
- The company's HYFLEXPOWER project, a renewable energy research project is the first in the world to introduce an integrated hydrogen gas turbine demonstrator.

For details: *https://hub.climate-governance.org/article/ase-study-smurfit-kappa-a-joined-up-approach-to-sustainability-strategy*

❖ *Business & Economy*

- **MSMEs make up 80% of 70 bids for electronic component manufacturing scheme (May 18, 2025)**

The government has received 70 applications for Rs 23,000-crore electronics component manufacturing scheme, and majority of applicants are small and medium enterprises, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. These applications have come within half a month of opening the window for the scheme "Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme has received tremendous response. Within 15 days of opening the application, around 70 applications have come," Vaishnaw told PTI. The minister did not disclose the name of applicants. However, sources have earlier mentioned that Tata Electronics, Dixon Technologies, and Foxconn were among the big players that have shown interest in the scheme. Vaishnaw said that while some of the big players have applied, there has been huge interest in the scheme from small and medium players.

For details: *https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/msmes-make-up-80-of-70-bids-for-electronic-component-manufacturing-scheme-125051800400_1.html*

- **India's foreign exchange reserves rise by 4.55 billion dollars, reaching 690.6 billion dollars (May 18, 2025)**

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by 4.55 billion dollars, reaching 690.6 billion dollars in the week ending 9th May. According to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India, during the last week, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, were up by 196 million dollars to over 581.3 billion dollars. Gold reserves surged by 4.5 billion dollars, totaling to 86.33 billion dollars. Meanwhile, Special Drawing Rights was down by 26 million dollars, reaching over 18.53 billion dollars and Central Bank's position in the International Monetary Fund was also down by 134 million dollars, reaching 4.37 billion dollars.

For details: *https://www.newsonair.gov.in/indias-foreign-exchange-reserves-rises-by-4-55-billion-dollars-reaching-690-6-billion-dollars/*

❖ *Pronouncement*

May 14, 2025	**The Puri Commercial Co-operative Society vs. The Income Tax Officer, Puri Ward, Puri & Others**	**Orissa High Court**

Refund of amounts recovered during appeal if the assessment is ultimately quashed.

Facts of the Case: The petitioner is a registered Co-operative Society involved in providing credit services exclusively to its members. A reassessment was initiated under Section 147 with notice under Section 148, for A.Y. 2016–17. The entire cash deposit of ₹2,10,44,000 in Allahabad Bank was treated as unexplained under Section 69A, culminating in a demand of ₹3,49,57,935. The petitioner appealed against this reassessment to the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), later handled by the National Faceless Appeal Centre (NFAC).

Despite the appeal being pending, the Income Tax Officer (ITO) initiated recovery proceedings under Section 226(3) and directed the petitioner's banker to pay ₹63,92,435, which was done via demand draft on 03.01.2025. Subsequently, on 24.02.2025, the CIT(A), NFAC allowed the appeal, effectively nullifying the demand. However, the Department refused to refund the recovered amount, prompting the petitioner to file this writ petition.

Judgment: The High Court noted that there is no statutory bar or procedure prevents refund where a demand has been annulled upon appeal. The reassessment order dated 29.03.2022 having been set aside, the Department is legally bound to refund the amount recovered. Therefore, the Court allowed the writ petition and directed refund of ₹63,92,435 to the petitioner within 7 days from the date of judgment. In case of failure, the amount would carry interest @ 6% p.a. from the date of recovery (03.01.2025) till actual refund.

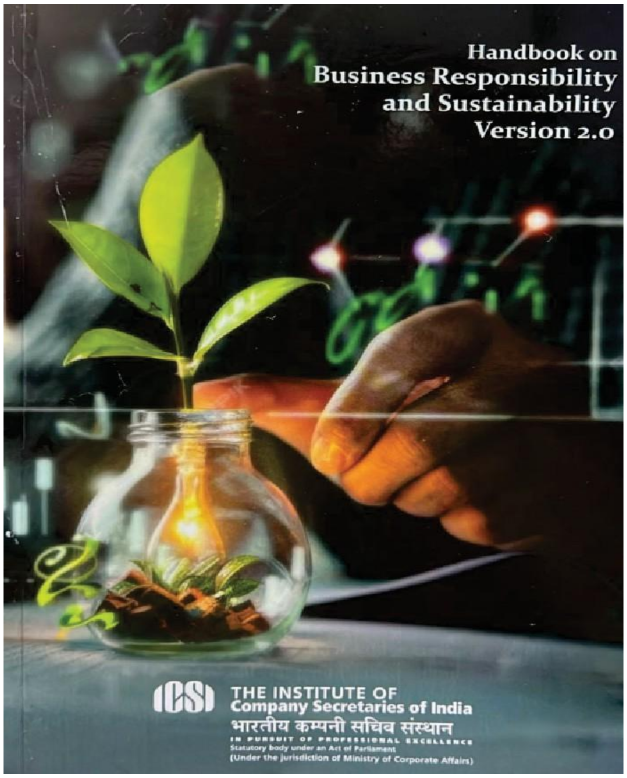
Market Watch

Stock Market Indices as on 19.05.2025	
S & P BSE Sensex	82059.42(-0.33%)
Nifty 50	24945.45(-0.30%)

Foreign Exchange Rates as on 19.05.2025
(https://m.rbi.org.in//scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx)

INR / 1 USD	INR / 1 EUR	INR / 1 GBP	INR/ 1 JPY
85.49	95.68	113.77	.58

HANDBOOK ON BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY VERSION 2.0



About the Book

The ICSI launched the "Handbook on Business Responsibility and Sustainability" to promote the integration of ESG practices in business and recognize corporate sustainability efforts. With BRSR reporting becoming mandatory for FY 2022-23, the Institute published this guide in 2023 for corporations and professionals.

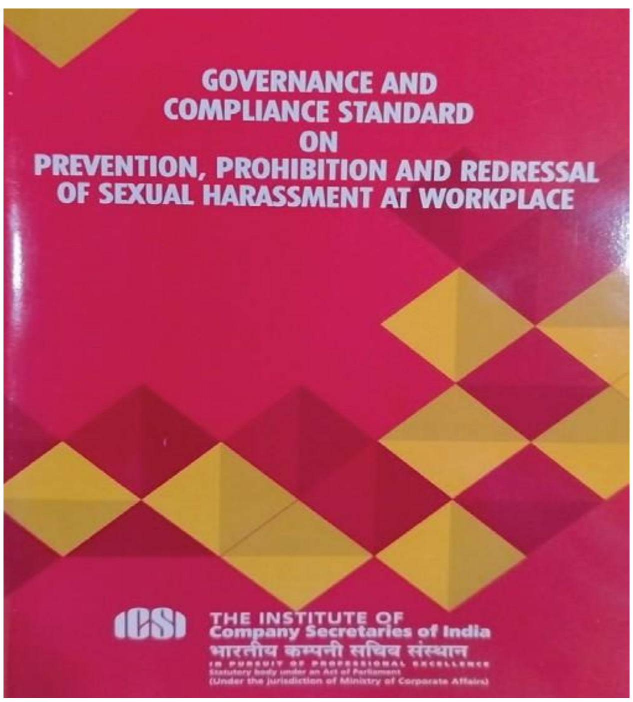
Building on this initiative, the ICSI has released the second edition, 'Handbook on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Version 2.0', reflecting best practices from companies participating in the second edition of the Awards.

Year of Publication: 2024

Price: Rs. 1000/-

For Subscription:
https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=345

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE STANDARD ON PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AT WORKPLACE



About the Book

This Standard aims to enhance the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("PoSH Act"), by harmonizing workplace practices.

It provides standardized procedures for Internal Committee meetings, complaint and inquiry processes, and training/ capacity building programs for employees/ Internal Committee members. The Standard also offers guidance on drafting gender-neutral PoSH policy, promoting inclusivity.

Year of Publication: 2024

Price: Rs 90/-

For Subscription:
https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=346

Prepared by Directorate of Academics

For any suggestions, please write to academics@icsi.edu