

PGDM, 2018-2020

Responsible Business

Subject Code: DM 107

Trimester –I, End Term Examination: September 2018

Time allowed: 2 Hrs 30 Min

Max Marks: 50

Roll No \_\_\_\_\_

**Instruction:** Students are required to write Roll No on every page of the question paper, writing anything except the Roll No will be treated as **Unfair Means**. In case of rough work please use answer sheet.

**Section A : Short Notes (15 marks) :Attempt any 3**

1. Using the Spheres of Influence Model, explain how Business impacts the significant stakeholders in a society.
2. The Independent Directors on the Board are critical to a Board's functioning. Do you agree? Give Reasons.
3. List some of the important provisions under the Schedule VII of the CSR Law(section 135 of the Revised Companies Act)
4. The Companies should act as "Corporate Citizens" underlines the modern concept of CSR as opposed to being providers of "Shareholder Value" alone. Explain.
5. Global Compact Principles are the cornerstone of a values driven company. Enumerate the important principles enshrined in the Global Compact.

**Section B: Long Answer Questions (20 marks): Attempt any 2**

1. What are Human Rights? List ILO's Core Conventions on Fundamental Human Rights.(Hint: List only, do not Explain) : 5 marks
  - 1b.Using examples, highlight human Rights violations (that may be) occurring in the supply chains of industry/ies or businesses? : 5 marks
2. The Government of India has revised the Companies Act and introduced provisions of mandatory CSR under section 135. Explain the essential tenets of the law by commenting on the following:
  - a) Qualifying criteria for companies falling under the purview of the Act, b) Implementing Agencies recognised under the Law c) Role of the CSR Committee and the Board of Directors d) Important information to be collated in the Director's / Annual Report e) what is meant by report or explain?
3. Highlight the main ideas behind Albert Carr's, Milton Friedman's, Edward Freeman and Archie Carroll's views on CSR.

## Section C: Case Study (Compulsory, 15 marks)

### **Asia Pacific falling behind on two thirds of SDG targets**

A UN report on the region's lack of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is disheartening. What's going wrong?

By Alaine Johnson, Tuesday 15 May 2018

The Asia Pacific region is failing to meet almost two-thirds of the targets set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The world's most populous region has fallen behind on 37 out of 57 sustainable development targets, with no progress seen in efforts to protect the oceans and forests, reduce inequality or take action on climate change, according to a report from the UN released last week. Asia Pacific is performing well on one SDG - quality education. The SDGs are a series of ambitious targets to tackle global issues such as poverty, hunger, climate change, and gender equality by 2030.

Dr Shamshad Akhtar, the UN's under-secretary-general, said: "The health of the region's oceans has deteriorated since 2015. There has been no progress towards protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15). The protection of forests and the reduction in the degradation of natural habitats has weakened at a regional level since 2015. Goal 13, climate action, is unlikely to be met at the current pace of change."

Besides environmental targets, efforts to promote decent work and inclusive economic growth (Goal 8), to reduce inequality (Goal 10), and to build justice, peace and strong institutions (Goal 16) have had limited success or shown regression as rapid economic growth has not been equitably shared.

### **Failing environmental stewardship**

Targets focusing on environmental sustainability for life below water (Goal 14) and life on land (Goal 15) show no improvement. Since 2015, the health of the region's oceans has declined as more plastic than ever is finding its way into waterways. Life below water continues to be depleted without strong measures to conserve marine resources while Asian countries remain the world's top five plastic polluters. Asia's performance in safeguarding life on land (Goal 15) is faring no better. Since 2015, protection of conserved forests and other natural resources has weakened. Fragmentation of habitats due to deforestation and environmental degradation from extractive industries continue unabated.

### **Data drought**

Most alarming is that there is no official indicator for measuring climate action (Goal 13) or life below water. The analysis was based on proxy indicators to cover goals where sufficient evidence is not available. Instead, the report uses proxy indicators from the online Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Statistical Database as well as external sources.

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Dr Shamshad Akhtar, under-secretary general, United Nations

The report shows that there is an inability to record and track data in the region.

“The most data-poor SDGs are reduced inequalities (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), climate action (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14), and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16),” the report reads.

Only 25 per cent of the official SDG indicators can be used to assess progress in Asia and the Pacific for this reason. Such large data gaps call for new data sources and methods of tracking, said Dr Akhtar.

### Questions

1. In what ways, according to you the achievement of the SDG s is associated with practices of Responsible Business?
2. Can you give examples of businesses failing with respect to sustainability or human rights issues in their supply chains?
3. How, in your view, India as a nation can contribute to improving its developmental landscape through the CSR Act? (You can choose to agree or disagree with the statement, provided you support your answer with a compelling argument).

**End of the Question Paper**