[Date]

[Authorised Person/Partners]

[Entity Name]

[Address Line1]

[Address Line 2]

[City, State]

Dear [Sir/Madam],

**Sub: Tax Audit of [Entity Name] for the Previous Year 20[PYXX-XX] (Assessment Year 20[AYXX-XX]).**

I refer to your letter dated [letter dated] informing me about my appointment as the Tax Auditor of **[**Entity Name**]** (‘Entity’). This Engagement Letter (‘Agreement’ or ‘Engagement’) confirms the understanding of mutual responsibilities upon which [Member Name] (Membership Number - [Membership Number]) has been engaged to perform the following services (‘Services’) for the Entity.

1. **Scope of Work**

You have requested that I perform the work outlined below in relation to the Previous Year 20[PYXX-XX] (Assessment Year 20[AYXX-XX]).

1. To conduct audit of general purpose financial statements, which includes balance sheet as on, [BSDD/MM/YY], and the profit and loss account for the period beginning from [BEGDD/MM/YY] to ending on [ENDDD/MM/YY] ('Financial Statements’).
2. To issue an Audit Report in Form No. 3CB as specified under clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 6G and to certify the particulars stated in Form No. 3CD of the Entity for the Previous Year 20[PYXX-XX] (Assessment Year 20[AYXX-XX]) in accordance with section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and Income-tax Rules, 1962 thereto (‘Tax Audit’).
3. **Auditor’s Responsibility**
4. I will conduct the audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (‘SAs’), issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (‘ICAI’). Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the particulars in Form No. 3CD are appropriate.
5. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Financial Statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal financial control relevant to the Entity’s preparation of the Financial Statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
6. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Statements.
7. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, including the possibility of collusion or improper Management override of controls, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements due to fraud or error may occur and not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the SAs.
8. The audit shall be carried out in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India which includes an examination of evidence on a test check basis and having regard to the materiality of the items involved. Materiality is assessed based on both quantitative and qualitative factors.
9. In specific circumstances, when necessary to obtain specialized knowledge or expertise beyond accounting or auditing, I may engage an expert to assist me in the audit process. In such cases I will be relying upon the work performed by the expert (as stated under SA 620 - “Using the work of an Auditor’s Expert”). The expert appointed by me will work under my direction and supervision and I will remain responsible for the audit opinion expressed.
10. The Tax Audit for the Previous Year 20[PYXX-XX] (Assessment Year 20[AYXX-XX]) will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Income-tax Rules, 1962 of India, the Guidance Note on Tax Audit under section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 issued by the ICAI and any other notifications issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes / Ministry of Finance with the objective of expressing an opinion in Form No. 3CB on the correctness of particulars given in Form No. 3CD.
11. Pursuant to the ICAI requirements, I am required to update certain relevant details of the operations of the Entity on the Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) Portal of the ICAI for generating the UDIN, which is required to be stated on the reports issued by me.
12. **Management’s Responsibility**
    1. The audit will be conducted on the basis that Management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance (Owners / Partners) (‘Management’), acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:
13. For the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements along with adequate disclosures in accordance with applicable financial reporting framework and generally accepted accounting principles. This includes:
    * 1. Compliance with the applicable provisions of the applicable laws;
      2. Proper maintenance of accounts and other matters connected therewith;
      3. The preparation of the Financial Statements in accordance with, the applicable accounting standards and providing proper explanation relating to any material departures from those accounting standards;
      4. Selection of accounting policies and applying them consistently and making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Entity at the end of the financial year and of the profit and loss of the Entity for that period;
      5. Taking proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the applicable laws for safeguarding the assets of the Entity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
      6. Laying down internal financial controls to be followed by the Entity and that such internal financial controls are adequate and operating effectively;
      7. Devising proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively;
      8. Assessing the Entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting for the preparation of the Financial Statements; and
      9. Fulfillment of its responsibility for the preparation and accurate presentation of the particulars as required under Form No. 3CD.
14. To provide me, *inter alia*, with:
15. Access, at all times, to all information including the books, accounts, vouchers, other records including digital records and documentation of the Entity, that is relevant to the preparation of the Financial Statements and for the verification of the particulars stated in Form No. 3CD such as records, documentation and other matters including books of account maintained in electronic mode;
16. All information, such as records and documentation, and other matters that are relevant to my assessment of internal financial controls with reference to Financial Statements;
17. Management’s evaluation and assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Entity's internal financial controls with reference to Financial Statements, based on the control criteria as defined under the applicable law and all deficiencies, significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operations of internal financial controls with reference to Financial Statements identified as part of Management’s evaluation;
18. Additional information that I may request from Management for the purpose of the audit;
19. Unrestricted access to persons within the Entity from whom I determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. This includes my entitlement to require from the officers of the Entity such information and explanations as I may think necessary for the performance of my duties as the auditor of the Entity;
20. All the internal audit reports covering the period up to the end of the financial year under audit prior to finalising the audit report; and
21. Information of significant changes in the design or operation of the Entity’s internal financial controls that occurred during or subsequent to the date being reported on, including proposed changes being considered.
22. For making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Entity at the end of the financial year and of the profit and loss of the Entity for the period.
    1. The Management understands and acknowledges that the electronic transmission of information via the internet or otherwise, has inherent risks. Unless otherwise agreed, despite the inherent risks, the management authorises me to communicate electronically with all the concerned parties on all matters related to the engagement.
    2. I will make specific inquiries of Management about the representations contained in the Financial Statements. At the conclusion of the engagement, I will also obtain written representations from Management about these matters, and that Management:
    3. has fulfilled its responsibility for the preparation and accurate presentation of the Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2006 or applicable financial reporting framework and that all transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the Financial Statements;
    4. has provided me with all relevant information and access as contemplated in this Agreement; and
    5. understands the importance of the said written Management’s representations for an effective audit, and hence the Entity agrees to release me and my personnel from any liability and costs relating to the Services attributable to any misrepresentations by Management.
    6. The responses to those inquiries, the written representations, and the results of the audit procedures comprise evidence on which I will rely in forming an opinion on the Financial Statements. Management is responsible for setting up mechanism to identify and address any non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations applicable to the Entity and shall ensure that the relevant information and/or updates in regard to such non-compliance or suspected non-compliance is provided to me on timely basis.
    7. In case where auditor has been provided with documents containing digital signatures embedded therein, Management states that they have adopted sufficient safeguards to prevent any unauthorised access or misuse of the digital signature, including implementing robust security measures, regular monitoring to prevent any misuse of the digital signature, placing relevant security controls, integrity checks and other necessary controls on, using documents embedded with digital signatures.
    8. The Entity consents for use, maintenance and where necessary, transfer of the data and information provided or made available by the Entity (including personal information) and represents that it has the lawful right to provide the same to me. The Entity agrees that on request, it will promptly provide me with supporting documents to corroborate the foregoing.

In case where the auditor has been provided with documents and/ or information in digital format, whether obtained / prepared / extracted from Entity’s Information Technology system or from any other sources in any mode including but not limited to Excel/Word/PDF/Zip files etc., the Management acknowledges its responsibility with respect to reliability and integrity of such information.

1. **Matters to be Communicated to Those Charged with Governance**

In accordance with the Standards on Auditing, I will communicate certain matters related to the conduct and results of the audit to you. Such matters include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Significant findings from the audit including my views about the significant qualitative aspects of the accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, Financial Statements disclosures and other matters that are in my professional judgment, significant and relevant to the Management regarding the oversight of the financial reporting process, including significant matters in connection with the Entity’s related parties; and
2. Written representations requested from the Management and significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with the Management.
3. **Working Papers**

The working papers, files and other electronic documents prepared in connection with the audits are my property, constitute confidential information and will be retained by me in accordance with the policies and procedures. However, I hereby acknowledge that the details or data received from you for the preparation of these working papers are confidential information of the Entity and will not be disclosed by me to any third party, except as set out in para below or when required by legislation, without the prior consent from the Entity.

1. **Confidentiality of Information**

I will conduct the audit in accordance with the confidentiality requirements prescribed under the Code of Ethics of the ICAI which requires that the Entity’s information acquired by me under the course of the audit is subject to strict confidentiality. In connection with this engagement, I may access and acquire confidential and other sensitive information (‘confidential information’). I shall adhere to the confidentiality restrictions of the regulatory authorities that governs me, as well as any obligations imposed on me by any applicable laws. The information relating to you, my relationship with you, and to this engagement, including confidential information, may be accessed by other parties who facilitate the administration of my Services or support my infrastructure. I shall remain responsible for preserving confidentiality if confidential information is shared with or accessed by such other parties. I may remove, or arrange for the removal of, names and any other identifiers from confidential information and then use such anonymised information for lawful purposes chosen at my discretion (including UDIN). This clause shall not prohibit my disclosure of confidential information, in confidence, to my professional indemnity insurers or advisers or my disclosure otherwise permitted under this Engagement Letter. This clause shall not apply where confidential information properly enters the public domain or no longer remains confidential without my default.

I also wish to invite your attention to the fact that the audit process is subject to internal quality reviews / Peer Review / Quality Review / any other Regulatory Review under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 or any other law for the time being in force. The reviewer(s) may inspect, examine or take abstracts of my working papers during the course of such review. The reviewer(s) shall be bound by similar confidentiality obligation as stated above.

1. **Independence**

In connection with the audit engagement, the Management will assume certain roles and responsibilities in an effort to assist me in maintaining independence ensuring compliance with the applicable independence requirements and will ensure that the Entity, together with its related entities, has policies and procedures in place for the purpose of ensuring that neither the Entity nor any of its related entities will act to engage me or accept from me any Service that has not been subjected to the pre-approval process, where required, or that would impair my independence.

In connection with the foregoing, the Entity agrees to furnish and keep me updated with respect to an Entity’s group structure that identifies the legal names of the Entity’s related entities.

I will communicate to my employees that the Entity is an audit client.

The Management will coordinate with me to ensure that my independence is not impaired by hiring professional employees who were part of the audit engagement team for certain positions. The Management of the Entity will ensure that the Entity, together with its related entities, also has policies and procedures in place for the purposes of ensuring that my independence will not be impaired by hiring a professional employee as officer; or an employee in a position to exert significant influence over the preparation of the Entity’s accounting records or the Financial Statements that would cause a violation of independence requirements. Any employment opportunities with the Entity for professional employees who were part of the audit engagement team should be discussed with me before entering into substantive employment conversations with such professional employee.

The Management will coordinate with me to ensure that my independence is not impaired by appointing my relative as Partner / Key Managerial Personnel or in any other capacity which could lead to impairment of independence. Any of the stated opportunities with the Entity for my relative should be discussed with me before entering into substantive conversations with my relative.

1. **Limitation of Damages**

Nothing in this Engagement Letter shall exclude or restrict or prevent a claim being brought in respect of: (i) any liability finally judicially determined to arise primarily from the fraud or bad faith by me as an auditor; or (ii) any other liabilities which cannot lawfully be limited or excluded, save to the extent permitted by law.

The Entity agrees that the auditor shall not be liable to the Entity for any losses for an aggregate amount in excess of the fees paid by the Entity to the auditor under the Agreement.

I will not be liable for losses arising as a result of the provision of false, misleading or incomplete information or documentation or the withholding or concealment or misrepresentation of information or documentation by any person or the Entity.

1. **Indemnification**

The Entity, by executing this Agreement, agrees to indemnify and hold me harmless from all third-party claims, damages, liabilities and costs, during or after the period of rendering the Services covered under this Agreement, other than those resulting from my wilful misconduct or negligence.

1. **Fees**
   * 1. The audit fees for the Services defined under Scope of Work of this Engagement will be INR [INR] exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (‘GST’).
     2. GST and other statutory liabilities, as applicable will be charged separately. The bills are payable promptly on presentation.
     3. Direct out-of-pocket expenses which are necessarily incurred while engaged on this assignment will be billed to you at cost and are to be reimbursed by the Entity. Out-of-pocket expenses include conveyance, external disbursements, outstation travel, lodging and boarding, etc.
2. **Invoicing**
   * 1. Invoices for expenses shall be provided as soon as possible after they have been incurred. Invoices for professional services rendered will be sent after the completion of Services or on progressive basis. Payment of the invoiced amount may be made by direct transfer into my bank account, the details of which will be made available.
     2. Unless specifically waived, interest will be charged on all amounts outstanding, beyond 30 days from the invoice date. The Entity acknowledges and accepts that I may suspend the provision of the services until such time that all amounts due are paid in full.
3. **Governing Law, Jurisdiction & Dispute Resolution**

This Agreement, and any non-contractual obligations arising out of this Agreement or the Services, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of India.

1. If a dispute arises, the parties will attempt to resolve it by discussion and negotiation before commencing legal proceedings.
2. All disputes or differences, arising out of the Agreement shall be deemed to have arisen at a place where the head office of the auditor is situated and only courts having jurisdiction over the place where head office of the auditor is situated shall determine the same.
3. **Anti-Money** **Laundering & Prevention of Corruption**

Each party shall comply with applicable policies, laws and regulations relating to Anti-Money Laundering and Prevention of Corruption activities.

1. **Entire Agreement**

This Agreement sets out the entire Agreement and understanding between the Parties in connection with the Engagement. Any modifications or variations to the Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorised representative of each party.

1. **End-Use**

The audit report and the opinion is solely for the purpose of the subject matter specified in Scope of Work clause of this Engagement Letter.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the opinion or otherwise make reference to me in a document that contains other information, you agree to provide me with a draft of the document to read and obtain my approval for inclusion of the report, before it is printed and distributed.

You are responsible for such documents and my responsibility is restricted only to the documents that have been issued under my name.

1. **Termination of Agreement**

Either of the parties to this Agreement may terminate the Agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other party in case of a material breach by the other party which does not remedy the breach within 5 business days upon receipt of a notice. In these circumstances, I shall be entitled to raise an invoice in respect of fees on the basis of the time spent at agreed hourly rates, up to the amount of the fixed fee (if applicable), and out-of-pocket expenses incurred till such notice of termination is communicated. I shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement in the event of changes to laws, regulations, or the shareholding / group structure that would render such services illegal or in conflict with independence or professional rules.

If these arrangements are acceptable, please sign one copy of this letter and return it to me.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to serve you and would be pleased to furnish any additional information you may request concerning my responsibilities and functions.

I trust that our association will be a long and mutually beneficial one. I look forward to working with you.

Yours faithfully,

**[Member Name]**

**Chartered Accountant**

**Acknowledgement**

**Acknowledged on behalf of [**Entity Name**] in terms of the approval dated by the Partner / Owner / Management / Authorised Representative.**

**Signature**

**Name and Designation:**

**Date:**

**Place:**