DIVISION A - MCQs (30 Marks)

Questions no. (1-10) carry 1 Mark each and Questions no. 11-20 carry 2 Marks each.

1. (c) The entity’s revenue for the year is Rs.10.5 cr which exceed the limit of Rs.10 cr. Hence, the entity has to provide the comment on the matter prescribed under CARO 2016.

2. (d) As an internal auditor, report the matter in the Internal Audit Report and check for the compliance of the same in the next audit period.

3. (b) The auditor should verify the composition of Board and examine its impact on compliance throughout the reporting period as a part of certifying compliance with the requirements of corporate governance.

4. (b) Mr. B is a labour contractor managing construction services and his turnover for 31 March 2018 was Rs.3.95 crores.

5. (a) clause 24

6. (b) reinsurance.

7. (c) 3 years

8. (c) Financial audits

9. (a) Not available to depositors of NBFCs

10. (b) As per Government notification issued in 1984 a member of the stock exchange is considered active for the purpose of audit if he has conducted the business in securities even for a single day in the year and shall get its accounts audited if it is required by SEBI.

Questions (11-20) carry 2 Marks each

11. (d) EFY & Co.’s claim is void as the ceiling of 20 company audits doesn’t include audit of private company having paid up capital less than Rs. 100 crores.

12. (d) No adjustment is required as there can be different methods of calculation of depreciation for its assets for the group companies.

13. (c) Auditor should first understand the HR Policy of the company. Then verify all the authorised vouchers for overtime payments done during the year; verify the payroll preparation and reconcile the gross pay in terms of increments/ promotions & resignations; verify the appointments made during the year as per HR Policy and payments made to agencies providing contractual staff.

14. (d) Auditor should get the accounts modified and report the matter in action taken report.

15. (c) The auditor should verify that whether such cash receipts reflects in bank statement on the same day and cash ledger reconciles with the cash book on the respective dates or not. If it is followed then auditor can include the matter in observation paragraph with his comments else disclose the matter as major internal control lapse.

16. (c) Acceptable but incomplete as CA Mahesh has not given any audit programme to the audit assistants to follow.
17. (a) Maintaining a register of significant transactions of the company with comparison to particular industry and a record of complaints.

18. (c) Narang & Co. needs to assess the materiality of the figure, and the degree of subjectivity involved. If it considers that safeguards like using separate personnel, performing a second partner review, could reduce the threat to an acceptable level, then it can go ahead with both the audit and the valuation service.

19. (b) Audit evidence - 1, 4, 2, 3

20. (c) Include major suppliers with nil balances at the year-end.

DIVISION B - DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS (70 Marks)

1. (a) As per SA 540 Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures, the auditor shall obtain written representations from the management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance whether they believe significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable.

Depending on the nature, materiality and extent of estimation uncertainty, written representations about accounting estimates recognised or disclosed in the financial statements may include representations:

- About the appropriateness of the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used by management in determining accounting estimates in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and the consistency in application of the processes.
- That the assumptions appropriately reflect management’s intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.
- That disclosure related to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate under the applicable financial reporting framework.
- That no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

For those accounting estimates not recognised or disclosed in the financial statements, written representations may also include representations about:

- The appropriateness of the basis used by management for determining that the recognition or disclosure criteria of the applicable financial reporting framework have not been met.
- The appropriateness of the basis used by management to overcome the presumption relating to the use of fair value set forth under the entity’s applicable financial reporting framework, for those accounting estimates not measured or disclosed at fair value.

Thus, management’s contention on the ground that during the course of audit, all the required procedures were performed by the auditor and after obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence, auditor has issued a clean report, for not providing written representation is not correct. The management should provide written representations to the auditor.

Further as per SA 580 Written Representation, if management does not provide one or more of the requested written representations, the auditor shall

(a) Discuss the matter with management;
(b) Re-evaluate the integrity of management and evaluate the effect that this may have on the reliability of representations (oral or written) and audit evidence in general; and
(c) Take appropriate actions, including determining the possible effect on the opinion in the
auditor’s report in accordance with SA 705.

(b) As per SA 220, the engagement partner shall take responsibility for reviews being performed in accordance with the firm’s review policies and procedures. For audits of financial statements of listed entities, the engagement partner shall:
- Determine that an engagement quality control reviewer has been appointed;
- Discuss significant matters arising during the audit engagement, including those identified during the engagement quality control review, with the engagement quality control reviewer; and
- Not date the auditor’s report until the completion of the engagement quality control review.

SA 700 also requires the auditor’s report to be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate evidence on which to base the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements. In cases of an audit of financial statements of listed entities where the engagement meets the criteria for an engagement quality control review, such a review assists the auditor in determining whether sufficient appropriate evidence has been obtained.

Conducting the engagement quality control review in a timely manner at appropriate stages during the engagement allows significant matters to be promptly resolved to the engagement quality control reviewer’s satisfaction on or before the date of the auditor’s report.

In the given case, the signing of auditors’ report before completion of review of engagement quality control review is not right.

(c) **Closure of Business:** As per SA 570 “Going Concern”, management intentions to liquidate the entity or to cease operations is one of the event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as going concern.

As per SA 570, if events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosures about these events or conditions.

Even when no material uncertainty exists, it requires the auditor to evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosure about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Further, as per SA 701 “Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor’s Report”, when matters relating to going concern may be determined to be key audit matters, and explains that a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern is, by its nature, a key audit matter. SA 701 also emphasis on auditor’s responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor’s report.

As per the facts given in the case, intention of the Mishit Limited had definite plan of its business being closed down within short period from 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. However, financial statements for the year ended 31.03.2018 had been prepared on the same basis as it had been in earlier periods with an additional note.

Thus, management intentions to liquidate the entity or to cease operations is one of the event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as going concern is a key audit matter. Therefore, the auditor is required to Communicate the Key Audit Matters in accordance with SA 570 in above stated manner. Simple reference as to a possible cessation of business and making of adjustments, if any, he made at the time of cessation only by the auditor in his report is not sufficient.
2. (a) This is a case which is covered under the expression in other misconduct of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. As per Clause (2) of Part IV of First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, a member of the Institute, whether in practice or not, shall be deemed to be guilty of other misconduct, if he, in the opinion of the Council, brings disrepute to the profession or the Institute as a result of his action whether or not related to his professional work. Here the Chartered Accountant is expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity even in his personal affairs and any deviation from these standards calls for disciplinary action.

In the present case, YKS & Co, being a concurrent auditor used his position to obtain the funds and failed to repay the same to the bank. This brings disrepute to the profession of a Chartered Accountant. This act of YKS & Co is not pardonable.

Conclusion: Therefore, YKS & Co will be held guilty of other misconduct under Clause (2) of Part IV of First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

(b) As per SA 570 Going Concern, if events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether or not a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern (hereinafter referred to as “material uncertainty”) through performing additional audit procedures, including consideration of mitigating factors. These procedures shall include:

(i) Where management has not yet performed an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, requesting management to make its assessment.

(ii) Evaluating management’s plans for future actions in relation to its going concern assessment, whether the outcome of these plans is likely to improve the situation and whether management's plans are feasible in the circumstances.

(iii) Where the entity has prepared a cash flow forecast, and analysis of the forecast is a significant factor in considering the future outcome of events or conditions in the

   (1) Evaluating the reliability of the underlying data generated to prepare the forecast; and

   (2) Determining whether there is adequate support for the assumptions underlying the forecast.

(iv) Considering whether any additional facts or information have become available since the date on which management made its assessment.

(v) Requesting written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, regarding their plans for future actions and the feasibility of these plans.

The auditor shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained regarding, and shall conclude on, the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements.

If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosures about these events or conditions.

In the instant case, the approval of the resolution plan is a significant mitigating factor to counter the going concern issues of AQP Ltd. PQR Ltd has submitted a detailed plan and commitments that has been given as part of the resolution plan which includes clearance of all outstanding debts which were leading to negative cash flows. Therefore, it can be said that the company that the events and conditions are mitigated effectively and there is no material uncertainty in relation to the ability of the company to continue as a going concern.
The following are features of environmental audit:

(i) **Management tool** – Environmental audit is generally considered as one of the management tool which is a part of internal control system and is mainly used to assess, evaluate and manage environmental performance of a company.

(ii) **Aim of environmental audit** – A green audit may be conducted for many purposes, for example, to comply with environmental laws or as a social responsibility measure or to meet some certification requirements. But the main and ultimate aim of any environmental audit is to evaluate and control the adverse impact of economic activities of an organization on the environment.

(iii) **Environmental audit should be distinguished from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** – EIA is a tool used to predict, evaluate and analyze environmental impacts mostly before a project commences. It assesses the potential environmental effects of a proposed facility. The essential purpose of an environmental audit is the systematic scrutiny of environmental performance throughout a company's existing operations.

(iv) **Systematic** – Environmental audit is a systematic process that must be carefully planned, structured and organized. As it is a part of a long-term process of evaluation and checking, it needs to be a repeatable process so that over time, it can be easily used by different teams of people in such a way that the results are comparable and can reflect change in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

(v) **Documented** – Like any other audit, the base of any environmental auditing is that its findings are supported by documents and verifiable information. The audit process is designed in such a way that it seeks to verify on a sample basis past actions, activities, events and procedures with available evidences to ensure that they were carried out according to system’s requirements and in a correct manner.

(vi) **Periodic** – Environmental audit is generally conducted at pre-defined intervals. It is a long-term process.

(vii) **Objective Evaluation** – Though environmental auditing is conducted using pre-decided policies, procedures and a proper documented system, there is always an element of subjectivity in an audit, particularly if it is conducted internally. In addition to internal environmental audits, having independent audit teams that have specialized skills and who come back periodically (say annually) to repeat audits tends to increase objectivity in the system. Hence for the sake of objectivity, external environmental audits are preferable. This is also required under many certification guidelines (e.g. ISO 14001).

(viii) **Environmental Performance** – As mentioned before, the essence of any environmental audit is to find out how well the environmental organization, environmental management and environmental equipments are performing. The ultimate aim is to ensure that organization’s environmental performance meets the goals set in its environmental policy and also to ensure compliance with standards and regulatory requirements.

3. (a) **As per Clause (8) of Part I of First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949**, a chartered accountant in practice is deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he accepts a position as auditor previously held by another chartered accountant or a certified auditor who has been issued certificate under the Restricted Certificate Rules, 1932 without first communicating with him in writing.

This clause is applicable in situation of replacing of one auditor by another auditor. Internal auditor and statutory auditon are parallel positions and not replacement positions. The management generally appoints the internal auditor whereas the statutory auditor will be appointed by the shareholders in the AGM. In this situation, there is no need for communication by one to other.
In view of above the contention of the statutory auditor is unacceptable and there is no question of communicating in writing by Mr. T.

(b) Applicability of IND AS: Section 129(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, governs the requirements to be satisfied by financial statements. The provisions thereunder which should be complied with are:

- financial statements shall, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company or companies as at the end of financial year, comply with the notified accounting standards under section 133 and be in such form or forms specified in Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 and
- the items contained in such financial statements shall be in accordance with the accounting standards.

Further, as per section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central Government has notified Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 in exercise of the powers conferred by section 133. The said rules list the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) and the class of companies required to comply with the Ind AS while preparation of their financial statements.

Here, it may be noted that the companies covered under Section 8 are required to comply the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, unless and until any exemption is provided. Therefore, companies registered under Section 8 are not exempted from the requirements of section 133 and section 129 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In the given case, only contention of management that being a section 8 company having charitable object, Ind-AS cannot apply to the company, therefore financial statements prepared under the earlier GAAP and a note for the same is given, is not tenable.

However, the auditor is required to ensure the applicable monetary limits w.r.t Ind-AS and need to advise the management to prepare the financial statements as per Ind-AS accordingly. In case of non-compliance the auditor should report accordingly.

(c) Relevant Sections and Steps involved in Audit of Government Companies: Section 143(5), 143(6) and 143(7) of the Companies Act, 2013 are relevant sections in case of Audit of Government Companies.

The following steps are involved in the audit of government companies:

(i) Appointment of Auditors under Section 139(5) and 139(7) read with section 143(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 - Statutory auditors of Government Company are appointed or re-appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The C&AG may direct the appointed auditor the manner in which the accounts of the Government company are required to be audited and thereupon the auditor so appointed shall submit a copy of the audit report to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India which, among other things, include the directions, if any, issued by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, the action taken thereon and its impact on the accounts and financial statement of the company.

(ii) Supplementary audit under section 143(6)(a) of the Companies Act, 2013 - The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India shall within 60 days from the date of receipt of the audit report have a right to conduct a supplementary audit of the financial statement of the company by such person or persons as he may authorize in this behalf; and for the purposes of such audit, require information or additional information to be furnished to any person or persons, so authorised, on such matters, by such person or persons, and in such form, as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India may direct.

(iii) Comment upon or supplement such Audit Report under section 143(6)(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 - Any comments given by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India
upon, or supplement to, the audit report shall be sent by the company to every person entitled to copies of audited financial statements under sub-section (1) of section 136 of the said Act i.e. every member of the company, to every trustee for the debenture-holder of any debentures issued by the company, and to all persons other than such member or trustee, being the person so entitled and also be placed before the annual general meeting of the company at the same time and in the same manner as the audit report.

(iv) **Test audit under section 143(7) of the Companies Act, 2013** - Without prejudice to the provisions relating to audit and auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor- General of India may, in case of any company covered under sub-section (5) or sub-section (7) of section 139 of the said Act, if he considers necessary, by an order, cause test audit to be conducted of the accounts of such company and the provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, shall apply to the report of such test audit.

4. (a) (i) As per clause (xiii) of para 3 of CARO 2016 the auditor is required to report, “whether all transactions with the related parties are in compliance with sections 177 and 188 of Companies Act, 2013 where applicable and the details have been disclosed in the Financial Statements etc., as required by the applicable accounting standards”.

In the present case, the auditor is required to report as per clause xiii of para 3 of CARO 2016 receipt of long term borrowing from Parent Company which is transactions with the related party.

(ii) As per clause Clause (x) of para 3 of CARO 2016 the auditor is required to report, “whether any fraud by the company or any fraud on the Company by its officers or employees has been noticed or reported during the year; If yes, the nature and the amount involved is to be indicated.”

In the instant case, a fraud has been identified in recruitment of employees by the HR Department wherein certain sums were alleged to have been taken as kickback from the company of amounting rupees approx. 12 lakh. The auditor is required to report on the same in accordance with clause (x) of para 3 of CARO 2016.

(b) Audit should be risk-based or focused on areas of greatest risk to the achievement of the audited entity’s objectives. Risk-based audit (RBA) is an approach to audit that analyzes audit risks, sets materiality thresholds based on audit risk analysis and develops audit programmes that allocate a larger portion of audit resources to high-risk areas.

RBA consists of four main phases starting with the identification and prioritization of risks, to the determination of residual risk, reduction of residual risk to acceptable level and the reporting to auditee of audit results. These are achieved through the following:

**Step 1 - Understand auditee operations to identify and prioritize risks:** Understanding auditee operations involves processes for reviewing and understanding the audited organization’s risk management processes for its strategies, framework of operations, operational performance and information process framework, in order to identify and prioritize the error and fraud risks that impact the audit of financial statements. The environment in which the auditee operates, the information required to monitor changes in the environment, and the process or activities integral to the audited entity’s success in meeting its objectives are the key factors to an understanding of agency risks. Likewise, a performance review of the audited entity’s delivery of service by comparing expectations against actual results may also aid in understanding agency operations.

**Step 2 - Assess auditee management strategies and controls to determine residual audit risk:** Assessment of management risk strategies and controls is the determination as to how controls within the auditee are designed. The role of internal audit in promoting a sound accounting system and internal control is recognized, thus the SAI should evaluate the effectiveness of internal
audit to determine the extent to which reliance can be placed upon it in the conduct of substantive tests.

**Step 3 - Manage residual risk to reduce it to acceptable level:** Management of residual risk requires the design and execution of a risk reduction approach that is efficient and effective to bring down residual audit risk to an acceptable level. This includes the design and execution of necessary audit procedures and substantive testing to obtain evidence in support of transactions and balances. More resources should be allocated to areas of high audit risks, which were earlier known through the analytical procedures undertaken.

**Step 4 - Inform auditee of audit results through appropriate report:** The results of audit shall be communicated by the auditor to the audited entity. The auditor must immediately communicate to the auditee reportable conditions that have been observed even before completion of the audit, such as weaknesses in the internal control system, deficiencies in the design and operation of internal controls that affect the organization’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data.

(c) **Areas excluded from scope of Peer Reviewer are:**

(i) Management Consultancy Engagements;

(ii) Representation before various Authorities;

(iii) Engagements to prepare tax returns or advising clients in taxation matters;

(iv) Engagements for the compilation of financial statements;

(v) Engagements solely to assist the client in preparing, compiling or collating information other than financial statements;

(vi) Testifying as an expert witness;

(vii) Providing expert opinion on points of principle, such as Accounting Standards or the applicability of certain laws, on the basis of facts provided by the client; and

(viii) Engagement for Due diligence.

5. **(a) Review of Records and Documentation Regarding Related Party Transaction:** According to SA 550 “Related Parties”, during the audit, the auditor shall remain alert, when inspecting records or documents, for arrangements or other information that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor.

In particular, the auditor shall inspect the following for indications of the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor:

(a) Bank, legal and third party confirmations obtained as part of the auditor’s procedures;

(b) Minutes of meetings of shareholders and of those charged with governance; and

(c) Such other records or documents as the auditor considers necessary in the circumstances of the entity.

The auditor may inspect records or documents that may provide information about related party relationships and transactions, for example entity income tax returns, information supplied by the entity to regulatory authorities, shareholder registers to identify the entity’s principal shareholders, statements of conflicts of interest from management and those charged with governance, records of the entity’s investments and those of its pension plans, contracts and agreements with key management or those charged with governance, significant contracts and agreements not in the entity’s ordinary course of business, specific invoices and correspondence from the entity’s professional advisors, life insurance policies acquired by the entity, significant contracts re-
negotiated by the entity during the period, internal auditors’ reports, documents associated with the entity’s filings with a securities regulator etc.

(b) In assessing the turnover which the business would be able to maintain in the future, the following factors should be taken into account:

(i) **Trend:** Whether in the past, sales have been increasing consistently or they have been fluctuating. A proper study of this phenomenon should be made.

(ii) **Marketability:** Is it possible to extend the sales into new markets or that these have been fully exploited? Product wise estimation should be made.

(iii) **Political and economic considerations:** Are the policies pursued by the Government likely to promote the extension of the market for goods to other countries? Whether the sales in the home market are likely to increase or decrease as a result of various emerging economic trends?

(iv) **Competition:** What is the likely effect on the business if other manufacturers enter the same field or if products which would sell in competition are placed on the market at cheaper price? Is the demand for competing products increasing? Is the company’s share in the total trade constant or has it been fluctuating?

(c) The provisions relating to tax audit under section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 applies to every person carrying on business, if his total sales, turnover or gross receipts in business exceed the prescribed limit of Rs. 1 crore and to a person carrying on a profession, if his gross receipts from profession exceed the prescribed limit of Rs. 50 lakhs (w.e.f. A.Y. 2018-19) in any previous year. However, the term "sales", "turnover" or "gross receipts" are not defined in the Act, and therefore the meaning of the aforesaid terms has to be considered for the applicability of the section.

Some of the points for merit consideration in this regard as discussed in the Guidance Note issued by the Institute are given below-

(i) Discount allowed in the sales invoice will reduce the sale price and, therefore, the same can be deducted from the turnover.

(ii) Cash discount otherwise than that allowed in a cash memo/sales invoice is in the nature of a financing charge and is not related to turnover. Therefore, should not be deducted from the turnover.

(iii) Turnover discount is normally allowed to a customer if the sales made to him exceed a particular quantity. As per trade practice, it is in the nature of trade discount and should be deducted from the figure.

(iv) Special rebate allowed to a customer can be deducted from the sales if it is in the nature of trade discount. If it is in the nature of commission on sales, the same cannot be deducted from the figure of turnover.

(v) Price of goods returned should be deducted from the turnover even if the returns are from the sales made in the earlier year/s.

(vi) Sale proceeds of any shares, securities, debentures, etc., held as investment will not form part of turnover. However, if the shares, securities, debentures etc., are held as stock-in-trade, the sale proceeds thereof will form part of turnover.

In the given case, Concession Ltd. is engaged in manufacturing business. Therefore, the tax audit would be applicable if the turnover exceeds Rs. 1 crore during the financial year 2018-19. The calculation of effective turnover for the prescribed limit purpose, in accordance with abovementioned conditions, is given below:
Recorded turnover during the year Rs. 1,13,00,000

Less: (i) Discount allowed in the Sales Invoice (Rs. 8,20,000)
(ii) Trade discount (Rs. 2,90,000)
(iii) Sales Return (Rs. 1,60,000)

Effective turnover Rs. 1,00,30,000

Conclusion: The effective turnover of Concession Ltd. is Rupees one crore and thirty thousand only which is over and above the prescribed limit for tax audit under section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Thus, the provisions related to tax audit are applicable to the company and is therefore liable for tax audit.

6. (a) Minimum Audit Fee: Prescribed minimum audit fee is recommendatory, not mandatory in nature. Therefore, acceptance of audit assignment by M/s LMN, a firm of Chartered Accountants having 5 partners of a newly formed private limited company for audit fees of Rs. 5,000 is not violation of any provisions. Therefore, M/s LMN will not be held liable for guilty of misconduct.

(b) As per Clause (xvi) of Paragraph 3 of CARO 2016, the auditor is required to report that “whether the company is required to be registered under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and if so, whether the registration has been obtained.”

The auditor is required to examine whether the company is engaged in the business which attract the requirements of the registration. The registration is required where the financing activity is a principal business of the company. The RBI restrict companies from carrying on the business of a non-banking financial institution without obtaining the certificate of registration.

Audit Procedures and Reporting:

(i) The auditor should examine the transactions of the company with relation to the activities covered under the RBI Act and directions related to the Non-Banking Financial Companies.

(ii) The financial statements should be examined to ascertain whether company's financial assets constitute more than 50 per cent of the total assets and income from financial assets constitute more than 50 per cent of the gross income.

(iii) Whether the company has net owned funds as required for the registration as NBFC.

(iv) Whether the company has obtained the registration as NBFC, if not, the reasons should be sought from the management and documented.

(v) The auditor should report incorporating the following:-

1. Whether the registration is required under section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934.
2. If so, whether it has obtained the registration.
3. If the registration not obtained, reasons thereof.

In the instant case Abhimanyu Finance Ltd. is a Non Banking Finance Company and was in the business of accepting public deposits and giving loans since 2015. The company was having net owned funds of Rs.1,50,00,000/- (one crore fifty lakhs) which is less in comparison to the prescribed limit i.e. 2 crore rupees and was also not having registration certificate from RBI (though applied for it on 30th March 2018). The auditor is required to report on the same as per Clause (xvi) of Paragraph 3 of CARO 2016.
(c) As per SA 620, Using the work of an Auditor’s Expert, the nature, scope and objectives of the auditor’s expert’s work may vary considerably with the circumstances, as may the respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor’s expert, and the nature, timing and extent of communication between the auditor and the auditor’s expert. It is therefore required that these matters are agreed between the auditor and the auditor’s expert.

In certain situations, the need for a detailed agreement in writing is required like -

- The auditor’s expert will have access to sensitive or confidential entity information.
- The matter to which the auditor’s expert’s work relates is highly complex.
- The auditor has not previously used work performed by that expert.
- The greater the extent of the auditor’s expert’s work, and its significance in the context of the audit.

In the given case, considering the complexity involved in the valuation and volume of derivatives and also due to the fact that the auditor and auditor’s expert were new to each other, auditor should have signed a formal agreement/engagement letter with the auditor’s expert in respect of the work assigned to him.