

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Hardcastle Restaurants Private Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Hardcastle Restaurants Private Limited ("the Company"), which comprise the Balance sheet as at March 31, 2025, the Statement of Profit and Loss, including the statement of Other Comprehensive Income, the Cash Flow Statement and the Statement of Changes in Equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information .

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us , the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Companies Act, 2013, as amended ("the Act") in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Company as at March 31, 2025, its profit including other comprehensive income, its cash flows and the changes in equity for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs), as specified under section 143(10) of the Act. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the 'Code of Ethics' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2025. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report. We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying financial statements.



Key audit matters	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
Revenue Recognition (as described in note 20 of the financial statements)	
<p>The Company's primary source of revenue is from sale of foods, beverages from chain of quick service restaurants (QSR) stores or through online ordering and delivery. Revenue comprises high volume of individually small transactions which increases the risk of revenue being recognized inappropriately and which highlights the criticality of sound internal processes of summarizing and recording sales revenue and deposit of cash collected into bank accounts to mitigate error and fraud risk.</p> <p>In view of the above, we have identified revenue recognition as an area of audit risk and have therefore been identified as a key audit matter.</p>	<p>Our audit procedures included, among others the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtained an understanding of revenue recognition process, evaluated the design, implementation and on sample basis, tested the operative effectiveness of key internal financial controls with respect to the revenue recognition and deposit of cash collected into banks including those related to the reconciliation of sales record to cash / credit card / online receipts, preparation, posting and approval of journal entries on the test basis. 2. Performed cash counts / checked management's cash count verification process, at selected stores and examined whether the cash balances are in agreement with the cash receipts reported in the cash-mix report. 3. Performed reconciliation between the cash balance certificate at year end for all the stores and cash sales as per POS vis a vis deposits in bank as per bank statement and its corresponding sales entry recorded in books. 4. Performed analytical procedures on sales performance of individually significant stores, including day wise and month wise sales analysis. Enquired explanation for any major variances, if any. 5. Assessed the recognition and disclosures as per Ind AS 115 and the accounting policy of the Company in the Ind AS financial statements.



Store Impairment Testing (as described in note 3(b)(5) of the financial statements)	
<p>In accordance with the requirements of Ind AS 36 Impairment of Assets, the Company performs an assessment of store impairment at cash generating units level to determine whether the recoverable value of the store is below the carrying amount of the store as at March 31, 2025.</p> <p>Discounted cash flow model has significant judgment and estimation in respect of cash flow forecasts and discount rate. Changes in certain methodologies and assumptions can lead to significant changes in the assessment of the recoverable value.</p> <p>The assessment of the recoverable amount requires significant judgment, in particular, relating to estimated cash flow projections and discount rates. Due to the level of judgments and estimations involved, this is considered to be a key audit matter.</p>	<p>Our audit procedures included, among others the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obtained an understanding of Impairment Testing process, evaluated the design, implementation and tested the operative effectiveness of key internal financial controls followed by the management to determine indicators of impairment after store stabilization and the recoverable amounts of cash generating units;2. Evaluated appropriateness of the model used in determining the value in use of the cash generating units;3. Assessed the data used to calculate the recoverable amount with the financial budgets approved by management of the Company;4. Analysed the performance of the cash generating units and evaluated the reasonableness of the assumptions and estimates used in computation of value in use as at March 31, 2025;5. Obtained understanding of the key assumptions considered for assessment of future cash flows and the discounting factor considered;6. Tested the arithmetical accuracy of the computation of recoverable amounts of cash generating units;7. Assessed the disclosures in accordance with Ind AS 36 and accounting policy of the Company in the financial statement.

We have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in our report.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether such other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



Responsibilities of the Management for the Financial Statements

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the matters stated in section 134(5) of the Act with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance including other comprehensive income, cash flows and changes in equity of the Company in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) specified under section 133 of the Act read with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding of the assets of the Company and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and the design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those Board of Directors are also responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. Under section 143(3)(i) of the Act, we are also responsible for expressing our opinion on whether the Company has adequate internal financial controls with reference to financial statements in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's



report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2025 and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

1. As required by the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 ("the Order"), issued by the Central Government of India in terms of sub-section (11) of section 143 of the Act, we give in the "Annexure 1" a statement on the matters specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Order.
2. As required by Section 143(3) of the Act, we report to the extent applicable, that:
 - (a) We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
 - (b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Company so far as it appears from our examination of those books except that as more fully explained in Note 45(A) of Ind AS financial statements, the backup of the books of account and other books and papers maintained in electronic mode has not been maintained on servers physically located in India on daily basis and except for the matters stated in the paragraph (i)(vi) below on reporting under Rule 11(g);
 - (c) The Balance Sheet, the Statement of Profit and Loss including the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, the Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Changes in Equity dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account;
 - (d) In our opinion, the aforesaid financial statements comply with the Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Act, read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended;
 - (e) On the basis of the written representations received from the directors as on March 31, 2025 taken on record by the Board of Directors, none of the directors is disqualified as on March 31, 2025 from being appointed as a director in terms of Section 164 (2) of the Act;
 - (f) The modification relating to the maintenance of accounts and other matters connected therewith are as stated in paragraph (b) above on reporting under Section 143(3)(b) and paragraph (i)(vi) below on reporting under Rule 11(g)



- (g) With respect to the adequacy of the internal financial controls with reference to these financial statements and the operating effectiveness of such controls, refer to our separate Report in "Annexure 2" to this report;
- (h) In our opinion, the managerial remuneration for the year ended March 31, 2025 has been paid / provided by the Company to its directors in accordance with the provisions of section 197 read with Schedule V to the Act.
- (i) With respect to the other matters to be included in the Auditor's Report in accordance with Rule 11 of the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014, as amended in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us:
- i. The Company has disclosed the impact of pending litigations on its financial position in its financial statements - Refer Note 33 to the financial statements;
 - ii. The Company did not have any long-term contracts including derivative contracts for which there were any material foreseeable losses;
 - iii. There were no amounts which were required to be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund by the Company;
 - iv.
 - a) The management has represented that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, as disclosed in the note 43(d) to the financial statements, no funds have been advanced or loaned or invested (either from borrowed funds or share premium or any other sources or kind of funds) by the Company to or in any other person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Intermediaries"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Intermediary shall, whether, directly or indirectly lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Company ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries;
 - b) The management has represented that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, as disclosed in the note 43(d) to the financial statements, no funds have been received by the Company from any person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Funding Parties"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Company shall, whether, directly or indirectly, lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Funding Party ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries; and
 - c) Based on such audit procedures performed that have been considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances, nothing has come to our notice that has caused us to believe that the representations under sub-clause (a) and (b) contain any material misstatement.
 - v. As stated in note 40 to the financial statements, the Board of Directors of the Company have proposed final dividend for the year which is subject to the approval of the members at the ensuing Annual General Meeting. The dividend declared is in accordance with section 123 of the Act to the extent it applies to declaration of dividend.
 - vi. Based on our examination which included test checks, and as more fully explained in Note 45(B) to the Ind AS financial statements, the Company, has used five accounting software for maintaining its books of account which has a feature of recording audit trail (edit log) facility,



S R B C & C O L L P

Chartered Accountants

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the same has operated throughout the year for all relevant transactions recorded in the software except that (a) audit trail feature is not enabled for direct changes to data when using certain access rights for three of the accounting softwares (b) in the absence of Service Organisation Controls report in respect of another accounting software, which is operated by a third-party software service provider, for maintaining its books of account, we are unable to comment on whether audit trail feature of the said software was enabled and operated throughout the year for all relevant transactions recorded in the software or whether there were any instances of the audit trail feature being tampered with. Further, during the course of our audit we did not come across any instance of audit trail feature being tampered with in respect of other accounting softwares. Additionally, the audit trail of relevant prior year has been preserved by the Company as per the statutory requirements for record retention to the extent it was enabled and recorded in the respective year.

For **S R B C & C O L L P**
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration Number: 324982E/E300003



per Ravi Bansal
Partner
Membership Number: 049365
UDIN: 25049365BMOAWV6984
Place of Signature: Mumbai
Date: May 14, 2025



Annexure '1' referred to in paragraph under the heading "Report on other legal and regulatory requirements" of our report of even date

Re: Hardcastle Restaurants Private Limited ("the Company")

In terms of the information and explanations sought by us and given by the company and the books of account and records examined by us in the normal course of audit and to the best of our knowledge and belief, we state that

- (i) (a) (A) The Company has maintained proper records showing full particulars, including quantitative details and situation of Property, Plant and Equipment.
- (B) The Company has maintained proper records showing full particulars of intangibles assets.
- (b) The Property, Plant and Equipment were physically verified by the management during the current year in accordance with a planned programme of verifying them once in three years which is reasonable having regard to the size of the Company and the nature of its assets. According to information and explanations given to us, no material discrepancies were identified on such verification.
- (c) The title deeds of immovable properties (other than properties where the Company is the lessee and the lease agreements are duly executed in favour of the lessee) disclosed in note 4 and note 41 to the financial statements are held in the name of the Company except 15 number of immovable properties as disclosed in note 4(B) to the financial statements, wherein agreement with the landlord is not duly registered.
- (d) The Company has not revalued its Property, Plant and Equipment (including Right of use assets) or intangible assets during the year ended March 31, 2025.
- (e) There are no proceedings initiated or are pending against the Company for holding any benami property under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 and rules made thereunder.
- (ii) (a) Physical verification of inventory has been conducted at reasonable intervals during the year by management including inventories lying with third parties. In our opinion, the coverage and procedure of such verification by the management is appropriate. There were no discrepancies of 10% or more noticed, in the aggregate for each class of inventory
- (b) As disclosed in note 17 to the financial statements, the Company has been sanctioned working capital limits in excess of Rs. five crores in aggregate from banks during the year on the basis of security of current assets of the Company. Based on the records examined by us in the normal course of audit of the financial statements, the quarterly returns/statements filed by the Company with such banks are in agreement with the audited books of accounts of the Company. The Company do not have sanctioned working capital limits in excess of Rs. five crores in aggregate from financial institutions during the year on the basis of security of current assets of the Company.
- (iii) (a) During the year the Company has provided loans to companies as follows:

Particulars	Loans (INR in MN)
Aggregate amount provided during the year	
- ESOS Trust	27.50
- Others	250.00
Balance outstanding as at balance sheet date in respect of above cases	
- ESOS Trust	212.10
- Others	0.00

