

THE CUT NOBODY EXPLAINED.

The DJ's TDS toolkit — invoice template + checklist
So you never lose a rupee to bad paperwork again.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 01 The one-page TDS cheat sheet
- 02 The DJ invoice template (fill it in, send it, get paid right)
- 03 The five-move checklist — the things you actually have to do
- 04 Form 16A + Form 26AS — what they are, how to get them

READ THIS FIRST

This is awareness, not tax advice. Rates, thresholds and classifications vary by situation. Always confirm your specifics with a Chartered Accountant before acting on anything in this document.

HOW MUCH TDS SHOULD BE CUT?

YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL DJ The default. Most DJs, most gigs.	1%
BILLING THROUGH A FIRM / COMPANY The moment you register an entity, the rate shifts.	2%
ROYALTIES — PUBLISHING, MASTER, SYNC Different bucket. Higher cut.	10%
PLAYBACK / MUSIC FOR FILM Treated as a professional service.	10%
NO PAN ON THE INVOICE The single most expensive mistake you can make.	20%

WHEN IT KICKS IN

- Single payment up to ₹30,000 → no TDS
- But once total payments from one organiser cross ₹1,00,000 in a tax year, TDS applies to everything from them.

THE CATCH FOR RESIDENTS

Four ₹30,000 nights at the same club = ₹1,20,000. Once you cross ₹1L, TDS lands on the whole lot — retrospectively.

Rates confirmed via Section 393, Income Tax Act 2025 (effective 1 April 2026). Confirm your specifics with a CA.

THE INVOICE THAT PROTECTS YOU.

Copy this. Change the details. Send it after every gig.

INVOICE

INVOICE NO. _____ · DATE _____

FROM

Full name / stage name: _____
Address: _____
PAN (mandatory): _____
GST No. (if applicable): _____
Contact: _____

TO

Organiser / venue name: _____
Address: _____
GST No. (if applicable): _____
Contact person: _____
Contact number / email: _____

GIG DETAILS

Description of service: DJ performance fee ← use this exact phrase
Event / venue name: _____
Date of performance: _____ Set length: ____ hours
Includes: performance, prep, soundcheck, travel (delete as applicable)

AMOUNT

Performance fee
GST @ 18% (if registered)
Total invoice value
Less: TDS (1% u/s 393)
Net payable to me

₹ _____
₹ _____
₹ _____
— _____

Signature / stamp

Bank details: A/C _____ IFSC _____

FIVE MOVES THAT PROTECT YOU.

01 QUOTE YOUR PAN ON EVERY INVOICE

Without it, TDS is deducted at 20% instead of 1%. It's the single most expensive mistake in the business. Print it. Type it. Never send an invoice without it.

02 RAISE A PROPER INVOICE

Fee, date, PAN, purpose of payment, bank details. A WhatsApp confirmation works in a pinch — but a real invoice protects you if anything is disputed later.

03 GET THE PURPOSE IN WRITING

Write "DJ performance fee" — not "artist payment," not "consultancy." The wording changes the tax bucket. The wrong label can shift you from 1% to 10%.

04 ASK FOR YOUR FORM 16A

This is the TDS certificate. The promoter is legally required to issue it every quarter. Without it, you cannot claim credit when you file your ITR.

05 RECONCILE AGAINST FORM 26AS

This is the government's own record of TDS deposited in your name — free to check on the Income Tax portal. If the promoter cut but didn't deposit, this is where you catch them.

REMEMBER

Awareness, not tax advice. Every situation is different — always confirm with a CA before acting.

THE FORMS.

The two pieces of paperwork every DJ needs to know by name.

FORM 16A

The TDS certificate the promoter gives you.

It shows: how much they paid you, how much TDS they cut, and the date they deposited it to the government. Issued quarterly — ask for it if they don't send it. Without it, you can't claim TDS credit when you file your ITR.

FORM 26AS

The government's record of every rupee of TDS credited to your PAN.

You can pull it yourself, for free, from the Income Tax portal (incometax.gov.in).

If your Form 16A says ₹5,000 was cut but Form 26AS shows ₹0 — the promoter cut it and never deposited it. This is the receipt that catches that.

THE MONTHLY RHYTHM

- Every gig → raise the invoice with your PAN and "DJ performance fee."
- Every quarter → ask each promoter for your Form 16A.
- Every year, before you file ITR → reconcile Form 26AS. Claim your credit.

NOW YOU KNOW.

You were never supposed to figure this out. That's the problem — and it's why the money quietly leaks. Print this. Save it. Send the invoice.

MORE FROM THE RIDER → @THEVICFIX

No.01 — The Cover Nobody Buys (health insurance for DJs)

No.02 — You're Undercharging. Here's Proof. (pricing your set)

THE ONE LINE THAT MATTERS

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