

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Passage 1

International tax jurisprudence received a shot in the arm when 130 countries agreed to introduce a new global tax regime for taxing multinational corporations (MNCs) operating the globe over. For over a century now, the corporate tax system was based on the application of the twin principles of the source rule and the residence rule. All that a MNC had to do to avoid high tax in a country where they did business was to get registered in a tax haven. Globalisation allowed MNCs to replace fears of double taxation with the joys of double non-taxation by exploiting mismatches between the tax laws of various countries and by cutting taxable profits. A digitalised world made their task easier.

Tax havens came in handy for the MNCs. It became easier with the rise of intangible assets, which could easily be shifted from one country to another. But shifting of profits to low tax havens deprived poor countries of revenue by as much as 5% as compared to an alternative system where profits are taxed based on the current location of companies, revenues, their employees and their wage codes. Small countries wanted investments on a grand scale. That could be achieved with low direct taxes. Countries like Belgium, Britain, India and Indonesia brought in Digital Services Taxes on the local sales of foreign firms with online platforms. The U.S. objected and threatened retaliatory tariffs.

Hence, realisation dawned on all the countries that the time had come for a radical change in the tax system. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced that it was time to end the “race to the bottom” on corporate tax. Egged on by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 130 countries achieved a historic agreement in June on a more stable and fairer international tax architecture. As per the agreement, MNCs would no longer pay taxes in the country where they register their headquarters for tax purposes, but would pay in the country where they generate their sales. A minimum global tax of 15% on profits would be introduced in all countries.

The OECD estimates that the proposal to levy 15% minimum tax on global corporations that do business in each country would fetch additional \$150 billion per year and move taxing rights of over \$100 billion in profits to different countries. Taxing rights would be reallocated so that a slice of the profits could be levied according to the location of a company’s sales. A minimum rate of 15% would be levied on such a slice of profits. As per the agreement, countries where MNCs operate would get the right to tax at least 20% of the profits exceeding a 10% margin.

India, China, Russia, Germany and other countries have signed the agreement, which has to be implemented from 2023. But there are hurdles to cross. India would have to reconsider the equalisation levy. Revenue from the equalisation levy should be compared with the 15% global minimum tax. The Ministry of Finance said significant issues, including the share of profit allocation and the scope of subject-to-tax rules, would have to be addressed and a consensus agreement had been reached on October 8. The draft rules would reset the system for international taxation and subject MNCs to new nexus and profit allocation rules.

1. Which is the central theme of the passage?
 - (a) Multinational corporations (MNCs) has made International tax jurisprudence's task easier
 - (b) New regime may bring in 'Golden Era' of direct taxes
 - (c) Organisation for economic corporation and development has to be addressed as the global tax revolution.
 - (d) Special measures are required to incentivize to revamp India's direct tax code.
2. What does it mean when the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said "it was time to end the race to the bottom on corporate tax"?
 - (a) it means that it unveils a plan to reduce taxes on corporations to pay for support offered to businesses.
 - (b) it refers to the raising rates on the wealthy and overhauling other rules to capture more revenue from multinational firms.
 - (c) it refers to the international groups to update global rules so that the rises wouldn't make the US less attractive to firms.
 - (d) it refers to a competitive situation where a company attempts to undercut the competition's prices by reducing taxes.

3. According to the passage, the author will agree to which of the statements?
 - (a) Countries like Belgium, Britain and India objected and threatened retaliatory tariffs to bring in Digital Services Taxes on the sales of foreign firms with online platforms.
 - (b) The draft rules would revive the system for international taxation and subject MNCs to new Nexus and profit allocation rules.
 - (c) The Global Financial crisis forces all countries to change international tax rules to encourage profit shifting.
 - (d) Simultaneous implementation of the law by all the signatories to the agreement would be a tremendous job if not achieved the target.

4. According to the information in the passage, which of the following is the hurdle to cross for India to sign on the agreement of OECD estimation?
 - (a) India would have to replace fears of double taxation with the joy of double taxation.
 - (b) India would have to increase the sales of foreign firms with online platforms.
 - (c) India would have to reconsider the equalization levy which should be compared with the 15% global minimum tax.
 - (d) Both (a) and (d)

5. What does the word 'Egged on' imply in the passage?
 - (a) To get involved to check something wrong
 - (b) To stop all business that involves cheating
 - (c) To prepare and enforce a mechanism to ensure smooth taxation
 - (d) To encourage to achieve a historic agreement

Passage 2

I assume we all believe that bats have experience. After all, they are mammals, and there is no more doubt that they have experience than that mice or pigeons or whales have experience. Bats, although more closely related to us than those other species, nevertheless present a range of activity and a sensory apparatus so different from ours that the problem I want to pose is exceptionally vivid (though it certainly could be raised with other species). Even without the benefit of philosophical reflection, anyone who has spent some time in an enclosed space with an excited bat knows what it is to encounter a fundamentally alien form of life.

I have said that the essence of the belief that bats have experience is that there is something that it is like to be a bat. Now we know that most bats perceive the external world primarily by sonar, or echolocation. Their brains are designed to correlate the outgoing sounds with the subsequent echoes, and the information thus acquired enables bats to make precise discriminations of distance, size, shape, motion, and texture comparable to those we make by vision. But bat sonar, though clearly a form of perception, is not similar in its operation to any sense that we possess, and there is no reason to suppose that it is subjectively like anything we can experience or imagine. This appears to create difficulties for the notion of what it is like to be a bat. We must consider whether any method will permit us to extrapolate to the inner life of the bat from our own case, and if not, what alternative methods there may be for understanding the notion.

Our own experience provides the basic material for our imagination, whose range is therefore limited. It will not help us to try to imagine that one has webbing on one's arms, which enables one to fly around at dusk and dawn catching insects in one's mouth, or that one perceives the world through echolocation. In so far as I can imagine this (which is not very far), it tells me only what it would be like for me to behave as a bat behaves. But that is not the question. I want to know what it is like for a bat to be a bat. Yet if I try to imagine this, I am restricted to the resources of my own mind, and those resources are inadequate to the task. I cannot perform it either by imagining additions to my present experience, or by imagining segments gradually subtracted from it, or by imagining some combinations of additions, subtractions, and modifications.

6. Why does the author choose bats instead of mice, pigeons, or whales to present the main problem in the passage?
 - (a) Because bats are very similar to us, and it would be very easy for us to imagine what the mind of a bat would be like.
 - (b) Because they are mammals, and people are willing to accept that mammals have experience.
 - (c) Because mice, pigeons, or whales, are more closely related to us than bats are.
 - (d) Because their habits, behaviour, and sense organs are very different from ours, yet people are willing to believe that they have experience.
7. What does the word 'alien' as used in the passage mean?
 - (a) From another country
 - (b) Unfamiliar and disturbing
 - (c) From another planet
 - (d) Hypothetical or fictional
8. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
 - (a) That we will only understand bats if we understand the chemical processes behind biological echolocation.
 - (b) That the experiences of other species are not worth wondering about, since our sense organs are different from theirs.
 - (c) That we cannot understand the experiences of other species by relying solely upon our own organs of perception.
 - (d) That the experiences of other species are not worth wondering about, since we have our own experiences to worry about.
9. Which of the following is most similar to the problem or question the author discusses in the passage above?
 - (a) A doctor will not be able to understand what it is like to be an engineer.
 - (b) A person of one race will not be able to understand what it is like to be a person of another race.
 - (c) A citizen of India will not be able to understand what it is like to be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
 - (d) A cricketer will not be able to understand what it is like to be a footballer.
10. What is the author's main point in the passage above?
 - (a) That humans will never understand sonar or echolocation, since we do not have the biological apparatus for it.
 - (b) That our imagination is very weak, and unless we make a dramatic effort, we will not be able to imagine what it is like to be a bat.
 - (c) That while bats may have experience, it is very difficult for us to understand or describe that experience, since our minds and ways of perception are different from those of bats.
 - (d) That bats cannot possibly have experience, since their sensory organs and ways of perceiving their surroundings are different from how we perceive and experience the world.

Passage 3

Man's history is being shaped according to the difficulties it encounters. These have offered us problems and claimed their solutions from us, the penalty of non-fulfilment being death or degradation.

These difficulties have been different in different peoples of the earth, and in the manner of our overcoming them lies our distinction.

The Scythians of the earlier period of Asiatic history had to struggle with the scarcity of their natural resources. The easiest solution that they could think of was to organize their whole

population, men, women, and children, into bands of robbers. And they were irresistible to those who were chiefly engaged in the constructive work of social co-operation.

But fortunately for man the easiest path is not his truest path. If his nature were not as complex as it is, if it were as simple as that of a pack of hungry wolves, then, by this time, those hordes of marauders would have overrun the whole earth. But man, when confronted with difficulties, has to acknowledge that he is man, that he has his responsibilities to the higher faculties of his nature, by ignoring which he may achieve success that is immediate, perhaps, but that will become a death-trap to him. For what are obstacles to the lower creatures are opportunities to the higher life of man.

To India has been given her problem from the beginning of history—it is the race problem. Races ethnologically different have in this country come into close contact. This fact has been and still continues to be the most important one in our history. It is our mission to face it and prove our humanity by dealing with it in the fullest truth. Until we fulfil our mission all other benefits will be denied us.

There are other peoples in the world who have to overcome obstacles in their physical surroundings, or the menace of their powerful neighbours. They have organized their power till they are not only reasonably free from the tyranny of Nature and human neighbours, but have a surplus of it left in their hands to employ against others. But in India, our difficulties being internal, our history has been the history of continual social adjustment and not that of organized power for defence and aggression.

11. According to the passage, the author will agree to which of the statements?
 - (a) Creating India's accomplishment through social regulation of differences and the spiritual recognition of unity.
 - (b) Our history has been of the rise and fall of kingdoms of fights for political supremacy.
 - (c) It is a natural regulation of human relationships so that men can develop ideals of life in co-operation with one another.
 - (d) Dealing with problem in the fullest truth, men should prove their humanity.
12. What the writer means by the sentence "until we fulfil our mission, all other benefits will be denied us"?
 - (a) He wants to remove the race problem by proving the humanity which must be dealt with the fullest truth.
 - (b) His mission has been like that of a hostess who has to provide proper accommodation for numerous guests.
 - (c) He wants to make something possible and gives place to merely mechanical organization.
 - (d) All of the above
13. The word "marauders" as used in the passage means?
 - (a) villagers
 - (b) robbers
 - (c) neighbours
 - (d) difficulties
14. Which of the following can be reasonably inferred from the passage?
 - (a) As in livelihood for the individual, so is politics for a particular people – a field for the exercise of their business instincts of patriotism
 - (b) Nationalism is a great menace it is the particular thing which for years has been at the bottom of India's troubles.
 - (c) Our history has been based on social adjustment and not on organized power for defence and aggression
 - (d) Both (b) & (c)
15. What kind of problem that has been faced by India from the beginning of history?
 - (a) it is the greed of gain which has no time to capaciousness
 - (b) it is the objection to produce and consume among the ancient men
 - (c) it is the race which is ethnologically different in the country
 - (d) All of the above

Passage 4

The peace agreement reached between Israel and the United Arab Emirates has formalised the thaw in Arab-Israeli relations that has been under way for a few years. As part of the deal announced by U.S. President Trump on Thursday, the UAE would recognise the state of Israel and establish formal diplomatic relations, while Israel would halt its controversial plan to annex swathes of the Palestinian West Bank. It is a landmark agreement given that the UAE is only the third Arab country and the first in the Gulf recognising Israel. It could pave the way for the region's Sunni Arab kingdoms and the Jewish-majority Israel enhancing regional cooperation against their common foe, Shia Iran. Israel has said it would focus on "expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world", while the U.S. has expressed hope that more Arab countries would follow the UAE's lead — Arab-Israeli relations have largely been conflict-ridden ever since the state of Israel was declared in 1948. For Mr. Trump who played a critical role, it is a rare diplomatic victory just months before he seeks re-election. His other foreign policy bets — Iran, North Korea or Afghanistan — were either disastrous or inconclusive. But in the case of Israel and the UAE, both allies of the U.S., quiet diplomacy worked. The U.S. had arranged several meetings between Israeli and Emirati officials last year, which probably laid the foundations for the agreement.

While the deal has the potential to change Arab-Israeli relations for good, it also shows how the Arab countries are gradually decoupling themselves from the Palestine question. The UAE offered full diplomatic recognition in return for Israel's suspension of a planned annexation, not for any relaxation of the actual occupation. As Prime Minister Netanyahu said, Israel made peace with an Arab country without "our returning to the 1967 borders". The Arab Peace Initiative, a Saudi Arabia initiative endorsed by the Arab League, offered recognition to Israel in exchange for its full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Ironically, the UAE's peace agreement comes close on the heels of the Trump administration's back-to-back decisions to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital and its sovereignty [Y] the Syrian Golan Heights. Clearly, the UAE has moved away from the Arab initiative. The question now is whether the Emiratis would be able to press the Jewish state to relax its inhuman and illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories and start talks between the occupier and the occupied. If it cannot, the UAE-Israel deal would be of little significance for the Palestinians. The Palestinian leadership, on its part, should understand the emerging reality in West Asia — the Arab-Israel conflict is coming to a close, but the Palestine-Israel conflict is to continue without any respite.

16. Which of the following statement is true?
- (a) Relating to an action taken by a court of its.
 - (b) Arab-Israeli relations have largely been conflict.
 - (c) The Arab-Israel conflict is coming to a close to create a situation that makes it possible.
 - (d) The UAE offered full diplomatic recognition in return for relaxation of the actual occupation.
17. According to the passage, the author
- (a) States that the Arab-Israeli relations in return for Israel's suspension of planned annexation.
 - (b) States that the UAE-Israel deal would be of a little significance for the Palestinians if the Emiratis start talks between the occupier and occupied of the Palestinians territories.
 - (c) Considers that if the UAE does not push Israel to withdraw from occupied area, their deal is of little value.
 - (d) None of these
18. In the context of the passage, 'decoupling' means
- (a) separate
 - (b) demarcate
 - (c) indicate
 - (d) originate
19. Choose the correct preposition in place of [Y] from the following?
- (a) with
 - (b) on
 - (c) over
 - (d) by
20. What is the title for the passage?
- (a) A little significance of the UAE-Israel deal
 - (b) Limited peace on UAE-Israel peace agreement
 - (c) Conflict on Arab-Israeli relations
 - (d) The US's quiet diplomacy on Israel and Arab country

Passage 5

India could be on the verge of a power crisis as the stock of coal held by the country's thermal power plants has hit critically low levels. Many power plants are operating with zero reserve stock or with stocks that could last just a few days. Some States have witnessed partial load-shedding aimed at saving power. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, however, is reported to have termed worries about a possible shortage of coal and power supplies "absolutely baseless" and is said to have asserted during the course of a trip to the U.S. that India is now a power-surplus country.

According to data released by the Central Electricity Authority, as of Wednesday, India's 135 thermal power plants overall had on average coal stock that would last just four days. In all, 112 of the 135 power plants are operating with stocks that are at critical or super-critical levels. The government usually mandates the power plants to hold stocks that would last at least two weeks. It has, however, reduced this requirement to 10 days now to avoid hoarding and ensure more equitable distribution of coal among the plants. India relies on coal to meet over 70% of its power needs, and Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies over 80% of the total coal. The current coal crisis comes amid a broader energy crisis across the world with the prices of natural gas, coal and oil rising sharply in the international market.

The current crisis in the availability of coal has been the result of lacklustre domestic production and a sharp drop in imports over the last few years. According to BP Global Energy Statistics, domestic coal production in India has stagnated since 2018. Stagnating supply did not cause trouble last year with the economy shut down to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. But the rise in power demand this year has exposed the government's inability to push domestic production or compensate for insufficient domestic production by increasing imports. In fact, the government last year said it would stop all coal imports by FY24.

Many factors have been blamed for the insufficient supply of coal this year. These include short-term issues like flooding in coal-mining areas, transport issues, labour disruptions in major coal-mining countries and the sudden rise in power demand as the economy revives from the pandemic. But it should be noted that deeper structural problems have [A] the power industry in general for long. Populist politics has ensured that the price that many consumers pay for power is not commensurate with the production costs. In FY19, for instance, the revenues of distribution companies covered only about 70% of their total costs. This has discouraged private investment in power generation and distribution even as the demand for power continues to rise each year. It has also increased the debt burden on public sector distribution companies as they have not been compensated for the losses they incur while selling power at subsidised rates. According to the credit rating agency ICEA, the consolidated debt of public sector distribution companies is expected to hit ₹ 6 trillion in FY22.

It should also be noted that the mining of raw materials such as coal is nearly monopolised by public sector companies like CIL that are not run primarily for profits. In fact, CIL has kept the price of its coal low even as international prices have risen significantly this year. It has also been forced to share some of the pain of power generation and distribution companies.

According to the government, indebted power generators and distributors owe over ₹21,000 crore to CIL. So, overall, there is very little financial incentive that major producers across the supply chain, including miners, possess to ramp up production.

21. Which of the following statements are not true according to the passage?
- (a) The current coal crisis has come as a broader energy crisis across the world with the prices of coal and a special purpose vehicle.
 - (b) Stagnating supply caused trouble with the economy shut down to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic
 - (c) Decrease demand in private investment for power generation has kept the price of the coal low even as in international market.
 - (d) All are true
22. What has caused the extent of India's coal crisis?
- (a) Labour disruptions in major coal-mining countries
 - (b) Sudden rise in power demand post Covid.
 - (c) Structural problems have destroyed the some vast power industry for a long time.
 - (d) All are true

23. What should be the next step to tide over the coal crisis in India according to passage?
- (a) India should increase production of fossil fuels to meet the rising demand so that India should not depend on imported coal.
 - (b) India should mandate the thermal power plants to combine coal with domestic coal.
 - (c) India should allow many power generators to increase their output along with their financial incentive.
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
24. Which of the following words are best suitable for the blank space [A], given in the passage?
- (a) strived
 - (b) plagued
 - (c) eluded
 - (d) scourge
25. The passage can be best termed as
- (a) Narrative
 - (b) Descriptive
 - (c) Abstract
 - (d) Scornful

Passage 6

Nearly all the artistic remains of ancient India are of a religious nature, or were at least made for religious purposes. Secular art certainly existed, for literature shows that kings dwelt in sumptuous palaces, decorated with lovely wall-paintings and sculpture, though all these have vanished. Much has been said and written about Indian art since, some sixty years ago, European taste began to doubt the established canons of the 19th century and looked to Asia and Africa for fresh esthetic experience. From that time to this most authorities on the subject, Indian and European alike, have stressed the religious and mystical aspect of Indian art. While admitting the realism and earthiness of the earliest sculpture, they have read the truths of Vedanta or Buddhism into the artistic remains of our period, and have interpreted them as expressions of deep religious experience, sermons in stone on the oneness of all things in the Universal Spirit.

One student at least disagrees with this interpretation. There are indeed a few remains which seem imbued with an intensity of religious feeling rare in the art of the world, but it is the full and active life of the times which is chiefly reflected in the art of ancient India, at first directly, as at Bhirhut, Sanchi and Amaravati, then with a gentle idealism, as at Ajanta and finally in the multitude of figures, divine and human, carved on the many temples of the Middle Ages. In all these phases there is a *horror vacui* and an intense vitality which remind us rather of this world than the next, and suggest to us the warm bustle of the Indian city and the turbulent population of the Indian forest.

Gothic architecture and sculpture are vertical. Spire and arch point upwards, and as the style develops the spire becomes taller and the arch more pointed. The Christs, saints and angels _____ the Middle Ages in Europe are often disproportionately tall, and their tallness is accentuated _____ long garments reaching to the ankles. Their poses are generally restful, and they rarely smile. Medieval European art was truly religious; its conventions seem to have been deliberately designed to lead the worshipper's thoughts away _____ the world of flesh to the things of the spirit. Much of it was the work of pious monks, or of men _____ deep religious vocations.

26. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
- (a) In Middle Ages in Europe people are not tall enough to their long garments reaching to the ankles.
 - (b) The tendency of all the artistic of ancient India were made for religious purposes.
 - (c) Asceticism and self denial in various forms are praised in much Indian religious literature.
 - (d) All of the above
27. The passage is primarily about which of the following?
- (a) The challenges of deep religious experience of India.
 - (b) The evolution of religious art in Europe.
 - (c) The significance of written about Indian art in the ancient India.
 - (d) The spirit of Indian art.

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28. The passage can best be described as ____
- (a) eulogistic (b) admonitory
(c) analytical (d) critical
29. The author of the passage is likely to agree with which of the following?
- (a) Indian and African have stressed the religious aspect of the Indian art.
(b) No other country than India has stressed the religious aspect of the Indian art.
(c) Indian and European have stressed the religious aspect of the Indian culture.
(d) Indian and European have stressed the religious aspect of the Indian art.
30. The last para has four blanks. Fill in each blank choosing the appropriate preposition from the pairs given for each blanks respectively.
- (a) of, with, in, with
(b) to, by, in, with
(c) of, by, from, with
(d) to, by, in, in

