

The Tribune – Functional toilets vital

THE importance of a clean and functional toilet in every school **cannot** be **overstated**. **Filthy** toilets **often** make students **reluctant** to attend school. **Children** who skip meals **so as to** avoid going to the **loo** **expose** themselves to health risks. One would expect **stringent** action against schools that normalise **unhygienic** practices. Now, **visualise** a **scenario** where there are no toilets at all. As many as 538 **state-run** schools in Haryana are without toilets for girls, while 1,047 do not have **urinals** for boys. There is no functional drinking water facility in 131 schools. **The tall talk** of improvement in the education sector **falls flat in the face of** such **appalling** conditions.

School **sanitation** and a child's education are **inextricably** linked. **Denial** of access to sanitation on the campus **is** a huge **disincentive**, **compromising** the students' ability to realise their **potential**. It can impact children physically and emotionally. Studies show that the lack of separate toilets is a **barrier** to girls' education and safety. Many **drop out** because of menstrual hygiene concerns. Kids carry with them the habits they learn. **Those deprived of requisite** facilities **are** likely to care less about personal hygiene and the need to keep the environment clean.



Having **ill-maintained** toilets or none at all in schools is a problem that is **undermining** initiatives to ensure quality education for all. Clean toilets can help improve the student **retention** rate. The Haryana report is a **wake-up call** for the authorities to **prioritise** this vital issue and **penalise** schools not **paying attention** to it. Both government and private schools must redouble efforts **in this regard**.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Vocabulary

1. **Vital** (adjective) – Fundamental, imperative, essential, critical, crucial, अत्यावश्यक
2. **Overstated** (adjective) – Exaggerated, overemphasized, overrated, overstressed, amplified, अत्यधिक बढ़ाचढ़ाकर कहा गया
3. **Filthy** (adjective) – Dirty, unclean, grimy, squalid, polluted, गंदा
4. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, commonly, repeatedly, habitually, अक्सर
5. **Reluctant** (adjective) – Unwilling, hesitant, resistant, disinclined, loath, अनिच्छुक
6. **So as to do something** (phrase) – In order to, for the purpose of, with the aim to, with the intention to, so that, ताकि
7. **Loo** (noun) – Toilet, restroom, lavatory, bathroom, शौचालय
8. **Expose** (verb) – cause someone to be vulnerable or at risk. के खतरे में डालना
9. **Stringent** (adjective) – Strict, severe, rigorous, tight, stern, कठोर
10. **Unhygienic** (adjective) – Insanitary, dirty, unclean, contaminated, polluted, अस्वच्छ
11. **Visualise** (verb) – Imagine, envisage, picture, conceive, envision, कल्पना करना
12. **Scenario** (noun) – Situation, condition, circumstance, case, state of affairs, परिदृश्य
13. **State-run** (adjective) – Government-operated, state-controlled, public, national, state-owned, सरकारी
14. **Urinal** (noun) – Public toilet, lavatory, restroom, public convenience, पेशाबघर
15. **The tall talk** (phrase) – boasting or exaggerated storytelling बढ़ाकर कहा हुआ
16. **Fall flat** (phrase) – fail completely to produce the intended or expected effect. वांछित प्रभाव उत्पन्न करने में विफल
17. **In the face of** (phrase) – Despite, notwithstanding, regardless of, in spite of, बावजूद
18. **Appalling** (adjective) – Horrible, dreadful, shocking, ghastly, horrendous, भयानक
19. **Sanitation** (noun) – Cleanliness, hygiene, sterility, sanitation, स्वच्छता
20. **Denial** (noun) – Disavowal, negation, refusal, rejection, disallowance, इनकार
21. **Inextricably** (adverb) – Inseparably, indissolubly, indistinguishably, closely, tightly, अटूट रूप से
22. **Disincentive** (noun) – Deterrent, discouragement, dissuasion, obstacle, hindrance, निरुत्साहन
23. **Compromise** (verb) – Undermine, weaken, impair, mar, jeopardize, समझौता करना

24. **Potential** (noun) – Capability, capacity, ability, power, aptitude, क्षमता
25. **Barrier** (noun) – Obstacle, hindrance, impediment, blockage, hurdle, बाधा
26. **Drop out** (phrasal verb) – Quit, leave, withdraw, abandon, give up; abandon a course of study., छोड़ देना
27. **Deprived** (of) (adjective) – Bereft, stripped, dispossessed, robbed, divested, वंचित
28. **Requisite** (adjective) – Necessary, required, compulsory, mandatory, indispensable, आवश्यक
29. **Ill-maintained** (adjective) – Neglected, dilapidated, run-down, uncared-for, deteriorated, बुरी तरह से रखरखाव किया हुआ
30. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, subvert, sabotage, undercut, destabilize, कमजोर करना
31. **Retention** (noun) – the ability to keep or continue having something:
32. **Wake-up call** (noun) – If something that happens is a wake-up call, it should make you realize that you need to take action to change a situation: किसी चेतावनी या संकेत के रूप में
33. **Prioritise** (verb) – Rank, give precedence, privilege, put first, prefer, प्राथमिकता देना
34. **Penalise** (verb) – Punish, discipline, sanction, chastise, reprimand, दंडित करना
35. **Pay attention** (phrase) – Heed, mind, be attentive, take notice of, ध्यान देना
36. **In this regard** (phrase) – In relation to this, concerning this, in this context, in this matter, इस संदर्भ में

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial emphasizes the importance of clean and functional toilets in every school for students' health, attendance, and learning.
2. Filthy toilets often discourage students from attending school, and students skipping meals to avoid using them expose themselves to health risks.
3. The editorial criticizes schools that normalize unhygienic practices, highlighting the need for stringent action against them.
4. It notes with concern that 538 state-run schools in Haryana, India lack toilets for girls, and 1,047 do not have urinals for boys.
5. It is also reported that 131 schools in the region lack a functional drinking water facility, indicating a severe lack of basic amenities.
6. The promise of improvements in the education sector contrasts starkly with the appalling conditions on the ground.
7. School sanitation and children's education are intricately linked; lack of sanitation access can hinder students' ability to realize their potential.
8. Poor sanitation can impact children both physically and emotionally, compromising their overall well-being.
9. Studies indicate that the absence of separate toilets for girls is a significant barrier to their education and safety, often leading to increased dropout rates due to menstrual hygiene concerns.
10. The lack of appropriate facilities can negatively influence children's personal hygiene habits and attitudes towards environmental cleanliness.
11. Ill-maintained or nonexistent toilets in schools undermine efforts to ensure quality education for all children.
12. The provision of clean toilets can help improve student retention rates in schools.
13. The Haryana report is a wake-up call for authorities to prioritize school sanitation issues and to penalize schools that ignore these concerns.
14. Both government and private schools need to double their efforts to address this significant problem.
15. The editorial calls for urgent action to rectify the situation and ensure all schools have adequate sanitation facilities, considering the far-reaching implications for children's health, education, and future potential.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is a significant consequence of poor sanitation facilities in schools?**
 - A. Increased absenteeism in teachers
 - B. Decreased academic performance in Mathematics
 - C. Decreased interest in extra-curricular activities
 - D. Increased dropout rates, particularly among girls
2. **Based on the passage, what can unhygienic practices in schools influence in children?**
 - A. Their understanding of science
 - B. Their preference for online learning
 - C. Their attention span in class
 - D. Their attitudes towards personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness
3. **According to the passage, which of the following is NOT mentioned as an impact of unhygienic or non-existent toilet facilities in schools?**
 - A. Reduced school attendance
 - B. Increased health risks for students
 - C. Increased student dropout rates
 - D. Improvement in the education sector
4. **According to the passage, what is the potential impact of clean toilets in schools?**
 - A. It helps improve student's grades
 - B. It enhances the aesthetic appeal of schools
 - C. It improves the student retention rate
 - D. It promotes more physical activities among students
5. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Admiring
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The academic performance of students in Haryana's state-run schools
 - B. The quality of teaching in both government and private schools
 - C. The significance of sanitary facilities in schools and its impact on students' education
 - D. The effectiveness of the education policies of Haryana
7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the following idiom. "Nip in the bud"**
 - A. To destroy early
 - B. To cut the buds
 - C. To destroy late
 - D. Not to destroy
8. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.**

You are welcome to partake this light refreshment.

- A. No improvement required
- B. to partake of
- C. for partaking
- D. in partaken

9. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Now after the COVID-19 situation has _____, Bangladesh has started air travel services for other countries including India.

- A. Improved
- B. Progressed
- C. Advanced
- D. Enriched

10. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

Eventually

- A. Initially
- B. Primarily
- C. Originally
- A. Ultimately.

Comprehension

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued its annual update on its projections for temperature trends in the next decade. The ____1____, expectedly, is worrying. The annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 is likely to be 1.1°-1.8°C higher than the average from 1850-1900. There is a 66% chance that the global near-surface temperature will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in at least one year before 2027 though it is unlikely that the five-year mean will exceed this ____2____. The 1.5°C threshold, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has repeatedly said, is one that is best left unbreached to avoid the disastrous consequences of global warming. While world leaders at climate summits are in agreement, few of ____3____ actions are consistent with keeping temperature-rise within this rubicon, with current climate policies ____4____ to heat the globe beyond 2°C by the end of the century.

At least one of the years, the WMO adds, from 2023 to 2027 will be the hottest on record — exceeding the 14.84°C reported in 2016 (it was about 0.07°C warmer than the previous record set in 2015). The five-year mean for 2023-2027 was very likely to be higher than that in the last five years (2018-2022). The oceans too are on fire. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is likely to be positive in December to February 2023-24, meaning that the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean is likely to be at least half a degree, more likely over a degree above what is normal. India is ____5____ for this El Niño during the monsoon, with the India Meteorological Department already indicating that monsoon rainfall will be on the lower side of 'normal'.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. Penchant
- B. Prognosis

- C. Vocal
D. Flawed
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
A. Moot
B. Hazard
C. Threshold
D. Reward
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
A. It's
B. Its
C. His
D. Their
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
A. Uphold
B. Poised
C. Expand
D. Contend
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
A. Bracing
B. Enhancing
C. Culminating
D. Settling
16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The alarm bells had rung when NASA images showed farm fires in the state, but the authorities were then of the view that
Q. With the wheat-sowing season approaching, incidents of stubble burning have registered a five-fold rise in
R. Punjab than those reported in the corresponding period in the past two years, pointing to the inability or reluctance of the authorities to check the menace
S. the magnitude of the problem was not that serious and because of the agitation over the farm laws, it would not be appropriate to take strict action against the offenders
A. SPQR B. QRPS C. SQPR D. PRQS
17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The Supreme Court's verdict on Shaheen Bagh protests has to be understood in the context of Pulitzer Prize winner Walter Lippmann's above statement, quoted by the court to drive home the larger point about the right to peaceful protest in a democracy
Q. they are subject to reasonable restrictions, including those in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India and public order
R. The legal position on right to free speech and right to assemble peacefully under Article 19(1)(a) and Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution, respectively, has been very clear, i.e.,
S. IN a democracy, the Opposition is not only tolerated as constitutional, but must be maintained because it is indispensable'

- A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ

18. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. While America is openly using this platform to indulge in Dragon-bashing, the others have preferred to respond in a guarded way.
- Q. Even as India and the other countries have reaffirmed their collective vision for a 'free, open and inclusive' Indo-Pacific, the quadrilateral coalition runs the risk of being reduced to an anti-China forum spearheaded by the US.
- R. The four member-nations — the US, Japan, India and Australia — are working towards building a strong multilateral institution that can make China uncomfortable. In fact, the meeting prompted the Chinese Foreign Ministry to voice its opposition to the formation of 'exclusive cliques' that can harm the third party's interests.
- S. China's military muscle-flexing in its neighbourhood — be it in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea or in the Himalayas — loomed large over the Quad ministerial meeting in Tokyo.

- A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ

19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. 10 years before the decision to construct the 9.02-km double-lane tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister
- Q. The inauguration of the strategically important, all-weather Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh marks the realisation of a decades-long project, once considered too difficult to be implemented
- R. The highest-altitude tunnel in the world and one of the longest in the country, it is nothing short of an engineering marvel of which the Border Roads Organisation, other agencies, contractors and the expert workforce can be justifiably proud
- S. The feasibility study was first done in 1990,

- A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

20. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. Captain Amarinder Singh-led Congress government is exploring legal options to challenge these Bills
- Q. The lack of clarity over the farm laws is now more than apparent with Haryana barring farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan from bringing paddy and bajra for sale in the state's markets
- R. the Shiromani Akali Dal has chosen to opt out of the government at the Centre of which it was a part, following disagreement over the matter, even as farmer unions have decided to intensify their agitation and the
- S. The decision by the BJP-JJP coalition government has come at a time when paddy procurement has just begun and in neighbouring Punjab,

- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS

Answers

1. D 2.D 3.D 4. C 5. A 6.C 7.A 8.B 9.A 10.D 11.B
 12. C 13.D 14.B 15.A 16.B 17.D 18.C 19.A 20. B **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations**1. D. Increased dropout rates, particularly among girls**

The passage mentions that "the lack of separate toilets is a barrier to girls' education and safety. Many drop out because of menstrual hygiene concerns", indicating that poor sanitation facilities contribute to increased dropout rates among girls.

2. D. Their attitudes towards personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness

The passage states that "Kids carry with them the habits they learn. Those deprived of requisite facilities are likely to care less about personal hygiene and the need to keep the environment clean". This suggests that unhygienic practices in schools can impact children's attitudes towards hygiene and cleanliness.

3. The passage discusses the negative effects of unsanitary or absent toilets in schools, including reduced school attendance, health risks, and increased student dropout rates. However, it does not suggest that these conditions lead to an improvement in the education sector. On the contrary, the passage asserts that the "tall talk of improvement in the education sector falls flat in the face of such appalling conditions". Therefore, the correct answer is D) Improvement in the education sector.

4. C) It improves the student retention rate

The passage mentions that clean toilets can help improve the student retention rate, meaning they can contribute to students staying in school longer or not dropping out. There's no mention in the passage about clean toilets affecting students' grades, the aesthetic appeal of schools, or promoting more physical activities among students. The focus of the passage is on the role that clean, well-maintained toilets can play in keeping students in school, suggesting the importance of proper sanitation in educational settings.

5. A) Critical

The tone of the passage is critical. The author sternly critiques the sanitary conditions in schools, particularly the lack of clean and functional toilets and drinking water facilities. This criticism is emphasized with phrases like "filthy toilets", "appalling conditions", and "tall talk of improvement in the education sector falls flat".

6. C) The significance of sanitary facilities in schools and its impact on students' education

The passage primarily discusses the dire state of sanitation in schools, specifically in Haryana, and the impact it has on students' attendance, health, and overall education. Key points include the consequences of unhygienic conditions, the relationship between school sanitation and education, and the need for both government and private schools to improve these conditions. Hence, the main theme of the passage is the significance of sanitary facilities in schools and their impact on students' education.

7. Nip in the bud – To destroy early रोकना शुरुआत में

8. "The usage of 'to partake of' is preferred over 'to partake' because a fixed preposition 'of' often follows 'partake.' The meaning of 'to partake of' is 'to eat or drink something'."
- 'to partake' के बदले 'to partake of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'partake' k baad fixed preposition 'of' का प्रयोग होता है जिसका अर्थ होता है 'to eat or drink something' (कुछ खाना या पीना)!
9. **Improve** (verb) – make or become better. सुधारना, सुधरना
- **Progress** (verb) – forward or onward movement towards a destination. प्रगति करना
 - **Advance** (verb) – move forwards in a purposeful way. आगे बढ़ना
 - **Enrich** (verb) – improve or enhance the quality or value of. समृद्ध बनाना
10. **Eventually** (adverb) – in the end, especially after a long delay, dispute, or series of problems; ultimately आखिरकार
- **Initially** (adverb) – originally, firstly, primarily, at first शुरू
 - **Primarily** (adverb) – Chiefly, mainly, principally, mostly, largely मुख्यतः
 - **Originally** (adverb) – First, initially, formerly, firstly मूलतः
11. **Prognosis** (noun) – Outlook, forecast, prediction, anticipation भविष्यवाणी
The word 'prognosis' means a prediction or forecast, which is suitable in this context as the WMO is issuing its projections or predictions for temperature trends
- **Penchant** (noun) – Liking, Fondness, Preference, Taste, Affinity झुकाव
 - **Vocal** (adjective) – Articulate, Expressive, Fluent, Vocal, Outspoken बोलनेवाला
 - **Flawed** (adjective) – Faulty, defective, damaged, blemished, imperfect त्रुटिपूर्ण
12. **Threshold** (noun) – Limit, boundary, borderline, brink सीमा
The word 'threshold' fits this context, it refers to the point or level at which something begins or changes, in this case, the 1.5°C temperature increase
- **Moot** (verb) – to suggest or introduce an idea or proposal प्रस्तावित करना
 - **Hazard** (noun) – Risk, danger, peril, threat खतरा
 - **Reward** (noun) – Prize, award, honor, bonus, bounty पुरस्कार
13. The pronoun 'their' is grammatically correct here as it refers to 'world leaders' (plural). Option A 'it's' is the contraction of 'it is' or 'it has', which doesn't fit the context. Option B 'its' is a possessive pronoun typically referring to an inanimate object or abstract idea, which isn't the case here. Option C 'his' would refer to a single male, which doesn't agree with the plural 'world leaders'
14. **Poise** (to) (verb) – be ready and prepared to do something. तैयार होना
In this context, 'poised' means ready or prepared to do something, which aligns with the following phrase 'to heat the globe beyond 2°C'.
- **Uphold** (verb) – Support, endorse, back up, stand by, sustain, समर्थन करना

- **Expand** (verb) – Increase, grow, enlarge, extend बढ़ाना
- **Contend** (verb) – Argue, assert, maintain, insist, claim दावा करना

15. **Brace** (for) (verb) – Prepare, gear up, get ready, steel oneself तैयार होना

'Bracing' in this context means preparing for something difficult or unpleasant, which aligns with the following statement about potential lower monsoon rainfall.

- **Enhance** (verb) – Improve, amplify, augment, boost, elevate बढ़ाना
- **Culminate** (verb) – End, conclude, climax, peak, चरम बिंदु पर पहुंचना
- **Settle** (verb) – Resolve, solve, conclude, determine, निपटाना

16. B) **QRPS**

Q: Sentence Q starts by setting the context that stubble burning incidents have increased with the wheat-sowing season approaching

R: Sentence R further builds upon this by specifying the location, Punjab, and suggests the failure of authorities to control the situation.

P: Then, Sentence P provides a backstory: NASA's warning through images of farm fires in the state. It establishes what the authorities thought at the time they received the warning, forming a bridge to Sentence S

S: Finally, Sentence S concludes by explaining the authorities' reasoning behind their inaction: they believed the problem was not serious and that strict action would be inappropriate due to the agitation over farm laws

17. D) **SPRQ**

S: The sentence 'S' sets the tone of the paragraph, discussing the necessity of opposition in a democracy.

P: Following this, sentence 'P' introduces the specific issue of the Supreme Court's verdict on Shaheen Bagh protests, relating it to the general idea of peaceful protests in a democracy presented in the quote in sentence 'S'.

R: Sentence 'R' then elaborates on the specific legal position that relates to this right in the Indian constitution.

Q: Finally, sentence 'Q' provides additional information on 'R', detailing the limitations placed on these rights, thus concluding the paragraph

18. C) **SRQP**

S: The sentence S sets the background of the issue, introducing China's military activities in various regions that were discussed in the Quad ministerial meeting in Tokyo

R: Then, sentence R talks about the response to this situation by the Quad nations, their intent to form a strong institution, and China's reaction to this.

Q: Next, sentence Q further expands on the role of the Quad, the collective vision for an 'open and inclusive' Indo-Pacific, and the potential risk of being seen as an anti-China coalition, with the US taking the lead.

P: Lastly, sentence P gives a comparison between the way the US and other Quad members are addressing the issue, which is a fitting conclusion as it speaks to the nuances of the situation and the diverse approaches of the countries involved.

19. **A) QRSP**

Q: it starts by stating the main subject, the inauguration of the Atal Tunnel (Q)

R: then moves to describe the tunnel's significance and engineering prowess

S: The paragraph then provides historical context on when the idea of such a project was first proposed

P: finally details when the decision to construct the tunnel was taken

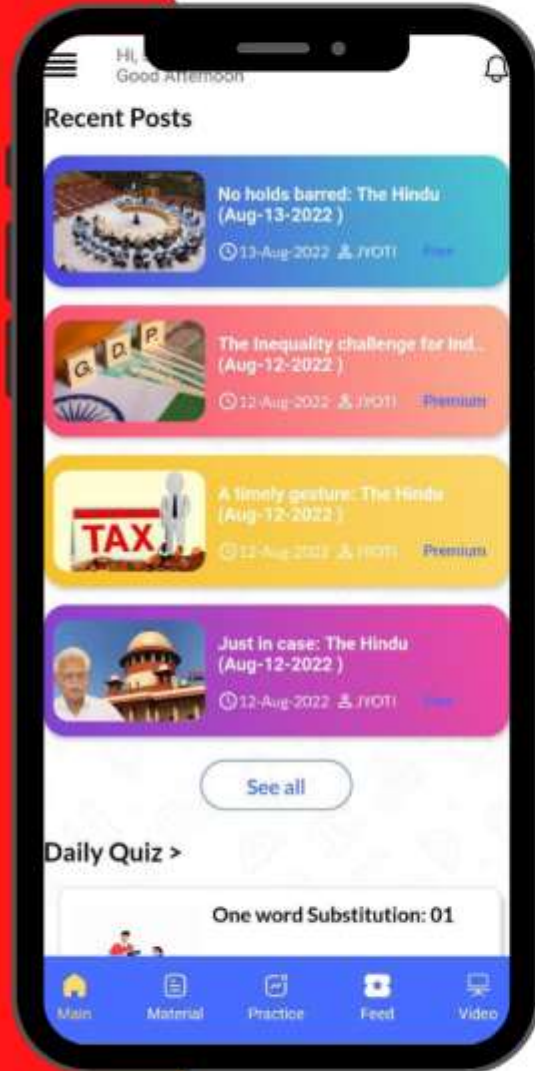
20. **B) QSRP**

Q: Sentence Q introduces the issue about the lack of clarity over farm laws and the effects it's having on certain farmers, setting the stage for the rest of the paragraph.

S: Sentence S then elaborates on the situation by describing the BJP-JJP government's decision and how it aligns with the timing of paddy procurement in Punjab, which continues the discussion initiated by Q.

R: Sentence R follows this up by describing another fallout of the issue - the Shiromani Akali Dal opting out of the government, thus increasing the tension around the topic introduced.

P: Finally, Sentence P concludes the paragraph by stating that the Congress government is considering legal options to challenge the aforementioned bills, suggesting possible future developments.



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