

Manipuri woman dies in Mumbai's KEM hospital

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, May 7

Saya Begum, a 58-year-old woman from Manipur, who had accompanied her husband to Mumbai's KEM Hospital for the treatment of her husband for COVID-19, reportedly passed away on late Tuesday night. Begum and her husband Ali Ahmed from Kairang Khombok Maning Leikai in Manipur, were residing in a local hotel here for the last couple of days.

Dr Pravin Bangar, Senior Administrative Medical Officer, KEM Hospital said that whether Saya Begum died of COVID-19 or other morbidity complications is being verified.

As per the formalities the last rites are required to be performed at the nearest crematorium/burial ground and only 5 persons are allowed to be present at the funeral. Besides, the body has to be packed in a plastic bag, if it has to be buried. The burial of a body

packed in a plastic bag delays early decomposition of the body and prevents further transmission of the virus. If the body has to be taken out of the Mumbai city's limits, the relatives of the deceased have to make own transport arrangements, following all the mandated guidelines and all advised precautions, as given for the disposal of dead bodies of Covid-19 patients. Further details were awaited.

At least 8 dead, hundreds fall sick after as toxic gas leaks in a chemical plant in Vishakhapatnam

Agency
Vishakhapatnam, May 7

Eight people died and around two hundred people fell sick in a major leak of Styrene vapour from a private Polymers Limited plant at R R Venkatapuram village near Gopalapatnam in Vishakhapatnam. The incident occurred in the wee hours of today affecting at least five villages in the vicinity as the impact of the leak spread over a five-km radius.

Most of the villagers, including children, suffered irritation in eyes, breathlessness, nausea and rashes due to leakage of Gas.

Vishakhapatnam district in charge minister K Kanna Babu, quoting the King George Hospital doctors, said those undergoing treatment were out of danger.

Around 60 persons were admitted to the King George Hospital in Vishakhapatnam.

Many others were taken to private hospitals in the city for treatment.

Vishakhapatnam Joint Collector K. Venugopal Reddy said people from R R Venkatapuram village

have been fully evacuated and shifted to other places.

Several police personnel, who came for the rescue operation, also suffered symptoms like breathlessness, irritation in eyes and fell unconscious.

The incident happened when some workers of the plant were making preparations for the reopening of the unit following easing of the ongoing lockdown restrictions.

When the leakage came out, the workers sprayed water as the first step but in vain effecting most of the people while in fast asleep.

District collector Vinay Chand said that the immediate priority is to arrest the leak and ensure proper medicare to the affected people.

Teams of NDRF, police are working on bring the normalcy in those effected areas.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is

visiting the hospital and the affected areas in short while to monitor the situation personally.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan expressed

shock on the accident.

President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed sadness at the news of gas leak in a plant near Vishakhapatnam which has claimed several lives.

He extended his condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for the recovery of the injured and the safety of all.

He expressed confidence that the administration is doing everything possible to bring the situation under control at the earliest.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has expressed deep distress by the loss of lives due to the gas leak in Vishakhapatnam.

He expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wishes for speedy recovery of those taken ill.

In a series of tweets, Mr Naidu said he spoke to Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy.

They assured him that needed assistance is being given to ensure safety of the people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today took stock of the situation in Andhra Pradesh's Vishakhapatnam following gas leak from a chemical plant.

He spoke to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and assured all help and support.

Mr Modi also spoke to officials of Home Ministry and NDMA and said the situation is being monitored closely.

Meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority convened by the Prime Minister in wake of the situation is currently underway.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah are also present in the meeting.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed his condolences to the families of deceased in the

Vishakhapatnam Gas leak mishap.

Terminating the incident as disturbing, Mr Shah said that Home Ministry is continuously and closely monitoring the situation. He informed that he has spoken to NDMA officials and concerned authorities and has asked them to provide all required assistance to the State to tackle the situation.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased due to the gas leak at a Private firm in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh today.

Mr. Reddy interacted with the Chief Secretary and DGP of the State and took stock of the situation.

He has instructed NDRF teams to provide necessary relief measures. Mr. Reddy also spoke to the Union Home Secretary and has asked him to provide all the required assistance to the state.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao has expressed deep shock over the Vishakhapatnam gas leakage accident.

He said it was an unfortunate incident and expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

He wished speedy and early recover of those fell ill due to the gas leakage.

Meanwhile, Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Satya Narayan Pradhan has informed that the source of Gas leak in the

Private Plant at Gopalapatnam in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh has been plugged.

He said that NDRF has been able to rescue people out of the affected area.

Mr. Pradhan informed that the regional response team along with state team jointly carried out the rescue operation.

Donations to CM's COVID relief fund

IT News
Imphal, May 6

Donations to CM's COVID-19 Relief Fund is coming from different sections of the society. President, Manipur Pastoral Development Fellowship donated Rs. 115,000, Former Football Player's Association donated Rs. 50,000, New Economic Evolution of the World Investor Team donated Rs. 100,000, MSPDCL donated Rs. 1,387,722, MSPCL donated Rs. 1,244,521, Ningombam Babu Singh, Spl. Class Contractor PWD, Thoubalokram & N. Nanda Singh, Ward Member Ward No. 1, Thoubal Municipal Council donated Rs. 100,000.

The Chief Minister has expressed profound thanks to all those who have contributed to the fund.

Blood donation camp held at Ukhrul

IT News
Imphal, May 7

A One day Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was held today at Blood Bank and Transfusion Unit, District Hospital, Thoubal. The blood donation camp was organized by Indian Red Cross Society Thoubal District Branch in connection with the observance of World Red Cross Day 2020. The camp was organized under the theme, "Keep Clapping for Volunteers". Dr. Ksh. Manglem Singh, former Chief Medical Officer, Thoubal, Shri W.

Ibohah Singh, former District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, and Shri K. Sadananda Singh, Secy. IRCS, Thoubal District Branch were attended in the inauguration of the Blood bank. 25 persons including 4 female donated their blood voluntarily during the camp. K. Sadananda Singh, Secy, IRCS, Tbl Br. explained about the importance of voluntary blood donation and need for regular donation. He also thanked all the blood donors for donating their blood voluntarily.

MHA issues guidelines for movement of Indians stranded outside as well as those stuck in India

New Delhi, May 7

Home Ministry has issued SOPs for movement of Indian nationals stranded outside

the country and also for persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad for urgent reasons. As per the SOPs, the priority will be given for travel from abroad to compelling cases in distress, including migrant workers who have been laid off.

People faced with expiry of short term visas, those with medical emergency, pregnant women and elderly will also be given priority. The cost of travel will be borne by travellers. Before boarding, all travelers will have to give an

undertaking that they will go mandatory institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days on arrival in India.

At the time of boarding the flight, all travellers will undergo thermal screening and only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board. Registration on the Arogya Setu app has been made mandatory for all passengers.

During the journey, all passengers will have to follow strict social distancing and hygiene protocols.

On arrival in India, they will be screened and passengers found to be symptomatic will be immediately taken to medical facility.

If they test negative after 14 days, they will be allowed to go home and will undertake self-monitoring of their health for another 14 days as per the protocol.

The SOPs for persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad for urgent reasons say that they too will have to undergo thermal screening and strictly adhere to the health protocols.

JFA mourns demise of journalist Padmeswar Chitrakar

IT News
Guwahati, May 7

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) expresses grief at the demise of senior journalist Padmeswar Chitrakar last evening (6 May 2020) in the city after suffering from a brief illness. The forum also wishes an early recovery to another city based scribe Mozahidul Haque, who is presently undergoing treatments at Dispur Hospital, Ganeshguri.

Chitrakar was working for a news channel NewsTimeAssam till his demise. Earlier he was engaged with Dainandini Barta, Gana Adhikar, Dainik Janasadhan, Dainik Pratibedan, Aji, Jagrita, Amar Pragati, Saptahik Krishak Bondhu etc. Born at Simaluguri in Sivasagar district,

Chitrakar left behind his wife Bina Chitrakar with a host of close relatives and well-wishers.

On the other hand, Haque started his journalism career with Sandhya Batori (Natan Dainik) and later worked for Asomiya Khabar for a longer period. He is suffering from nephrology related complications for some time. Financial limitation and ongoing lockdown have prevented him from adopting next phases of treatment which is otherwise emerged very much essential.

"With Chitrakar, we have lost the third journalist to ailments in Assam (after Pranjal Hazarika from Jorhat and Bhaskar Dutta from Lakhimpur) during the nationwide lockdown," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria adding that media persons should not ignore necessary (healthcare) preventive measures for themselves along with their families.

PMGKAY – Status of lifting of food grains by states from FCI

IT News
Imphal, May 7

During the ongoing crisis owing to Covid-19 Pandemic, one of the most important initiatives of Govt. of India is the announcement of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) providing free food grains to the affected population. The salient features of the scheme are:

· Government of India would not allow anybody, especially any poor family, to suffer on account of non-availability of food grains due to disruption in the three months.

· 80 crore individuals, i.e.,

roughly two-thirds of India's population would be covered under this scheme.

· Each one of them would be provided double of their current entitlement over the next three months.

· This additionality would be free of cost.

Under the scheme, about 120 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) food grains are being distributed to the vulnerable sections of society across the country affected by the pandemic. Government of India has ensured that all priority households (PHH) under NFSA gets double their

usual allocation during three months of April, May and June 2020 along with each Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiary getting an extra 5 Kg/month than their normal quota of 35 Kg per card per month. There has been enthusiastic response from the state governments against this scheme and a quantity of 69.28 LMT has already been lifted upto 06.05.20.

Govt. of India is incurring an expenditure of about Rs. 46,000 crores covering the cost of food grains, costs of its procurement, storage & transportation as well as distribution upto the point

of delivery to the intended beneficiaries at the fair price shop (FPS). Total cost of operations starting from cost of the grain paid to the farmer upto payment of commission to FPS shop owners is borne by Govt. of India at the rate of about Rs 39 per kg for rice and about Rs. 28 per kg for wheat. This entire food support scheme is implemented by the Government of India without any financial burden on the State Governments.

The PMGKAY covers 24.57 lakh beneficiaries in Manipur (AAY 2.01 lakh & PHH 22.56 lakh) which is about 87 percent of the total

population of the state as per 2011 census. The allocation of rice under PMGKAY for Manipur @ 5 kg per beneficiary is 12283.91 MT (AAY 1002.500 MT & PHH 11281.405 MT) per month for three months (April to June). In terms of monetary value of the food grain allotted to Manipur at economic cost of Rs. 39 per kg comes to Rs.47.91 crore per month.

The Government of Manipur has fully lifted allocation for the month of April 2020 but no grain has been lifted under the scheme for the month of May as on 06.05.2020.

★ Editorial

Normalizing the act of humanism

The biggest travesty of humans is arguably its delusions of invincibility. If anyone still has any lingering doubts about this unfortunate fact, one doesn't have to look no further than the public places across the country right now. Just a little over a month ago, the world withdrew into its shell as the Covid-19 pandemic started wreaking havoc and the most brilliant minds and all the technologies failed to bring out a definite cure. The much-talked about vaccine or cure is still eluding the scientists, researchers and laboratories. There has been growing instances of re-infection which poses a very grave risk in itself, and while even the most advanced and developed nations are grappling with the unfortunate fact of their helplessness against the ravages of a virus, our country has been fairly successful in containing the transmission of the disease to a manageable level as of now. Manipur has had it easy so far as only two infected persons have successfully been treated and cured, and no new case of infection of Covid-19 has been reported so far. And with the gradual lifting of the crippling lockdown imposed by the central government in the wake of the initial spread of Covid-19 a little over one and half months back, it is clearly evident that while we have started shedding the panic and fear we experienced at the outset, we have failed to learn our lessons, and that it is human nature to resist change if it is beyond our comfort zone. And despite the obvious fact that the new regulations regarding the social interactions, personal hygiene and resource utilization is the future, we still try and reclaim our old habits. We have failed to learn to embrace the new future in all aspects of our lives—social, personal, professional or financial. It would do well for the general public to be reminded about the Spanish Flu of 1918, considered the most severe pandemic in history which lasted for two years, in three waves with 500 million people infected and 50 million deaths. Most of the fatalities happened in the second and third waves. The people felt bad about the quarantine and social distancing measured imposed at that time and rejoiced when these restrictions were lifted after the first wave, and the rest is the unfortunate history we should not forget. It would be our greatest folly if we forget this present crisis also.

It would also be pertinent to mention, and perhaps, share the lessons learnt from 'Event 201'—a high-level simulation exercise conducted on October 18, 2019 for pandemic preparedness weeks before the Covid-19 outbreak in China, by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation along with John Hopkins Centre for Health Security and the World Economic Forum (WEF). The exercise revealed that governments, businesses and public health leaders were all woefully unprepared. Indeed, the new pandemic has revealed the need to devote resources for prevention of future pandemics as well as develop new models of implementation of shutdowns and other emergency measures that does not disrupt or excessively impact economies. Any and every policy should complement nature and not compete with it. Let us leave a better world than the one we inherit. We owe this to our children.

AR distributes Essential Household items to local



IT News Imphal May 7

Tulihal Bn under the aegis of 9 Sect AR and IGAR(S), distributed essential food items to the labourers and needy villagers at *Bomdiar Mayai Leikai on 06 May 2020. In continuation of its sustained efforts to help the local populace in these grievous times, all necessary efforts are being made by the bn to assist the civil populace. Tulihal COB of Tulihal Bn under distributed essential grocery and food items to 140 households. The goodwill drive was followed by a lec on precautionary

measures to stop spread of COVID-19.

The local population were briefed about the importance of hygiene, sanitation and social distancing. They were also made aware about various steps and precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The goodwill gesture of Tulihal Battalion under 9 Sect Assam Rifles was welcomed by the local population. They also expressed gratitude for the continued and relentless support and help extended by the bn under the aegis of 9 Sect AR and aspired for such endeavours to be continued in these times of acute struggle.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

The Press Freedom Index Burkina Faso Way Ahead Of India: A.Surya Prakash : Specialist-Democracy Studies

The Paris-based NGO, *Reporters Without Borders* (RSF), has come out with its latest Press Freedom Index to judge the degree of freedom available to journalists in different countries of the world. This index places India, the world's largest, the most vibrant and liberal democracy and arguably the most plural society, down below at number 142 among 180 countries assessed for this evaluation. This is two notches below 140, the position occupied by India a year ago.

Why, according to RSF, does India perform so poorly vis-à-vis other nations, when it comes to press freedom? This calls for some serious analysis of the RSF's understanding of democracy and the methodology that it employs.

The RSF website says the degree of freedom available to journalists is determined by pooling responses of experts to an elaborate questionnaire devised by it. The quantitative data is combined with qualitative analysis on abuses and acts of violence against journalists during the period evaluated. The criteria evaluated in the questionnaire, which has 87 questions, are pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information. This on-line questionnaire is sent by RSF to 18 NGOs across the world and a network of 150 correspondents and to researchers, jurists, human rights activists chosen by these correspondents. About ten per cent of the respondents are foreign correspondents working in the country being evaluated. But, here is the catch. The sample size for the survey for a country like India, which has 1330 million citizens, is too small and little is known of the respondents chosen. We shall deal with this a little later.

First of all, one would presume that a good democratic environment is sine qua non for a free press, but, strangely, there is little or no weightage in this index for fundamentals of democracy like a republican government; an inviolable commitment to freedom of speech and expression in a country's constitution; an unambiguous constitutional commitment to pursuit of secular values; separation of religion and State; the fundamental right to equality before law and the equal protection of the laws; gender equality; and the fundamental right to life and personal liberty. It appears as if RSF does not see the need for any of this while judging whether there is press freedom in a country, and this is its biggest flaw.

This becomes obvious when one sees the ranking of certain nations, which cannot even qualify as democracies, way ahead of India. Here are some samples:

While the RSF Index places India at 142, Burkina Faso is over a hundred points ahead at number 36. This is the country which was identified by the State Department of the US sometime ago in its *Trafficking in Persons Report* saying that slavery continued to exist in Burkina Faso and that Burkinabe children were often the victims. It said slavery is an entrenched institution with a long history that dates back to the Arab slave trade. In 2018, an estimated 82,000 people in the country were living under "modern slavery"

according to the Global Slavery Index. The Republic of Maldives is placed at number 79 in the CSF Index. Its constitution states that Islam is the religion of the State of Maldives and "no law contrary to the tenets of Islam shall be enacted in the Maldives". Article 9 (d) of the Constitution declares that "a non-Muslim may not become a citizen of the Maldives".

The Sultanate of Oman, which is at 135 in the Index, is an Arab, Islamic nation. Article 2 of the constitution of Oman says the religion of the State is Islam and Islamic Sharia is the basis for legislation. The system of governance is Sultani, hereditary in the male descendants of Sayyid Turki bin Said bin Sultan, provided that whomever is to be chosen from amongst them as successor "shall be a Muslim, mature, rational and the legitimate son of Omani Muslim parents".

In other words, it is neither a secular state nor a republic and there is no gender equality because the constitution ordains that the head of state shall be a Muslim male.

The Index places Comoros at number 75. The constitution says the Comorian people solemnly affirm their will "to draw from Islam, the religion of the state, the permanent inspiration of the principles and rules that govern the union.....". Now, let us look at some nations where the State is unabashedly wedded to Christianity. Argentina is at number 64. Its Constitution declares that the federal government supports the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion.

The Constitution of Malta, which is at number 81 in the RSF Index declares that "the religion of Malta is the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion". It says the authorities of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church "have the duty and the right to teach which principles are right and which are wrong" and that religious teaching of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Faith shall be provided in all State schools as part of compulsory education.

The Kingdom of Norway tops the RSF list and is declared the nation with the maximum press freedom. Its constitution describes its form of government as a limited and hereditary monarchy and says "Our values will remain our Christian and humanistic heritage". Laying down the eligibility criteria to be head of State in Norway, it says "The King shall at all times profess the Evangelical-Lutheran religion". It also grants immunity to the head of state - "the King's person is sacred; he cannot be censured or accused". In other words, it is not a secular state; it is not republican; and one of the basic fundamentals of democracy—equality before the law and the equal application of the laws (Art 14 in the Indian Constitution) — has no place in Norway.

The constitution of Denmark, which is number 3 in the CSF list declares that the Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be the established Church of Denmark, "and as such will be supported by the State". This means that "it is based on the Holy Bible, various ecclesiastical symbolic books, and the teachings of the German theologian Martin Luther.....". Today, the State has a duty to support the Church of Denmark financially and in other ways".

Greece is at number 65 in this Index. Article 3 of its constitution declares that "the prevailing religion in Greece is that of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ. The orthodox Church of Greece, acknowledging our Lord Jesus Christ as its head, is inseparably united in doctrine with the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople and with every other Church of Christ of the same

doctrine". Is not separation of church and State and religion and State central to democracy? This is one of the problematic issues with the RSF Index, but there are many more.

How can India, which has secularism embedded in the preamble of its constitution and which has no state religion, and which elects its head of state in the best traditions of egalitarianism lag behind hereditary monarchies wedded to churches and gender inequality? Further, how can theocracies and religion-based states which cannot even be classified as democracies, have press freedom better than a secular democracy like India? These are questions that first come to mind when one looks at the RSF's laboured effort at producing a Press Freedom Index.

The RSF Website claims that press freedom in countries is judged under six categories. On the touchstone of pluralism, it measures the degree to which opinions are represented in the media. If that be so, RSF wants us to believe that there is greater pluralism in media in theocracies and Islamic states and states where even citizenship is denied to non-Muslims than in India, the most pluralistic society in the world!

The second touchstone is media independence — to measure the degree to which media is able to function independent of politics, government, religious power and influence. And, if we go by the RSF Index, "religious power and influence" on the media in Argentina, Malta, Denmark etc where the State is wedded to the Church and in Maldives, the Sultanate of Oman, Comoros etc where the State is wedded to Islam, is far less than in secular, democratic India!

The third criterion is "media environment and self-censorship". Liberal India has been witnessing a media boom over the last few decades, so much so, that the total print order of publications in the country has crossed 430 million copies in dozens of languages and the nation boasts of over 800 television channels of which a quarter deal with news and current affairs. The respondents are expected to analyse the environment in which journalists work. Can there be another nation which boasts of such media diversity? Also, when it comes to self-censorship, I hope RSF is aware of the consequences of non-compliance with self-censorship in Islamic States and theocracies. I hope it also has some idea of self-censorship that is de rigueur in the U.K vis-à-vis the Queen and in nations like Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark etc regarding their royalty. Self-censorship is anathema to a diverse, vibrant democracy like India.

As regards the "legislative framework" that governs media, starting with the Indian Constitution and a plethora of laws made by parliament, the media is provided with adequate insulation to enable it to work freely and fearlessly. "Transparency" is another criteria on which India scores high. There is a great deal of divergence of political opinion

in the editorial positions taken by Indian media houses, just as in the USA and other democracies and no media house ever hides its stripes. One can see all the colours of the rainbow in the media bouquet including those committed to communism, socialism, centrism, the right wing etc. Also, to those who complain of lack of transparency, one must say that the boot is on the other leg. The media was non-transparent in the past because of its excessive left-wing tilt. This stands corrected now because all shades of opinion find their place. In fact, it is this plurality which ensures free flow of information and opinion and it must be said without fear of contradiction that this kind of plurality is simply not available elsewhere. This can also be seen on the social media, well, where there is a virtual free-for-all with the worst abuses hurled at political leaders including with the Prime Minister. If you are looking for "transparency", you will get it in abundance on these platforms, but if you are looking for decency, this is not the place to go!

Finally, the index examined the quality of infrastructure that supports the production of news and information. India is technologically advanced and offers state-of-the-art infrastructure for those who want it. Also, because of its leadership in Information Technology, Indian media companies are building robust social media platforms to take their businesses to new platforms. Apart from all this, the methodology adopted by RSF is highly questionable. It must name its correspondents in each nation; provide the list of respondents along with their social, political, economic background, place of residence etc. Unless the sample is credible, the inferences will be suspect. There are other drawbacks: The core team based in Paris determines the questions and the weightage given to each answer — not a satisfactory situation; RSF does not explain the definition of press freedom. Instead uses terms like press freedom, freedom of information etc loosely; and finally, the questionnaire is so long and exhaustive, that it would leave most respondents exhausted even before the process is over.

Looking at this Index and the manner in which it has been worked out, it must be said that the biggest flaw is the RSF's complete disrespect for the foundational principles of democracy. It seems to delude itself into believing that press freedom can exist in wholly non-democratic environments. For this reason alone, its conclusions must be rejected lock, stock and barrel.

Finally, it must be said that the work of RSF is subjective, biased and non-transparent. But its biggest flaw is the complete disrespect it has for the foundational principles of democracy. It deludes itself into believing that press freedom can exist in wholly non-democratic environments. That is why its conclusions must be challenged. RSF must read the Constitution of India and compare it with other constitutions. It must look at the robust institutions that propel democratic traditions in India and first define democracy itself, before venturing into the preparation of a global index. In other words, it must go back to the drawing board.