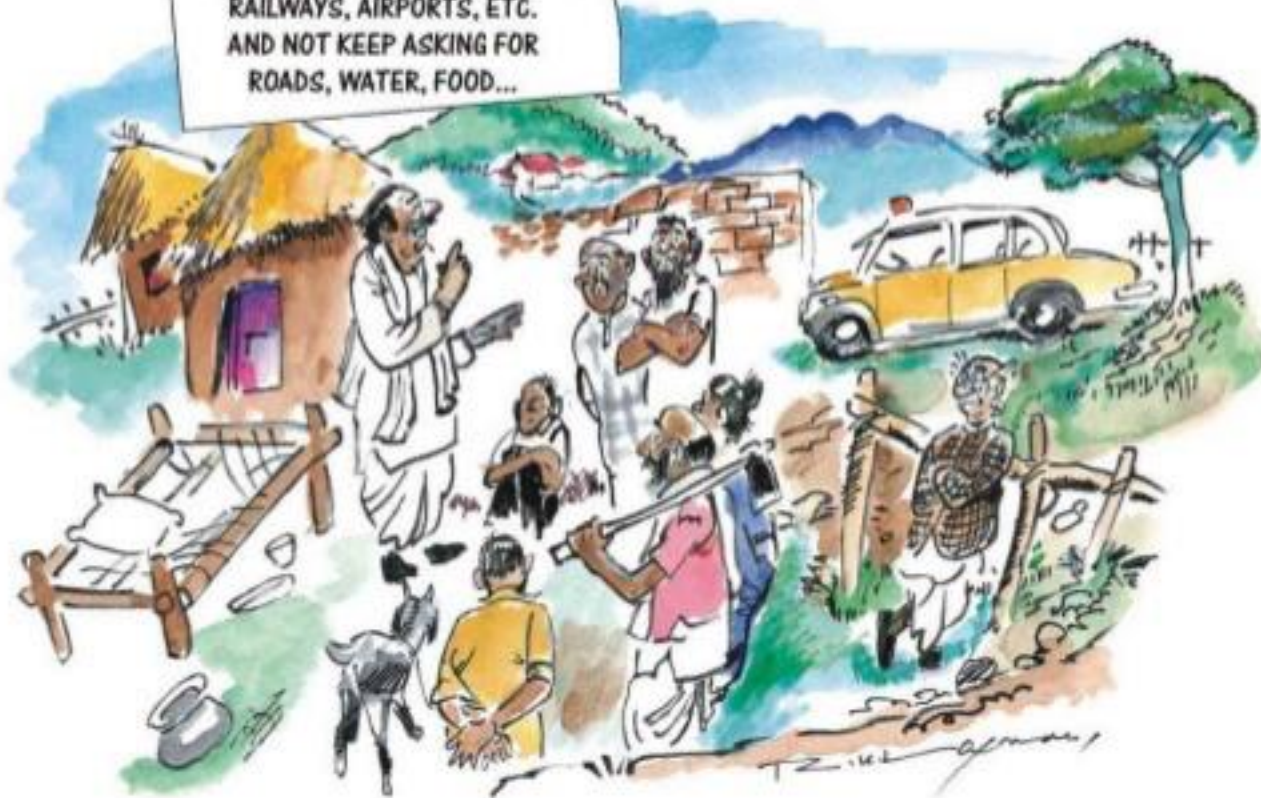




SDGs and State level Reform in India

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YOU MUST HAVE PROGRESSIVE
IDEAS AND DEMAND ELECTRICITY,
RAILWAYS, AIRPORTS, ETC.
AND NOT KEEP ASKING FOR
ROADS, WATER, FOOD...



SDGs

- Agenda 21 - Rio “Earth Summit” 1992
 - Non-binding, voluntary action plan
- Sustainable Human Development
 - “pro-poor, pro-women, pro-nature and pro-jobs”
- Millennium Declaration and MDGs
 - 8 goals with 52 Targets to be achieved by 2015
- Rio Plus 20 Conference
- Post-2015 Development Agenda
 - 17 goals with 169 targets to be achieved by 2030

The process



SDGs v. MDGs

- The SDG framework addresses key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity, and environmental degradation

Global is the Local is the Global



Goals

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goals



Goals

- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goals

- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goals



Goals

- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goals



Goals

- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Embedding the Environment

- Rationale and overarching vision for environmental sustainability
- Integration in all goals and targets

Imperative of SDGs

- Slow Onset and Extreme Weather Events
- <226 million affected per year by disasters associated with natural hazards
- Weather related events
 - 81 per cent of all events
 - 72 per cent of economic losses
 - 23 per cent of fatalities

Forests and Trees Outside Forests

- Concept of sustainability first introduced in forestry science in 18th century
- Vital for achieving SD
 - <1.6 billion depend on forests for food, fuel, medicine and livelihoods
 - 31% of global land area (FAO 2015)
 - 80% of terrestrial biodiversity (Hassan 2005)
 - Second largest storehouse of carbon after the oceans < the atmosphere (FAO 2015)

Forests and CCA&M

- Mitigation - Potential to absorb 10% of global carbon emissions till 2050
- Adaptation – ecosystem services as vital sources of energy, water, livelihoods and biodiversity
- REDD+ including enhancement of forest carbon stocks

6 environmental criteria

- Linkage with socio-economic development
- Decoupling growth from escalating resource use and environmental degradation
- Coverage of issues of irreversible changes in global environment
- Account for current global environmental goals & targets
- Scientific credibility and verifiability
- “Trackable” progress indicators

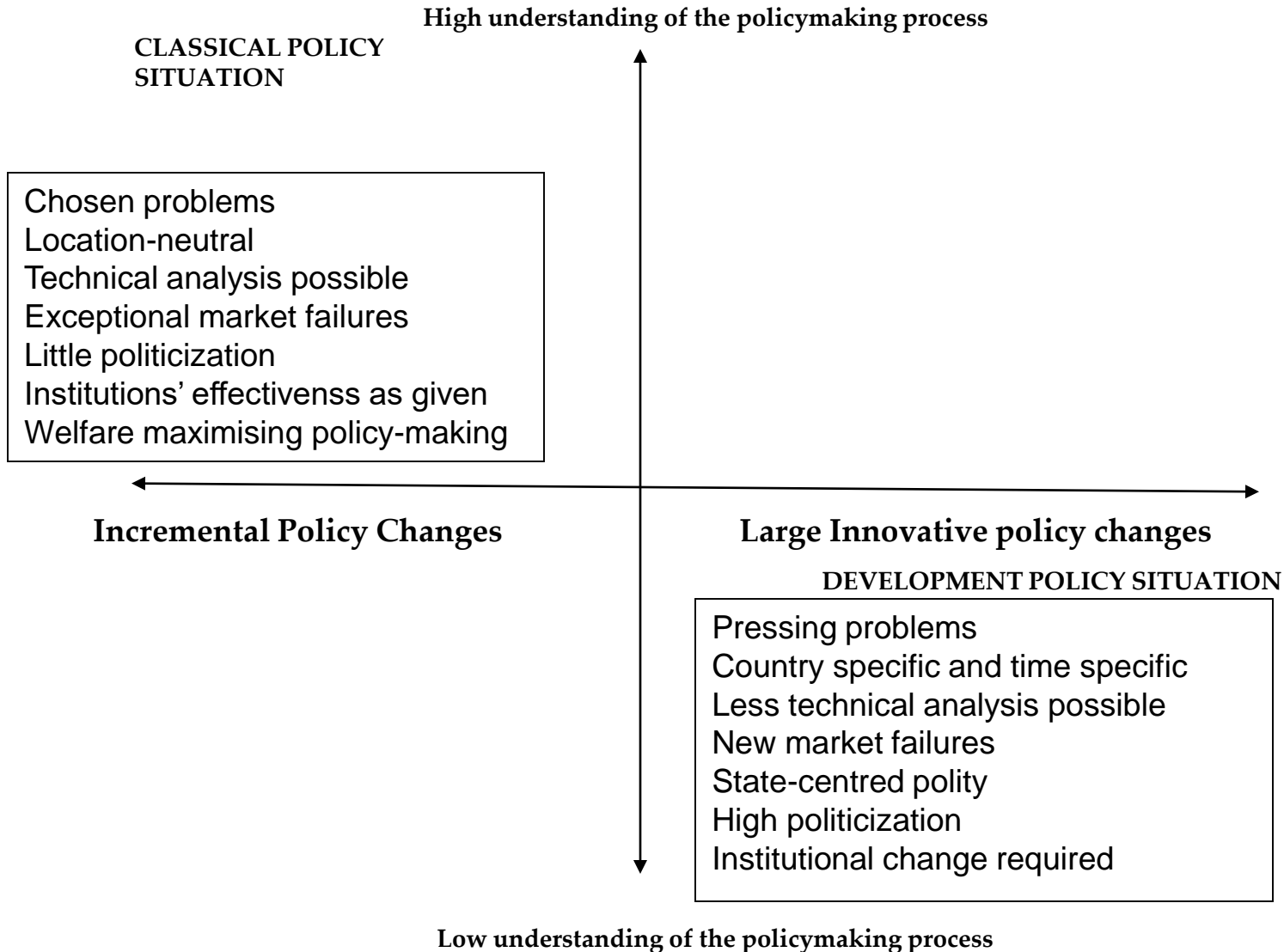
Requisites

- Equally synergistic framework of means for implementation
 - Financing
 - Technology and
 - Investments in sustainable development capacities
- Framework to monitor and review implementation, based on enhanced statistical capacities

Imperatives for SDGs

- Paris Treaty will enable national level achievement of SDGs and Targets
- SDGs sole means of tackling Climate Change
- Climate-Development nexus around poverty, gender equality and energy

Challenge of Local Salience for Public Policy



Why focus on States

- Diversity and disparity in human development
- Control over implementation of programmes
- Key role in decentralized governance
- Key financiers – 57 per cent of government capital expenditure – lower only than China among developing countries (Howes et al 2010)

Drivers of State level Reform

- Reform signals
 - Imposition of hard budget constraint (zero fiscal deficit targets) and increased reliance on private capital flows
 - Onus of decentralization
- Mix of Competition and Cooperation
 - Increased competition for investment
 - Increased common ground vis-à-vis Central Government

The Narrative

- State fiscal reforms catalyzed by increased competition for business and investment since 1990s
- Emergence of regional/ state level parties and end of national parties' hegemony
- Crisis of state finances
 - secular decline in states' fiscal performance since 1980s – further escalated by Fifth Pay Commission

The Narrative

- Similar to the national trend in early 1990s, states' fiscal crisis in late 1990s triggered interest in state level reforms
- Weak coalition governments limited political influence of Centre so “focus state” strategy of donors

Reform vs. Inertia

- Two classical determinants of Public Policy priorities
 - evidence based
 - derived from large scale mobilisation or public demand
- Often not realized due to bureaucratic neglect and political apathy



***“Where is
that Lokpal
file?”***

Institutional Dimensions

- Proliferation of authorities
- Gaps in coordination
- Battle over budgets



**WE HAVE TO REINTRODUCE RED TAPE IN OUR DEALINGS, SIR.
OUR STAFF HAS NO WORK!**

Capacity Dimensions

- Constraints of capacity at district and local level
- Focus on “training” rather than “capacity development”



WE ARE LUCKY, WE HAVE FOUND A PLACE TO LIVE UNDER THIS HOARDING!

Consequences

- Jobless Growth
 - Increase in population in age group 15-59 between was 250 million between 1991-2011
 - Only 100 million new jobs created between 1993-2012, mainly in non-formal sector
- Decline in Female WPR
 - Reduction in gatherable biomass from forests
 - Minimization of role in paddy cultivation due to mechanization

Imperatives

- Improve outcomes of national schemes
 - In 2013-14, poor states like Bihar with five times more poor spent than non-poor states like AP spend less than a third of funds under NREGA
- More effective skill development
 - Currently only 0.2 million youth apprentices against 12 million entering workforce annually
 - Reform apprenticeship law to encourage PPP

Imperatives

- Ease of Business for MSMEs
 - Rationalize rules for marketing and processing of agri-products
 - Role of states in Ease of Business – encourage competition through EBIS
 - Ease of Exit!

Imperatives

- Effective investment in agriculture
 - During 1996-2013, Index of Crop Production increased only 1.5 per cent per annum, in contrast to 4.4 per cent in 1980s
 - Focus on technological innovation and new assets in irrigation, power and rural infrastructure rather than input subsidy and MSP

Imperatives

- Effective investment in agriculture
 - Reverse shift in production base away from low-cost regions
 - Reduce consequent increase in burden of storage and transportation of food-grains
 - Greater focus on poor peasants in low fertility regions

Reforming the Centre

- True spirit of “Cooperative Federalism”
- A Facilitator for state governments and not a ‘Monitor’
- Bridge “Trust Deficit” with state governments - dialogue and not conditionalities
- Leverage NITI Aayog as think-tank and capacity builder for state governments

India

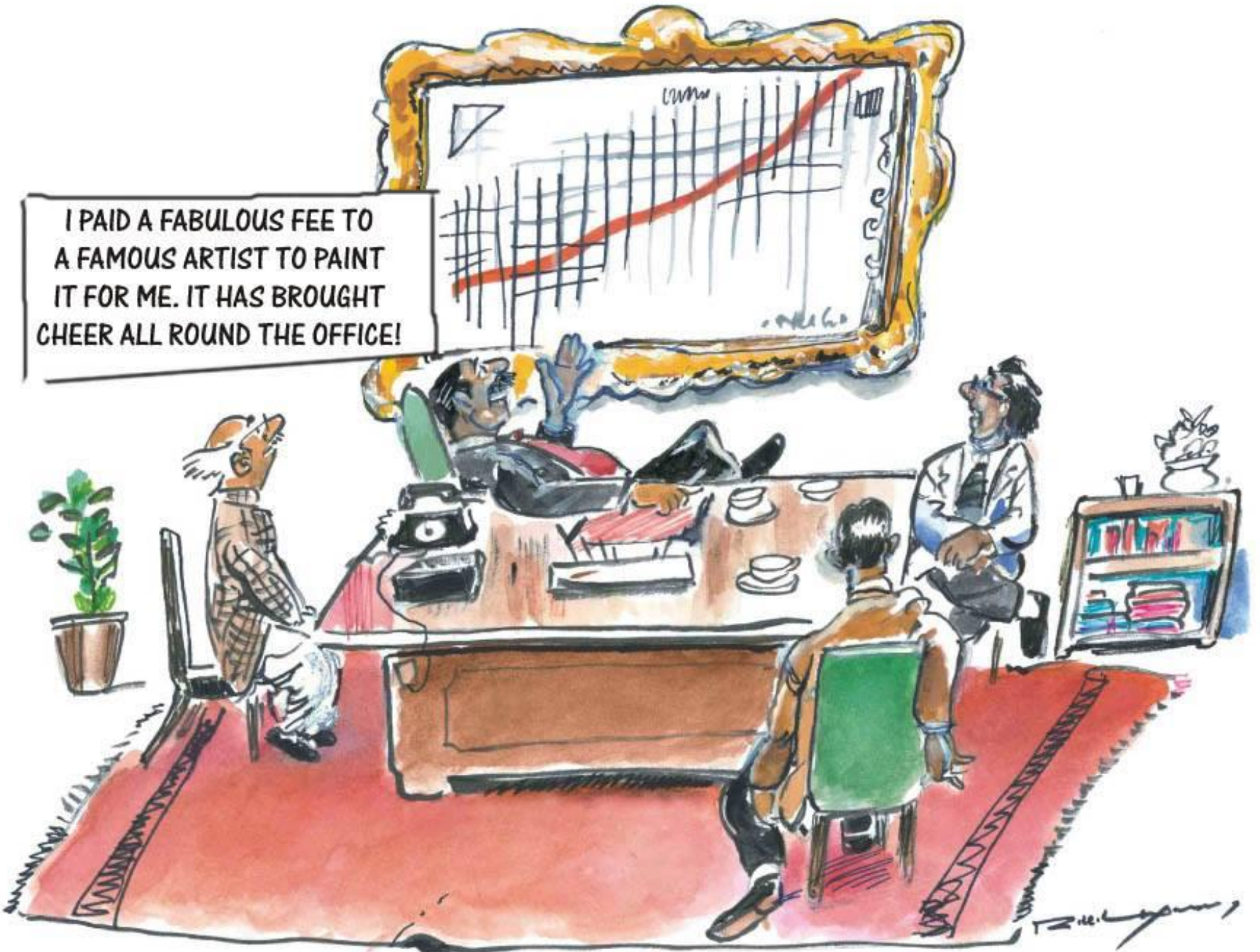
OVERALL SDG PERFORMANCE	Global rank	Score or value	Regional average
SDG Index	110 (of 149)	48.4 /100	54.6 /100

Comparison with other development metrics			
Human Development Index, 2014	130 (of 188)	0.61 /1	0.66 /1
Subjective Wellbeing, 2015	107 (of 149)	4.6 /10	5.1 /10
GDP per capita, PPP, 2015	103 (of 149)	US\$ 6209	US\$ 13672
Global Competitiveness Ind., 2016	55 (of 140)	4.3 /10	4.2 /10
Environmental Perf. Index, 2016	141 (of 180)	53.6 /100	61.3 /100

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



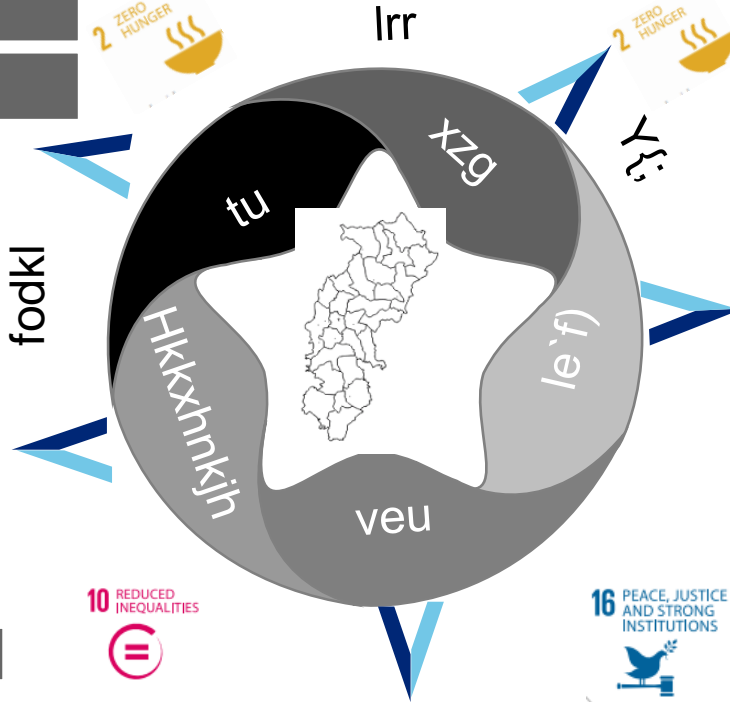
I PAID A FABULOUS FEE TO
A FAMOUS ARTIST TO PAINT
IT FOR ME. IT HAS BROUGHT
CHEER ALL ROUND THE OFFICE!



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The Chimaera of Political Will

- A crisis of imagination engendered by success
- Yesterday's heterodoxy is today's orthodoxy – so new game changers are required
- Imperative to harness “political will” – a shape shifter in a democratic polity
- Need to pick “winners”



Political Will as the trigger for change

- The ghost in the machine of public policy
- “Commitment of actors to undertake actions to achieve a set of objectives – and to sustain the costs of those actions over time” (Brinkerhoff 2010)
- Opinion (framing of issues) plus intensity (strength of public opinion) plus salience (relevance to public choice)

Is public policy looking in the right place for political will??

- Public disenchantment, esp. among the youth – recipe for revolution - “when the people’s assembly becomes a bourgeois theatre, the bourgeois theatre can become the people’s assembly”
- Contrast with continued prayer and petition by public policy initiatives looking for political leverage

Political Will as the trigger for Change

- Both HDRs and DPLs falter on “intensity” and fail to make the link between framing of issues and relevance to public choice
- Paradox of securing government ownership and yet faltering on the score of political will

The right constituency?

- The focus on “champions” also a function of convenience – easier to deal with a smaller number of political actors
- Advocacy and “winning over” focus at national parliament and state legislatures (e.g., Forum for HD)
- India’s governance challenge includes decline in performance of these institutions

To conclude

- SDGs can be met on the ground if there is effective coordination between Centre and States
- Think-tanks and research institutions must engage with central ministries and State Governments to document, track and support SDG action plans