

Promoting Policy Formulation at the State Level in India

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Outline

- Background
- Constitutional framework
 - Federal features
 - Unitary features
- Policy making process
 - Policy making at State level
 - Steps in evolution of policy making
 - SWOT analysis
- Policy environment
- Role of judiciary
- Conclusion

Constitutional Framework

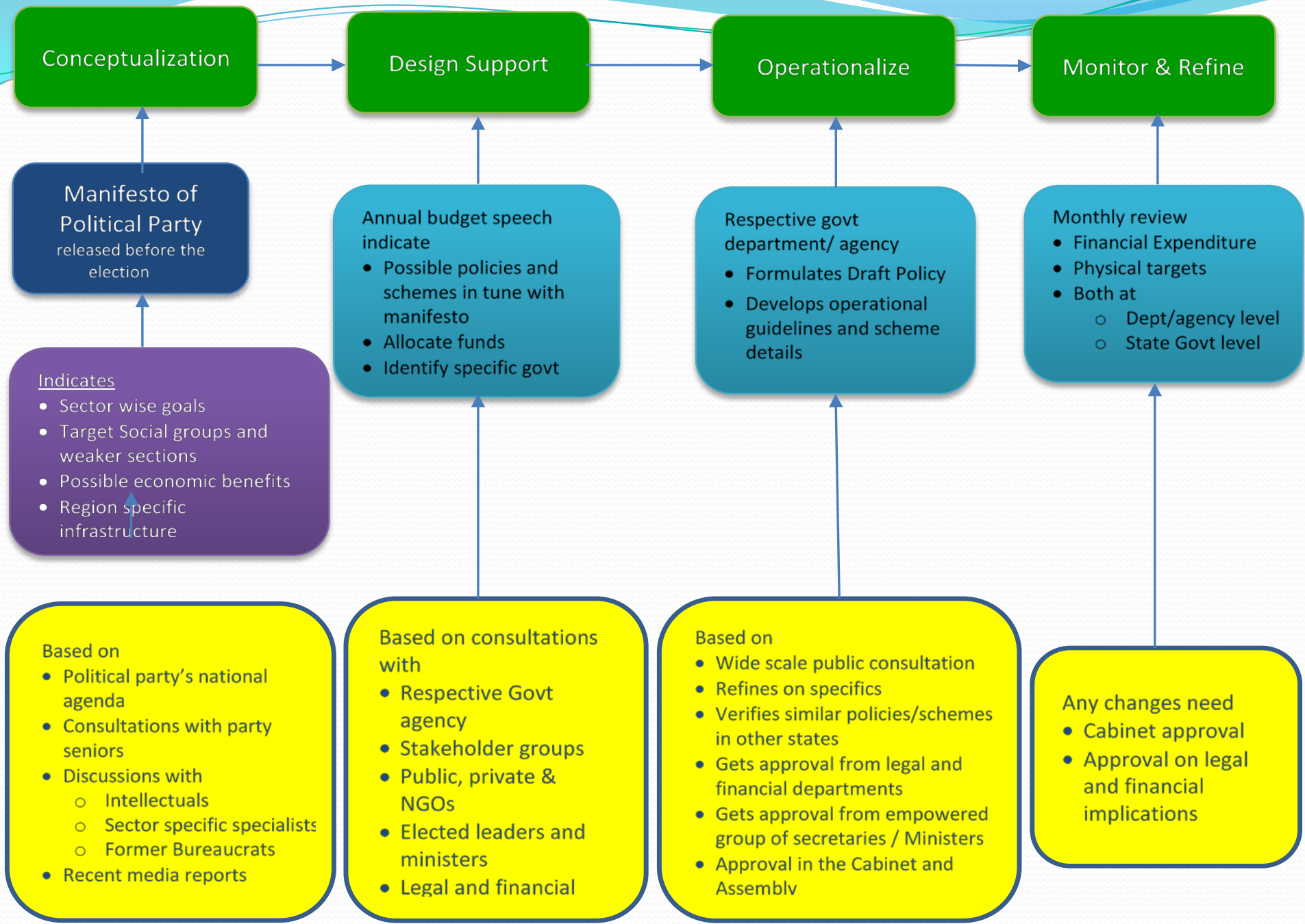
- India is more federal or unitary in character
 - subject of intense debate
- **Federal features**
 - Dual Government
 - Distribution of Powers
 - Supremacy of the Constitution
 - Authority of Courts

Constitutional Framework.....

- **Unitary features**

- Powers specified under central and state lists. But residuary power vested in the Union.
- In constitutional amendments, role assigned to states is minor and in some matters, states need not even be consulted.
- The Union exercises control over the states in various ways
 - Like appointment of Governors, certain laws passed by the state legislatures being subject to disallowance by the President and having the power to redraw the boundaries of the states.
- Officers of the All India Services (IAS,IPS,IFS) serve the union and the state governments but are appointed by and can be removed only by the union government.
- In times of emergency, the Union can exercise enormous powers.

Targeted Policy Formulation Process at State Level



SWOT Analysis of Policy Formulation Process at a State Level in India

STRENGTHS **S**

- High Political willingness
- Works within Rules Framework
- Approval of all concerned departments with legal and financial aspects
- Public consultation process
- If required, sets up semi-autonomous body to execute
- Garnerers both political & bureaucratic willingness

WEAKNESS **W**

- Becomes part of regular process
- Govt depts don't have new set of staff to implement new policy
- Lack of mission mode approach
- Entangles with procedural delays
- Inadequate professional strengths

Needs stable govt

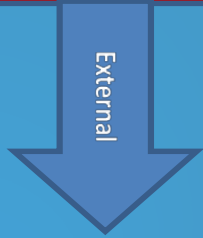
OPPORTUNITIES **O**

- Being in democratic setup options open to introduce new policies
- Willingness for mid-course corrections
- Gets financial support
- Provides implementation mechanism
- Institutionalize the process

THREATS **T**

- Possibility of playing into vested interests
- Owing to poor governance execution remains on paper
- Priorities may change with the change in ministers & bureaucrats.
- Natural calamities may shift the focus & deviate financial allocations

Poor governance affects



Policy environment

- Ideology of the political party + ideas of bureaucracy + existing policy frame
- Proactive groups + vested interests
 - Private or public groups
- e.g. policy for technical education
 - State government focus of protecting poor students
 - Private colleges – capitation fees and profits
 - Agri sector
 - Subsidies, minimum support price, concessions

Role of Judiciary

- Playing important role in policy making for 2 reasons.
 - A) Increasing number of legislations which need to be interpreted whenever they come up before the courts.
 - B) Emergence of more assertive judiciary, at times encroaching on the territory of the executive.
- The courts also tended to intervene in the actual implementation of policies and issue directions to the executive
 - Especially, whenever the state acts arbitrarily without due regard to the law and the constitution.
 - E.,g. policy on mining.

Conclusion

- Public policy covers more than one domain and involve a multiplicity of actors and concerns.
- Resolution of conflicts and interdepartmental coordination are important in making decisions.
- In the process, role of CS at bureaucratic level and CM at political level is crucial.
- In democratic politics, ideas and interests compete and compromises are inevitable.
- In recent decades, increasingly clear that the states are equipped to deliver.
- Need to strengthen policy making at state level and make states to compete for business and reforms, as the era of centre-driven reforms is rapidly coming to a close. (e.g., NITI Ayog)
- In tune with the 14th FC recommendations, states will have flexibility to use central funds where they think it is important.
- To a large extent, the states need to implement crucial development and welfare policies and schemes.
 - Whether it is food security, or land legislation, a manufacturing revival or even toilets for girls in schools, the states can make or mar programmes.



THANK YOU