

The role of coalition politics in shaping federal governance dynamics in India: A critical study

Beena K^{1*}, Dr. Shardool Singh²

1 Research Scholar, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

beenaradhakrishnan73@gmail.com

2 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

Abstract: Government and administration at both the federal and state levels have been revolutionised as a result of coalition politics, which has become an essential component of India's political system, particularly after the year 1989. A shift away from single-party dominance and towards coalition government, which seeks to create more inclusive and representative forms of leadership, has been motivated by the complex social, economic, and political environment of India. This shift has been brought about by the rise of the coalition government. Despite the fact that coalition politics have enhanced political inclusiveness and provided broader demographic representation, they have also brought about challenges such as political instability, policy paralysis, and governance inefficiencies. These challenges have been brought about by coalition politics. On the other hand, coalitions often result in sluggish decision-making and watered-down policies owing to the ongoing need for compromise and debate among coalition members. Coalitions promote involvement in decision-making, but they frequently result in these outcomes. Within the scope of this in-depth examination, a variety of aspects of coalition politics in Indian administration are thoroughly investigated. Political stability and instability, policy formulation and execution, regional representation and federalism, administration and governance, political compromises and corruption, and the influence on key social and economic changes are some of the topics that are included in this category. By looking into these issues within the context of the largest democracy in the world, the overriding objective of the research is to shed light on the benefits and drawbacks of coalition politics as it relates to the government of India.

Keywords: - Coalition politics, Governance, India, Political stability, Policy implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Coalition politics, which has become a hallmark of India's dynamic democratic terrain, is a reflection of the country's complex political dynamics and diverse social fabric. This is because coalition politics has become commonplace in India. At both the national and state levels, several coalition administrations have been established since the country's independence. These administrations have been founded by political groupings that adhere to a variety of philosophies. The purpose of this introductory paper is to examine coalition politics in India, with a particular emphasis on the role that regional parties have played in the formation of these groupings and the structures that control them.

Overview of Coalition Politics in India

Due to the fact that the first-past-the-post election system often results in divided mandates, it is very difficult for any one political party to win a majority in India. As a consequence of this, coalition administrations at the national level are more indicative of the norm than the exception. In order to create a government, it is necessary for many political parties to come together and form a coalition. This, in turn, necessitates the formation of concessions, agreements over power distribution, and talks.

OBJECTIVE

1. To How Coalition Politics Influence India's Federal Governance Dynamics.
2. To look at how regional parties negotiate inside coalitions, get concessions on policies, and forward their agendas.

RESEARCH METHOD

The literary survey is based on structure and functioning of India's majority rule government, despite the fact that the term "federal" is conspicuously missing from the constitution that established India. The nation's politicians and the people who draughted the Constitution were practically unanimous in their belief that a powerful central authority required. The basic reason for this is that globalisation is a process that never ends. Individuals who are in favour of globalisation and those who are opposed to it are the two primary factions that have emerged as a result of the diverse perspectives that have been expressed throughout the discussion. At this point, it is of the utmost importance to ascertain if the Indian state is capable of leveraging capital to promote competitiveness, growth, and human development or whether it is unable to succumb to the capitalist takeover of globalisation. The capacity of coalition governments to maintain their stability and effectiveness is contingent upon the cooperation of national and regional parties. Having said that, this collaboration does not come without its fair share of challenges. Conflict resolution is one area that might potentially benefit from collaboration are studying.

RESULT

Globalization and Indian States

Policymakers, philosophers, and social activists from all over the world, including those from India, have shown an interest in the many conversations that have been taking place about globalisation and the national government of India. Since the 1990s, the impact that globalisation has had on the Indian state has been the topic of debates which have taken place on a variety of different levels. During these conversations, a number of different interest groups communicate their perspectives, and each side makes an effort to enhance its case by presenting arguments that are founded on facts and concerns. These debates revolve on the aspects of globalization's impact on the Indian state, including both its positive and negative aspects. globalisation is a process that never ends, and various concerns and reasons are impacting the interaction between the Indian state and the forces of globalisation at different periods. However, the basic reason for this is that globalisation is a process that never ends. Individuals who are in favour of globalisation and those who are opposed to it are the two primary factions that have emerged as a result of the diverse perspectives that have been expressed throughout the discussion. At this point, it is of the utmost importance to ascertain if the Indian state is capable of leveraging capital to promote competitiveness, growth, and human development or whether it is unable to succumb to the capitalist takeover of globalisation. It has been claimed by a significant body of literature as well as by a number of thinkers from Asia and Africa that the state ought not to be absorbed by but rather ought to function autonomously in order to steer wealth and activity.

Federal Structure in India

It is a republic that operates on the principles of parliamentary democracy, and India is comprised of 29 states and 7 union territories. This country is comparable to a continent due to the vastness of its land and the high population density. The majority of people in India are able to speak more than one language. India has a total of 216 dialects in addition to its recognised 114 languages, and millions of people are able to communicate in all of these languages. Because of the large number of individuals who belong to disadvantaged groups and who have never experienced or even heard of the notion of monetary success, the nation is home to a diverse array of cultural traditions. There are around 850 languages that are spoken on a daily basis in India, while the government of India officially acknowledges 1,652 different

dialects. Since the year 1956, a number of states have been developed from the states that were already in existence. This was done with the intention of achieving the democratic goal and developing dynamic administrations. As a result, the concept of maintaining unity in the face of diversity is essential to the functioning of a federal organisation, especially in a poverty-stricken country. India's most serious problem is figuring out how to preserve unity while yet recognising the country's diversity. In order to determine the level of respect that should be shown for unity, one should consider the extent to which diversity may be appreciated without causing disruption to peace. The goal is to ensure that the federal government is able to use its authority to the fullest extent possible without interfering with the interests of the other states and agencies.

The notion of "federal" is most closely tied to the structure and functioning of India's majority rule government, despite the fact that the term "federal" is conspicuously missing from the constitution that established India. It would seem that the nation's politicians and the people who draughted the Constitution were practically unanimous in their belief that a powerful central authority was required. Article one of the constitution of India declares that the country is a union of states, and it also presupposes that there is a strong central authority established. In accordance with the assertions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, an architect and head of the Indian Constitution Draughting Committee, the word "Union" was intentionally used. The definition of India as a federation was a priority for the committee that was responsible for draughting the document. This agreement was not initiated by the component governments, such as the United governments of America. The Indian federal system is distinct from other large federations in that it is directed towards the Union. This distinctiveness is a result of the prominence and dominance that was put upon the Union. Since then, there have been a few commentators who have said that this has resulted in the establishment of a "Unionised Federation" in India. In the general plan for the allocation of power, the federal government is given greater weight than the individual states. Power is distributed between the federal government and the various states. The fact that Granville Austin wishes to use the word "Indian federalism" is simple to understand in light of the aforementioned information. In contrast to cooperative federalism, which results in the formation of a strong federal government, Indian federalism does not necessarily result in weak provincial governments that primarily function as administrative agencies for federal programs. When compared to the Central order, the image of the State is somewhat more dominant. The processes of

unionisation and regionalisation in India happened concurrently, and this is what is referred to as federalism in the country. A core component of federalism is the existence of two or more levels of government, each of which incorporates certain characteristics of "shared rule" for some purposes and regional "self-rule" for other reasons. All of this begins with the objective of bringing together people of different backgrounds and communities. In the context of a more comprehensive political unity, this means recognising, preserving, and developing the identities of individuals.

India attained its independence in the year 1947. In the years after India's independence, the Indian National Congress served as the country's dominant political party. In a time when one political party was in control of Indian politics, the concept of cooperative federalism evolved as a way to define the relationship that existed between the federal government and the different states. This relationship consisted of two parties working together to find answers to problems that were shared by both parties. The various levels of government cooperate with one another in a cordial manner in order to make a contribution to the advancement of the nation via combined efforts and cooperation. There was a relationship that was horizontal between the federal government and the various states around the country. For the purpose of ensuring that there is a relationship between the central government and the states, the constitution of India incorporates institutions such as the inter-state council, the Zonal council, the seventh schedule, and other similar structures. Federalism based on competition came after federalism based on cooperation.

The federal government, the states themselves, and other competitors from the states all followed in their footsteps. Through speech, debate, and discussion, a new dynamic has evolved in the relationship between the federal government and the states. This new dynamic is characterised by the fact that it has arisen. A new spirit of equal collaboration emerged in place of antagonism between the majority and the minority in Indian politics after a protracted period of ups and downs in the country's political landscape. As a result of this sudden change in emphasis, Rajni Kothari made the following observation: "the issue of federalism is gaining importance." In addition, it was clear that regionalisation in politics was seeing a growing trend. The Indian states are hurrying to make measures that are inspired by the concept of competitive federalism in an attempt to attract firms and speed up the clearance process for projects that are already in progress. The Centre provided them all the assistance they needed to get started on an autonomous effort that was off-course. As an additional point of interest,

a few of governments have taken it upon themselves to streamline procedures in order to directly attract more investment for the expansion of their respective states. For example, the Gujarat Vibrant Submit was designed specifically to entice investors from a wide variety of developing countries to provide financial support for the development. In an effort to attract foreign investment at a pace comparable to that of domestic investment, Andhra Pradesh is working to liberalise its investment restrictions. The result is that under the competitive federalist system, every state is free to seek its own expansion at the cost of the progress of the other states.

Evolution of Regional Parties

Regionalism in Indian politics may be traced all the way back to the pre-independence period, when the provinces and princely kingdoms enjoyed a significant amount of autonomy. This historical period is considered to be the beginning of regionalism. Following India's attainment of independence, the country's founding fathers draughted a constitution that would safeguard the country's extensive cultural legacy while also embracing the country's many ethnic groups and languages. But the linguistic variables that were involved in the reconfiguration of the state throughout the 1950s and 1960s helped prepare the way for the development of new regional identities and aspirations. During this time period, the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra were all established as linguistic states with the purpose of serving as hubs of political activity in the area. What factors have contributed to the expansion of regional parties? There are a lot of factors that have contributed to the emergence of regional parties when it comes to Indian politics. In the first place, the disparities in economic growth and development that exist across states have made the grievances and requests for more independence or decentralisation even more pronounced. It is common for regional parties to emerge in order to communicate these concerns and get support from the people in the surrounding area. At the same time, regional organisations have emerged to fill the political hole that has been created by national parties, which have been unable to adequately address the issues and interests that are distinctive to their respective regions. In the third place, coalition politics has become the norm as a result of the decline of single-party dominance and the fragmentation of the political system that occurred throughout the 1990s. This has made it possible for regional parties to grow. In addition, the development of transport and communication technology has made it possible for parties to establish panregional networks of support and has played a role in the propagation of regional ideologies.

Emergence of Key Regional Players Across Different States: The political landscape of India's many regions is shaped by influential personalities hailing from a variety of Indian states, each of which has its own history, culture, and political practices. In Tamil Nadu, a state located in the southern region of India, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) have been the most influential political parties for a considerable amount of time. In this state, they have advocated for the teachings of Dravidian philosophy and fought for the recognition of Tamil national identity. There was a similar situation that took place in West Bengal, where the Trinamool Congress (TMC) emerged as a political party that was incredibly strong and challenged the national parties that had been in existence for a very long time. By appealing to the castes of voters, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have both been successful in establishing sizeable voter bases in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Not only have these regional parties had an impact on the politics of their respective states, but they have also had a significant impact on the national level, often playing a pivotal role in the administrations of coalitions. It is possible to attribute the expansion of regional parties in India to a number of factors, including historical legacies, socio-economic dynamics, and political demands. The decentralised nature of India's democracy is shown by the fact that regional parties continue to have a significant effect on governance and policy-making at the same time as they are prominent actors in coalition politics.

Electoral dynamics and coalition formations

An analysis of voter participation reveals the emergence of regional parties at the following levels: Over the course of the last several decades, there has been a tremendous growth in the status of regional parties in India's overall political landscape. In states where regional parties are well-established and suit the demands of the local community, electoral patterns reflect the growing prominence and popularity of regional parties. This is particularly true in areas where regional parties are well-established. The results of the elections demonstrate that regional parties consistently have a sizable majority in both the state legislatures and the Lok Sabha, which is the lower house of India's parliament. According to this trend, people favour regional parties over national ones because localised parties are better able to handle the issues that they face and fight for their own interests. **Seat Distribution and Alliance building:** When it comes to coalition politics, regional parties are the kings when it comes to the building of alliances and the distribution of seats. In districts where they have a strong presence, regional

parties have the potential to influence the vote due to the fact that they have a disproportionate amount of support in some regions. Therefore, in order to form coalitions, national parties who are interested in doing so are need to engage in strategic negotiations with their regional counterparts. In order to ensure that their interests are adequately represented in the government, regional parties make use of the electoral strength they possess in order to bargain for an acceptable number of seats and cabinet posts inside the coalition.

Governments that are of significant coalition and are led by regional parties: Regional parties have the potential to have a considerable effect on national alliances, as shown by a number of high-profile incidents recently. The United Front government was established in 1996 by a coalition of regional and leftist parties, which represented a significant departure from the traditional tendency of national parties to dominate the political landscape. Due to the leadership of regional heavyweights such as H.D. Deve Gowda and I.K. Gujral, the government was able to offer stable governance for a brief period of time. In a similar vein, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has relied heavily on the support of regional allies in order to achieve central authority. Both the electoral strategy and the policy agenda of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have been significantly impacted by key regional partners like as the Janata Dal (United) of Bihar and the Shiv Sena of Maharashtra. Case studies like these demonstrate that regional parties have the ability to influence the formation of governments, the formulation of policies, and the outcomes of governance. These case studies also emphasise the important role that regional parties play in coalition politics. One of the defining characteristics of Indian democracy is its plurality, which may be attributed, in large part, to the fact that regional parties continue to have a significant effect on coalition politics and play a vital role in the democracy.

Influence on Policy-Making

An examination of the coalition agreements that regional parties were able to reach and the policy compromises that they were able to achieve One of the most important advantages of coalition governments is the ability of regional parties to make policy concessions that are representative of the aspirations and expectations of their members. Within the context of coalition discussions and negotiations, it is not uncommon for minor regional parties to make use of their electoral strength in order to convince smaller national parties to give up on topics that they are battling over. Some examples of what may be called compromises are the

provision of funds for state-specific development projects, the assurance of the preservation of regional languages and customs, and the modification of federal policy in order to meet problems that are special to regions. There is a possibility that regional parties would include similar provisions into coalition agreements in order to guarantee that the sentiments of their people are taken seriously and that their interests are respected on a national level.

The Impact of State and Local Party Platforms on the Policies of the Federal Government: The participation of regional parties in coalition governments has a significant influence on both the formulation and implementation of national policy throughout the electoral process. Regional party agendas contribute to the expansion of the policy discussion at the national level in a number of ways. One of these ways is that they represent issues and concerns that are specific to each region. To exemplify this idea, regional parties that originate from more rural regions might advocate for programs that assist the well-being of farmers and agricultural subsidies, while parties that originate from more urbanised areas could place more of an emphasis on industrialisation and growth that is centred on exports. Regional political parties are actively involved in the debates of coalitions, where they advocate for policies that are significant to them and that are in accordance with the mandates they received in the elections. Due to the fact that national policies often include a variety of regional perspectives, the result is a policymaking process that is both more complicated and more inclusive.

The following are examples of regional parties that have been successful in advocating for state-specific policies at the federal level: Regional parties have long been national champions of state-specific issues and concerns. They have done this by using their positions in coalition governments to promote the interests of their electorate. To provide an example, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) of Odisha has been a strong proponent of the state's special status. They have cited the need of more federal assistance in order to address the challenges that the region is experiencing in terms of development. Parties from the northeastern states, such as the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) of Assam and the Mizo National Front (MNF) of Mizoram, have also pushed for the preservation of indigenous peoples' rights in places that have been destroyed by violence. These parties have called for peace-building initiatives, the development of infrastructure, and the preservation peace. These examples demonstrate how regional parties have the potential to be influential agents of change by mobilising people in support of issues at the state level and using their political capital to influence policy at the federal level. Regional parties play a significant role in the formation of coalition administrations. These

parties influence the policy-making processes by raising concerns that are specific to their states, negotiating policy concessions, and contributing to the development of national policies that are inclusive. They ensure that the governance structure of India effectively reflects the various interests and aspirations of the country's regions, which contributes to the enhancement of India's democratic fabric brought about by their presence.

Challenges and Opportunities

There are a number of challenges that regional parties must overcome in order to effectively navigate the complex terrain of coalition politics. There are many limitations, one of which is that members of the coalition have conflicting objectives and ideological differences with one another. It is common for local parties to concentrate on issues that are specific to their particular areas, but national parties may seek more broad ideological aims that may not necessarily align with the issues that are prevalent in their own regions. In order to resolve these differences and arrive at a compromise on policy concerns, which often leads to instability and conflict within coalitions, it may be a tough effort to undertake. The management of coalitions is a delicate balancing act for regional parties, which is made even more difficult by the competition between parties and the quest for political space, both of which further exacerbate feelings of tension.

Regional political parties, despite the challenges they face, possess inherent qualities that provide them opportunities to have a greater voice in the leadership of the country. It is thus imperative that regional parties make advantage of these strengths in order to expand their sphere of influence. In the first place, they are in a better position than their national opponents to garner support and develop electoral bases. This is because they have strong roots in the community and broad understanding of the dynamics that are inherent to the local environment. Second, since regional parties typically hold the balance of power in coalition governments, they are in a position to negotiate favourable terms and get policy concessions that are in the best interest of their constituents. Additionally, regional parties have the ability to swiftly adapt to altering political contexts and may be able to boost their effect on significant policy topics by developing strategic relationships with other parties that share their views.

The capacity of coalition governments to maintain their stability and effectiveness is contingent upon the cooperation of national and regional parties. Having said that, this collaboration does not come without its fair share of challenges. Conflict resolution is one area

that might potentially benefit from collaboration. However, there is potential for cooperation and conflict resolution if constructive communication and approaches for reaching an agreement are used. Regional parties may actively foster cooperation in a number of ways, two of which are to prioritise the national interest above limited local issues and to build common ground with coalition partners on broad policy objectives. The presence of good leadership and statesmanship, which includes being open to alternative points of view and being willing to compromise on contentious issues, may also help to cultivate a culture of cooperation among the members of the coalition.

Regional parties are presented with both opportunities and constraints when it comes to coalition politics. These constraints include ideological disputes and conflicts within parties, both of which have the potential to restrict their capacity to have a considerable influence on the national government. If regional parties are able to navigate these challenges in a skilled and pragmatic manner, it is possible that coalition stability and the development of inclusive policies that are able to satisfy the diverse requirements of India's regions would be significantly advanced. It is essential for national and regional parties to collaborate and find solutions to problems in order to build a cooperative environment that contributes to the common prosperity of the country.

Implications for Indian Democracy

An Examination of the Role That Regional Parties Play in Promoting Federalism and Decentralisation of Power: When it comes to the struggle for federalism and decentralisation of power in India, regional parties play an extremely important role. Regional parties in India contribute to the pluralistic spirit of democracy by expressing the many cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic identities that can be found throughout the several states and regions that make up the nation. It is through their advocacy of issues and demands that are specific to each state that they contribute to the development of a system of government that is more accommodating to various groups and people, as well as better equipped to fulfil the desires and objectives of those organisations and persons. In addition, regional parties advocate for the federal system that is established in the Indian Constitution. They do this by advocating for the devolution of further authority and resources to the states, which serves as a check on the centralisation of power. The improvement of political representation and inclusion is significantly aided by the participation of regional parties. A significant advance is made by

the fact that they provide a voice to individuals who are marginalised and to places that are under-represented. When it comes to governance, regional parties provide a more community-focused and localised approach, offering a stronger voice to a larger range of socio-cultural groups than national parties, which tend to appeal to a more homogenised audience. Regional parties also represent a greater variety of socio-cultural elements. Regional party agendas provide a voice and a voice for people that have been historically oppressed, such as the Dalits, the Adivasis, and linguistic minorities. Therefore, regional parties contribute to the development of a democracy that is more participatory and representative by ensuring that the political process in India is representative of the different social fabric of the nation.

Taking a Look at the Ways in Which Coalition Governments Balance the Interests of Local and National Communities: As a result of the combination of political forces and strategic considerations, the power dynamic that exists between national and regional interests in coalition governments, which is always shifting, is constantly changing. Regional parties often have a great deal of influence when it comes to coalition arrangements. This is because of the vast electoral bases and regional mandates that they possess. This makes it easier to ensure that problems and points of view from the area are taken into consideration at the national level. In order to maintain control of this power dynamic, it is vital to possess excellent negotiation skills and to be receptive to a variety of points of view. At the same time as they assert their independence and fight for state-specific goals, parties at the regional level acknowledge the need of coalition compromise and shared decision-making. Coalition governments are most effective when they foster the development of consensus and cooperative governance by striking a balance between the issues of the country and those of the area.

The influence that regional parties have on the democratic process in India is multifaceted and extensive. Not only do they promote federalism and decentralised governance, but they also boost political representation and inclusion. In addition to this, they contribute to the process of ensuring that regional interests are taken into consideration during the formulation of policies, which ultimately results in a more equitable distribution of power and resources. Regional parties are essential to the development of India's democracy and the improvement of the well-being of its citizens because they are able to navigate coalition politics with ease and foster cooperation among a wide variety of stakeholders.

Case Studies and Comparative Analysis

United Front Government: The United Front government was established in 1996, and ever since then, regional parties have been playing an increasingly significant role in the politics of national coalitions. An alliance of left-wing and regional parties joined together to form the United Front, with the intention of challenging the long-established monopoly of national parties. Due to the leadership of regional heavyweights such as H.D. Deve Gowda and I.K. Gujral, the government was able to offer stable governance for a brief period of time. The formation of coalitions is primarily dependent on regional alliances, as seen by the participation of regional parties from a variety of states, such as the Samajwadi Party of Uttar Pradesh and the Janata Dal (Secular) of Karnataka.

National Democratic Alliance (NDA): Furthermore, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is an additional example of a coalition in which regional parties played a major role. In 1998, a large number of regional organisations came together to establish what is now known as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The Shiv Sena, which is based in Maharashtra, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which is based in Andhra Pradesh, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which is based in Punjab were among these parties. It was with the assistance of these regional allies that the coalition headed by the BJP was able to capture control of the federal government. When it comes to coalition leadership, the fact that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is able to build long-lasting coalitions with regional parties in many states indicates how important regional distinctions and specifically adapted methods are.

United Progressive Alliance (UPA): An further illustration of the way in which regional parties in India exert influence on coalition politics is the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), which is headed by the Indian National Congress. Important regional allies of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) when it was created in 2004 and re-elected in 2009 were the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) of Tamil Nadu, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of Maharashtra, and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of West Bengal. The contribution of these regional allies, who assisted in the formation of policies and the management of coalitions, was very beneficial to the development of the UPA's governance agenda. In order to keep the government stable, it is essential to satisfy the many regional interests that exist and to strive

towards reaching an agreement among the members of the coalition. This is something that the UPA discovered the hard way.

CONCLUSION

There is a significant and intricate role that regional parties play in coalition politics in India. These parties have an impact on the development of democracy and the governing process. Within the scope of this research, the formation of regional parties in India, the ways in which these parties influence coalition building, policymaking, and governance, and the implications of all of these factors for the democratic system in India have been investigated. Regional parties, because to their electoral popularity and regional mandates, have emerged as significant players in coalition governments, playing a significant role in influencing national agendas and gaining policy concessions. As a result of their collaboration in coalitions, they are able to effectively reflect the vast cultural variety that exists within India and ensure that leaders from all regions of the nation are aware of their concerns. In addition, regional parties contribute to the advancement of federalism and decentralised governance by concentrating on issues that are specific to each state and by fighting against the concentration of power. The improvement of political representation and inclusion is achieved by the provision of opportunities for communities and groups that are under-represented to contribute to the electoral process.

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