

Reconciling Coalition: Dharma, Good Governance and National Security

by
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The 2009 elections in India were considered a landmark in several ways. Once the results came in the collective sigh of relief from a large majority of the Indian population was audible across the length and breadth of the country. While welcoming the results there is a need to examine as to how these landmark elections that paved the way for governance stability came about. How did this result, that brought a 'collective sigh of relief' across the length and breadth of the country, come about? If one were to examine the composition of the 400 million or so voters who cast their votes it would be seen that the large majority of them, possibly over 80 per cent, were from among the weaker segments of society, the lower middle class, the semi-destitute and most of them below the poverty line (BPL voters). As a guess based on inputs gleaned from the media it can be assumed that the depressed classes—the have-nots of society—generally turned out in full strength or very large numbers to cast their vote.

The same unfortunately cannot be said about the middle class—the more affluent sections, the haves. Their voting percentage seldom exceeds 25 per cent on an average; actually it may be lower. From the foregoing analysis one comes to the ineluctable conclusion that the so-called unlettered backwards constitute the backbone of Indian democracy, physically by their sheer mass as well as for their commitment to democracy. They are rooted in India's soil. Their better-off upper crust brethren are more part of the new market-capitalized global fraternity that leaves much the heaviest foot-print on the fast depleting resources of the planet. It is the former who, yet again,

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