Friends of Lok Satta Meet
People Power
“Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever did”

Margaret Mead
Why is governance vital?

The Government spends Rs. 1800 crores everyday.

Government employs 70% of the 27 million organized employees.

Fiscal deficit (Union and States) - 10% of GDP.

50% Union tax revenues - interest payment.

Only 5% of GDP spent on Health, Education and Social Security.
Can Economic Reforms Alone Deliver?

Smaller and more focused government will help

But government still has a significant role to play
Irreducible Role of Government

Law and Order
Justice
Rule of Law
School Education
Primary Healthcare
Basic Infrastructure
Key Governance Reforms

- Comprehensive Electoral Reforms
- Empowerment of Local Governments
- Instruments of Accountability
- Speedy and Efficient Justice
Why No Action So Far

- Ignorance
- Fear
- Inhibition (elitism)
- Lack of common platform
How can we overcome Lok Satta?

- Trust
- Sense of equality
- Common fate
- Knowledge
- Credible common platform
Grass Roots Initiatives

People’s Watch
Swarajya
Election Watch
Citizen’s Charters in A.P. - 9 departments
A compensation of Rs.50/day for delay in services – first time in India
Short delivery at petrol stations all over A.P. – benefit of Rs. 1 crore/day
Stakeholders empowerment – WUA, SEC
Toilets for every household – over 2 million toilets were built in the last 3 years
Enabling Societies law benefiting 165,000 organizations across the state
Impact

Influenced public discourse on power reforms in A.P.

Local successes – BRS in Kukatpally; Central excise corruption in small industries in A.P.

Right to Information – Legislation in 2002

Election Watch – arresting criminalization in politics; forced change of candidate for ZP chairperson in Kurnool

Common electoral rolls for local, State and national elections
In A.P. Tendered Vote – proof of rigging and repoll

All parties in AP are now committed to local government electoral reforms

EC accepts in principle to make post office nodal agency for voter registration

Advocacy for political funding reform - nationwide impact on public discourse

Election Watch in Maharashtra (Agni), Tamilnadu (Citizen’s Action Network), and W.B. (Lok Satta)
Impact

20-25% passive support in AP

Wide name recognition throughout the State

Credible platform for National Network

Specific, measurable changes

Replicable Techniques
How to Build a State-Wide Movement?

- A group of credible persons with excellent track record
- Deep insights into political and governance process
- An agenda that is acceptable to all segments
- Collective informed assertion on specific issues
- Full time commitment and professionalism
- Building a platform with brand image
What Next? - A.P.

Mobilizing 100,000 active citizens and activists

Advocacy for Right to Information Legislation

Expansion of Citizens Charters

Empowerment of Local Governments

Advocacy of Legislation for Gram Nyayalays
What Next? - A.P.

- Police reforms at state level
- Focus on delivery of school education and public health
- New Stake-holder empowerment laws
  - Marketing committees
  - Empowering ward committees
Major Activities at National Level

- Advocacy for political funding reform
- Advocacy for regulation of political parties
- Changes in voter registration procedure - post office as nodal agency
- Measures to curb polling irregularities
- Alliances & National platform for governance reforms - Karnataka, Gujarat, M.P., Orissa and Delhi
Road Map to Reforms

- Specific reforms in 3-4 key states
- Building of state-wide movements in key states
- Creation of national platform
- National campaign for a few specific goals
“The punishment suffered by the wise who refuse to take part in the government, is to suffer under the government of bad men.”

Plato
Thank You

Together

We Will Make A Difference