

The Lok Satta Party today called upon people not to yield to despair in the wake of Parliament's failure to adopt the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill but work relentlessly for the creation of strong anti corruption mechanisms at the national, State and local levels.

Had the Government, all political parties and civil society acted with greater grace, tolerance, dignity and wisdom, we would have had by now strong, independent and durable institutions to combat corruption, said Lok Satta Party President Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan in a media statement.

"But all is not lost since political parties have to respond to people's deep urge for a corruption-free society. Our differences are far narrower than they appear to be. We can bridge the differences and pave way for the anti corruption mechanisms in the Budget session of Parliament. In addition to creation of the Lokpal, Lokayuktas and local ombudsmen, there is need to strengthen the anti corruption law providing for confiscation of properties of the corrupt, institution of judicial and political reforms and empowerment of people at the grassroots level."

Conveying his greetings to all sections of people on the eve of the New Year, Dr. JP said that in the march of a great and ancient nation, there are inevitably many triumphs and tribulations. "Let us on this occasion recall our triumphs and count our blessings. If we work together, we can and will surely overcome hurdles and build a better India for the future of our children."

Dr. JP said that although there are many problems confronting us, there are many exciting opportunities. "In spite of recent hiccups, we are recording a reasonably high growth rate. Our people are hard working, youth idealistic and families, bastions of stability and harmony. We have the technology and resources to overcome many challenges ahead of ours.

"But for us to realize our potential, we have to transcend petty differences of caste, religion, region and language and think of ourselves as Indians first. We need to transcend rigid orthodoxy and embrace innovations and practical solutions to eliminate poverty and create wealth. Above all, we should be determined to work together, overcoming narcissism of small differences and focusing on the big picture. Our incapacity to overcome petty differences in the last few months has cost the nation dear," Dr. JP pointed out.