Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan is a physician by training who went into the Indian Administrative Service in the aftermath of the Emergency and the failure of the Janata Experiment. He was a topper in the IAS exam. During the 16 years of distinguished public service in various capacities, he acquired a formidable reputation in the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh.

Some of his major accomplishments while in government

- As Joint Collector, he created full and permanent employment for 8000 youth from displaced families of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- As Collector of Prakasm District, he was instrumental in the creation of a record 2,00,000 acres of irrigation, the largest such program with direct participation of people
- As Collector of East Godavari District, he spearheaded the reconstruction of the drainage and irrigation network in Krishna and Godavari deltas.
- He served as Secretary to both the Governor and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- He worked on strengthening of the credit cooperatives and making them independent of government control.

His other accomplishments include several major policy initiatives, including

- Empowerment of parents in schools
- Speedy justice through rural courts
- Economic reform and restructuring of AP
- Development of the Infocity in Hyderabad
- The much-acclaimed law for self reliant cooperatives (1995)
- Empowerment of local governments and stakeholders

Despite an impressive personal achievement, Dr Narayan's experience in government convinced him that a faulty governance process was the biggest hurdle to India and Indians achieving greater success. And what India needs today is a fundamental change in the rules of the game and not a periodic change of players.

To translate his vision into practical reality, he resigned from Service (IAS) in 1996, and worked with like-minded colleagues for the formation of Lok Satta. Lok Satta has now emerged as India is leading civil society initiative for governance reforms.

Lok Satta movement has been the driving force in achieving the following governance reforms in recent years, among others:

- Substantial reduction in short delivery of petroleum products in all retail outlets (1998 – 2003)
- Significant improvements in voter registration (1999 – till date).
- Disclosure of candidate details, and the disclosure law (2003).
- Political funding reform law of 2003 in the wake of Tehelka expose.
- Strengthening the anti-defection provisions (X Schedule changes, 2003).
- Limiting the size of the Council of Ministers (91st Amendment, 2003).
- Right to Information Act, 2005. National Rural Health Mission (2005).
- Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2009.
- The Lokpal Act, 2011.
- Cancellation of 122 licenses of 2-G spectrum by Supreme Court, and revision of policy to ensure allocation of all natural resources through competitive bidding (2012).
- 97th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing autonomy to cooperatives (2012).
- 121st Amendment creating the National Judicial Appointments Commission (2015).

Dr. Narayan has been felicitated with several laurels. These include:

- Honored with the "Rotary Manav Seva Award 2002" for his crusade against corruption
- Awarded the "Yudhvir Memorial Award 2002" for his outstanding contribution to the cause of good governance.
- Awarded the "Dr.Rustam D.Ranji Rotary Award" by Rotary Club of India in 2003.
- Awarded the "D. Ch.Tirupathi Raju Memorial Award 2004".
- Honored with the prestigious "Dr.Pinnamaneni Sita Devi Foundation Award".
- Honored with the "Bharat Asmita Jana Jagran Shreshta" - in the area of Public Awakening.
- Felicitated by the Hyderabad Software Exporters Association, Hyderabad in recognition of his contribution to the growth of IT industry.

Dr Jayaprakash Narayan has served on several national panels. Notable among them are:

- The National Advisory Council (NAC) 2004 - 2006.

- Vigilance Advisory Council constituted by the Central Vigilance Commission, 2004 - 2008.
- The second Administrative Reforms Commission was constituted by the Government of India from 2005 - 2007.

Dr Narayan, through the Foundation for Democratic Reforms, Lok Satta movement and other fora has been actively pursuing reforms in service guarantees in government offices, education, healthcare, local government empowerment, judicial and police reforms, various anti-corruption measures, and political reforms to transform governance, particularly at state and local levels.