

- Tracking, storing and managing information, promoting production of national content online and through electronic media; and documenting “successes” and “failures”;
- According high priority to protection of individual rights, intellectual property, privacy, security, consumer protection etc. and mobilising the civil society; and
- Developing a supportive framework for early adoption of ICT and creating a regulatory framework for ICT-related activities.

Creating the macro-economic environment for growth and innovation in ICT, including fiscal policies (cost, innovation, investment, and venture capital), legal and regulatory environment (competition, independent regulator, rule of law, intellectual property protection) and channelizing and mobilization of resources for ICT is an important corollary to e-Governance as is implementing an education policy for the right quantum and quality of manpower resources for a network-ready economy-curricula, ICT training facilities and wiring/networking of educational institutions. Addressing the ‘digital divide’ domestically and internationally, giving signals to markets - articulating a national vision of ICT, according national priority to ICT, undertaking large projects, promoting innovation and risk taking through fiscal concessions and availability of venture capital; creating an investment climate for domestic and foreign investment in ICT sector; championing national interests in international forums etc. are equally important.

Despite important policy initiatives and significant achievements in the economic and social sectors in our country, we still have a long way to go before achieving our full potential for development. This is because there is still a wide gulf between our policy initiatives and intents and the actual achievements. Among the major reasons for this gap include outmoded systems of governance, cumbersome processes and procedures, prevalence of corruption and lack of accountability in our functioning. A pertinent question, therefore, is how can these deficiencies be best redressed. An obvious answer is through adopting e-Governance as an inextricable part of government functioning, be they in routine matters or major projects. In this context I would like to share some of the successful initiatives in e-Governance which were undertaken when I served as Education and Finance Minister and later as Chief Minister in Karnataka. These include use of e-Governance both in routine matters as well as in major initiatives. Some of these are:

- Introduction of computerised counseling in the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to Professional Colleges in Karnataka.

This involved creation of a computerized system to manage the processing of the results of CET, to prepare merit lists and thereafter on the basis of the merit list to enable seat selections by the candidates in a transparent manner.