**Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Thiru R.B.Udhayakumar, to-day (31.10.2011) attended "The Extended National e-Governance Advisory Committee Meeting" held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi and delivered the address.**

Hon'ble Minister of Union for IT, Hon'ble Minister of State for IT Chairman, UIDAI, Hon'ble IT Ministers from all states, Secretary IT, NAG members, Officers from the Government of India and the State Governments,

Vanakkam!!

I am very happy to be here in your midst representing Tamil Nadu for this  meeting of the Extended National Advisory e-Governance Group.

As you are aware, Tamil Nadu is a front runner among the states in India in ICT enabled Governance, by successfully implementing various e-Governance programmes of the State Government and also the Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).The Government of Tamil

Nadu has been allocating funds for e-Governance through departmental budgets. The Government places a lot of importance on e-Governance as is evidenced by the many e-Governance initiatives announced in the Governor's address in the Assembly, budget announcements, Policy Note 2011-12 and the announcements in the Floor of the Assembly, like instituting the Chief Minister's award for excellence in e-Governance for Government Departments and the Public, establishment of a Disaster Recovery Centre at a cost of Rs.60 crores at Madurai, supply of cloud based computers to all Village Administrative Officers and Revenue Inspectors to make the e-District project Successful, provision of broadband connectivity to the computers provided to all 12,618 Village Panchayats, a massive e-Governance awareness campaign etc testify to the proactive efforts the Government of Tamil Nadu is making to take e-Governance to a higher level. We have also identified the following 10 thrust areas for implementation.

1. Cloud Computing
2. Internet Protocol Version 6 activities
3. Use of Business Intelligence Software in Government
4. Mobile Governance
5. Using Integrated Financial Management System in Finance Department
6. Geographical Information System

7. Asset Management System

8. Facility Management Services

9. National Land Records Modernization Programme

10. Technology Forum in Government

An e-Governance Policy is ready for launch. An ERP called ASSIST (Automated Software Solution for Integrated Secretariat Transactions) is also ready for launch.

As you are aware, the infrastructure for e-Governance, like a Rs.61 crore state-of-the-art **State Data Center** and a Rs.200 crore **Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network** (TNSWAN) have already been established by ELCOT. Many departments like Commercial Taxes, Employment Exchanges, Treasuries, Survey & Settlement, Registration, Forest, TWAD Board, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project, etc have further taken **horizontal connectivity** from TNSWAN to connect their applications hosted at the State Data Centre to their last mile offices in the field. The IT Department through NIC, ELCOT and TNeGA have assisted many departments in developing their application software. A Rs.12.00 crore project under NeGP, the **State Portal, State Service Delivery Gateway and e-Forms project** will be ready for launch by December 2011. Tamil Nadu will be the first state to launch this

project. This will totally transform the way information and transaction services are provided to Citizens, at their home, Browsing centre or Common Service Centre. This is especially relevant now, as the Government of India is introducing the **"Electronic Service Delivery Bill"** in Parliament soon.

But e-Governance can be successful only if we can provide seamless service to the citizen. The pilot e-**District Project** at Krishnagiri district has ensured that a Citizen can apply for 5 certificates from the Revenue dept like Community, Income, Nativity, No graduate in the family and Destitute Women certificate, and 5 marriage assistance schemes under the Social welfare department, from the confines of his home, browsing centre or common service centre (CSC) at the village, and take a print-out of a digitally signed certificate with a 2D barcode, without ever visiting any Government office. The entire backend has been digitized from top to bottom. THe reason for the success of this project is because we have provided computers to VAOs and RIs. It is my request to Government of India that funding under the e-District Project should also be extended to provide computers and connectivity to the last mile offices like VAO office and RI Office.

We do have some issues with the setting up of CSCs following the legal case arising out of the termination of the services of

3i-Infotech in 26 districts. We are working on a different strategy, in view of the expected **roll out of the e-District project** throughout Tamil Nadu.

The process of signing the MoU with NIC for establishing the **Composite Team** for administering the State Data Centre and creation of **District e-Governance Societies** is under progress and is expected to be completed shortly.

We are also in reciept of the draft policy on Mobile Governance, prepared by DIT, GoI, and has prepared a proposal for introducing mobile based Governance in Tamil Nadu.

I wish to reiterate in this forum that Government of Tamil Nadu will be second to none in successfully implementing the projects under NeGP, with the vision of enhancing the quality of life of our Citizens using the tools of ICT, by providing efficient administration in our Government Offices, and through that, seamless services, both informational and transactional to our citizens at their doorsteps.

The vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is that t**he web should become the main interface for interaction between the Citizen and Government.**

I wish to convey the good wishes of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for a best outcome from this meeting.

Thank you.

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