

# Ravi Shankar Prasad



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Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Cabinet Minister for Communications and Information Technology in the Government of India. He is an eminent Lawyer and a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India. He is a Member of Parliament since the year 2000.

Since his appointment as the Cabinet Minister for Communications and Information Technology on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 he has been spearheading the implementation of the Digital India vision of the Prime Minister of India. His efforts have led to revival of India's telecom sector which witnessed the highest ever investments in last five years. India's largest telecom PSU, BSNL witnessed a turnaround under his leadership. He is also leading the task of developing India into a global electronics manufacturing hub. India Post has emerged as the leader in eCommerce logistics service providers as well as vehicle for financial inclusion under his leadership.

Spearheading India's stand in global internet governance, he has been advocating the multi stakeholder approach to make internet governance more democratic. He has been championing the cause of free and open internet which is easily accessible to all. Under his leadership, India is connecting all 250,000 village clusters with high speed optical fiber broadband. India witnessed unprecedented growth in internet users and mobile phone subscribers under his leadership. The 2015 telecom spectrum auction fetched highest ever revenues. This was possible due to transparency and fairness that he brought about in auction.

He served as a Minister between 2001 and 2004 with Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. In September 2001 he was appointed as a Minister of State for Coal and Mines and earned accolades for the turn-around of Coal India Limited- the loss making public sector undertaking. In his capacity as a Minister of State for Law & Justice he played instrumental role in reforming India's electoral system and bringing out greater transparency in politics. In January 2003, he was elevated in the Union Cabinet as Minister for Information and Broadcasting. In this capacity he brought Direct to Home (DTH) services in India, liberalized FM radio services and granted industry status to Indian cinema. He took major initiatives for promotion of Indian cinema & international cooperation in this field.

During his student days, Ravi Shankar Prasad was known for championing the cause of civil liberties and human rights. As a student leader, he campaigned vigorously for restoration of freedom of press and that of individuals' during the national emergency of 1975, which brought him to the forefront of Indian political landscape. As a lawyer also he played an active role in some very important cases involving issues of political reforms enforcing government accountability and civil liberties.