

Title: Need for early commissioning of software technology park at Manipal in Karnataka.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): The Information Technology sector has already evinced interest to develop Udupi as a favoured destination. Software Technology Park of India has already set up an earth station at Manipal, the third in the State after Bangalore and Mysore. This will enable round-the-clock high speed satellite data communication. The facility of STPI at Manipal has still to be developed into a full-fledged IT Park. The land has already been acquired from DOIT and KEONICS and purchase orders have been placed by STPI.

Going by expert analyst projections for software exports, the same has been targeted at Rs.325 crore (in 2001-02) and Rs.750 crore (in 2002-03). Internet subscribers from the present 7,000 (2001-02) will grow up to 10,000 (2001-02) and 20,000 (2002-03). The Fibre Optic link already laid down by Konkan Railway Corporation for its needs will come handy for the STPI requirements. Dakshin Kannada Telecom Distt. is recognised as the best in Karnataka Circle with 2,06,000 installed phones (one to eight persons) 213 exchanges covering 638 villages including 180 exchanges with OFC/Microwave/PCM. As a catalyst for further development, STPI Manipal should be commissioned on schedule.