

High-speed Net comes to a deep jungle

Long-distance Wi-Fi brings facility to tribal hamlets in Kerala's Nilambur

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

The **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**, a Union government initiative for skill development in rural areas, has brought high-speed internet to some of the remotest tribal hamlets deep inside the Nilambur jungle in Kerala.

For the first time, the Palakkayam, Vettilakkolli and Ambumala tribal hamlets got high-speed internet, thanks to long-distance Wi-Fi technology. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) executive director Anwar Sadath, who visited the hamlets on Saturday, was jubilant about the 100-mbps internet.

The JSS's technical partner C4S provided support for the long-distance Wi-Fi on



Jubilant mood: Children of the Palakkayam tribal colony celebrating the arrival of high-speed internet. ■ SAKEER HUSSAIN

5GHz frequency. With the help of five towers, 100-mbps internet is made available at Palakkayam, Ambumala, and Vettilakkolli hamlets in Chaliyar grama panchayat.

"In this technology, there

is no loss of transmission. We have set up the servers in such a way that a minimum of 250 users can use the Net concurrently. And this can be easily boosted," said C4S director V.J. Thomas. He said using long-distance Wi-Fi

technology, high-speed internet could be provided even up to 100 km without any transmission loss.

While the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provided ₹5 lakh, the JSS chipped in ₹2.02 lakh. "The biggest advantage of this technology is its low cost," said V. Ummer Koya, JSS director.

The JSS will monitor the use of the internet through its own technology.

The base station has been set up at Indira Gandhi Memorial Residential Government School, Nilambur. From there, the internet provided by BSNL and Railnet will be transmitted to the tribal hamlets inside the jungle using long-distance Wi-Fi.