



Rohini Nilekani and Sridhar Sarathy with kids in the Akshara Khazana library

# Akshara Khazana

**J**UNIPER Networks, Inc has committed US\$34,080 to Akshara Foundation over three years to fund the creation of a children's library and an Educational Resource Centre (ERC). The new library and resource centre were inaugurated by T M Vijay Bhaskar, IAS, Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education, Education Department of Karnataka, and Sridhar Sarathy, Managing Director, Juniper Networks India. The guests also judged a story-illustration competition with the best three young artists rewarded with books as prizes. Located in Annasandrapallya, close to Juniper's research and development facility in Bangalore, the new library will ultimately cater to 1,000 children from under-served communities. The library, christened Akshara Khazana, will eventually be stocked with over 1,000 books in English, Hindi, Kannada, Urdu and Telugu,

including three sets of reference books.

Akshara Khazana also features a computer centre, which currently has four computers, with plans for more computers as well as Internet access. An LCD projector and screen round off the library's audio-visual learning resources.

Akshara Foundation, ever since its inception in 2000, has taken the lead in Karnataka to ensure that every child is in school and learning well.

In six years, Akshara has worked with over 165,000 children through its educational programmes at the preschool, in-school and out-of-school level. With a network of 50 libraries in Bangalore, the foundation circulates more than 75,000 books among 11,000 young members.

Juniper Networks is the leader in enabling secure and assured communications over a single IP network and its charitable foundation, JNFF was set up in 2000 by Juniper Networks to benefit education, community and social services around the world, and is administered by the Community Foundation Silicon Valley (CFSV).