

### **Different parts of the same world**

A successful cluster partnership awarded under the UKIERI Cluster School partnerships programme is the Patna-Devon cluster; working on the theme “Different parts of the same world”; wherein six Indian Jahawar Navodaya Vidyalalyas (JNV) joint hands with four schools from Devon to form a cluster with an aim to increase and develop knowledge and awareness of India and the UK, study their respective cultures, share similarities and understand differences, as part of a global village. The major areas of interest for both the clusters are environmental issues, geography and ICT and as such both clusters have been focusing on a Five R Policy — Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Refuse and Rejoice.

A substantial number of exchange visits have already been undertaken under this cluster partnership and learning and experiences are being constantly shared with students and partner schools.

ICT has also played a pivotal role to communicate the outcome of the project to counterpart schools and the Indian cluster has publicised the success of the partnership through local newspapers, newsletters, websites, display of UK corners in India and through regular interactions with parents and the local community.

As quoted by Shri D.K. Modi, Principal, JNV, Bokaro-“The main objective was to help students integrate with the outside world. Since a number of Navodaya Vidyalalya students come from underprivileged backgrounds, this was a huge window of opportunity.”



The impact of the partnership can be seen through regular exchange of e-mails between students involved in the project who are sharing their ideas on different themes like culture, climate and arts. This has greatly helped to improve the content and context of their knowledge. Faculty members too have gained immense knowledge about different styles of teaching, innovative ways of conducting classes and employing technology to facilitate learning processes. Therefore, this partnership

has not only given a wonderful opportunity for partner schools to interact, but has also enriched the lives of staff and students.