

'India ahead of others in applying RTI'

MIDNAPORE, 15 DEC:

"India is in a much better position compared to many other countries of the world in respect of the Right to Information Act," said Professor Alasdair Roberts of Suffolk University in a UGC Merged Scheme Lecture delivered at the Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University on 14

December. Dr Roberts is the Jerome L Rappaport Professor of Law and Public Policy at Suffolk University, Law School and a Ph.D scholar from Harvard University, and his book '*Blacked out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age*' narrated the story of the brave struggles of the poor women of rural Rajasthan who initiated the right to information movement in India without the help of any political party.

In his lecture, Dr Roberts identified the strengths of the RTI law in India despite various financial, demographic and implementation constraints of the law. Here, a large number of people are rapidly becoming conscious about the RTI Act, he said. **sns**