



Report on State Child Protection Day Programme held on 9th June at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre.

Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare approved Commission's proposal of declaring 9th June, 2015 as the "State Child Protection Day". Following this approval West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights observed the day as "State Child Protection Day" through a day long programme at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare. In this programme 'Website' & Logo of the Commission were launched by Smt. Roshni Sen, IAS, Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare. Dr. Rinchen Choppel, Director General, South Asian Initiative to end violence against Children, Hon'ble Justice Altamas Kabir, retired Chief Justice of India and Sri Ashadur Rahaman, State Head of UNICEF of West Bengal also enriched the programme by their presence.

In the welcome address Prof. Asokendu Sengupta, Chairperson of the Commission informed that the Commission is committed to protect rights of the children in this state and hence have taken several initiatives to sensitize civil society, different line Departments of Government and Institutions. He also informed that in the interest of quick disposal of complaints the Commission will shortly start Public hearings in different districts of the state. Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister spoke of the many initiatives that the Department has taken for protection of rights of the children. Hon'ble Justice (retired), Altamas Kabir in his address praised all the initiatives of State Government and requested the

Department of Women & Child Development to take special care for rescue and rehabilitation of children who have become victims of drug addiction. Dr. Rinchen Choppel was extremely appreciative of the initiatives taken by State Government for protecting the rights of the children and profusely praised the Kanyashree Prakalpa launched by the State Government for empowering girl children. He congratulated State Child Rights Commission for observing the day as the 'State Child Protection Day' and assured that he will move for declaring 9th June as the 'World Child Rights Day'. Shri Ashadur Rahaman, State Head of UNICEF, West Bengal gave a very encouraging speech and hoped that the children in the state will grow up as responsible citizens in course of time through the initiatives taken by State Government.

In the programme a child inmate of a Nadia district shelter home whose art work was selected through a Competition for designing the Logo of this Commission was felicitated. A cash award of Rs. 10000.00-was given to her by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. The Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare also felicitated five children from different homes in the State for their excellence in the Madhyamik Examination.

The programme became extremely colourful with the dances performed by Smt. Debalina Kumar and her team of Rabindra Bharati University, Magic show by Sri Indranil Mukherjee and extremely captivating songs by Sri Pratul Mukhopadhyay. Children who came from Darjeeling and Bankura Districts staged dance and drama. CINI and Sanlaap, both reputed NGOs also participated in the programme with dance and musical programmes.