Govt must protect rights of children: feel experts

MI NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA : West Bengal Education Network (WBEN) in collaboration with leading NGO -Child Rights and You (CRY) - launched a state wide Election Advocacy Campaign here on Thursday

in a bid to ensure that 'political parties pay utmost heed to the voice of children and their expectations in life'. Formally launching the Campaign at a function here on Thursday WBEN also unveiled a Child Rights Manifesto urging all political parties to commit and give top priority in their efforts to change the overall situation of the lives of children, particularly those from the poorer sections of the society in every state. Introducing the Manifesto, Swapan Panda,

Head WBEN and Atindra nath Das,Regional Director CRY said the details of manifesto was based on children's expectations found in six South Bengal districts and it tried to voice their demands to the political parties and their leaders for a solutioln. 'This campaign is our way of ensuring that the best inter-

est of every child be put at the centre of all political activities with the hope that all elected members would work in that direction, while spending some time on the issue', said Panda. According to Das, 'we are also trying to remind the politicians and the government in power about their obligations

towards the development of children by protecting their rights and privileges. Highlighting the role of village Panchayats in child development,they said their demand could largely be fulfilled if only the Panchayats performed their duties and responsibilities in a sincere and helpful manners round the year. Referring to their other recommendations for the protection of child's rights, both Panda and Das said it included the declaration of Children rights as Human Rights,regular meetings in Gram Sabhas to uphold the rights of Children and the creation of a child protection unit in every village in the wake of increasing violation of rights and attacks on children, most of which remained unreported.